

February 2007

Historic Fort Wayne

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Official Newsletter of the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

From the Editor

My first experience at Fort Wayne was showing up (late) to Battalion Drill in early 2006. Being in amongst the Civil War dressed soldiers, the restored 2nd floor barracks room and just the whole star fort itself led to a feeling of wonder. Touching the railing, I wondered how many men rested their hands on that same railing, before being called to duty far away from home. Mostly, I was overwhelmed by the opportu-

nity we have to enjoy this part of history. A history that has seen our country's military evolve from horse cavalry and muskets to tanks and machine guns. What never changed was the man that answered the call of service. I think the "Boy's of '62" would be proud to see that we have not forgotten them. Be it 1862 or 1962.



Chairman – Tom Berlucchi: A New Year, A Fresh Start

With 2006 behind us and 1700 volunteer on site hours behind us we have started fresh. On Saturday, January 13 we had 27 volunteers working around the Fort. We gave over 170 hours to help it improve. This is a great start to a new year! Let's continue to move forward.

Moving forward is what I want to discuss in this article to you. Moving ahead with securing on 501c3 account is the number one objective of the Executive Board. At the January group meet-

ing we presented and adopted a new set of Bi-Laws that will be used to obtain our 501c3 account. Now we start the application process. I will keep you updated on the progress. We also have a plan of projects and objectives to complete to assist the up keep and safety of the entire Fort complex. We have 5 events that Coalition members have brought to us to secure dates for weekends. They are: Federal Battalion drill, Memorial Day time line event, Anglo Persian weekend, Civil War Days

and the Abate bike rally. We are also working on providing assistance to Detroit Ghost Hunters Tour whom Parks and Recreation sent to us to work with. We will need everyone to assist us in working and supporting these events. These events will bring the public into the Fort complex and that means money and visibility. **Continued on page 3.**



Got coffee, will work!

Vice Chair- Will Eichler: Project Work Updates

Greetings to all! Thanks for all the hard work so far this year! With the boost of over 170 hours at the January 13th workday, we've given 198 hours to the Fort as of January 21. Great start to the year!

Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll see a run-down of all the stuff we accomplished during the workday. I've been building a "to do" list around the Fort with the help of the Execu-

tive Board. We checked quite a few things off that list on the 13th. As I mentioned at the meeting, please help me and other leaders by bringing what you see that needs to be done around the Fort to me. I'll add it to the list. Don't worry if you feel that what you see is out of our scope to handle. We often get a chance to pitch ideas to the Rec. Department on what we'd like to see worked on at the Fort.

You "big picture" ideas can be mentioned there.

An idea was brought to me by Matt Merta to hold one more work session a month. Matt suggested that some who are local to Detroit may have an easier time working one weekday evening a month as many have to work on Saturdays. **Continued on page 3.**

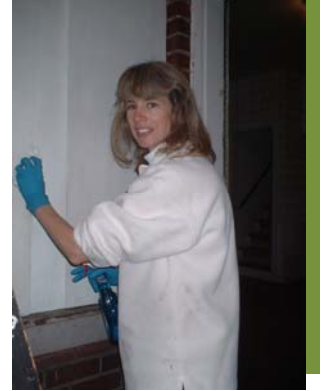


Service with a smile!

At Large: Ric Julian

First of all, I would like to thank everybody for their help in the Quartermaster Shop on January 13th. More work still needs to be done here. We made a BIG dent in the mess that was left over. Currently, I am working on a materials list with prices to submit to the 17th Michigan by the 1st of March for the next casemate, located to the right of the Powder Magazine, Please help

me? Hopefully, the bandsaw in the workshop will be up and running by then. Another one of my many projects to finish, is the Blacksmith Shop roof and dirt floor. Again, **Thank You** everybody that has helped me in the past. I will be looking forward to working with you again this Spring.



Improvements in Fort Wayne can take many forms! From washing walls to fixing the plumbing!

Blacksmith: Shawn Fitchpatrick

I would like to thank Mr. Al Poe for putting me in contact with Dan from Michigan Recyclers. Dan has gracefully donated enough batteries to get two work carts moving again. I would also like to thank my brother in law and his

bosses for donating furniture for our office. Thank you!



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We need both to keep the Coalition and Fort Wayne running in the best form to protect our mission statement for now and years to come.

I want to speak briefly on each event and what will be needed:

Federal Battalion Drill weekend- Assistance if requested by the host

Memorial Day time Line Event- A complete work schedule ranging from set up to registration, facility clean up, tour guides (if required), On site work details in the evening ranging from trash removal to fire wood details.

Anglo Persian Event- same as above

Civil War Days- This is our groups crown jewel- I will

need everyone to give a maximum effort to make this event bigger than last year. Last year 1300 spectators I want to increase that by 10% this year. I also want this to be the best event for all reenactors to attend.

GHTI Fort Wayne 2007 – A progressive event hosted by the same guys who put on the event in 2003. This you the event will focus on two companies of the 14th MI returning from veteran furlough and new recruits joining the ranks. Assistance if requested by the host.

Abate Bike Rally- Assist Region 5 in their attempt to bring the entire state regions to Historic Fort Wayne to promote motorcycle safety awareness.

Detroit Ghost Tours-we will need two or three volunteers (still being worked out) a couple of times a month to spend haunting hours (that means overnight) at the Fort providing assistance and monitoring fort grounds.

I will be writing to each of you in the future on these events and the special needs that they will need from us. Remember everyone who comes thru the gates will make a difference in Historical Fort Wayne's future.

We have made a difference on Historic Fort Wayne in one year - a year in which you all should be proud of. We have a long way to go. We have made the Fort a safer place for the public to come in. We have made the fort

grounds more appealing. This was done by volunteers- YOU.

There are others outside of the Coalition who are also trying to bring a turn around to Fort Wayne and they are making a difference. These range from groups to individuals who are maintaining web sites that want the same thing we all want - TO SAVE FORT WAYNE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO



Eichler – continued from page 1

Are you a person who would like to get together one evening a month (most likely a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday)? If this sounds good to you, please let me know by emailing me at steadywill@comcast.net and, if there's enough interest, we'll get something put together.

This article is necessar-

ily short. I will close this month by way of saying thanks and encouraging you to "stop and smell the roses." What I mean by that is so often we are focused on the next job that will further help Historic Fort Wayne. I hope you will all be able to join us for the workday on February 10th. Of course, we'll be there from 9 AM

through 5 PM. Whether it's that day or just the next time you're at the Fort, take a minute to look around. Notice the painted retaining wall as you drive in. If the Star Fort is open, walk in and see the improvements to the powder magazine. Check out the cover to the casemate.

We've come a long way

in a year and I hear lots of voices driving us to go further. I hope you'll also take a chance to view and be proud of the hard work we've all done already that now is the foundation we grow from as we catch up on what Jim Conway has jokingly called the Fort's "deferred maintenance."

See you at the Fort!