Tippecanoe County Historical Association
Board of Governors Meeting

Mission: To Enrich the Lives of Tippecanoe County Residents and Visitors by collecting, preserving, researching, and sharing our unique and diverse history.

AGENDA
5:15 PM, November 17, 2026
HYBRID MEETING – IN PERSON and ZOOM

Members of the Board (total: 22 – quorum: 11)

Nick Schenkel– President	Lorita Bill	Jeff Schwab
Jeremy Spann – VP	Jeff Burnworth	Bridget Slack
Tara Raber - Secretary	H. Kory Cooper	Chris Stevenson
Natalia Huff – Treasurer	Walt Griffin	John F. Thieme
Rosanne Altstatt	David Hovde	Whitney Walton
Cassandra Apuzzo	Ashima Krishna	Jillian White
Colby Bartlett	Dave Sattler	Todd White
Del Bartlett		

Meetings are Hybrid unless otherwise noted. In person at the History Center and available on ZOOM.

Connecting Information for Zoom Meeting

- If you have a computer with a web camera and microphone (most web cams have a microphone built in), connect to the meeting by clicking on the hi-lighted "https://zoom.us/….." below.
- If you have not previously downloaded Zoom software, you will be prompted to do so in order to connect to the meeting. The software is free.
- If you wish to connect by phone, call in one of the numbers listed below (doesn't matter which). Once you are connected, you will be asked for your Meeting ID number so you can be placed into the correct meeting. The Meeting ID number is listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89441187805

Meeting ID: 894 4118 7805

One tap mobile
+19294362866,,89441187805# US (New York)
+13017158592,,89441187805# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
• +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US
• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

FUTURE DATES FOR MEETINGS and EVENTS

Executive Committee (agenda setting) – 3:30 P.M. usually the Thursday before a Board meeting

Board of Governors – Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:15 P.M.

- September 22, 2026
- No October Meeting
- November 17, 2026 (Moved due to Thanksgiving)
- December 15, 2026 (Moved due to Christmas)
- NO JANUARY MEETING
- February 6. 2027 Annual Membership Meeting – to be finalized by Board
- March 23, 2027

AGENDA for TCHA Board Meeting, November 17, 2026

- Call to Order
- Minutes from the September 2026, Board meeting
- Officers' Reports and business
    - President – Executive Director evaluation; awards for 2027 Annual meeting
    - Vice President – Nominating committee
    - Secretary
    - Treasurer
- Executive Director Report – Claire Eagle
- Battlefield Museum Report – Trey Gorden
- Membership Report – Kelly Lippie
- Collections Report – Kelly Lippie
- Research Library Report – Lucy Lugo
- Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report – Brooke Sauter
- Program Manager Report – Mitchell Critel
- Reports from Committees
- Strategic Planning
- Any Other Business
- END AGENDA / Adjournment

TCHA Board of Governors Meeting Minutes for September 2026
Tara Raber (Note: there was no October Board meeting)

In Person at the History Center and Online via Zoom

Board President Nick Schenkel called the September 22nd meeting of the TCHA Board of Governors to order at 5:15 pm at The History Center, Lafayette.
Present in Person: Nick S., Tara C., Kory C., Lorita B., Cassie A., Whitney W., Todd W., Natalia H., Jeff S., Jeremy S., Roseanne A., Jeff B., David H., Bridget S., Chris S.,

Online: Colby

B. Excused:

Staff: In person: Claire E., Kelly L., Mitchell C.,

Lucy L., Online- Trey G., Brooke S.,

Motion to approve minutes: Jeremy S. moved Todd W. 2nd All in favor, no opposition. No abstain.

President report: See written report. Strategic plan, we will have a discussion every month, Claire is spokesperson and executive director for TCHA. Will be setting up a building assessment committee and wanting to add an involvement committee.
VP- Nothing to add

Secretary- nothing to

add

Treasurer- See report; Investments are up $6,700 compared to last year. Cash is good. Up revenue $3,700 Grants received for History Center railing received in November of last year and expensed this year and for the Feast marquees, NOW grant will be received once we get all the History Center audio visual pieces in. Expenses are down with exception of Feast. Total expenses are down $9,000 but only because we have not paid for annual review. Repair costs are down. Contributions are up from budget 1. Is timing 2. Very close to annual campaign goal. 3. Budgeted for $15,000 for city/county. Received $20,000. Budget is conservative with contributions.

Motion to approved Jeremy S. 2nd Kory C. All in favor, no opposition, no abstentions

Executive Director report- Slowing down except for Feast work. Still working on the Battlefield chapel fund, waiting on a review of paperwork. We have not found a replacement for Laura at the Battlefield Museum and Bookstore. Katelyn is working

there all weekends in October to fill the gap.

Claire has finished last IU Lilly school of Philanthropy course. Community foundation helped with cost.

Annual Campaign: we are extremely close, at 73% - around $840 away from goal, NOW grant, we have received the OWL camera, waiting on the display screen.

Strategic plan- Lorita questions goal 2 strategy 5. Increase reserve maintenance funds. Typo. Goal 5 strategy 4. Change Language to ensure TCHA board participation and engagement.

Jeff S., Moves to approve as amended. Whitney W., 2nd. All in favor, none apposed, no abstain.

Claps all around. Thank you to Jeff S for getting it off the ground. And Claire for keeping us all engaged and moving forward.

Battlefield museum report: Trey- Numbers down about 115 people due to bridge closure. Archeology day was good with 99 people in the museum, weather was bad. Parks thinks that they can get the county to put up better detour signs.
Historic Markers report- Did not have quorum Waiting on State for Edna Browning Ruby. Giving the state more time to respond. We now have a database of a list of markers that is up to date.
Membership- Newsletter will go out soon, Feast tickets for members have gone out. November special member opportunity at the West Lafayette observatory. Limited to 20 people. Membership tent for feast needs volunteers.

Collections- Number of historic image requests. The trailer is done for the season. 2 items for deaccession. Books. One group is Ohio and one group is Maryland.

Committee has recommended deaccession. Todd W. moved Chris 2nd all in favor.

Library- Lucy has been doing a lot of online requests 14 online 9 in person.

Exceeded budgeted income for research. $10 1st half hour. $20 for every hour after. $.50 per page for scans.

Feast report- Brooke Oct 24-25. Things are right on track. Old Guard will be at this year's feast. Daily communication with Spring Valley Lodge. On Track for all 11 in time for set up. Acceptance letters have gone out. TCHA Purdue Research Foundation is letting us use the lots across from the fort. The paid lots across from the fort will be TCHA paid parking, with a percentage going to PRF. Everything is underway. Food orders going in. Army ROTC and TEMA will be running the paid lot. Talkies have been acquired for the parking people. We do not have a contract with

WTFD, but it is assumed that they will charge the $5k. The drivers will be on the Hannah center insurance. We have Michelle Vougland and her daughter Rose are the liaisons for the TCHA volunteers. New booths, coppersmith and a chocolatier, Cousin Dave silversmith. 14 new vendors. Lost some vendors due to date change, retirement and quality of product to be sold.

Mitchell programming report included. September is good. Launched Jr Historian's Academy. Slated for 21, had 18. One Family membership was added due to this. Billing for semester. Last History on Tour. Quaker Fair was well received. Largest population of engagement. Willing for more partnerships. Walt secured a $500 donation for commemoration. Usually, $300. Thank you, Walt.

Facilities- Did not meet.

Historic Markers: Did not meet.
Ouiatenon Preserve- Focusing on drafts of panels, meeting Thurs. Will be working on panel 4. The 1st 3 are in a good place. We do not have a set date to be installed, but drafts should be done by the end of the calendar year.
Publications- Final run thru on Battlefield booklet. Waiting on one tribe but they have about one week before we have to move forward to have it ready before the commemoration.

Membership and development- met and talked over strategic planning, and talked about how to bring in new members, and the benefits of each membership.

OPI report- I will scan and attach. 3 different orgs. TCHA, Whistler Foundation and Archeological conservancy. OPI is set up to manage to the land, legal implications for CREP money. Turning it back from farmlands back to native lands. Del is the TCHA representative. TCHA is responsible for the Overlook maintenance. OPI is responsible for overall maintenance. Most importantly compliance with CREP. Lee Brand had a concern about invasive species (Canadian Thistle) on TCHA owned property, because his property borders it. The EC has asked for a maintenance plan to the end of the year and one for next year as well as a monthly report. Fix house, owned by TCHA. Whistler has put up money to renovate it. Goal is to eventually have interpretation and signage, as well as connect to the trail. Bridget has suggested topping them before they go to seed.

Motion to close at 6:33- Todd

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for September

What a great Feast of the Hunter's Moon! Many, many thanks to everyone who threw their enthusiasm and joy into providing our community with the 59th edition of this much appreciated midwestern tradition.

And many thanks to everyone who has taken up implementing our long awaited – and much worked Strategic Plan. I – and I hope you – look forward to seeing our hard work and planning put into practice in the months and years to come.

Treasurer's Report – October 2026
Natalia Huff

NOTE: DRAFT COPIES; to be updated

Tippecanoe County Historical Association Selected Accounts

	This Year 10/31/2026	8/31/2026	Change from Last Month	Last Year 10/31/2025	Change from Last Year
Operating Bank Accounts					
Petty Cash	550.00	550.00	-	568.48	(18.48)
First Merchants Checking .01%	475,980.70	35,146.74	440,833.96	190,314.29	285,666.41
First Merchants Operating MM 2.75%	338,224.13	247,194.06	91,030.07	579,084.21	(240,860.08)
First Merchants Operating MM 2.75%-Strategic Plan	25,000.00	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	-
Undeposited Funds	(18,594.67)	733.01	(19,327.68)	463.85	(19,058.52)
	821,160.16	308,623.81	512,536.35	795,430.83	25,729.33
Current Obligations & Receivables					
Accounts Payable	(190,598.86)	(33,631.86)	(156,967.00)	(249,970.81)	59,371.95
Credit Card	(12,903.63)	(4,906.13)	(7,997.50)	(14,380.64)	1,477.01
Grant Money Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Money Advanced	(1,434.01)	(153.27)	(1,280.74)	(3,842.21)	2,408.20
Bicentennial Book Money	-	-	-	(25,000.00)	25,000.00
	(204,936.50)	(38,691.26)	(166,245.24)	(293,193.66)	88,257.16
Operating Cash Less Current Obligations	616,223.66	269,932.55	346,291.11	502,237.17	113,986.49
Other Restricted and Designated Accounts					
Emergency Maintenance MM 2.75%	96,205.95	95,765.31	440.64	79,255.87	16,950.08
Ouiatenon Preserve Account 2.75%	162,339.37	143,493.58	18,845.79	124,945.33	37,394.04
Feast Rainy Day CD 3.55% Renews March 3, 2027	194,328.52	193,200.02	1,128.50	163,230.11	31,098.41
Total Other Restricted and Designated Accounts	452,873.84	432,458.91	20,414.93	367,431.31	85,442.53
					199,429.02
			366,706.04		

Investment Accounts	12/31/2025	9/30/2026	Change 2026	Distributions	Addition	Net Gain (Loss)	
TCHA Trust	1,735,500.47	1,846,162.15	110,661.68	58,263.15	50,000.00	118,924.83	
Wetherill Trust	414,566.02	424,762.44	10,196.42	14,483.28	-	24,679.70	
Lafayette Community Foundation	37,306.15	39,342.12	2,035.97	1,447.00	-	3,482.97	
Total Investments	2,187,372.64	2,310,266.71	122,894.07	74,193.43	50,000.00	147,087.50	

*Investments are updated quarterly

October 2026 Budget vs. Actuals

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income			
Grant Operating	1,417.35	-	1,417.35
Contributions	85,215.31	74,450.00	10,765.31
Museum Store Sales	45,629.41	68,000.00	(22,370.59)
Library Revenue	3,564.10	2,250.00	1,314.10
Membership Dues	27,374.82	25,925.00	1,449.82
Programs & Education	66,832.85	66,350.00	482.85
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	495,859.43	467,470.00	28,389.43
Total Income	**725,893.27**	**704,445.00**	**21,448.27**
Cost of Goods Sold	22,193.84	30,425.00	(8,231.16)
Gross Profit	**703,699.43**	**674,020.00**	**29,679.43**
Expenses			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	245,375.44	277,826.70	(32,451.26)
Administrative Expenses	16,101.96	14,470.00	1,631.96
Contract Services Administrative	19,104.38	29,030.00	(9,925.62)
Equipment & Supplies	2,531.19	3,860.00	(1,328.81)
Collections, Exhibits & Library	2,665.20	5,420.00	(2,754.80)
Museum Store Expenses	1,386.92	2,020.00	(633.08)
Insurance and Taxes	19,411.29	20,470.00	(1,058.71)
Repairs & Maintenance	26,136.66	32,980.00	(6,843.34)
Contractual Services - Facilities	2,673.92	3,580.00	(906.08)
Utilities	34,681.39	38,824.00	(4,142.61)
Membership Expenses	1,733.24	2,000.00	(266.76)
Fundraising Expense	1,314.00	1,500.00	(186.00)
Feast Expenses	185,595.39	265,370.00	(79,774.61)
Programs & Education Expense	5,410.18	6,182.00	(771.82)
Total Expenses	**564,121.16**	**703,532.70**	**(139,411.54)**
Net Operating Income	**139,578.27**	**(29,512.70)**	**169,090.97**
Other Income (Expense)			
Grants - Nonoperating	59,089.49	-	59,089.49
Rents	6,050.00	7,000.00	(950.00)
Interest	17,706.06	10,500.00	7,206.06
Investment Income (distribution only)	74,193.43	73,950.00	243.43
Depreciation	(67,000.00)	(67,000.00)	-
Total Other Income (Expense)	**90,038.98**	**24,450.00**	**65,588.98**
Net Income	**229,617.25**	**(5,062.70)**	**234,679.95**

Executive Director Report Claire Eagle
November 2026

Administration

- A resolution for the transfer of funds has been signed by both me and the President of the Tippecanoe County Parks Foundation Board. We are working on getting a check to them for the approved amount. This will be completed by the end of the year.
- We've hired a new Museum Assistant at the Battlefield! Mj started last week and is still in the training phase. We hope to have her working weekends by herself by Thanksgiving.
- TCHA Sites and Administrative offices will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving.
- 2027's budget is in process. The Budget and Finance committee meets again on December 7 to finalize the budget before presenting it to the full Board on December 15.
- The annual evaluation process has begun. Staff have submitted their self-evaluations, and I am completing my self-evaluation now.
- We have received a draft Financial Statement from Huth Thompson for our 2025 review. We are working through a few questions before finalizing and paying their fee.
- Our new website launch is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 18.
- We have received an Outstanding History Project Award from the Indiana Historical Society for the bicentennial book. There will be an award presentation at the annual meeting in February, and a press release will be out soon, either from IHS or us.
- I have awarded Kelly, Trey, Mitchell and myself 3 comp days for all the extra time worked during and leading up to the Feast.
- I will be out of the office November 18-19, 25 and December 4.

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations

- I'm excited to share we have hit our $10,000 goal for the annual campaign! Even though we have still hit our goal, we are sending a follow up letter to those that gave to the campaign last year but have not given this year. The letter should be in mailboxes this week.
- Unfortunately, we did not receive the SIA grant for a new projector. However, Mitchell and Jeff B. found a good condition one at Purdue Salvage for only $125.

Strategic Plan Update

- Strategic Plan work has already started since the adoption of our current plan in August. Membership and Development, Programming, Collections, Nominating and Budget and Finance committees have already started on their assigned tasks. Please see committee reports for more details.
-

Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and History Store Report

November 2026

- Numbers are up from last month, but down from last year
- Commemoration a qualified success
- Please welcome new Battlefield Assistant Mj Galloway!

From October 21 through November 12, we had **763** visitors. Last month we also had **763**, which is a little bit spooky but will represent an increase eventually, since this report has been submitted before the end of the month. However, last year we had **1101** visitors for this period, a difference of 338 people. I blame the bridge construction at Davis Ferry, but also the fact that circumstances forced us to have Commemoration on Sunday afternoon, which reduced attendance a bit. We've also had fewer programs over this period than last year.

Despite the low numbers (Caitlyn counted 114 people entering the museum), Commemoration was otherwise a success. The weather was unimpeachable: sunny and cool, with pretty leaves on the oaks. The Miami had to cancel this year due to personnel issues, but I spoke to Logan York, their THPO, at Feast, and he said they fully intend to return next year. This year we welcomed the Bucktails, Mitchell Critel's re-enactment group, this year, and they provided fascinating new interpretation for our visitors. A long-time participant who re-enacts with the Davis Company of Indiana Territorial Rangers, a fellow from whom I've come to expect … let's just say "frank feedback," surprised me by telling me that, in his estimation, this was the best year yet. Better still, we've already started talking about ways to improve even more in 2027.

Feast numbers are still coming in, but it seems to have been successful. For the first time in Feast history (that I'm aware of) we completely sold out of 2026 logo merchandise.

We have hired a new Battlefield Assistant. Please stop by on the weekends and welcome Mj Galloway. She comes to us with a good deal of museum and retail experience and has already started fitting in well with the rest of the staff.

Future:

We're looking forward to next year: starting to make plans for another flint-knapping workshop along with a line of historical game materials and new programming. Standby to be amazed! See you all at the annual meeting.

Membership Report – November 2026
Kelly Lippie

Feast Membership Tent:
10 memberships sold at the tent

- 1 new, 1 gift, 1 renewal that had been lapsed since 2023.

2 new purchased online a week later that were likely from people who took a brochure.
Observatory Tour Friday is full
Next newsletter due right after Thanksgiving
March 30 Membership program
Annual Meeting- Feb. 6, guest speaker from Lew Wallace Study.

Membership Level	Renewal Period	Total as of July 17	Total as of Aug. 18	Total as of Sept. 16	Total as of Nov. 13
Individual ($40)	Annual	51	49	51	61
Senior Individual ($35)	Annual	108	110	109	101
Senior Couple ($45)	Annual	130	130	125	124
Family ($55)	Annual	63	62	66	60
Patron ($100)	Annual	62	63	58	63
Sustaining ($250)	Annual	17	18	17	18
Benefactor ($500)	Annual	5	4	4	6
Treasure ($1,000)	Annual	2	2	2	2
Lifetime	Lifetime	27	27	27	27
Total Memberships		**465**	**465**	**459**	**462**

Total Membership October 16, 2025= 458

TCHA Collections Dept. Report – November 2026

Kelly Lippie

- Several image requests for George Winter and other historic images.
- Altrusa is borrowing the bicentennial pop-up exhibits for their meetings at Central Pres.
- Curator homeschool program held October 8th.
- Attended Holy Trinity Lutheran Community Fair Oct. 3 to represent TCHA.
- Started work with a Purdue EPICS group to develop new interactive display for Battlefield Museum.
- Attended Indiana CORN Alliance for Response forum in Indianapolis for programs on historic site emergency response planning (November 6)
- Met with 2 potential student volunteers/ interns for the spring.
- Volunteers' projects include: cataloging negatives, scanning negatives, indexing George Winter collection from card catalog.
- Did an oral history interview with woman who grew up in Wabash Avenue neighborhood.
- Created special Halloween exhibit for the holiday event on Oct. 30.
- Met with Morris Schoolhouse volunteers to discuss plan for historic textbook collection.
- Helped with Feast School Day planning.

Upcoming in 2026/2027

- Planning exhibit changeouts for 2027 in all the buildings temporary exhibit cases.
- Images prepared for the new edition of the Battle of Tippecanoe book, including some permissions.

Collections Committee Met November 4.

- 20 new accessions created (committee did not meet in October).
- No Deaccessions.

Strategic Plan Action

Goal 3:1 Create and require Collections orientation program as part of the onboarding process for TCHA Board of Governors once per 3-year term**.**

- Nov. 4: Collections Committee reviewed outline draft for orientation program. Will continue to make changes via email review during winter months.

Goal 3:3 Improve TCHA Researcher Experience

- New format developed for online genealogy (and other) indexes to be used on new website.

Research Library Board Report - November 2026

Lucy Lugo

The library has been very busy during these last couple of months! Since the last board meeting, there has been a large influx of research requests, and we've had a lot of walk-in researchers. The volunteers and I have been keeping busy working on requests and indexing projects, and we are hoping to publish one or two new indexes available online by the end of the year.

Ongoing indexing projects include circuit court records, marriage records, family/surname cards, census records, and Poor Farm records.

Research Library Stats:

- Since the September board meeting, we've assisted a total of 56 researchers, 34 email/mail/phone calls and 22 in-person visits
    - 6 out of the 22 in-person visits were TCHA members

Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report - November 2026
Brooke Sauter

Attendance and preliminary financial results

The 59th Feast of the Hunters' Moon took place October 24–25 at Fort Ouiatenon, following Special Kids Day and School Day. Our overall attendance count was 42,824, including the public, participants, volunteers, and those who joined us for our school programs. Attendance was up from 2025. Early numbers also suggest that overall Feast income was up, and we're still reconciling the financials.

A good portion of November has been spent working on food booth paperwork, commissary reconciliation, and payments to contractors/performers/groups. We're working through those records steadily and want to get payments out to the groups as soon as we can. Through work completed in the spring by Jeff S, Lorita, and Lauren, we are hopeful the food booth process will be expedited this year.

A memorable year for programming

Hosting the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps was an incredible success and one of my favorite parts of this year's Feast. One of the most special components was welcoming Staff Sgt. Joshua Robbins BACK to the Feast, as he has been a life-long Feaster and fifer. (Watch this brief clip of Josh in an Army promo video and hear his own words: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/01EzPesGOEg) In addition to getting to

introduce his fellow musicians to the Feast for the first time. It was obvious how much fun they were having here. In their interview with *The Exponent*, members talked about how different the Feast was from the events they'd experienced out East. This was again a huge honor for the Feast and was well received.

Excerpt: "Many members of the Old Guard corps, like Major Sgt. 1st Class Barret Newman, Sgt. Jenna Veverka and Staff Sgt. Jay Healey were attending their first-ever Feast. Healey said that while he'd grown up in fife and drum corps, he was surprised by the size of the Feast and the variety of crafts and food made by the thousands of participants.

"Being from New England, we have reenactments, but I would say they're never on this grand of a scale … We (the corps) really had no idea that there were gonna be so many vendors of all types," Healey said. "You can just feel the energy and the love and passion for this hobby." " (https://www.purdueexponent.org/city_state/events/reenactors-return-to-for-59th-feast-of-the-hunters-moon/article_c9d3fff8-d9d9-43e4-a703-b19e148d341f.html)

The Feast was also fortunate to welcome Greg and Nancy Emig back to run the tavern and give historical brewing demonstrations. After retiring and selling Lafayette Brewing Company last year, they came out of retirement to keep the Feast Tavern running. They worked with People's Brewing Company in Lafayette to brew some of their popular beers again for the Feast.

We also invited Charlotte Montel, Consul General of France in Chicago, in the spring to join us at this year's Feast. She genuinely wanted to attend, and we appreciated her interest. Her commitments in the Chicago area that weekend left too little time for the trip to Fort Ouiatenon, in addition to some administrative changes that delayed the conversation.

Parking and traffic

Our paid parking partnership with the Purdue Research Foundation was successful. It gave visitors another place to park and generated $16,164 in gross parking receipts. There's room to make better use of the available spaces in 2027, improve the arrival experience, and bring in more parking income for TCHA.

I've already met with the McCutcheon/Harrison FFA group, which staffed the North Lot. They worked hard to keep the lot running and gave us great feedback about what they saw firsthand. They had practical suggestions for how we lay out the field and how we get cars from the road into parking spaces. Those are the kinds of details I want to hear from the people who spent the weekend doing the work.

At times, cars backed up onto South River Road. A narrow county road with virtually no shoulder gives us very little room when a lot of people arrive at once. There are still things we can improve on our end. I'll be looking at the entrance and field layout, signage, and staffing so the crew can direct cars into spaces more efficiently and keep the line moving.

Merchandise and food booths

We sold out of every piece of 2026 merchandise we brought to sell at the Feast. Trey and Stephanie took no 2026 merchandise back to the Battlefield, and the mugs sold out again. The inventory we received for on-site sales included 167 T-shirts and 58 zip-up hoodies, along with totes, magnets, and stickers. Our merchandise vendor's September–October online report also showed 51 items sold across 22 orders, with $1,221.40 collected and $1,106.54 remaining after card processing and fulfillment fees. I'm especially happy with how well the designs, size mix, and types of items worked this year. It's taken some trial and error to get that mix right, and it was fun to see it all come together.

Food booths had a more mixed weekend. Some booths ordered exactly what they ordered in 2025 and had more product left over this year, even though overall attendance was higher. The buffalo burger booth, for example, noticed more families and couples sharing one burger where they might previously have ordered two or more. That's anecdotal, but it's one reason we suspect some visitors were watching what they spent. As we finish reviewing the paperwork and talk with more booth leaders, we'll have a better idea of how widespread that was and what it might mean for next year's orders.

On that note, if anyone would like a 12-pound case of frozen bison for $120, please let me know. That works out to $10 a pound, which is a good deal. Checks can be made out to TCHA, and I can arrange a time with you to pick up your meat or meet mutually to hand it off.

What we're working on for 2027

I've already started meeting with participants and talking with vendors, and I'm getting more conversations on the calendar while the details are still fresh. I want to hear what worked, what made someone's job harder, and what they saw from their part of the grounds. The North Lot conversation was a good example of getting the feedback while it is fresh in their minds.

We're looking at changes to firewood distribution after some groups took more than their share, leaving less for others. We're also reviewing how we communicate and enforce vehicle restrictions during our school programs. We had vendors who wanted to bring vehicles onto the grounds during those hours. With students moving through the site, keeping vehicles off the grounds is a safety issue. It also preserves the historic setting that teachers and students come to experience.

We're waiting on the Purdue football schedule before selecting a date for the 60th Feast. In the meantime, there's plenty we can move forward on, from parking and food booth planning to how we communicate expectations to participants. I want the changes we make for 2027 to reflect what we heard from the people who helped put on this year's event.

Thank you to the people who make the Feast happen

I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to Jeff, Jeff, Claire, Kelly, Mitchell, Lucy, Trey, and Stephanie. For this being Mitchell's first Feast, he took it all with grace and was such a helpful addition. Having another TCHA employee working at the coordinator level took a real weight off my shoulders. Being able to talk through decisions on the fly and split up to tackle tasks during the week leading up the event/weekend, Feast admin was more efficient and made better choices as a result.

I'm equally grateful to our volunteer steering committee and the thousands of participants it takes to host the Feast. Our committee members recruit and lead their own crews, take responsibility for entire parts of the event, and spend countless hours making sure it all comes together. The people who return year after year pour their hearts and souls into the Feast. They love it every bit as much as we do, and they're a big reason TCHA and the Feast have the reputation they do in our community and in the reenacting world.

We also could not pull it off without the help of our partners, such as TEMA, Marty Webb, the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department, Jim's Garage, Lee Brand, and others. I'm grateful we can count on them when issues come up, whether on the grounds or out on the road. They understand what it takes to keep an event of this size running safely, and they truly have the Feast's best interests at heart.

We also utilized two new vendors this year, Arctic Owl Ice out of Delphi in place of Home City Ice. We also used American Party Time and Tool out of Kokomo instead of Midwest Rentals (tables and chairs). Both of these new vendors knocked it out of the park, in many ways. Efficiency, communication and reliability namely.

Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is December 3 at the History Center. We've asked steering committee members to pass the invitation along to their crews. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone when we can sit down, have dinner, and talk about the Feast without anyone needing to get back to a gate, a booth, or a parking lot.

While this report is certainly my longest of the year, I still feel like there is so much more I could share, but I will keep it at three pages. Above all else, thank you to the TCHA Board of Governors for your support in running this event. Whether you are volunteers,

vendors, or the brains behind some of our logistical processes, it makes a massive difference to have the support of our leaders when pulling off an event of this size.

Programs Board Report - November 2026

Mitchell L Critel, Programs Manager

Programing has been well attended since my last Board Report. The Plants of the Ouiatenon World presentation had 60 people between online and in person attendees, the Halloween Bash on 10th street had 207 people come into the Arganbright in a few short hours, and Commemoration had a new engagement of living history volunteers in addition to the 114 people who attended the event.

The Junior Historians Academy continues to fill the anticipated capacity, and invoicing for the spring semester will happen in December. A short survey will go out to the families who attended the fall sessions to help me plan for the Spring as well as evaluate what this program looks like in the 27/28 Academic Year.

The 2026 Programs Survey is LIVE! The Program Committee worked to hone the questions down to a short but effective survey. The survey will be open from November 12th until December 14th, with one participant being drawn for a $25.00 gift certificate to the History Store on December 15th.

Between the Feast and Commemoration, I attended the Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council Fall Conference in Delphi, in addition to attending sessions on the Wabash and Erie Canal and How to Collaborate with the Miami, I presented a session on Volunteer Engagement and Evaluation that was well received. I have since been asked to present at the MOMCC Fall Conference in Spring Mill about Foodways for Military Living History programing and in April at a Living History conference in Michigan.

History Center Improvements for Programing

We continue to get acquire equipment to improving programing and rentals of the History Center spaces. Earlier last week Jeff Burnworth and I raided Purdue Salvage for a Laser Projector and ended up also finding a suitable screen as well. We have

also procured new wireless mics and a point to zoom camera. I am working to have all of this equipment installed and working near the turn of the new year.

Opportunities for Board Engagement

December 5th- 10am-4pm: Joyeux Noel au Post Ouiatenon Living History

December 8- 5pm- Deck the History Center Halls

December12- A Taste of the Past: A Victorian Christmas (Volunteer Sign Up Coming Soon)

Other Committee Reports for November 2026

Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee met on November 10th.

- We discussed the draft copy of the reviewed financial statement for 2025. While there were no adjustments because of the review, there were reclassifications and disclosures that we have some questions about. Claire and Eric will address these questions with Huth Thompson.
- We went over the preliminary budget numbers. The committee will meet again December 7th to finalize the proposed budget.
- Claire reviewed the future role of the committee in implementing the strategic plan. The committee will continue to monitor and make recommendations for funds to be transferred to the Feast Rainy Day and maintenance reserve accounts, help establish a planned giving program, and participate in education of the board related to the financial aspects of the organization.

Development & Membership Committee

Claire Eagle, Kelly Lippie, Heather Hitze and Tara Chambers were in attendance in person. Jillian White and Todd White attended via Zoom.

After reviewing a membership report from Kelly and an update on the annual campaign, the committee began a review and discussion of proposed changes to membership levels. As a part of the strategic plan, we are tasked with increasing membership by 10% each year. We are looking to change

levels and perks to better promote and retain memberships as well as reflect similar organizations in the area. Changes include removing senior individual, senior couple and family memberships and continuing with only two basic membership levels; Individual and Household. Premier level memberships will stay the same in name and price, but there are changes in perks. These will go into place on January 1. The committee is continuing to finalize the new membership plan as well as put in place policies for the transition.

Language was also reviewed for an end of the year postcard to our members. A couple of photos were picked, and examples are being created now. This with be printed and mailed through National Group around Christmas.

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee met in October to review needs for repairs that have come up since the last meeting in August and is planning to take up needed fixes for TCHA buildings and facilities in the weeks to come

Historic Markers Committee

The Historical Markers Committee hasn't met since our last meeting, so there's nothing to report about with them.

Publications Committee

The committee did not meet in October due to ongoing Feast setup. The text portion of the new Battlefield booklet is complete and sent to the committee for review. The November meeting was also cancelled due to ongoing work on the images and photos to be used in the booklet still in progress.

Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

Report on Committee Meeting 09 24 26
In attendance: Del Bartlett, Colby Bartlett, Phyllis Dotson, Jeff Burnworth, Jeremy Spann, Kory Cooper. Brook joined via Zoom.

We discussed OP interpretive panels 3 and 4, paleohydrology and the fort, respectively. Also discussed plan for panels 5 and 6, Archaeology and Ecology. OP Committee will

meet December 3rd to discuss drafts of these panels. Kory and Brooke will meet December 17th to review panels and plan next step, which includes circulating to TCHA Board and other stakeholders.

OUIATENON PRESERVE INC (OPI) BOARD RESPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ouiatenon Preserve maintenance status:

a. Overlook:

1. Landscape area around sign: OPI awaits an estimate to restore the landscaping around the Preserve sign from Ecotone, Inc., a restoration service that has previously provided contract services dealing with invasives on the preserve. The evergreen bushes were severely damaged by the liquid applied on them and the tree is showing significant stress on its western branches. The estimate will be for full restoration of the planting to the condition prior to the application of the herbicide in early August. The restoration will be completed this spring, per Ecotone's schedule.

2. Parking area: a. Grass and weed killer has been applied to the parking area

3. Mowing has continued as needed. Grass growth has slowed and will continue on an as needed basis.

4. 3. The oval:
   a. Boulders have been added around the northern half of the oval. Over 30 boulders have been placed at approximately 5-foot intervals to discourage visitors from driving vehicles on the turf. It is anticipated that at least 8 additional boulders will be needed to complete the project. Boulders are being purchased on an as available basis and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by early spring, if not
   before.

5. 5-acre CREP tract below Overlook, Contract 11094:
   a. Invasives: The OPI Executive Director recently inspected the tract with Robert Susland, TCSWS Rural Conservationist, and found no Canadian Thistle invasives. Invasives present were determined to be Canary Grass and Chinese Holly. As it is past spraying season, the invasives will be treated this spring when it is dry enough. The adjacent area owned by Lee Brand has been mowed recently which is not compliant with CREP
   recommendations.

6. TCHA/ Sportsmen's Club Easement
   a. No change

7. General Preserve Area:
   a. Sutter Tract, Contract
   11160A
   Colby Bartlett and Robert Suskind's inspection of this area identified three areas of concern requiring remedial action. On the southernmost margin of the tract there is a dense growth of Canary grass. On the eastern margin bordered by Parks Department land Asian Pear trees have invaded and on the Northern boundary at the high-water mark, volunteer trees have sprung up. All three areas need remedial action this spring.

   Robert Susland is preparing a comprehensive plan which OPI will implement this spring when recommended
   by TCSWCS.

   b. Erwin Tract, Contract 11167
   OPI has received a notice from FSA that mid contract management activity is due on this contract which renews September 30, 2034. The activity is to be conducted and reported no later than September 30, 2027.
   Activity may not be conducted between April 1 and August 1 because that is the primary nesting season for ground nesting birds.

   OPI will conduct all activity required by CRP in accordance with
   their recommendations and the best MCM practices in consultation with
   NRCS.

   7. Fix Property:
   a. No change:

8. Other Activity: OPI continues to work with the Ouiatenon Preserve Committee to complete the interpretive signage for the
   Overlook.

This report is submitted for the November 17, 2026, TCHA Board of Governors' meeting.
Joseph D. Bartlett
OPI Board/Secretary
TCHA Board Governor

2026 BOARD OF GOVERNORS TERMS (3 Year Terms)

Name	Term Ends (Annual Mtg. Jan/Feb)
Rosanne Alstsatt	December 2026 (January 2027)
Cassandra Apuzzo	December 2026 (January 2027)
Colby Bartlett	December 2026 (January 2027)
Del Bartlett	December 2027 (January 2028)
Lorita Bill	December 2026 (January 2027)
Jeff Burnworth	December 2026 (January 2027)
H. Kory Cooper	December 2027 (January 2028)
Walt Griffin	December 2028 (January 2029)
David Hovde	December 2028 (January 2029)
Natalia Huff	December 2028 (January 2029)
Ashima Krishna	December 2027 (January 2028)
Tara Raber	December 2026 (January 2027)
Dave Sattler	December 2026 (January 2027)
Nick Schenkel	December 2027 (January 2028)
Jeff Schwab	December 2027 (January 2028)
Bridget Slack	December 2026 (January 2027)
Jeremy Spann	December 2026 (January 2027)
Chris Stevenson	December 2028 (January 2029)
John Thieme	December 2028 (January 2029)
Whitney Walton	December 2026 (January 2027)
Jillian White	December 2027 (January 2028)
Todd White	December 2027 (January 2028)

2026 OFFICERS OF THE BOARD (1 Year Term, not more than 5 consecutive terms)

Position	Name	First Term Began	Term Number in 2026	Re-election eligibility ends
President	Nick Schenkel	February 2026	1	January 2031
Vice President	Jeremy Spann	February 2025	2	January 2030
Secretary	Tara Raber	February 2026	1	January 2031
Treasurer	Natalia Huff	February 2026	1	January 2031

TCHA COMMITTEES – 2025-2026

* Indicates Chair or Co-Chair

Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Board President *	Board Secretary	Board Treasurer
Board Vice President	Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Risk Management Committee	

Collections Committee

Kelly Lippie *	Nick Schenkel	Carolyn O'Connell
Cassie Apuzzo	Other Members:	Amy Harbor
Trey Gorden	LA Clugh	Mary Springer
Lucy Lugo	Rick Conwell	

Facilities Committee (formerly the Buildings & Grounds Committee)

Jeff Burnworth *	Ashima Krishna	Pete Bill
Walt Griffin	Kelly Lippie	Chris Hitze
Colby Bartlett	Jeremy Spann	Bill Young
Lorita Bill	Other Members:	

Finance, Budget, and Risk Management Committee

Lorita Bill*	Tara Raber	Jeff Schwab
Claire Eagle	John Thieme	Todd White
Walt Griffin	Nick Schenkel	

Nominating Committee

Jeremy Spann -*	Dave Sattler	Bridget Slack
Kory Cooper	Nick Schenkel	Jillian White
Claire Eagle	Jeff Schwab	

Other Committees

Development & Membership Committee

Kelly Lippie *	Jeremy Spann	Other Members:
Jeff Burnworth	Jillian White	Brooke Sauter
Tara Raber	Todd White	Ronda Walsh Schwab
Dave Sattler		

Feast Committee

Brooke Sauter *	Mary Fisher	Lauren Reed
Jeff Schwab *	Sam Haughey	Matt Riebsomer
Aerica Beaver	Brian Hawn	Jackie Schmidt
Jeff Burnworth	Erin Hicks	Sheri Sondgerath
Kelly Lippie	Jeff Hockstra	Scott Stembaugh
Jeremy Spann	Mackenzie Kassner	Andy Wall
Other Members:	Erika Kvam	Joyce Wiegand
Mac Bellner	Robert Leavitt	Logan York
Molly Bellner	Randy Lower	Bill Young
Pete Bill	Janine Lowery	Jan Young
Mike Elliott	Melissa O'Farrell	

Historic Markers Committee

Trey Gorden *	Other Members:	Jonathan Lipps
Rosanne Altstatt	Sharon Baker	Duane Mantick
Del Bartlett	Pam Barnard	Linda Swihart
Bridget Slack		

Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

Kory Cooper *	Ashima Krishna	Phyllis Dotson
Del Bartlett	Other Members:	Colby Bartlett (non-voting)
David Hovde	Leslie Martin Conwell	

Program Advisory Committee

Claire Eagle *	David Hovde	Chris Stevenson
Cassie Apuzzo	Lucy Lugo	Whitney Walton
Walt Griffin	Bridget Slack	Members - Amy Harbor

Publications Committee

David Hovde *	Rosanne Altstatt	Other Members:
Jeff Schwab *	Whitney Walton	Pete Bill
	Trey Gorden	
Cassie Apuzzo	Chirs Stevenson	

* - The Board President is an ex-officio member of all committees