

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, September 22, 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

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• +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

AGENDA for TCHA Board Meeting, September 22, 2026

- Call to Order
- Minutes from August 2026, Board meeting
- 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
 - Strategic Plan for approval
- END AGENDA / Adjournment

TCHA Board of Governors Meeting Minutes for August 2026

Tara Raber

In Person at the History Center and Online via Zoom

Board President Nick Schenkel called the August 25th meeting of the TCHA Board of Governors to order at 5:22 pm at The History Center, Lafayette.

Present in Person: Nick S., Tara R., Jeff B., Kory C., Lorita B., Cassie A., Whitney W., Walt G., Todd W., Natalia H., Chris S., Jeff S., Rosanne A., Jeremy S.,

Online: Ashima K.,

Excused: Dave H and Dave S. - Medical

Staff: Kelly L., Mitchell C., Lucy L., Online- Trey G., Brooke S.,

Motion to approve minutes Jeremy, 2nd Jeff B. All in favor.

President report: See written report. Strategic plan, we will have a discussion every month, Claire is spokesperson and executive director for TCHA. We encourage board member involvement; however, ideas need to be brought to Claire before speaking on them.

VP- Nothing to add

Secretary- nothing to add

Treasurer- See report; Money market 2.75%. Accounts payable- up due to Marquee and Claire's travel to the conference. FRD 3.55% until March. Everything is pretty on target. Contributions and museum sales are up. Membership looks down on budget but up compared to last year. Salary costs are still down. Cash flow for Feast looks good. Budgeted \$15,000 for government contributions, received \$20,000. Feast income is up due to sponsorships and timing.

Ex Director report- Still working on the Battlefield chapel funds. Working with the Tippecanoe County Public Library to provide passes-to-check-out through the library to encourage visits to the Battlefield Museum. Projects with Purdue, including Board Member Professor Ashima. Hoping to have news about the hiring of a museum assistant. Claire will be back in the office on Sept 8th.

Member survey results 101 respondents. Sent July 21-Aug 7. Most answers were expected, except for interest in attending a Spring Festival.

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. No amendments. 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.

Annual Campaign. 73% of Goal.

Battlefield museum report: Trey- Numbers down from last month 877. Roughly on par for this time of year. Member's night at the museum was so much fun. Commemoration is coming up and in development.

Historic Markers report- waiting on response from State on Edna Ruby Brower

Membership- Member feast tickets are getting ready to go out, and newsletter in the works. Please sign up for work at the membership tent for feast.

Collections- We will not be getting the O'Rears sign. The potential donor did not want to agree to the deed of gift form. We cannot make the contingency he was asking for as it could cause IRS issues if implemented. We also suggested having it as a loan and he was not interested.

Lucy- Everything is going well. The library has been busy the last couple weeks. Upticks in in person visits.

Feast report- Brooke Oct 24-25. Things are right on track. Met today with Purdue ROTC for parking. They are excited. Purdue Research foundation will allow us to use the parking lots near the fort.

Meeting with Marty Webb from TEMA next week for safety. Tickets are going out for sales. Envelope Stuffing party Sept 8th. We were told cell tower would be operational by Feast. Verizon will have a cell on wheels onsite. Internal internet. - upgraded hardware physically in the same spots but should have a wider range. Scott will not be at the Feast, but Jeff S is working on recruiting technical replacements. Not using the piece of equipment that failed last year. Working on better waterproofing. The Flooding did not get into the barn. Working on getting insurance on barn contents. Spring Valley Lodges is working on the 11 new marquises. We will have most if not all for this year. We will need about another 11 to get rid of most of the booths. All remaining TCHA structures are 1st to be replaced. Mitchell programming report included. Jr Historian's Academy is past full. All sold over capacity. Ink making session coming. Will be in newsletter. We canceled 2 August events (Free events) – at the West Lafayette Farmers Market, and the scheduled Artillery presentation (due to weather for the first and lack of volunteers for the second) See opportunities for board engagement. Working on a way for Sept 1st program to be in auditorium.

Facilities- Looking at a security system but would need a LARGE grant for it. \$28k for just the Battlefield Museum. This has been shelved. Workday was a success, hedges trimmed. Scheduled workday for History Center Sept 16th. Window tint at Arganbright went up last week. Worked on grapery (the stone tiers) at Argenbright.

Historic Markers: Did not meet.

Ouatenon Preserve- Reviewed interpretive panel. Will have new panel drafts to review on Thursday's meeting this week. Overlook at preserve: too early in design to share with board but do expect one interpretive panel to be about the Fort, one on native culture, one on ecology, one on geology, one on archeology research. Goal is to have designs done by end of this calendar year. Will be communicating with Miami and Peoria tribes about the panels' content. Claire asked about whether OPI received a grant from Visit Lafayette West Lafayette and Kory was not sure. Claire, Del TCHA's appointment to the OPI board of directors), Nick, and Kory met and we will now be getting a report every month on what is going on at OPI. Reporting to the TCHA board from the OPI board has been opaque. And we need more clarity about the partnership.

Publications- Working on revisions to the Battlefield booklet. We are sold out of old booklets, about 90% on text changes and format changes. Snafu last weekend and the draft copy got mangled, so we were able to recover a copy, but have to re-edit everything done this weekend. Working on images, illustrations and photos. Sent draft to Pokagon, Pottawatomie, at the end of July, has not come back. If they don't produce something, we may have to say "sorry" and move ahead with this edition of the booklet.

Motion to close at 6:21- Jeff Schwab moved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for September

Many thanks to everyone – board members, staff members and membership - whose insight and hard work produced our newest Strategic Plan.

I look forward to working with you and our staff to implementing this Plan into our daily, monthly and annual activities in the months and years to come.

As we begin to implement the Plan, I'm glad that we've approved a Plan that is already useful in the work of our active committees. And I want to acknowledge TCHA Committees' discussions and planning that are taking place to integrate the goals and objectives of the Plan into TCHA's immediate future.

After discussions with our Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director) we've determined we need to establish two new working groups to explore and implement the important elements of the Plan that are not already part of our existing committees:

- We'll soon have a "Building Assessments" committee to study our current buildings and location and make recommendations for updates/changes/new facilities for TCHA. This working group will be appointed by the President and developed through leadership from but not composed of members of the Facilities Committee and
- A "Staff and Volunteer capacity" committee to study our recruitment and utilization of TCHA staff and volunteers and make recommendations for updates/changes. This working group will be appointed by the President and developed through leadership of our Executive Director.

I look forward to discussing and learning from all our committees and working groups as we work to make TCHA stronger, more resilient and more able and willing to integrate learning about our local history throughout our community.



The Feast of the Hunter's Moon opens in a little more than a month. Let's celebrate and learn more about the 18th Century people, customs, landscapes and thoughts that the Indigenous peoples developed with the French and English in what we now call Greater Lafayette!

Treasurer's Report – August 2026
Natalia Huff
Selected Accounts Report

	This Year 8/31/2026	Last Month 7/31/2026	Change from Last Month	Last Year 8/31/2026	Change from Last Year
Operating Bank Accounts					
Petty Cash	550.00	550.00	-	568.48	(18.48)
First Merchants Checking .01%	35,146.74	34,845.27	301.47	36,459.65	(1,312.91)
First Merchants Operating MM 2.75%	247,194.06	261,539.51	(14,345.45)	242,254.05	4,940.01
First Merchants Operating MM 2.75%- Strategic Plan	25,000.00	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	-
Undeposited Funds	733.01	1,102.63	(369.62)	1,592.63	(859.62)
	308,623.81	323,037.41	(14,413.60)	305,874.81	2,749.00
Current Obligations & Receivables					
Accounts Payable	(33,631.86)	(37,335.47)	3,703.61	(12,830.92)	(20,800.94)
Credit Card	(4,906.13)	(3,491.57)	(1,414.56)	(8,186.59)	3,280.46
Grant Money Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Money Advanced	(153.27)	(247.27)	94.00	(42,813.56)	42,660.29
Bicentennial Book Money	-	-	-	(25,000.00)	25,000.00
	(38,691.26)	(41,074.31)	2,383.05	(88,831.07)	50,139.81
Operating Cash Less Current Obligations	269,932.55	281,963.10	(12,030.55)	217,043.74	52,888.81

Other Restricted and Designated Accounts					
Emergency Maintenance MM 2.75%	95,765.31	95,542.16	223.15	78,859.99	16,905.32
Ouaitenon Preserve Account 2.75%	143,493.58	143,276.65	216.93	124,597.49	18,896.09
Feast Rainy Day CD 3.55% Renewes March 3, 2027	193,200.02	192,629.05	570.97	162,147.08	31,052.94
Total Other Restricted and Designated Accounts	<u>432,458.91</u>	<u>431,447.86</u>	<u>1,011.05</u>	<u>365,604.56</u>	<u>66,854.35</u>
			<u>(11,019.50)</u>		<u>119,743.16</u>

Investment Accounts	12/31/2025	6/30/2026	Change 2026	Distributions	Addition	Net
Gain (Loss)						
TCHA Trust	1,735,500.47	1,871,797.46	136,296.99	38,842.10	50,000.00	125,139.09
Wetherill Trust	414,566.02	431,370.34	16,804.32	9,655.52	-	26,459.84
Lafayette Community Foundation	37,306.15	39,754.89	2,448.74	1,447.00	-	3,895.74
Total Investments	2,187,372.64	2,342,922.69	155,550.05	49,944.62	50,000.00	155,494.67

*Investments are updated quarterly

Tippecanoe County Historical Association

Budget vs. Actuals: 2026

For the Seven months ending August 31, 2026

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income			
Grant Operating	1,417.35	-	1,417.35
Contributions	78,337.52	65,920.00	12,417.52
Museum Store Sales	26,527.66	25,000.00	1,527.66
Library Revenue	1,971.60	1,800.00	171.60
Membership Dues	19,840.30	20,600.00	(759.70)
Programs & Education	41,438.85	40,950.00	488.85
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	75,913.79	54,580.00	21,333.79
Total Income	245,447.07	208,850.00	36,597.07
Cost of Goods Sold	12,729.43	11,300.00	1,429.43
Gross Profit	232,717.64	197,550.00	35,167.64
Expenses			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	192,298.40	218,333.36	(26,034.96)
Administrative Expenses	9,078.72	8,835.00	243.72
Contract Services Administrative	15,722.93	25,010.00	(9,287.07)
Equipment & Supplies	1,248.63	3,170.00	(1,921.37)
Collections, Exhibits & Library	2,307.26	4,490.00	(2,182.74)
Museum Store Expenses	782.07	670.00	112.07
Insurance and Taxes	14,368.48	15,940.00	(1,571.52)
Repairs & Maintenance	21,898.75	27,460.00	(5,561.25)
Contractual Services - Facilities	2,217.04	2,660.00	(442.96)
Utilities	28,413.07	32,248.00	(3,834.93)
Membership Expenses	1,642.41	1,800.00	(157.59)
Fundraising Expense	1,314.00	1,500.00	(186.00)
Feast Expenses	40,324.45	37,049.00	3,275.45
Programs & Education Expense	4,862.27	6,014.00	(1,151.73)
Total Expenses	336,478.48	385,179.36	(48,700.88)
Net Operating Income	(103,760.84)	(187,629.36)	83,868.52
Other Income (Expense)			
Grants - Nonoperating	51,148.99	-	51,148.99
Rents	6,050.00	5,600.00	450.00
Interest	14,408.80	8,400.00	6,008.80
Investment Income (distribution only)	49,944.62	49,900.00	44.62
Depreciation	(53,600.00)	(53,600.00)	-
Total Other Income (Expense)	67,952.41	10,300.00	57,652.41
Net Income (Before Depreciation)	(35,808.43)	(177,329.36)	141,520.93

Executive Director Report Claire Eagle

September 2026

Administration

- Per the motion passed at the July Board meeting, the Exec Committee is continuing to work on completing the transfer of the Battlefield Chapel funds to the Tippecanoe County Parks Foundation. At our meeting on Thursday last week, we reviewed a resolution for the transferring of the funds written by the law firm assisting the Parks Foundation. The Exec Committee had a couple requested edits that we are currently waiting to hear back on.
- Trey and I are still working on finding a replacement for Laura out at the Battlefield. The job was offered to a candidate earlier this month. Unfortunately, her circumstances changed and she informed us she was no longer able to take it last week. We have a plan to get through Commemoration weekend, and we are going back to the drawing board between now and then. I really want to shout out Caitlyn Pettet, our fill in Battlefield worker. She has agreed to work every weekend in October so Trey and the rest of us can focus on Feast prep!
- Last week I completed the last fundraising course through the IU Lilly School of Philanthropy Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette. They offered four at a **significantly** reduced cost over the last two years that culminated in the completion of a Certificate of Fund-Raising Management. I want to thank the Board for supporting my attendance at these!

Facilities

- The boiler will be turned on for the season in the first week of October.

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations

- We are SO CLOSE to our goal for this year's Annual Campaign! As of September 18, we are only \$440 away from hitting that \$10,000 mark.
- We received a NOW Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette for some new equipment in the History Center Auditorium. We've already received most of it but we are waiting for the new projector screen to arrive so that Mitchell and the Facilities Committee can install it all at once!
- Mitchell and I are also working on an application for an SIA grant to cover the cost of a new projector. The app is due September 30.

Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and History Store Report

September 2026

- Numbers are down, which I attribute to the construction at Davis Ferry Bridge.
- Archaeology Day a qualified success
- Candidate interviews still underway for Battlefield Assistant

From August 21 through September 19, we had **763** visitors. Last month we had **877**, which is a decrease of 114 people. However, last year we had **867** visitors for this period, a difference of 104 people, so the bridge construction at Davis Ferry does seem to be having its effect.

We had a pretty good turnout for Archaeology Day, considering the terrible weather. I counted 94 people entering the museum, though for a while I was extremely busy and likely to have missed some folks. The forecast was for early rain, but it was supposed to clear up before the afternoon. This was not the case. I was inside the whole time, but it seemed to keep raining on and off until the archaeology team packed up at their usual time of 2:00.

Claire and I are still interviewing candidates for the new Battlefield Assistant position. We had hoped to have someone hired before the board met again, and we did offer the job to an excellent candidate, but she declined our offer. So, we are back to interviewing. If you know anyone who might be interested in a weekend position, please have them email their resume and cover letter to Claire, at director@tippecanoehistory.org.

Future:

Looking forward to Feast! Stephanie Elliott and I have begun packing up merchandise as it arrives.

Membership Report – September 2026

Kelly Lippie

- Newsletter Issue 3 will be sent out later in September.
- Feast member tickets were mailed out last week. Some are still waiting to be hand-delivered.
- Help at the Feast Membership Tent:
 - o Volunteer Hosts needed to help greet visitors and TCHA members, keep food service stocked and tidy, answer questions, and sell memberships.
 - o Feast clothing required
 - o <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BACAA29A2F9C07-65240801-feast>
- Quarter 4 special program: West Lafayette Observatory November 13th at 7 pm. Space is limited to 20 people, so RSVP is required.

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

TCHA Collections Dept. Report - September 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 Presbyterian Church over the next couple of months.
- Curator homeschool program in the works for October.
- Attended Quaker Fest with History on Tour trailer.
- Started work with a Purdue EPICS group to develop new interactive exhibit for Battlefield Museum. Also brainstormed spring project ideas with programs and exhibits.
- Interviewed with Purdue reporter about John Purdue for upcoming article.
- Attended County Historians Roundtable at Indiana Historical Society.
- Working on letters regarding archaeological holdings and ongoing student research to tribes in collaboration with Purdue Anthropology Dept.
- Volunteers' projects include cataloging negatives, scanning negatives, and indexing George Winter collection from card catalog.

Upcoming in 2026

- Will attend Holy Trinity Lutheran Community Fair with table about TCHA.
- Planning exhibit changeouts for 2027 in all the buildings temporary exhibit cases.

Collections Committee Met September 2nd.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

Accession #	Description	Source	Reason	Disposal recommended
2016.2.25-34	Books: "Roster of Ohio Solders 1861-1866" Volumes 1-12	Found in TCHA collection during 2016 inventory/cataloging	Out of Scope, available online	Donation or Sale
91.1.3-.16	Books: The Maryland Calendar of Wills" Volumes 1-11	TIPCOA, 1991	Out of Scope, available online	Donation or Sale

Research Library Board Report - September 2026

Lucy Lugo

Everything at the library is going well! Like last month, we've seen several research requests come through for genealogy resources and general research help. I gave a tour of the library to a Purdue class who will be coming in throughout the semester to do some building research in West Lafayette. Also working on refining available genealogy indexes to post on the new website.

Library volunteers continue to work on various projects, including indexing court records, marriage records, family/surname cards, and Poor Farm records.

Research Library Stats:

- This past month we've assisted a total of 23 researchers, 14 email/mail/phone calls and 9 in-person visits
 - 5 out of the 9 in-person visits were TCHA members
 - Most requests are genealogy-related, concerning court and land records. A few visitors have come in to see local history archival collections.

Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report - September 2026

Brooke Sauter

We are officially five weeks out from the Feast, and things are well underway!

We held our final Feast Committee meeting before the event, and from here most of my time will be spent on final coordination, volunteer assignments, site preparation and the many last-minute details that come with Feast season.

Old Guard Announcement

The biggest news this month is that the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is coming to the Feast. They will perform both Saturday and Sunday and will join our eight other fife and drum corps, the 42nd Royal Highlanders and the massed bands at the end of each day. We announced their appearance on September 18 and are continuing to promote it through the TCHA website, social media and media outreach.

Volunteers and Participants

I have been working with volunteers to get them coordinating specific tasks and their own groups of sub-volunteers. As we know, this event is only possible through the help of volunteers, so the list of tasks they cover is great. Participant acceptance letters have

also gone in the mail, so we are now moving into final questions, assignments and arrival details.

Site and Operations

Pole cutting took place on September 19. We cut fewer poles this year thanks to the eleven new marquees coming from Spring Valley Lodges. Work is also continuing on parking, shuttles, traffic, emergency planning and communications. Our early September meeting with local emergency service partners went well, and we are continuing to work through the details of the rental of the Purdue Research Foundation property purchased last year immediately across from the Fort, which they are allowing us to use for parking. We have another meeting with TEMA this coming week.

Outreach and Marketing

School Days promotion is underway, including our first Facebook advertising for the programs and expanded outreach to teachers in Illinois. This is the first year we have advertised it on social media, due to local districts being on fall break during the week of the Feast.

I have been working with a few professors at Purdue to gather a few student volunteers to take over social media coverage and assist with photography at the event. They are excited to be involved.

On September 25, I will present a history roundtable about the Feast for the West Lafayette Public Library. Anyone is welcome to attend, email me for details.

The next month will be focused almost entirely on final preparations and getting everyone ready for October!

Programs Board Report - September 2026

Mitchell L Critel, Programs Manager

The month of September kicked off with a very well attended author presentation by Ryan L Cole on his book *the Last Adieu...* Which covers Marque de Lafayette's final tour of American in 1824. This program was our first in our reclaimed auditorium thanks to Jeff Burnworth for loaning us a projector and helping to get the space ready! The audience enjoyed the talk and the night looked great in our best space for presentations.

In September we launched the Junior Historians Academy. Special thanks to Cassie Apuzzo and Kory Cooper for being the first presenters for Archaeology Day! 21

students signed up for the course and gained one family membership from the JHA enrollment! One family tried out our first session and has now signed up for the full fall semester. The families were all very receptive and thankful for this program, on to the next one!

We had our final 2026 run out of the History on Tour Trailer to the Quaker Fair in Shadeland on September 12th. The Farmer's Institute Friends were very excited to welcome us to their annual event, and we engaged with 60 people throughout the day while also enjoying some fine food and pie! Thank you to Whitney Walton and David Hovde for joining us for a great event!

Last, a bit of good news, Thanks to Walt we have secured \$500 in funding support from

American Legion Post 11 for the annual Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration!

Other Committee Reports for September 2026

Development & Membership Committee

The Membership and Development Committee met Monday, September 14.

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

After reviewing a membership report from Kelly, the committee began discussion of strategic plan tasks assigned to the committee and the timeline for getting them complete. The largest discussion of the meeting was about membership levels, benefits, names and more as we discussed how memberships could help meet our strategic plan goals. Kelly shared a spreadsheet that compared each membership level with all benefits and costs. Claire then facilitated discussion with a few prepared questions. Discussion will continue at our next meeting.

Facilities Committee

FAC COM did not meet this month (September).

Workday has been postponed until equipment to replace the church's items is all in. October FAC COM will be at the feast barn if we have one.

Historic Markers Committee

Our previous meeting didn't have a quorum, but Rosanne Altstatt and I discussed the Edna Browning Ruby project. We have not yet had a response from the state, which is not surprising, since they are so short-handed. We entertained the idea of moving ahead without the state's input but decided to give it more time.

Publications Committee

The committee met on September 9 for a point-by-point review of the Battlefield document. Corrections were made and responsibility assigned for the unresolved issues.

We hope to complete the update in the next two weeks.

Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

OP committee met 08/27/26. In attendance: Colby Bartlette, Phyllis Dotson, Jeff Burnworth, Kory Cooper, and consultant Brooke Sauter.

Primary topic was continuing discussion of interpretive signage. Brooke provided drafts of the first four panels:

- 1) Welcome to Ouiatenon Preserve,
- 2) Native American Culture,
- 3) Geology/Hydrology,
- 4) Fort Ouiatenon.

We had good discussion of Panels 2 and 3 and provided feedback for Brook to use in revising these two panels. Panels 5 and 6 will be Archaeology and Ecology (flora and fauna), respectively.

We meet next on September 24th to review revisions and discuss Fort Ouiatenon panel.

OUIATENON PRESERVE INC (OPI) BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

1. Ouiatenon Preserve Maintenance Status:

a. Overlook:

1. Landscape area around sign.

Early in August, Lee Brand applied a strong herbicide to the landscaping to kill thistles growing there and prevent them from migrating into his pasture across SRR to the north. The agent he applied killed all thistle plants, but unfortunately had an adverse effect on the evergreens, small bushes and even the tree. Until then, OPI had an oral agreement with Loren Koehler of Koehler Brothers Nursery of Dayton, Indiana, to semi-annually clean the area of invasives and spray to eliminate the thistles. Loren Koehler moved out of state in the spring of 2026 but did not alert OPI that he would no longer be available to perform maintenance. OPI is waiting to assess the damage resulting from the chemical burn. OPI is soliciting bids from prospective landscaping firms in the Lafayette area to maintain the sign area on a schedule to ensure no thistles are allowed to seed, which usually occurs in July. OPI will solicit bids for replacement of all desirable plants in the sign landscape area once it is determined what needs replacement. The sign itself shows no visible deterioration.

2. Area around designated parking.

a. Parking Area:

1. OPI periodically and on an as needed basis applies weed and grass killer around the designated parking area at the Overlook.

3. The Oval

a. Boulder Protection

1. The project to install boulders on the perimeter of the oval drive is in progress. To date, 32 boulders have been installed with gaps of approximately 7 feet to discourage vehicle operators from damaging the turf inside the oval by driving and doing “doughnuts” on the turf

when it is wet or snow covered. The installation of boulders will be completed when the final dozen boulders become available.

b. Mowing the Turf

1. Mowing began in April this year and has been conducted regularly on an as needed basis. The grass is mowed at a moderate height to help it resist drought periods. The grass grows well on its own without supplemental fertilization consistently with the land use as an archaeological and nature preserve, but not a park or athletic field.

4. CREP Tract 5 acres at base of Overlook

a. Combative invasives:

1. The OPI Executive Director's report is attached to this report and labelled Exhibit "A", which is incorporated herein by reference (H.I.).

5. Easement area with road connecting South River Road to Sportsmen's Club

a. Mowing and road maintenance:

1. In 2025, the Ouatatonon Sportsmen's Club brought in crushed stone to refurbish the lane back to their clubhouse. They filled low areas resulting from flooding activity. They periodically mow an area 15 feet from the centerline of the easement. They are good neighbors and have consistently performed their part of the bargain with TCHA regarding lane maintenance.

6. General preserve area: (Exhibit "C")

a. Invasive control on Preserve/General

1. OPI is in year 2 of an EQIP grant through Farm Services Administration of USDA. The EQIP grant was received by OPI to fight invasive plants primarily on the northern preserve border along South River Road and the southern border shared with the

Ouiatenon Sportsmen's Club, Inc. Ecotone, LLC has performed all work required to obtain reimbursement of the expense from the grant fund. Information regarding Ecotone, LLC is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

7. Fix property:

a. Maintenance:

1. Annual cleanup was completed Monday, September 14, 2026. Gutters were cleared, vines on home removed, bushes and starters removed from house perimeter or trimmed appropriately, all weeds and brush removed from perimeter of the garage and two dead trees were marked for removal. Removal of the dead trees is scheduled to be completed by October 15, 2026.

b. Modification

1. The long-term project of modifying the Fix home for public access is in a hiatus due to the cost of concrete at present. The addition of an outside basement access adds too much expense to undertake at present. Planning continues to identify a new contractor for the project, and complete design for revised cost estimates.

This report is submitted for September 23, 2026, TCHA Board meeting.

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 *
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

Chris Stevenson
Whitney Walton
Members - Amy Harbor

Publications Committee

David Hovde *
Jeff Schwab *

Cassie Apuzzo

Rosanne Altstatt
Whitney Walton
Trey Gorden
Chirs Stevenson

Other Members:
Pete Bill

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