



The Board of Directors of  
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2019

***Annual Membership Meeting***  
***And***  
***Luncheon***

November 9, 2019 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church  
Spotsylvania, Virginia

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.**  
**2019 Annual Report**

**Officers and Board of Directors**

Mark Leach, President

Bob Lookabill, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

**Directors**

Suzanne Baxter

Gil Churchill

Robert Epp

Kevin Hunt

Pete Kolakowski

Merry Ellen Korpan

Ruth Pavlik

Dick Rankin

Don Shockey

Beth Stenstrom

# **Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. Annual Membership Business Meeting**

## **Agenda**

### **Call to Order**

Mark Leach, President

### **Declaration of Quorum**

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

### **Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**

### **Welcoming Remarks**

Mark Leach, President

### **Election of Members to the Board of Directors**

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

### **Remarks**

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, Superintendent,  
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

### **Announcements/Questions**

### **Adjourn**

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**Lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**Door Prizes: 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker – Tom Van Winkle: “Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, The Early Years”:  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2018**

Board members in attendance: President Mark Leach, Vice President Bob Lookabill, Secretary Milbrey Bartholow, Treasurer Jeff Slunt, and Directors Beth Stenstrom, Mark Wakeman, Gil Churchill, Pete Kolakowski, Kim Harmon, Kevin Hunt, Ruth Pavlik, Merry Ellen Korpan, Dick Rankin, and Don Shockey.

President Leach called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Secretary Bartholow announced that the members were notified of the meeting in a timely manner, and that there was sufficient attendance to make a quorum. A total of 68 members were in attendance.

President Leach presented some of the highlights of the year. The Ellwood Committee reports 55 interpreters and held 2 “newbie” classes. More walking tours were added, and tours now include some to the Wilderness Tavern area and some around the Ellwood grounds. The Ground Force now had 22 members who show up every Thursday to cut, trim, etc. NPS has given us 3 new mowers, and we now mow around the shelter area and the tavern area. The Education Outreach Committee held an event at Childhelp in Lignum. They also worked with LGES and hosted 120 students for a field day at Ellwood. Seventy-three students completed the requirements for the Jr ranger patch. Articles about Ellwood and the area are appearing in the local papers. The committee will also be participating with churches in Fredericksburg to tell “Untold Stories” during Black History Month. General projects have included demolishing the old bathroom, putting in a septic field and a well and beginning the installation of new bathrooms with running water. FWB has entered a contract with NPS and BSA for the Luminaria event at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg on Memorial Day weekend. FoWB will sponsor a fund-raising event April 26 with the Lacy Girls, descendants of the Lacy’s.

Pete Kolakowski, chairman of the Governance Committee, then presented the proposed slate for board members for the class of 2021 - Suzanne Baxter, Robert Epp, Merry Ellen Korpan, Ruth Pavlik, and Jeff Slunt. Dick Rankin motioned that the slate be accepted, John Griffiths seconded the motion, and all approved.

The next item for the meeting was the presentation of two special awards. President Mark Leach presented Mark Wakeman with a walking stick with symbols of his time with the Marines and his work at Ellwood on the Ground Force as recognition of his 10 years of service. President Mark Leach also presented Nate Bond, in absentia, with a walking stick with symbols of his love of manatees as recognition his 8 years of service.

Next, John Hennessey, Chief Historian for NPS, brought greetings from the NPS. He gave a brief history of FoWB’s involvement with NPS at Ellwood over the 20 or so years. He reported changes with their staff including the fact the Becky Oakes and Beth Parnicza, who have accepted positions as chief interpreters at other sites. New interpretive signage will be installed at Ellwood. A newly found picture of Ellwood in 1866 has given new information on the location of slave cabins, a sleeping porch where the handicap ramp is now located, and door and window locations.

As a result of the picture, the one outside door in the Ellwood room will be converted to a window. A drone will do a fly-around during the winter to show changes to the property, and as a result of the video and the newly found information, the virtual tour video will be changed.

Mark Wakeman was presented a proclamation read by Vice President Bob Lookabill and the Advocate Award for exceptional service.

A reminder of the Victorian Christmas on Dec 15 and 16 was made. Chris Ward announced that he has been cleaning Hill-Ewell around the Lake Wilderness area. Vice President Bob Lookabill presented President Mark Leach with a "President for Life" trophy.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Milbrey A Bartholow  
Secretary FoWB Board

## **2019 Highlights**

### **General Projects/Programs:**

- Entered into an agreement with NPS and the Luminary Committee (Scouts) to co-host the Memorial Day Weekend Luminary event at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery.
- FoWB President Mark Leach is co-chairing a Battlefield Affinity Discussion Group for the National Park Foundation.
- Work continues on the new Hospital Room exhibit at Ellwood. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning with the 2020 season.

### **Volunteers:**

- Volunteers contributed more than 8500 hours this year providing tours of Ellwood Manor, maintaining the Ellwood grounds, various battlefield projects, outreach events, etc.. This is equivalent to roughly four full time NPS employees!

### **Battlefield Resources:**

- Hosted the Annual Spring Park Day: There were 70 volunteers that collectively worked over 280 hours on the Wilderness battlefield.
- Ground Force expanded the new septic field area behind the brooder barn and laid a new trail to the cemetery.
- Sponsored two Eagle Scout Eagle projects

### **Ellwood:**

- 47 trained Interpreters provided exceptional tours of Ellwood Manor and the surrounding grounds. Six Interpreters completed additional training to enable them to man the Saunders Field Exhibit Shelter on Columbus Day weekend.
- For the second consecutive season, NPS and FoWB conducted a mid-season interpreter training class. Seven additional interpreters joined the active ranks.
- 4522 visitors at Ellwood. Donation box brought in \$3,200.

## **Membership and Heritage Program:**

- 213 FoWB members.
- Wilderness Brigade memberships increased to a total of 62.
- Ellwood Legacy memberships increased to a total of 15.

## **Communications:**

- Facebook Page 'Followers' now exceed 1600. An increase of 400 from 2018.
- Constant Contact E-blasts promoting our events are sent to more than 1100 email addresses.
- The quarterly newsletter, launched last year, continues to be sent via Constant Contact to all members.

## **Education Outreach:**

- Conducted an educational field day at Ellwood and Saunders Field for 140 fourth graders from Locust Grove Elementary School. Expanded the program to host Home Schooled groups and the Spotsy Gifted and Talented students.
- Partnered with four Fredericksburg churches to present the 'Black History Month Untold Stories' event in Fredericksburg.
- Continued the 'History in Our backyard' newspaper series. Articles, written by FoWB members, now appear regularly in local media, such as the Orange County Review and the Fawn Lake Lifestyle magazine and periodically in other community media.

## **Programs:**

- Added a living history event to commemorate Lafayette camping at Ellwood in 1781. Included a dinner/speaker event.
- Commemoration of the Wilderness Battle living history event included an Abraham Lincoln re-enactor and balloon exhibit.
- Fund raisers included the third annual canoe trip as well as events at local restaurants.

# Treasurer's 2019 Annual Report

Data as of September 30, 2019

## Luminaria Checking Account (previously Ellwood Cultural Landscape)

Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$108.59
Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$6,989.24
Change	\$6,880.65

## FoWB Operating Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$52,333.21
Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$37,883.32
Change	-\$14,449.89

## Ellwood Cultural Landscape Project Money Market Account (Account Closed)

Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$10,366.88
Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$ 0.00
Change	-\$10,366.88

## FoWB Money Market Account (Reserve Fund)

Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$10,906.74
Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$20,078.47
Change	\$9,171.73

Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2018	\$73,715.42
Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2019	\$64,951.03

**The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield keeps their books on a cash basis.**

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) corporation  
Tax ID 42-1689437**

# **Ellwood Committee 2019 Annual Report**

Submitted by Don Shockey, Chair

*Members: Bob Lookabill, John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Bob Epp, Ruth Pavlik,  
Gil Churchill, Greg Mertz (NPS)*

## **VISITATION**

Visitations for the 2019 season through September totaled 4,522. Volunteer interpreter hours through September totaled 2,439. Donations through September totaled \$3,188.72.

Visitations were down by over 800 visitors from the same period last year. Some, but not all, of the difference is due to the large number of visitors over the Wilderness Battle anniversary, May 5th and 6th, last year. Ellwood's visitation season began on April 6th with weekend openings from that date through June 9th. In addition, Ellwood was open daily during Easter Week, April 22nd through the 26th. Summer daily operations began on June 10th and ended on August 23rd. Weekend and holiday operations resumed on August 26th and will conclude on November 10th. This year Ellwood will be open for the Victorian Christmas on the weekend of December 14th and 15th as usual and then will be open, with reduced hours, for the following week, December 16th through the 20th.

## **TRAINING and RECRUITMENT**

For the second year in row we have conducted two new interpreters training sessions, February 23rd and July 13th. A total of eleven potential new interpreters took the training. Of that number seven followed through and have conducted tours of Ellwood. NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz led the new interpreter training.

Training for veteran interpreters took place on March 23rd and April 9th. Veteran training was presented by NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz and FoWB personnel. NPS Historian Eric Mink was the guest speakers. President Mark Leach spoke to all interpreters regarding the FoWB. Other FoWB veteran also provided presentations.

A number of losses of veteran interpreters somewhat off set the number of new interpreters. There are currently 47 trained Ellwood interpreters.

# **Battlefield Resources Committee**

## **2019 Annual Report**

Submitted by Kevin Hunt, Chair

### **2019 Volunteer Members:**

*Det Wilkens Ellwood Site Capt, Lee Woolf-Asst Site Captain,*

*Ann Bayer, Ron Bishop, Gil Churchill, Tom Jacobs, Joe LaFleur, Mark Leach, Jim Manchester, Gary Mauss, Karen O'Brien, John Rourke, Glynn Smith, Bob Smoak, Russell Todd, Bill Witter*

### **Battlefield Ground Force (BGF)**

The BGF continued to provide outstanding upkeep to the Ellwood grounds. Mowing and grounds work started in April and continued through November. Generally, weekly tasks included mowing of the grounds surrounding Ellwood, along the length of the driveway, the Wilderness Run trail, and Wilderness Tavern site. Early in the year, the BGF also mowed at the Wilderness Battlefield shelter, however staff shortages caused elimination of that effort. In addition to mowing, the BGF tended to gardens, trimmed trees and brush, removed trees, cleared undergrowth, and provided maintenance along Hill-Ewell Drive. The National Park Service Maintenance Department provided excellent support to the BGF throughout the year, providing supplies and equipment to facilitate the BGF efforts. Specific tasks accomplished in 2019 include:

- Constructed a new path to the cemetery, including lining the path with cedar logs and covering it in woodchips. The intent was to eliminate the original stairs and gravel path to create one more suitable for physically challenged visitors.
- Deconstructed the old rest room.
- Installed paneling to the new rest room facility.
- Extended the parking fence to separate it from the septic field.
- Leveled the septic field.
- Removed and chipped the boxwoods along the old path to the cemetery.
- Provided oversight for the Eagle Scout project that replaced the roof and fence at the Wilderness Tavern dependency and stabilized the rock foundation of the Wilderness Run footbridge.
- Prepared the grounds for the FSNMP volunteer picnic, the property looked great for our guests.

### **Park Service Support**

- NPS assisted in the deconstruction of the old bathroom facilities and roughed in the two bathrooms and utility closets.
- NPS issued a contract for the new well, septic field, roughed in plumbing, and removal of the old well.
- NPS provided the roofing shingles, fencing, and bridge stabilization supplies for the Eagle Scout project and the bridge and railing materials for Park Day projects.
- NPS provided guidance for the Park Day projects.

### **Park Day**

- Held on 6 April 2019

- Statistics:
  - 70 total attendees, of which 12 were walk-ons
  - 70 bags of trash collected
  - 280 hours volunteered
- Almost full coverage of Hill-Ewell
  - Cub Scouts – Rt 621 to Wilderness Run
  - Starbucks – Rt 20 to Higgerson Farm
- Complete coverage of Rt 20, including Brigadier Way to cemetery
- Complete coverage of Rt 621 from Tapp to 4-way stop
- Replaced footbridge at Hazel Grove and fence at Fairview
- Incoming Park Day coordinator for ABT attended (Connor Townsend)
- Coverage by Free Lance-Star and Orange Review
- Doughnuts donated by Doughlicious, coffee donated by Starbucks of Harrison Crossing

### **2019 BSA Eagle Projects**

- NPS developed an updated potential Eagle Scout project list for 2019. Several Wilderness projects were on the list.
- The BRC Chairman attended a Scout leader assembly in Fredericksburg on 13 June to present topics including potential Eagle Scout projects, availability of the primitive campsite, Park Day, and field trip/educational opportunities.
- The replacement of the roof and fence at the Wilderness Tavern dependency was completed in September as an Eagle Scout project. The project also included stabilizing the rock foundation of the Wilderness Run footbridge.

## Membership/Heritage Committee 2019 Annual Report

Submitted by Milbrey A Bartholow, Chair

*Members: Robert Epp, Beth Stenstrom, Mark Leach, Diane Smith, Merry Ellen Korpan,  
Suzanne Baxter, Lynn McDonald*

We have had another busy year. We work closely with the Communications Committee, which helps keep us busy. We set up tables at both on-site – Ellwood – and off-site events. At these events we set up tables, hand out literature, and talk about what FoWB is and does. Through these events we have gained several new members, several new volunteers, several HP members, and increased visitation at Ellwood. We also attend various Orange Chamber of Commerce events to mingle and let CoC members know what we are doing.

On-site events with Information Booths have included: Living History, Battle of Wilderness Observance and Living History, Mother's Day Observance and readings, Lafayette Day, Medical Living History June, Taming of the Wilderness.

Other on-site events have included: Victorian Christmas in December, FoWB Interpreter training in February and March, Park Clean-up Day in April, a program for 130 Locust Grove Elementary School.

Off-site events with Information Booths have included: Orange Street Festival in September.

Other off-site events have included: Black History month event in Fredericksburg in February, Wake-up Locust Grove events, FoWB Dinner in June, Friends of Chatham meetings FoWB Dinner in June.

We have a supportive notification system – email, letter, personal contact - and will continue to cultivate the support we receive from our members. Without you members, we could not exist. We are grateful for our members, especially those of you who renew your membership year after year and who provide us with funding and man-power for our many activities through your dues and donations. We did change our membership fee structure last year, and no one seemed to mind. We were able to give our many volunteers a well appreciated thank-you picnic again this year.

Current membership is about the same as last year at this time. We have added 45 new members, while we have lost 37 members. I like to think we are all on the Membership Committee, and I hope all of you can spread the word about what FoWB does – Preserve, Protect, and Promote – for the Wilderness Battlefield. We have added 7 new members to the Heritage Program, including 3 descendant of James and Betty Lacy, , now giving us 62 in the Wilderness Brigade and 15 in the Ellwood Legacy. We had a reception for HP members on November 9, 2018, and several members attended along with some spouses and board members. The Annual Meeting was held on November 10 about 80 members attended. All enjoyed a meal of Barbeque, sides, apple cobbler, and ice cream, followed by a talk by John Hennessey on “Mercy Town”.

## **Governance Committee 2019 Annual Report**

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

*Members: Bob Epp, Bob Lookabill, Craig Raines, Don Shockey, Beth Stenstrom,*

The Committee had a relatively quiet year. The routine work consisted of answering questions about and interpretation of the bylaws. There were minor bylaws amendments proposed that clarified the communication requirements for meetings. These amendments were approved by the full Board at the April meeting.

Also, as required in the bylaws, the Governance Committee was designated by the FoWB President the Nominating Committee for proposing the slate of Board candidates for election at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee conducted the process of identifying candidates to be elected to the Board by the membership at the annual meeting. This year, the annual meeting will be presented with a slate of six nominees. One is to fill an unexpired term in the Class of 2021 and five for full three-year terms comprising the Class of 2022. Filling these director positions will maintain and continue the FoWB Board consisting of 15 members as provided for in the bylaws.

The Governance Committee seeks to expand in 2020 with others from the general membership. Members that may be interested in becoming Committee members are encouraged to let the chairman know with their contact information.

## **Communications Committee 2019 Annual Report**

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

*Members: Milbrey Bartholow, Suzanne Baxter, Bob Epp, Merry Ellen Korpan, Lynn McDonald, Ruth Pavlik, Joanne Pino, Dick Rankin, Diane Smith, and Beth Stenstrom*

The Communications Committee has been active this year. Our primary objective is getting information out to the public about who we (FoWB) are and what we can offer visitors in and around the Wilderness Battlefield. This group is responsible for keeping various visitor center and tourist attraction places stocked with rack cards, submitting information about upcoming events to the public via newspapers, radio, Facebook, tourism websites, and Constant Contact, and networking with other businesses to promote visibility to our organization and events. We also send out a quarterly newsletter to our members, in addition to manning a Welcome Tent at Living History events at Ellwood and having a tent at various venues such as the Orange Street Festival.

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield currently has 1107 contacts on Constant Contact, and 1,615 followers on Facebook. Our website, [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org), is accessed on a daily basis and we try to keep it up to date on upcoming living history events, dinner/speaker events, etc. plus we highlight events that have recently occurred.

New members are welcome and we would love to have you join us.

# Education Outreach Committee

## 2019 Annual Report

Submitted by Dick Rankin, Chairman

*Members: Suzanne Baxter, John Bell, Joe Bianchini, Bob Epp, Kim Harmon, Bill Huntington, Pete Kolakowski, Merry Ellen Korpan, Bob Lookabill, Mike Mikolosko, Beth Stenstrom, Barry Thompson, and NPS Historian Peter Maugle*

➤ **Wilderness Field Days:**

- We initiated the Wilderness Field Days in 2018 by hosting 120 Locust Grove 4<sup>th</sup> Graders
- We hosted nearly 140 4<sup>th</sup> Graders this Spring
- Program is now in full swing: Home School Groups scheduled for Oct, Nov, Dec; Spotsy Gifted & Talented students in Nov
- We have provided information to several organizations: Home Schoolers (King George); Elementary School teachers in Orange and Henrico; Orange Boys & Girls Clubs.

➤ **Educational and Informational Programs:**

- In June we sponsored a Lafayette luncheon buffet at Generals' Quarters Restaurant at which Charles Wissinger, a first person impersonator, and NPS Historian Peter Maugle described the role of Marquis Lafayette in the Revolutionary War and specifically his presence in the Wilderness. 60 persons attended. A walking tour to the site of Lafayette's 1781 encampment was included
- As a climax to the Life of a Soldier Living History Event at Ellwood, Dr. Peter Carmichael, Gettysburg College, discussed soldiering at the Battle of the Wilderness for 75 attendees at a Generals' Quarters Restaurant dinner on Oct 19.

➤ **Untold Stories #2 (Feb 19, 2019):**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black History Month series of vignettes at prominent Fredericksburg Churches
- Over 100 attended this event, which included Black History-related events from the Revolutionary, Civil, WWI, and WWII wars. 4 downtown churches were used for the vignettes and a reception.

➤ **Untold Stories #3 (Mar 20, 2020):**

- Planning is underway to conduct our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual event
- This event will be moved to March and will focus on local woman stories: Native American; Civil War nursing; Woman's Suffrage. March is the International Month of Woman.
- Based on lessons learned from last year, we decided to reduce the vignettes from 4 to 3
- 3 downtown churches and the old Courthouse will be the locations for the vignettes.

➤ **History in Our Backyard (HIOB):**

- We now have 18 articles in the HIOB portfolio, which appear regularly in the Orange County Review and the Fawn Lake Lifestyle publications as well as periodically in other local community social media
- We have provided the portfolio to Front Porch, a Fredericksburg tourist publication, and past HIOB articles will begin to appear in this publication
- There are a couple new articles in the pipeline but Mike Mikolosko, our editor, is seeking many new stories for future publication.

# Programs Committee

## 2019 Annual Report

Submitted by Bob Lookabill, Chair

*Members: John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Greg Mertz (NPS), Bob Epp,  
Ruth Pavlik, Gil Churchill, Beth Stenstrom, Milbrey Bartholow*

### **The Ellwood event calendar for 2019:**

May 4/5 - 153<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Wilderness (see highlights)

May 13/14 - Mother's Day celebration highlighted by the reading of Civil War soldier and family letters by Ellwood interpreters.

May 25 - Memorial Day Commemoration - Speaker plus name reading and bell tolling for Civil War soldiers initially buried at Ellwood.

June 1 - Commemoration of Lafayette encampment at Ellwood Manor w/speaker and dinner

June 15/16 - Civil War Medical event with a Dr. Hunter McGuire re-enactor and 2nd Corp medical re-enactors demonstrating various hospital skills to highlight Ellwood's hospital history.

22 June: FoWB canoe trip from Germanna Ford to Ely's Ford. Sold out again.

Sept. 21 - NPS Volunteer Picnic at Ellwood.

Sept. 29 - Taming of the Wilderness with house and grounds presentation by Dale Brown and 12 craftsmen and women demonstrating various skills necessary to survive on the frontier.

Oct. 18 - Living History event - Civil War soldiers discuss uniforms, weapons, camp-life, plus dinner with guest speaker Dr. Peter Carmichael.

Dec. 14/15 - Victorian Christmas at Ellwood plus additional five days for visitors.

### **Special Tours:**

Roanoke College Continuing Education Group

Family of Ellwood hospital patient Adam Jehu Wilson

### **Highlights in 2019:**

Medical event in June continued Ellwood's emphasis on the medical history of the building now documented as field/convalescent hospital during and after the battle of Chancellorsville.

2019 Battle of the Wilderness Anniversary event in May included for the first time a President Lincoln re-enactor along with a balloon exhibit to highlight intelligence gathering during the Civil War. This continues and expands our theme of moving the museum outdoors.

Presentations given by FoWB volunteers at special events and local schools

Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors compare and contrast life in the army plus presentation/dinner by Dr. Peter Carmichael.

Hosted the NPS picnic for all NPS interpreters.

Victorian Christmas which include an additional five days of visitation to highlight the traditionally decorated manor house.

Civil War soldier's letter reading event hosted by re-enactors on Mother's Day.

Trained walking tour Interpreters led over 20 walks for some 200 visitors on the Wilderness Walking Trail and Ellwood grounds. Additionally Ellwood interpreters conducted tours at Saunders Field over the Columbus Day weekend to augment NPS personnel.

Continued fund raising canoe trip from Germanna Ford to Ely's Ford.

Planned and coordinated several fund raising events with local restaurants.

# Nominations for Board of Directors

\*\* Denotes Incumbent Member Nominated for Re-Election

## **\*\* Kevin Hunt (Three Year Term 2022)**

Kevin was born in Worcester, MA, where he lived until moving to Northborough, MA. He graduated from UMass-Dartmouth (then known as Southeastern Massachusetts University) with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and from George Washington University with a Masters in Engineering Administration. He moved to Virginia in 1979 and worked at the US Army's Night Vision Laboratory as a systems engineer until he retired in 2013.

Since joining FoWB in 2014, he has volunteered as an interpreter at Ellwood and served on the Ellwood committee in 2016. He has always been interested in history, and was excited to move to Spotsylvania, among the four battlefields of the FSNMP. His interest in Civil War history peaked when he had the opportunity to participate in several staff rides lead by renowned Penn State history professor, including tours of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Antietam.

In addition to volunteering at Ellwood, he recently was the assistant director then director of the Harley Owners Group of Orange. Kevin has been married to his wife Cindy for 36 years and has two grown daughters, Stacy and Kelly. He lives in Spotsylvania County just south of Chancellorsville.

## **\*\* Bob Lookabill (Three Year Term 2022)**

### **Vice President; Ellwood Committee Chair**

Bob was born in West Virginia. He holds a Master's Degree in history from Marshall University and in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College at Newport. After teaching history and coaching baseball and football at the high school level for ten years Bob took a position with the Defense Intelligence Agency. After his retirement from DIA, worked for several defense contractors, both overseas and in the States. He is now fully retired. He is also a retired Navy Reserve Captain.

He has been an interpreter at Ellwood for five years and currently serves as Ellwood Committee chair and closer. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable and dabbles in genealogy.

Bob and Judy reside in Lake of the Woods near the Wilderness Battlefield. They have two grown sons and three grandsons. He is secretary of the North American Torquay Pottery Society, enjoys travel, golf, the Redskins and Nationals.

## **Lynn McDonald (Three Year Term 2022)**

Lynn McDonald grew up as an “army brat” on military bases until her parents landed in Virginia in the 1970s. Her education and working life was in Northern Virginia. Her work and employment was in administration and technical work for The MITRE Corporation where she produced technical reports in support of the FAA, NASA, and Department of Defense for over 30 years.

Lynn’s interests are primarily in history and nature. One of her favorite childhood memories was family camping trips, especially in a wilderness. Her parents lived on Mine Run Road off Rt 20 for a few years and that is when she discovered the Wilderness Battlefield. When she discovered it was the first battle between Grant and Lee, Lynn did a deep dive into the story and has now become involved with the work preserving the story.

Lynn now has moved from Northern Virginia and resides in Orange County. She has one son, Zach, living in Northern VA and extended family in the area.

Lynn is an active member of FoWB as an Ellwood interpreter, member of committees and assists with many of the outreach programs.

## **\*\* Richard (Dick) Rankin (Two year term 2021)**

### **Education Outreach Committee Chair**

Dick was born in Rochester, New York, and holds degrees from the University of Rochester (American History) and the University of Notre Dame (Government). He served in the US Air Force for over 26 years, and then managed and directed, large organizations and consulted for private sector national security companies engaged in counter-terrorism programs.

Dick, and his wife Carol, moved to Fawn Lake from Northern Virginia in 2007 eager to enjoy retirement and expecting to take advantage of his surroundings to soak in the history of the area, particularly as it related to the Civil War, which has always been an interest of his. In Northern Virginia Dick served as President of his Homeowners Association, President of the Northern Virginia Swim League, and General Chairman of the year-round swimming organization in Metropolitan Washington. Since becoming a Spotsy resident, Dick has served as an Elder at The Lake of the Woods Church, has been a member of the FOWB and interpreter at Ellwood since 2011. For the past several years he has focused on FoWB outreach and communications, representing FoWB at events in Gettysburg, Orange, Richmond, and Gordonsville. He was elected to the FoWB Board in 2015 and presently serves as chairman of the Education Outreach committee, charged with expanding FoWB’s educational and informational activities. He has overseen the growth of Field Days for students in Orange and Spotsylvania Counties as well as home school students. He has also been responsible for educational and informational events aimed at increasing adult awareness of the local history that surrounds them.

Dick and Carol have 3 married children and 8 grandchildren scattered around Virginia and North Carolina. Together they enjoy traveling, golfing, bridge, various other social activities and being with family. In the past year trips have led them to Argentina, Italy, the Balkans, and Greece.

## **Daniel Sheron (Three Year Term 2022)**

Daniel Sheron was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. He received a degree of Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from the University of Southern Colorado, now Colorado State - Pueblo.

For the past 30 years Daniel has been employed by the U.S. Government as an engineer and IT specialist. Daniel loves travel and history. He has visited six continents, 20 countries, 47 US states, and 1,510 United States counties. While traveling he often seeks out historic sites, cemeteries, and "unique and oddball" sites, such as the world's largest catsup bottle.

Daniel and his wife, Annabel, have two grown sons, Matt and Jeff. When not entertaining, Daniel and Annabel enjoy Victorian dancing, rooting for the Washington Capitals, and playing Euro-style board games.

Daniel has been an active FoWB member with work as an Ellwood interpreter and leading Victorian dances as part of the many outreach programs. He is also a Friend of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia and an active contributor to the on-line genealogical resource Find-a-Grave.

## **\*\* Don Shockey (Three Year Term 2022)**

### **Elwood Committee Chair**

Don was born and grew up in Lafayette, Indiana. At the direction of POTUS he joined the US Army serving in the areas of communications and intelligence. In addition to a number of assignments in the US he had overseas assignments to Korea, Germany, and Italy. He retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer.

After retirement he continued to serve the US Army as an Army Civilian with the Communications - Electronics Command serving as a branch chief in the Projects Division. In that capacity he managed numerous and varied projects including installing SIPRNet for V Corps in Europe, providing contractors to support the war in Iraq, supporting counter-drug efforts in Central and South America, and supporting Signal Intelligence operations in Korea. Don retired a second time in early 2016.

Don has had a lifelong interest in history of any kind but especially Civil War and family history. He has five great grandfathers who served in the Civil War. One of those ancestors was in the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves and served with the 5th Corps at the Battle of Wilderness. Don has been an Ellwood interpreter for two years.

Don and his wife Lou are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 and looking forward to many more years together. Don and Lou have three children and one grandchild. Don holds a BS in Business Management and a MS in Business Administration and is DA Certified Level III in Acquisition Logistics.

## **Continuing Board Members**

### **Milbrey Bartholow (2020)**

#### **Secretary; Membership/HP Committee Chair**

Milbrey was born and raised in Wilson, NC. She graduated from High Point University (College) with a BA in Math. She taught high school Math in Florida and North Carolina, but the Federal Government offered her more money, so she began working at the Naval Weapons Laboratory (later Naval Surface Warfare Center) in Dahlgren in 1966 and continued until 1994 when the Government offered her an early out.

She has always loved history, especially the Civil War era. She remembers studying the Civil War in 7th grade History and acing the first three tests on the unit. Her teacher told her she studied too hard, to which she replied "You don't have to study hard if you love the subject". She also remembers going to visit cousins in a nearby town and seeing a sign stating that Sherman went through burning and pillaging everything.

She is the great granddaughter of Pvt James Benjamin Braswell, Co F 30th Inf 2nd Corps CSA who fought under Jackson and Ewell throughout the 4 years. As a result, she is also a member of the Wilderness Brigade. She has a least 20 other ancestors who fought in the Civil War, with 3 of them being at the Wilderness. Two others died at Chancellorsville.

She was married to Robert Bartholow for over 47 years. She has a son Eric (and Amey) who has a son Reed, and a daughter Kristen (and Dave). They all live in Richmond.

She has spent most of her adult life living and working in the Fredericksburg area - King George County, Ferry Farm subdivision in Stafford, and now at LOW in Orange County. She and Robert ran away from home and went to Florida for 11 years.

After retiring from NSWC, she worked for 6 years as a tavern wench at the Rising Sun Tavern. She went into retirement when she went to Florida, but volunteered at various places while there. They moved back to VA in 2012, and she immediately became active with FoWB and Ellwood. She is a Historical House Guide and a FoWB board member. She portrays a Tavern Wench for the Taming of the Wilderness events. She has also dressed in Civil War era attire for events such as Mother's Day readings. She portrays Mrs. Santa at Victorian Christmas.

She is a member of the DAR, UDC, 1812, and Friends of Chatham. She also plays handbells at LOW Church. Other interests include computers, genealogy, antiquing, and sewing.

## **Suzanne Baxter (2021)**

Suzanne M. Baxter and her husband, Mark, retired to Lake of the Woods (LOW) in 2016. They looked for a community close to children, grandchildren, a lake and a golf course with a community structure to maintain. LOW filled the bill.

Suzanne was born and grew up in Niagara Falls, New York. She and Mark met in high school. They married after college and have two children and five grandchildren. Suzanne and Mark have only lived in Niagara Falls and Fairfax before coming to LOW.

Suzanne is a graduate of SUNY at Geneseo, with a BS in Library Science and MS from Niagara University in Educational Administration. She has taken other course work through Marymount University and Shenandoah University.

Suzanne's career included 26 years in Catholic education as a high school librarian and retired as head librarian. In addition, she worked many years in private industry as a technical librarian. Also, she has previous volunteer work with the Humane Society of Fairfax, Girl Scouts adult education, PTA president and many neighborhood community positions.

Suzanne joined FoWB as an interpreter, is a member of several committees and continues to volunteer with FoWB's many events and activities.

## **Gil Churchill (2020)**

Gil was born near Chicago, IL and grew up in Minnesota. He met his wife, Lucy, at the University of Minnesota where he earned BS and MS degrees in Forest Management.

His civilian career was with the U.S. Forest Service. Gil served on National Forests in Idaho, Washington, Montana, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and West Virginia. His last assignments were in the Regional Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he served as Director of Planning, Budget Officer, and Capital Resources Team Leader.

Gil had a military career at the same time. After serving active duty with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1964 and 1965, he continued to serve that Agency as a Reserve Officer, finally retiring after 28 years. This might account for his interest in military history, except for the fact that he had been an avid reader of Civil War history while still in High School.

Gil and Lucy moved to Lake of the Woods in 2008 to be near family. At Lake of the Woods, Gil has been President of a Square Dance Club, Chair of the Maintenance and Ecology Committee and leader of the AARP Election Day Chicken BBQ. He participates with the Veteran's Club, the Woodworker's Club, and the network of bridge players. At FOWB he is active as an Interpreter and Trail guide as well as serving with the Grounds Force on Thursday mornings.

## **Robert Epp (2021)**

Robert “Bob” Epp was born in Western Wisconsin. After matriculating at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, he and his new bride (Dian) moved to Northern Virginia in 1965. Bob joined the Department of Defense and became a Regional Analyst. Along the way to almost 40 years of public service employment, Bob moved his young family to Heidelberg, Germany for three years. In his free time in Germany Bob researched some of his German roots which began a lifetime journey with genealogy.

In 2005, Bob retired from the Department of Defense, then worked as a contractor for another four more years. In 2009, he and Dian sold their Annandale home and moved to the Wilderness where they had built a retirement home. Not satisfied to sit on his hands, Bob discovered the FoWB and trained as an interpreter the following year. Since then, he has been active in many of the FoWB committees and activities. Also, Bob has immersed himself into many other of the area’s organizations, notably the Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society. Bob has been exploring and expects to continue researching the families of Ellwood and the Wilderness.

## **Peter Kolakowski (2020)**

### **Governance Committee Chair**

Peter earned a bachelor’s degree in history and political science from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin and a Master’s of Public Administration from American University, Washington, D.C.

He has been a resident of the Fredericksburg area since 1972. Over his 40 year public service career, Peter served in the U.S. Army for five years and has been employed in executive management positions in Virginia local government in Fredericksburg as City Manager, state government working for VDOT as Assistant Commissioner and at the federal government level for the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren as a department head.

He has been active supporter of preservation and history projects throughout his career.

## **Mark Leach (2020)**

### **President**

Mark was born in Hudson, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

A 34 year career with ExxonMobil placed Mark in Milwaukee, WI, St. Louis, MO and Fairfax, VA. His most recent positions were in IT project management and systems training. Mark retired in April 2012.

Mark has been an Ellwood Interpreter and member of the Ground Force since joining FoWB in 2012. He has been a Director since 2013 and served as Vice President and Communications Committee Chair. Mark was elected FoWB President in 2015.

Mark is a director on the board of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Orange County Tourism Advisory Committee reporting to the County Board of Supervisors and is an active volunteer at the Orange County Visitor Center.

## **Ruth Pavlik (2021)**

A native of suburban Pittsburgh, PA, Ruth graduated from Clarion (PA) University with a BS in Elementary Education. However, the majority of her professional life was spent in the field of volunteer administration. For the 14 years prior to her 2015 retirement, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice of the Rapidan (now Hospice of the Piedmont) in Culpeper.

Ruth has made Virginia her home for almost all of her adult life--beginning in Arlington, with two stops in Fairfax County, then Warrenton, and finally moving into her current home in Lake of the Woods in 2005.

When planning her life after retirement, FoWB was at the top of her list of prospective volunteer opportunities. She serves as an interpreter, is Coordinator of the Junior Ranger Program and is a member of the Communications, Elwood, Programs and Membership Committees. Ruth also volunteers at the Orange County Visitors Center and does clerical work for LOWLINC, a senior citizen assistance group. In addition to volunteering, she is an avid sports fan, especially football and baseball, loves to read, do needlework, and travel. Ruth is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of four.

## **Jeff Slunt (2021)**

### **Treasurer**

Jeff holds a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of Virginia. He works from home for PRA International on a large colorectal cancer clinical trial. His wife is professor at the Chemistry department at the University of Mary Washington and they have two children, Todd and Madeline.

Jeff enjoys either coaching or watching his children play soccer most weekends. He volunteers for the Park Service at Chatham one day a month and takes advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the American Civil War.

## **Beth Stenstrom (2020)**

### **Communications Committee Chair**

Beth grew up jumping in and out of boats off the Texas coast and we can't keep her away from the water still. She is a full-blooded Texas Aggie, earning her B.S. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, and she received her M.Ed. from the University of Missouri in St. Louis in Psychological Counseling.

She is a retired teacher who taught blind and visually impaired students at the Missouri School for the Blind for many years, and finished her career teaching Texas History to middle school students in New Braunfels, Texas. She and her husband, Jim, are avocational archeologists, and have had quite a lot of experience with the Texas Archeology Society, the South Texas Archeology Association, and the Hill Country Archeology Association.

As are many of our interpreters in FoWB, Beth is a Certified Tourism Ambassador with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground program. She is an officer in the Washington-Lewis DAR chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She and her husband, Jim, are also charter members of the

Friends of Chatham, as well as members of a papal order, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which mission is to protect and maintain Holy sites in the Holy Land.

When Beth isn't running back and forth to the OBX, manning Information tables for FoWB at various venues, or working on Communications projects, you can usually find her, along with her cohorts in FoWB, running all over Virginia hunting for "treasures" in antique malls!

Beth and Jim have a son and a daughter, three granddaughters, and one grandson. Hobbies include hiking, genealogy, photography, reading, and history!

## *In Remembrance*



## Dwight Leander Mottet

April 3, 1935 - August 27, 2017

Dwight served as the President of FoWB from 2002 through 2006. Among his many contributions to the organization was his dedication to complete the process of incorporation of FoWB and the subsequent classification as a 501(c)3 charitable corporation.

Dwight generously bestowed a significant sum of money to FoWB which was used to fund many of our current projects, including the furnishing of the Hospital Room Exhibit.