



The Board of Directors of  
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2020

***Annual Membership Meeting***

November 7, 2020 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church  
Spotsylvania, Virginia

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.**  
**2020 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

Lynn McDonald

Ruth Pavlik

Dick Rankin

Daniel Sheron

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 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

### **Welcoming Remarks**

Mark Leach, President

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

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

### **Remarks**

Greg Mertz, Supervisory Historian,  
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

### **Announcements/Questions**

### **Adjourn**

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**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, seating is limited to seventy members and guests.**

**We will also not be able to provide lunch or a guest speaker this year.**

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2019**

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

President Leach called the meeting to order at 11:03 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 64 members were in attendance.

President Leach asked if all had had time to read the minutes from the 2018 meeting and all agreed that they had. Director Rankin made a motion that the minutes be approved, Member John Griffiths seconded, and all approved.

Vice President Lookabill introduced a special guest, Adam Wilson, who was sitting on the stage. This was the proper introduction to a brief update on the hospital room being developed at Ellwood. The room should be ready to open in April. Adam was actually a convalescent at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps CSA hospital the was located at Ellwood following the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. Adam lost his right arm, and after healing, he walked home to what is now West Virginia.

Treasurer Slunt briefly explained the treasurer's report presented in the Annual Report. The Cultural Landscape Fund has been closed, and the money is now in a Money Market account and marked as reserved.

President Leach presented some of the highlights of the year. Member Daniel Sheron discovered that the Phennie Tapp cemetery marker in Oak Hill Cemetery in Fredericksburg had been damaged and reported it to FoWB. Several of our members worked to get it repaired, and we had a rededication ceremony. FoWB has paid for replacing 4 markers in the Confederate Cemetery in Fredericksburg or 4 soldiers killed at the Battle of the Wilderness. FoWB has partnered with several other groups in presenting the Memorial Day Luminaria at the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg. FoWB takes in the money and pays the bills. We had a fundraiser at Harry's Ale House in July. FoWB sponsored a concert in April by descendants of James Horace and Betty Lacy, Gracie and Lacy Miller. FoWB hosted the annual FSNMP volunteer picnic in September. We paid for the food, and FSNMP will pay for our volunteer shirts. We have hosted several school groups throughout the year, including the entire 4<sup>th</sup> grade from Locust Grove Elementary School. We have had several Living History events, including an Abraham Lincoln impersonator in May, a General Lafayette impersonator in

June, and a speaker on the life of a soldier in October. We are in the final stages of opening a hospital exhibit at Ellwood. Ellwood served as a recovery hospital for the 2<sup>nd</sup> corps CSA from May to at least September 1863. We are getting a little closer to having real flush toilets at Ellwood. President Leach also told us briefly about the NPS Battlefield Affinity Group that has been recently formed, and we are one of the lead groups. The group will discuss what works and what doesn't work at various parks and how to engage younger volunteers. He closed his remarks by telling the attendees that FoWB needs all members as Ground Force, interpreters, committee members, and writers of History in your Backyard articles.

Pete Kolakowski, chairman of the Governance Committee, then presented the proposed slate for board members for the class of 2021 – incumbent Richard Rankin, and the slate for the 2022 class – incumbents Kevin Hunt, Robert Lookabill, and Donald Shockey, and new members Lynn McDonald and Daniel Sheron. Member John Yurechko made a motion that the slate be accepted as is, Director Stenstrom seconded the motion, and all approved.

Next, Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, Superintendent of FSNMP, brought greetings from the NPS. She thanks all of us for what we do for the park, and she told us how excited she is about the NPS Affinity Group and our involvement in it, and our role in the Memorial Day Luminaria. She then told us about some of the plans for the park trails around the Wilderness and a trail that will link Wilderness to Chancellorsville. She reminded us that she has been here 3 years and how she operates on a 3-year plan – 1<sup>st</sup> year is Learn, 2<sup>nd</sup> year is Try, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> year is Do. Again, she gave thanks from FSNMP to FoWB, and stated that people make the organization.

A reminder of the Victorian Christmas on Dec 14 and 15 was made

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Milbrey A Bartholow  
Secretary FoWB Board

## Comments from the President

Needless to say, 2020 has been a very challenging year for the organization and especially for our many volunteers. The Covid-19 pandemic and associated State and NPS restrictions on public entry into park buildings and social distancing requirements moved our Ellwood and battlefield interpreters 'out of the house' and on to the landscape. The restrictions also force us to cancel all of our living history and other special events for the year. Thankfully, our Ground Force was allowed to continue cutting grass and performing other landscaping tasks which, in my opinion, make Ellwood and the Wilderness battlefield one of the best maintained parks in the country!

So, what do I mean by our interpreters being on the landscape? Bob Lookabill, Don Shockey participated in many discussions with NPS management to determine how we could provide interpretation of Ellwood and the battle of the Wilderness without giving our typical tours inside Ellwood. It was decided that we would set up roped off stations around the Ellwood yard in order to visit with the public. This was a big change for the interpreters, but they quickly adapted to giving outdoor talks and most said that they actually enjoyed the experience! Visitation was down for the year, but the visitors that did stop by Ellwood were truly grateful that we were there to talk with them.

What about membership and donations this year? In a year where unfortunately many non profit organizations lost considerable numbers of members and revenue, FoWB actually fared pretty well. Believe it or not, revenue from memberships is actually up a little bit from last year, a clear indication that FoWB members are dedicated and believe in our mission! We also received a large inheritance from the estate of former interpreter and director Nate Bond. This more than offset our losses experienced in the donation box and has allowed us to continue operations and projects without any financial concerns.

Yes, this was truly a challenging year, but I am so very proud of all of you for being so dedicated and flexible to make it a good year! I am often asked what I find most satisfying about being president of this fine organization, the answer is simple ..... You!

Warmest regards,

Mark

# Treasurer's 2020 Annual Report

Data as of September 30, 2020

## Luminaria Checking Account (previously Ellwood Cultural Landscape)

Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$6,989.24
Balance per Books 9/30/2020	\$7,979.07
Change	\$889.83

## FoWB Operating Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$37,883.32
Balance per Books 9/30/2020	\$61,519.38
Change	\$23,636.06

## FoWB Money Market Account (Reserve Fund)

Balance per Books 9/30/2019	\$20,078.47
Balance per Books 9/30/2020	\$20,120.49
Change	\$42.02

Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2019	\$64,951.03
Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2020	\$89,518.94

**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 2020 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 2020 season through September totaled 1771. Volunteer interpreter hours through September totaled 873.

The coronavirus has severely impacted all of FoWB's operations in 2020 including our interpretive operations at Ellwood. The house has been closed to the public for the entire year. Interpretation of the house and the battle have been successfully conducted from outside the house while observing the appropriate social distancing. Interpreting officially began on 20 June. The prior weekend was used as a practice run of outside interpreting and was quite successful. Weekend and weekday interpretations were conducted from 20 June to 19 August. Weekend and holidays only interpretations were conducted from 15 August through 25 October.

Being closed for the months of April, May, half of June, November, and the cancelation of all special programs has had a tremendous impact on the number of visitors in 2020. The number of visitors by the end of September 2020 was 1771 while the number of visitors by end of September 2019 was 4527.

But, the comparison of the number of visitors from July 2019 to July 2020 shows a percentage reduction of approximately 30%. When we were open, they still came to visit Ellwood.

## **TRAINING and RECRUITMENT**

Six new interpreters received training on February 29, 2020. NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz led the new interpreter training. In person training for veteran interpreters was canceled due to the coronavirus. A virtual veteran training session was held shortly before opening on 20 June. The training session was primary used to describe and discuss conducting interpretation "on the landscape".

The loss of a number of veteran interpreters somewhat offset the increase of new interpreters. There are currently 45 trained Ellwood interpreters.

Don Shockey

Ellwood Operations Committee Chair

# **Battlefield Resources Committee**

## **2020 Annual Report**

Submitted by Kevin Hunt, Chair

### **Volunteer Members:**

Det Wilkens Ellwood Site Captain, Lee Woolf Asst Ellwood Site Captain

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

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

The BGF continued to provide outstanding upkeep to Ellwood and associated Wilderness Battlefield grounds. Mowing and grounds work started later than usual due to the virus, with NPS allowing the Grounds Force access to start activities 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. 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 2020 include:

- Replaced fencing around the cemetery accidentally damaged by a young visitor.
- Prepared the grounds for the FSNMP volunteer picnic, the property looked great for our guests.

### **Park Service Support**

- NPS removed the large burn pile.
- NPS actively supported the Ground Force and provided guidance concerning the maintenance of Ellwood grounds in light of the virus restrictions.
- NPS completed the two stall bathroom located in the brooder barn, installation of the new well and septic field, and removal of the old well.
- NPS contractors replaced Ellwood's roof and also that of the pump house.

### **Park Day**

- Unfortunately, Park Day was cancelled this year due to the virus. In addition, a large volunteer group from Capital One in Richmond was tentatively scheduled to perform cleanup of the trenches along Hill-Ewell Drive and creation of a path to the Pennsylvania monument by the side of Rt 3 on the Chancellorsville Battlefield, but this event was also cancelled.

### **BSA Eagle Projects**

- NPS developed an updated potential Eagle Scout project list for 2020. Several Wilderness projects were on the list.

### **Wilderness / Walmart Tract Primitive Campsite**

- The primitive campsite on the Walmart tract was continuously monitored and maintained so that it would be ready for use when requested. When utilized, typically the BRC would coordinate the opening/closing of the facility, the delivery of a porta-potty, and develop tasks for the scouts.
- The campsite was utilized 8-9 February by BSA Troop 835, and 24-25 October by BSA Troop 845.

## Membership/Heritage Committee 2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Milbrey A Bartholow, Chair

*Members: Robert Epp, Daniel Sheron, Diane Smith, Merry Ellen Korpan, Lynn McDonald*

This has been a year like no other. I had to take a sabbatical for a few months, and by the time I was ready to come back, the pandemic arrived. We work closely with the Communications Committee, which helps keep us busy. We set up a table at one on-site – Ellwood – “A Day in the Life of a Soldier” in October. Several members did get to attend two Orange Chamber of Commerce Wake-Up-Locust Grove events. I also attended two LoW Civil War Round Table meetings, one on the hospital at Ellwood in January and one on Women of the Civil War in March. I also presented a HP certificate to a new HP member at the January meeting.

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 26 new members, while we have lost 35 members, several because they moved. I like to think all FoWB members are 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. You just never know when that new member is waiting for information or a push. I attended a meeting one weekend in February where the speaker talked about the Aquia Quarry. I told her about the steps at Ellwood, she came out the next weekend, saw the steps, and joined.

We have added 9 new members to the Heritage Program, including 2 descendants of Beverly Tucker Lacy (and James of course, but we chose to add them under Beverly), now giving us 59 in the Wilderness Brigade and 17 in the Ellwood Legacy. We had a reception for HP members on November 8, 2019, with several members attending along with some spouses and board members. We induced 4 members that night. The Annual Meeting was held on November 9 about 80 members attended. We presented one HP certificate that day. All enjoyed a meal of salad, beef stew, cobbler, and ice cream, followed by a talk by Tom Van Winkle, first president of FoWB, who told us about the early beginnings and presented a scrapbook, compiled by his wife, Lisa, with articles about the early days.

# **Governance Committee 2020 Annual Report**

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

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

The Committee had a relatively quiet and routine year. The routine work consisted of answering questions about and interpretation of the bylaws.

There were two significant bylaws amendments approved in the last year. These were clarification and defining of the process for establishment of ad hoc committees by the Board. There were questions that resulted in the need for clarification about the procedures for an ad hoc committee's specific task. The second bylaws amendment clarified the authority of the Board of Directors to meet remotely, especially by WebEx, Zoom or other electronic means. This was necessary because of the COVID-19 restrictions for in person meetings and safety considerations. In addition, the Governance Committee provided procedures for the Board to conduct remote meetings.

The current approved set of FoWB bylaws are dated August 8, 2020.

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 2020 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 five nominees for a term of three years which is the Class of 2023. 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 2021 with others from the general membership. Members that may be interested in becoming Governance Committee members are encouraged to let the chairman know with their contact information.

## **Communications Committee 2020 Annual Report**

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

*Members: Milbrey Bartholow, Suzanne Baxter, Bob Epp, Lynn McDonald, Ruth Pavlik, Joanne Pino, Dick Rankin, Diane Smith*

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we were not able to do as many outreach events as usual this year. None, to be exact. Hopefully, next year will be better!

This does not mean that we were not busy, however! The Communication Committee Chair still co-administers the FoWB Facebook page, and we still work closely with the Membership Committee Chair to send out renewal reminders every month. We also have continued to send out a quarterly newsletter four times a year.

# Education Outreach Committee

## 2020 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*

**2020 Activities and Events:** All planned activities and events in 2020 up through this summer were cancelled or postponed due to the impact of COVID-1.

### **Wilderness Field Days:**

We hosted over 40 Home School students and parents in Sep at Ellwood. They participated in several activities outdoors. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Home School event will take place in October; this will focus on Jackson and the Chancellorsville Battle. Led by Greg Mertz, it will be an outdoors series of stops at 4 different locations.

Our 2021 plan includes 6 Home School events and 1 Spotsy G & T Field Trip.

We do not anticipate hosting the Locust Grove Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> Graders until 2022.

### **Educational and Informational Programs:**

There are no events scheduled for the rest of this year.

In 2021, we are planning to sponsor 3 events, originally planned for 2020: Hennessy Presentation on the Wilderness (May); Frank Walker Presentation on Orange & The Civil War (summer); Eric Mink Presentation on the Smedley Butler Expedition to Ellwood (fall).

### **Untold Stories #3:**

This event, scheduled for this past Mar, was cancelled.

We plan to conduct the same event next March (International Women's Month) and will focus on 3 local woman stories: The Loving Case; Civil War nursing; Woman's Suffrage. We plan to use 2 downtown churches, the old Courthouse, and FAM.

### **History in Our Backyard (HIOB):**

We now have 27 articles in the HIOB portfolio, which appear regularly in the Orange County Review, Front Porch, 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 several new articles in the pipeline but Mike Mikolosko, our editor, is seeking many new stories for future publication.

# **Programs Committee**

## **2020 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*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on indoor/outdoor public events, all living history and other public programs at Ellwood were canceled this year. The committee is making plans for the 2021 events and we are hopeful that next year will be normal!

# Nominations for Board of Directors

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

## **\*\* Milbrey Bartholow (Three Year Term 2023)**

### **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.

## **Gary Close (Three Year Term 2023)**

A San Diego, California native, Gary grew up in and around Petersburg, Virginia, living amidst Civil War forts and artifacts. He received a BA, magna cum laude, in English Literature from the University of Virginia (Wise) and a Juris Doctorate from the College of William and Mary. He also completed two years of graduate studies in Mass Communication at the University of Tennessee.

Gary worked as a reporter and news editor in Culpeper before entering law school in 1984. He practiced law in the Culpeper area and in 1992 was elected Commonwealth's Attorney. For 20 years he served in that position before retiring. Gary also served as a Gubernatorial appointee on the Virginia Commission on Youth for 12 years.

During that time, he developed an interest in genealogy which in turn led to an interest in Civil War history having discovered he is the descendent of three Union soldiers. One fought in the Battle of the Wilderness.

Besides his careers in journalism and law, Gary is an avid artist. His work is in the collection of the Culpeper County Museum and in the homes of collectors in Europe and the United States. He is the author of Breakout: The Roswell Legacy.

Currently, Close is working on two new books and continues to follow his passion in art. During the day he and "Super Dog Sandy" often walk the grounds at Elwood Manor. When not so occupied he sails a Flying Scot.

Gary met his wife Linda during the first week of college. They married a year after graduating and have two children. They moved to Lake of the Woods in 2016.

## **\*\* Peter Kolakowski (Three Year Term 2023)**

### **Governance Committee Chair**

Peter was born in Manhattan, New York City and grew up in St. James, Long Island, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin and a Master of Public Administration from American University, Washington, D.C. Peter was a resident of Fredericksburg since 1972.

Over his 40-year public service career, Peter first served in the U.S. Army for five years, then six years in executive management positions with the City of Fredericksburg, the last four as City Manager. He then worked in Virginia State government in executive positions for VDOT for 15 years primarily as Assistant Commissioner. His last 14 years before retirement was a return to the federal government with the U.S. Navy at the Naval Surface Warfare Center-Dahlgren Division as the department head for operations.

Since retirement, Peter has been an active participant and member of several area nonprofits that preserve land and provide interpretation on the Civil War, U.S. Navy and other history of the area and Virginia.

Currently, Peter lives in Madison, Wisconsin and continues to support history and preservation work and projects.

**\*\* Mark Leach (Three Year Term 2023)**

**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. He also co-chairs the battlefield Affinity Group for the National Park Foundation.

**\*\* Beth Stenstrom (Three Year Term 2023)**

**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!

## **Continuing Board Members**

### **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.

### **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.

## **Kevin Hunt (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 (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 six 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 (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.

## **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.

## **Richard (Dick) Rankin (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 (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 (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.

## **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.