

# 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, April 28 2026

### HYBRID MEETING – IN PERSON and ZOOM

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

Nick Schenkel– President	Lorita Bill	Jeff Schwab
Jeremy Spann – Vice	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

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- +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.

- April 28, 2026
- May 19, 2026 (Moved due to Memorial Day)
- June 23, 2026
- July 28, 2026
- August 25, 2026
- September 22, 2026
- No October Meeting
- November 17, 2026 (Moved due to Thanksgiving)
- December 15, 2026 (Moved due to Christmas)

## AGENDA for TCHA Board Meeting, April 28, 2026

- Call to Order
- Minutes from March 24, 2026, Board meeting
- Report from First Merchants Corporation Private Wealth Advisors re TCHA Investments
- Officers' Reports and business
  - President
  - Vice President
  - 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**

## President's Report for April 28, 2026

It was a cool, partly cloudy Saturday afternoon on April 18.

I'd forgotten how beautiful our county courthouse is until it entranced me once more that afternoon.

Walking through the majestic building's three floors with members of our TCHA sponsored courthouse tour, which culminated with my standing atop looking out from the bell tower, was an experience I'll long treasure.

Commissioner Tom Murtaugh was our gracious and intelligent guide to more than 140 years of Tippecanoe County courthouse history; the entire tour was well worth the vertigo I rediscovered as I climbed those last four long flights of stairs to emerge on the narrow, wind-swept platform with the country spread out below me.

Then last Friday I revisited SAMARA House in West Lafayette as a part of the West Lafayette Public Library's "local history on 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays" program.

To realize that this gem of our county, born of the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright and prospering for decades with the loving care bestowed upon it by John and Catherine Christian is now 70 years young was to reimagine a century of innovation and change that has passed, but is far from forgotten thanks to these and the many other architectural treasures we have in our county.

That SAMARA house, the County Courthouse and so many other buildings live on into this century is a commendation of the support offered by our community, meaningful reminders that our local history matters and that local history is something we can all experience – we can all reach out and touch.

They are reminders as well of the many historical experiences that await us as members of our Tippecanoe County Historical Association and why TCHA and the many other historical groups sprinkled throughout our county can offer so much for us to discover in this 250's year of county's founding and for so many years to come.

I look forward to experiencing our History with you and with our many other TCHA members in the coming months – let's celebrate the many places, people, tangible artifacts, events and memories our community offers us every day!

Nick Schenkel. Board President

**Minutes for March 24, 2026**  
**TCHA Board of Governors Meeting**  
**In Person at the History Center and Online via Zoom**

In Person at the History Center and Online via Zoom

Board President Nick Schenkel called the March 24th, meeting of the TCHA Board of Governors to order at 5:16 pm at The History Center, Lafayette.

Governors attending in-person were Nick Schenkel, Jeff Burnsworth, Jeff Schwab, David Hovde, Walt Griffin, Cassie Apuzzo, H. Kory Cooper, Natalia Huff, Tara Raber, Whitney Walton, Del Bartlett, Rosanne Alstatt.

Governors attending online. Colby Bartlett.

Governors who were not present in person or online were Jeremy Span, Chis Stevenson, Bridget Slack, Jillian White, Todd White, Ashima Krishna, Dave Sattler, and John Thieme.

Executive Director Claire Eagle, Kelly Lippe, and Lucy Lugo attended in person. Trey Gorden and Brooke Sauter attended online.

The Minutes of the February 24th, 2026, Board Meeting were presented 2 edits were suggested, 1 to fix the spelling of Kelly's name, and add an "e" to the "th" in Trey's report. Approved by a motion from Whitney and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Lorita.

Strategic Plan. - Early Summer, review and provide to membership for their review. 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tippecanoe County. 2028 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TCHA. Claire is heading up a task force for the 100<sup>th</sup> of TCHA.

We will have First Merchants' investments here at the April meeting to talk about our investment accounts.

The Vice President was not present.

The Secretary had nothing additional to report.

The Treasurer presented her monthly Report (see attached), Forgot to remove from Budget, no Treasure memberships this year, and Bicentennial sponsorship. Still getting Duke Sponsorship. First Merchants disbursements can in at \$24248.81 which is \$200 more than budget.

Lorita talked about the tax return. Jeff S moved to accept, Whitney 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, no opposed, no abstain. Motion passed.

Excess funds. Transfer \$50k to trust or endowment, \$25k to Feast rainy day, and \$25k to maintenance reserve.

Claire is applying for a website grant, but if we don't receive it, we can use the \$25k going to the maintenance reserve. Another \$25k earmarked for strategic planning. \$23,250 to Tippecanoe Parks for the Battlefield Chapel. See attached notes on the Battlefield chapel agreements. Of this total, \$10,254 is endowment and \$12,900 accumulated "maintenance" money. Del brought up changing the earmark for the funds by filing with circuit court and attorney general. Since we maintain the blockhouse. Colby agreed that we need to talk to parks, but maybe see if they can split it with them instead of taking it all.

Motion to transfer \$50K, \$25k, and \$25k transfer. Kory Moved, Colby 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor Motion Passed.

Claire to talk to park board about the \$23,250 to look at our options.

First Merchants rates haven't been great, and Feast Cash situation. We talked to other banks. First Farmers 3.55%-11mo. We can add at any time and make 1 penalty free withdraw. If we move Feast Rainy day fund, it would be close to \$200k. Motion to move \$190,398.27 from money market to First Farmers 3.55%. Colby moved, Del 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion passed.

Claire Eagle presented the Executive Director's Report (see attached report).

We have a signed offer for Program Director. Mitchell Kritel, Texas historic commission. Background in theater and living history. Start April 1. Taste of Past dinners have been scheduled. Program manager office has been painted and new carpet for Mitchell. Grant report on weather system has been submitted. Around \$9k.

Grant for tents for feast has been submitted.

Grant for consulting services

MacAlister foundation grant for school days.

Community foundation grants-impact grants. We are working on this for Argenbright. KJG came to look at structure. Arcor gave rough estimate to renovate offices, back. Around \$450k. Letter of intent was approved. Next grant information is due May 7<sup>th</sup>. Expecting a 3<sup>rd</sup> phase.

The federal building is now surplus; there is misinformation about the cities/county want/need for the building. The Federal Government, it seems, must sell it at market price which is likely about Mil.5. The county has a good history of cooperation with cities and so we will be monitoring the cities/county interest in and purchasing the building in the months to come.

Trey Gordon reported on the Battlefield Museum (see attached report). Numbers are well up this month. 391 visitors. Bathroom remodel. Making ADA accessible. There was no water for a little while. Hoping for the project completion at the end of April. Square has been acting up. We will get a new customer-facing card reader for free plus a \$1000 credit for fees since we have to manual enter the cards. It rebooted several times today. This time next month, Feast mug production will start.

Kelly Lippie presented the Membership Report (see attached report). Newsletter out and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter activities

Kelly Lippie presented the Curator's Report (see attached report). Changing exhibits. Items for deaccession. 4 glass stoppers and a paperweight for a building in Valparaiso Added. The curator recommended Sale for all recommended deaccessions but not the vase. Moved by Colby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Del. All in Favor.

Lucy Lugo reported for the TCHA Research Library (see attached report.)

This past month has been busy. More in person visits than remote requests. Currently planning for spring cemetery tour on May 30 2-4. Veterans home. 27 researchers, 20 in person, 7 remote visits. Indexing project completed.

Brooke Sauter reported for the Feast of the Hunter's Moon Committee (see attached report). Things are under way. Trifolds are printed; apps are at printer. Working with vendors, Citybus meeting for protocol, because the contact left. Had a meeting in March. Food booth meeting is scheduled for April 16 at the History Center. New support level as a "Friend of the Feast" is \$150.

Other Committee Reports were then presented (please see attached reports).

- The Development and Membership Committee report was presented by Kellie (see attached report). Promote membership.
- The Facilities Committee report was presented by Jeff Burnworth. Most covered by ED report. An unhoused person trying to house on back alcove. Trailer going out for repair. Church lease is still month to month.
- The Historic markers Committee report was presented by Trey Gordon. No report
- The Ouatennon Preserve Committee report was presented by Kory Cooper. No report Farm storage building at preserve has been vacated, Jim Irwin license to use building as expired.
- The Program Committee report was presented by Claire Eagle. Not much to report. Maple Sugaring had about 1400 attendees at the beginning of the month. War and Peace did the maple sugaring part.
- And the Publications Committee Report as presented by Jeff Schwab. Battlefield booklet is sold out, so we are now looking for better resources to tell the story on both sides. New maps, new sources.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm upon a motion by Jeff Burnworth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tara Raber, TCHA Board Secretary, March 24, 2026

# Treasurer's Report - April 2026

Natalia Huff

## Selected Accounts

	This Year 3/31/2026	Last Month 2/28/2026	Change from Last Month	Last Year 3/31/2025	Change from Last Year
<b>Operating Bank Accounts</b>					
Petty Cash	550.00	550.00		568.48	(18.48)
First Merchants Checking .01%	56,663.34	30,113.38	26,549.96	74,885.87	(18,222.53)
First Merchants Operating MM 2.75%	308,906.36	333,224.06	(24,317.70)	359,388.59	(50,482.23)
First Merchants Operating MM 2.75%- Strategic Plan	25,000.00	25,000.00		25,000.00	
Undeposited Funds	959.21	658.07	301.14	822.85	136.36
	<u>392,078.91</u>	<u>389,545.51</u>	<u>2,533.40</u>	<u>460,665.79</u>	<u>(68,586.88)</u>
<b>Current Obligations &amp; Receivables</b>					
Accounts Payable	(13,252.69)	(13,721.89)	469.20	(15,196.98)	1,944.29
Credit Card	(3,570.27)	(2,805.01)	(765.26)	(1,842.59)	(1,727.68)
Grant Money Receivable	9,974.82	9,974.82		43,640.00	(33,665.18)
Grant Money Advanced	(247.27)	(3,842.21)	3,594.94	(42,813.56)	42,566.29
Bicentennial Book Money				(25,000.00)	25,000.00
	<u>(7,095.41)</u>	<u>(10,394.29)</u>	<u>3,298.88</u>	<u>(41,213.13)</u>	<u>34,117.72</u>
<b>Operating Cash Less Current Obligations</b>	<u><u>384,983.50</u></u>	<u><u>379,151.22</u></u>	<u><u>5,832.28</u></u>	<u><u>419,452.66</u></u>	<u><u>(34,469.16)</u></u>
<b>Other Restricted and Designated Accounts</b>					
Emergency Maintenance MM 2.75%	80,155.95	79,969.17	186.78	53,256.25	26,899.70
Ouiatenon Preserve Account 2.75%	142,722.34	142,707.92	14.42	124,889.83	17,832.51
Feast Rainy Day moved to cd in April	165,398.27	164,888.92	509.35	109,513.73	55,884.54
<b>Total Other Restricted and Designated Accounts</b>	<u>388,276.56</u>	<u>387,566.01</u>	<u>710.55</u>	<u>287,659.81</u>	<u>100,616.75</u>
			<u>6,542.83</u>		<u>66,147.59</u>
<b>Investment Accounts</b>					
	12/31/2025	3/31/2026	Change 2026	Distributions	Net Gain (loss)
TCHA Trust	1,735,500.47	1,687,931.15	(47,569.32)	19,421.05	(28,148.27)
Wetherill Trust	414,566.02	405,139.64	(9,426.38)	4,827.76	(4,598.62)
Lafayette Community Foundation	37,306.15	36,425.75	(880.40)	1,447.00	5.66.60
<b>Total Investments</b>	<u>2,187,372.64</u>	<u>2,129,496.54</u>	<u>(57,876.10)</u>	<u>25,695.81</u>	<u>(32,18.29)</u>

\*Investments are updated quarterly

# Tippecanoe County Historical Association

## Budget vs. Actuals: 2026

For the three months ending March 31, 2026

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Grant Operating	1,323.35		1,323.35
Contributions	40,900.17	37,745.00	3,155.17
Museum Store Sales	4,938.52	3,500.00	1,438.52
Library Revenue	613.00	675.00	(62.00)
Membership Dues	5,647.78	8,725.00	(3,077.22)
Programs & Education	3,797.00	5,950.00	(2,153.00)
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	5,150.00	6,980.00	(1,830.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>62,369.82</b>	<b>63,575.00</b>	<b>(1,205.18)</b>
Cost of Goods Sold	2,545.59	1,600.00	945.59
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>59,824.23</b>	<b>61,975.00</b>	<b>(2,150.77)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	60,835.14	80,945.01	(20,109.87)
Administrative Expenses	2,794.91	3,300.00	(505.09)
Contract Services Administrative	7,490.11	8,260.00	(769.89)
Equipment & Supplies	736.49	1,445.00	(708.51)
Collections, Exhibits & Library	1,049.46	1,790.00	(740.54)
Museum Store Expenses	86.65	220.00	(133.35)
Insurance and Taxes	5,150.25	5,160.00	(9.75)
Repairs & Maintenance	10,667.51	7,760.00	2,907.51
Contractual Services - Facilities	634.14	1,110.00	(475.86)
Utilities	12,689.18	12,908.00	(218.82)
Membership Expenses	1,414.88	1,000.00	414.88
Fundraising Expense			
Feast Expenses	8,790.08	8,598.00	192.08
Programs & Education Expense	1,307.38	2,249.00	(941.62)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>113,646.18</b>	<b>134,745.01</b>	<b>(21,098.83)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(53,821.95)</b>	<b>(72,770.01)</b>	<b>18,948.06</b>
<b>Other Income (Expense)</b>			
Grants - Nonoperating	2,271.59		2,271.59
Rents	2,925.00	2,100.00	825.00
Interest	5,325.88	3,150.00	2,175.88
Investment Income (distribution only)	25,695.81	25,850.00	(154.19)
Depreciation	(20,100.00)	(20,100.00)	
<b>Total Other Income (Expense)</b>	<b>16,118.28</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>5,118.28</b>
<b>Net Income (Before Depreciation)</b>	<b>(37,703.67)</b>	<b>(61,770.01)</b>	<b>24,066.34</b>

This Year Last Month Change from Last Year Change from  
3/31/2026 2/28/2026 Last Month 3/31/2025 Last Year

## **Executive Director's Report - April 2026**

### **Claire Eagle**

#### **Administration**

- We were finally able to get the signature authority updated with our new officers at First Merchants Bank.
- The CD and First Farmers and the two transfers approved at the last Board meeting have been completed.
- I attended another course through the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette last week. This one was on developing major gifts. There is one last course being offered this fall on campaigns that I will also be attending.
- TCHA staff took our annual field trip on April 17. This year we visited the Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse) in Valparaiso. We were able to speak to a couple of their staff members and Board member about their operations as well as take a tour of their current exhibits and collections space.

#### **Facilities**

- Ben Ross (former Board member and TCHA volunteer) at Ratio Architects did a site visit at the Arganbright on April 13. Kelly and I walked around with him and really talked through our vision and some of his ideas for the Impact Grant. He is working on a project design/budget for us to complete this phase of the proposal. This phase is due May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- We are currently working through our property insurance renewal. After much discussion with Nick and Lorita, we have made the difficult decision to move agencies after a policy review. HUB International is a large agency, but we are working with an agent who specializes in museum and cultural institutions. I think this is really a step we needed to take to ensure that we are getting the best coverage possible. In addition, we are eligible for discounts as we are members of the Association of Midwest Museums.

#### **Grants, Sponsorships and Donations**

- After submitting a proposal to the CFGL Spring Grant cycle for the purchase of 11 new marquees for the Feast, I had been waiting to hear back. I received some pretty surprising news that the entire grant request was covered by a donor through an advised fund at the CFGL. We are waiting to receive the check as well as additional information about the donor to ensure proper thanks are shared.
- We still have a couple other grant proposals that we are waiting to hear back about: The Consulting Services grant from the CFGL and a request from the McAllister Foundation for support of Feast school days.
- We received the full \$30,000 requested from Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette (\$15,000 for Feast and \$15,000 for the Battlefield). We should receive that check any day now.
- The City of Lafayette agreed to our \$15,000 operating support request for the year. The 2027 request is due in June, so I am also working on that.

- We have \$31,950 in agreed sponsorships for the Feast so far this year. I have several other conversations ongoing/requests out for more. Please continue to send me contacts and ideas for sponsorships. I'd love to get \$40,000 in sponsorship dollars this year.

## **Battlefield Museum Report - April 2026**

### **Trey Gorden**

#### Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and History Store Report

- Visitor numbers are up
- Bathrooms are not ahead of schedule, but neither are they behind. It looks good.
- Square register replaced and running well.

Things are heating up on schedule this month. We had 804 visitors, well up from last year's 671, and considerably better than last month's quite respectable 333.

It's too late for the new bathrooms to be done by early April, as they'd hoped, but things are still looking good for late April. It looks like all the plumbing's done, and they just have to get the stall partitions installed. I've heard two different people say that they're still waiting for delivery of those pieces, so it may just be a matter of shipping delays.

Square sent us a completely new register instead of just a new card reader, and it's working very well. For a register that's out of warranty and discontinued, I'm forced to acknowledge that this seems like exceptional support.

We've had our first Feast mug meeting, and we're all very excited. Standby to be amazed!

Mitch, our new Programs Director, came out on my invitation to see a battlefield tour, and he gave me some very helpful and welcome notes and suggestions. Looks like we've got ourselves a winner.

#### **Future:**

Speaking of programs, school tours are about to get thin on the ground, but we're already booking other program requests from other sources, like Hope College in August. I've also got one school program that reserved a tour after summer, in October.

## Membership Report - April 2026

**Kelly Lippie**

- Special Member’s program for this quarter is a series of Courthouse Tours with Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. They are almost fully booked and are going very well.
- New coupon introduced for 10% membership purchase when TCHA staff make a special presentation at a local club/ group.

Membership Level	Renewal Period	Total as of Feb. 17	Total as of March 19	Total as of April 21
Individual (\$40)	Annual	55	56	56
Senior Individual (\$35)	Annual	97	102	103
Senior Couple (\$45)	Annual	131	133	127
Family (\$55)	Annual	72	70	70
Patron (\$100)	Annual	63	63	65
Sustaining (\$250)	Annual	15	16	15
Benefactor (\$500)	Annual	5	5	5
Treasure (\$1,000)	Annual	3	2	1
Lifetime	Lifetime	27	27	27
<b>Total Memberships</b>		<b>468</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>469</b>

Total membership April 17, 2025: **439**

*Upcoming:*

Planning for Quarter 3 and 4 members-only opportunities.

## **TCHA Collections Dept. Report, March- April 2026**

**Prepared by Kelly Lippie**

- Toy exhibit installed at History Center.
- Talked to a WALLA class about historic preservation.
- Met with the Archaeological Conservancy about future artifact policies.
- Working with Kory Cooper for NEH grants that would involve the Ouatienon Collection.
- Conducting Oral History Interview with Larry Rose.
- Continuing to compile building research on the Arganbright Center for Grant Application.
- Working with Paula Davis to organize Oral History interviews about the Black Chamber of Commerce or potentially an opportunity to scan photos or documents from the businesses involved in the 1990s.
- Attending web class on Wikipedia article editing and creating.
- Several students from the Purdue Urban Matters Lab have been in or made appointments to research historic buildings in West Lafayette and Lafayette.
- Lafayette Bicentennial exhibit panel loaned to the Purdue Railroad Club for their open house weekend.

### **Upcoming in 2026**

- Dedication of new history marker at Bethel AME Church on May 31. TCHA will have some kind of presence. Also working with DAR on General Tootle tombstone dedication at Greenbush sometime in April.
- History on Tour Trailer will have an updated exhibit developed for the county bicentennial that will travel to some county events, starting with the Dayton Fish Fry on May 16.
- Indiana Historical Society (free) exhibit loan planned for this summer at the Battlefield June 18- July 15. "Endangered Heritage".

Collections Committee did not meet in April.

## **Research Library Report – April 2026**

**Lucy Lugo**

The research library continues to be busy! Just like last month, we've had more in-person visits than remote research requests. We've also had a handful of visitors come in asking general questions about the library and our genealogy resources.

Planning the cemetery tour at the Indiana Veterans' Home is going great! Volunteers have started researching their chosen veteran and are very excited to present their findings. As a reminder, it will take place on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. Please spread the word!

### Research Library Stats:

- This past month we've assisted a total of 33 researchers, 13 email/mail/phone calls and 20 in-person visits
  - 17 out of the 20 in-person visits were TCHA members
  - Mostly genealogy questions, including visits from Purdue students who are conducting research as part of a class
- Library volunteers continue to work on various projects, including working on Children's Home cards, marriage records, family/surname cards, and Poor Farm records. One of our volunteers has finished indexing the Tippecanoe Villa cards.

## **Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report - April 2026**

**Brooke Sauter**

Planning for the 2026 Feast of the Hunters' Moon (October 24–25) is well underway, with steady progress across applications, vendor coordination, and early logistics. Applications have been finalized and are being sent to print, with distribution to follow via email and the Feast website. Communication has already taken place with all food booths, with all 2025 participants indicating intent to return, with one still pending confirmation. We have also begun accepting bids for key grounds vendors (heavy equipment, porta johns, etc.) and services.

Internally, committee responsibilities have been reworked to better distribute workload and improve communication, with Area Chairs meeting in March. These changes are intended to improve efficiency and provide clearer structure as we move into the busier planning months.

Food booth operations continue to be a focus, with efforts to streamline processes and reduce administrative burden. We are eliminating the request application for returning vendors and have scheduled a full food booth meeting for April 16 to update with the booths on 2026 goals, expectations and meet with the Health Department. Inventory processes are also being reworked to improve organization and accountability, and initial planning for the 2026 food program is underway. (Thank you to Lauren, Jeff, Jeff, and Lorita!)

Early logistical planning has begun for grounds and infrastructure, including discussions around pole cutting needs for 2026. We will likely cut at Prophetstown, and need will be decided in the coming weeks depending on grant decisions. Other updates include ticket pricing increases (per the three-year cycle), and I have communicated with CityBus and Purdue related to bus transportation for this year's event.

Feast Sewing Circle is underway, and the focus this year is cold-weather clothing (cloaks, mitts, etc.). Promotional efforts are also in progress, with brochures, posters, and coasters in development, apparel design with United State of Indiana, and the banner on Columbia Street has been secured.

HUGE thank you to Claire for tackling sponsorship asks this year, including the help of development of a new \$150 "Friend of the Feast" level, which is designed to better engage individual supporters.

Overall, planning remains on track, with strong vendor retention, improved organizational structure, and continued momentum as we move into the next phase of preparation.

## **PROGRAMS REPORT - April 2026**

**Mitchell L. Critel**

**Quarter 2 programing** is rolling along; Feast Sewing Circles have good attendance with people coming from as far away as Champagne Illinois! The members only Courthouse Tours have been full and have a wait list for the final evening tour on Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>. Battlefield tours for April have had good attendance from both local and regional schools. Rounding out the Quarter 2 programs will be a Indiana Veteran's Home Cemetery Tour on May 30<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth celebration, and a couple of run outs of the History on Tour Trailer to Dayton and the Battleground.

**Quarter 3 programing** was largely set before I joined the team and shows a lot of potential. We solidified the date for the Family Game Night to July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 630pm and I have worked to nail down an author presentation from Ryan Cole focusing on his book "*the Last Adieu: Lafayette's*

*Triumphant Return, the Echoes of Revolution, and the Gratitude of the Republic.*” That talk is set for Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the History Center.

**Quarter 4 Programing** is taking shape around the Feast. I have worked to solidify a Fall program on making natural/historical ink to take place in November. I am also working on two educational initiatives focused on adding revenue. The first being a monthly program for homeschool that will run from September through May with a rotating topic each month. These monthly programs will be themed off the “National Month of...” celebrations largely. The second education initiative I have focused energy on is a “Traveling History Trunk” program, where we build thematic educational road cases that we can deploy in a school environment. The first two are focused on Historical Documents and Writing, as well as Historical Gaming. Both Trunks will have foam padding inside and feature reproduced documents and reproduced objects. The goal is to work on building up to 8 of these Traveling History Trunks by the end of May 2027.

**Longer term projects** I have started to work on are a partnership with a contact I have at Purdue to 3d scan and 3d print artifacts that we could use in educational programing and archive a 3d image for other uses internally. Finally, I am working on a spring break 2027 program focused on youth creating a historical game based around a historical event in Tippecanoe County.

I am happy to have jumped in feet-first into the Tippecanoe Historical programing pool and am excited to build off the long history of quality public offerings!

**Opportunities for Board Engagement:**

May 12<sup>th</sup>- An Immigrant’s Perspective on Lafayette 1853-54 Presentation- Welcome Table

May 16<sup>th</sup>- History on Tour Trailer @ Dayton Fish Fry

June 6<sup>th</sup>- History on Tour Trailer @ Battleground for Lion’s Club Community Day

June 9<sup>th</sup>- Community Baseball: the Lafayette Red Sox- Welcome Table

June 27<sup>th</sup>- Taste of the Past Dinner- Welcome Table, Serving, Cleanup

July 22<sup>nd</sup>- Family Historic Gaming Night- Game Stations and Welcome Table.

# Other Committee Reports for April 2026

## Development & Membership Committee

### Membership

- Reviewed Community Contacts list and discussed who to remove or add. (this list is not composed of TCHA members, but contacts get most emails and program booklets in the mail). There are currently about 80 people on this list.
- Quarterly members-only programs in the works.

### Development

#### Grants for 2026

- Community Foundation:
  - o Spring Grants: applied for new tents (10) for Feast food booths. Did not receive grant, but **Community Foundation found donor to fund these.**
  - o Impact grant: Capital projects, Grant due May 8.
  - o Consulting Services Grant: Applied for website design project. Waiting for response.
- NEH Preservation and Access Grant (in partnership with Purdue Archaeology) – Kory Cooper. Wants to re-apply this year.
- Claire is working on a grant request to the Alfred and Dorothy McAllister Foundation (William McCaw) used to support Feast School Days.
- 
- \$15,000 received from City of Lafayette
- 
- \$30,000 received from Visit Lafayette- West Lafayette (for Feast & Battlefield)
- 
- Brainstorming other grant opportunities.

Have begun working on Annual Campaign plans for 2026.

#### Feast Sponsorships

- Email sent to TCHA members and contacts about sponsorship opportunities.
- Deadline June 15

## Facilities Committee

- Several new grants in progress (see ED report)
- New Programming office is complete.
- Argenbright mouse problem is being addressed by exterminator.

- Trailer has new plug and is ready to go pending a check of the interior and interior lights.
- History Center weeds out front are being combated by Jeff Schwab
- Still waiting on church to respond to lease. Still waiting on church to respond to lease.
- Cell tower is up at the Fort.
- Restroom facilities are still in progress at the Battlefield.
- Discussion has started about a new server as ours is in the downslope of its life.

## **Historic Markers Committee**

We didn't have a quorum for the meeting this month until near time to adjourn, so our main accomplishment was to officially decide to use our \$4000 to revive our Edna Browning Ruby marker project.

Rosanne and Basil Altstatt have used example documents from the state and the DAR, along with lessons learned during last years' Digby project, to produce documents that should streamline our future projects.

## **Ouiatenon Preserve Committee**

The meeting was held April 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-7 pm at History Center

In attendance: Kory Cooper, David Hovde, Phyllis Dotson, Colby Bartlett, and Brooke Sauter guest and interpretive sign contractor.

This meeting focused exclusively on interpretive signage for OP.

We discussed the layout, text, and use of maps and other images for 30x48" panel #1. This is the "Welcome to OP" sign. Brooke just submitted revised draft of Panel 1.

Those present discussed the panel and provided feedback on the draft. The plan is to design six panels total covering topics as follows:

Panel 1 – Welcome

Panel 2 - Geology and Hydrology

Panel 3 – Native American History

Panel 4 – History of Fort/Fur Trade – New France, trade routes, settlements

Panel 5 - Archaeology

Panel 6 - Flora and Fauna – important, endangered/at risk species

The assigned “homework” for our next meeting, scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> 6-7 at the History Center, is to work on text for Panel 2 – Geology and Hydrology. Brooke has sent Colby and I drafts.

## **Program Committee**

- Committee Task List Review underway
- **Previous Program Review**
  - Wednesday, March 11 and 15 and April 8 at 5:30 p.m. – Feast Sewing Circles
- **Plan for Upcoming Programs**
  - Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Monday, April 27 at 5 p.m. – Members Only Courthouse Tours led by Commissioner Murtaugh  
*Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> Attendance on 2 tours: 32*
  - *ADD--Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2pm-4pm Indiana Veterans Home Cemetery Tour*
- **July-September Programs**
  - Friday, July 17 at 6 p.m. at the History Center – Taste of the Past: Historic Farmers’ Market
  - Family Game Night- *Set for Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm-8:30pm at History Center*
  - Saturday, August 1 at 6 p.m. at the History Center – Taste of the Past: Feast
  - *ADD—Tuesday September 1 at 7pm at the History Center- Ryan Cole, author “the Last Adieu: Lafayette’s Triumphant Return, the Echoes of Revolution, and the Gratitude of the Republic.”*
  - TBD: Members only tour of the Battlefield gun room

- Saturday, September 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Archaeology Day at the Battlefield

- **Tippecanoe County Bicentennial**

History on Tour Trailer- May 16<sup>th</sup> at Dayton Fish Fry and June 6<sup>th</sup> at Battlefield for Lions Club Community Day.

- **Homeschool Programming**

Mitchell L Critel has put together an academic year 2026 schedule of programming centered around national month holidays and other partnerships TCHA has already established. See attached Schedule Draft

- **Program Manager Position Update**

Mitchell L Critel started in April 1<sup>st</sup>, and is off and running filling in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 programming.

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**Program Committee Task List**

- The group will work to update the spreadsheet created by Amy Harbor for township events. It can also be found here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b4RF-KzVEkowBE3TjJzJO6Kc-w20f-p6JIxvaQOoVNc/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b4RF-KzVEkowBE3TjJzJO6Kc-w20f-p6JIxvaQOoVNc/edit?usp=drive_link)
- ✓ David Hovde is going to reach out to his contacts at the Farmer's Institute to see if they would be interested in hosting the trailer at their Quaker Fair in September and to see if anyone would be interested in presenting a program on the history of the site in Q3.

## **Publications Committee**

The publications committee met on April 8<sup>th</sup> to continue review of the Battlefield pamphlet.

The working version is now online in a shared folder for the committee to continue to review and comment.

Most of the meeting discussion was on new resources and sources that we can use to better document the battle and factors that led up to it and the resulting outcomes.

We also continued to look at better sources for the indigenous peoples points of view and proper nomenclature to use.

**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)
Christ 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 \*  
Jeff Schwab \*  
Aerica Beaver  
Jeff Burnworth  
Kelly Lippie  
Jeremy Spann  
Other Members:  
Mac Bellner  
Molly Bellner  
Pete Bill  
Mike Elliott

Mary Fisher  
Sam Haughey  
Brian Hawn  
Erin Hicks  
Jeff Hockstra  
Mackenzie Kassner  
Erika Kvam  
Robert Leavitt  
Randy Lower  
Janine Lowery  
Melissa O'Farrell

Lauren Reed  
Matt Riebsomer  
Jackie Schmidt  
Sheri Sondgerath  
Scott Stambaugh  
Andy Wall  
Joyce Wiegand  
Logan York  
Bill Young  
Jan Young

## Historic Markers Committee

Trey Gorden \*  
Rosanne Altstatt  
Del Bartlett  
Bridget Slack

Other Members:  
Sharon Baker  
Pam Barnard

Jonathan Lipps  
Duane Mantick  
Linda Swihart

## Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

Kory Cooper \*  
Del Bartlett  
David Hovde

Ashima Krishna  
Other Members:  
Leslie Martin Conwell

Phyllis Dotson  
Colby Bartlett (non-voting)

## Program Advisory Committee

Claire Eagle \*  
Cassie Apuzzo  
Walt Griffin

David Hovde  
Lucy Lugo  
Bridget Slack

Whitney Walton  
Other Members:  
Amy Harbor

## Publications Committee

David Hovde \*  
Jeff Schwab \*  
Cassie Apuzzo

Rosanne Altstatt  
Trey Gorden

Other Members:  
Pete Bill

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