



November 2008

Vol. 4, No. 3

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HFWC Election Results

The HFWC holds elections for offices of the Executive Board every two years. Ballots were due to be received by the Elections Committee by Nov. 1st. The morning of the November workday and annual meeting they completed their duty for this year and counted all ballots. Your Executive Board for the next two years will be:

Chairman – Tom Berlucchi

Vice Chairman – Bob Hovansian

Secretary – Tom Steele

Treasurer – Will Eichler

Member at Large – Shawn Fitchpatrick

Member-at-Large – Lloyd Hevelhorst

Member-at-Large – Dale Jones
Thank you to all who ran for office! We've taken another step forward in our organization by having more than one person run for many offices. Both the old board and new board have already met jointly several times to keep the work of the HFWC running smoothly as we transition. This new board will officially begin administration of our organization on January 1st, 2009 and will serve you through the end of 2010. Look at the website after the Jan. 1 for direct ways

to contact each of us.

In closing this article, I want to especially say thank you to the outgoing board. We have done a lot help cement the organization. Your work and leadership are truly appreciated as we've negotiated hurdles like insurance and a 501(c)(3) application. The direction of this group is well set for the work that you have done. Thank you and we'll still see you at the Fort! Leaders don't disappear, they start doing other things!

- Will Eichler

A Word from the Vice Chairman-Elect

I am writing this in an effort to thank you for your support and for having elected me to the position of Vice Chairman of the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition in this most recent election. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve both our membership and the Fort in my duties, and I want you all to know that I will use every effort to continue the struggle to preserve the history that Fort

Wayne embodies.

We are lucky to have such a gem to be responsible for.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Vice Chairman, Will Eichler, for his years of constant loyalty and hard work toward the preservation of the Fort and to the Coalition and its membership. I only hope that I can continue or exceed his

effort on behalf of the Fort, and I promise to try my very best to provide the Fort with the utmost representation possible.

Thanks again!

Respectfully,

Bob Hovansian
Vice Chairman-elect

From Dale Jones, Member-at-Large-Elect

Over a year ago I was asked to help staff the Boy Scout's fall campout, and was told it was going to be at the Fort. I had been past the Fort hundreds of times, and seeing it from Jefferson, I thought you got to be kidding me. I drove though the gates of the Fort, I was hooked. There have been a lot of great

things that have happened there in the last year.

I would like to say thank you to all that took the time to vote in the last election. I would also like to say thank you for your vote and giving me the chance to be your voice to the executive board. We all have a voice

here. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask me, if I don't know the answer I will find it for you.

Dale Jones
Member-at-Large

A Message from the Secretary-Elect

First, I would like to take this moment to thank Doris Julian for her years of service and effort to Fort Wayne, the Coalition and the reenactment community. After her years spent as Secretary, I fully understand the shoes I must fill and am honored to do so. It has been a pleasure to work in such a fine organization in which Doris has played an instrumental role. Thank you Doris.

I would also like to thank the

members of the Coalition, who in their judgment, have found my abilities up to the task as the next HFWC Secretary. As stated in my election questionnaire, I am firmly committed to the membership of this organization and am very excited about the future of the HFWC and Fort Wayne! With this commitment comes criticism and critique. I will always have an open door to any member of the HFWC who may have suggestions for improvement to

the Coalition or membership service.

Thank you all for your support. I look forward to serving each and every one of you over the next two years as your Executive Board Secretary.

Sincerely,
Thomas Steele
HFWC Secretary-Elect

Hours Worked Update

Hours worked – 4164 hours as of November 16, 2008

Note about the hours – If you saw last month's Fort Journal, you'll notice that our number of hours has risen by almost 1500. About 350 hours of that are hours that have been donated in the past month! In addition, we received the report of hours that Coalition members, Boy Scouts and their sup-

porters worked while repairing the front porches for Buildings 112, 111 and 108 this summer. The work looks fantastic and now we have the hours reported.

In addition, I take great pride in our organization and partners to point out to all of you that when an employee works a job 40 hours a week for 48 weeks of the year (the other

four off for vacation and holidays) they work 1920 hours. Not counting interpretative work, tours and other "in front of the public" work for the Fort, we have provided the Fort with the equivalent time of more than two full-time staff members. Congratulations!!

Events Calendar

December 6, 13 and 20, 2008	Grounds Work Day
December 13, 2008	HFWC Board Meeting
December 13, 2008	Christmas at the Fort
January 3, 10, and 17, 2009	Grounds Work Day
January 10, 2009	HFWC Workday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Membership Meeting 1:00PM
February 7, 2009	HFWC Workday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
March 7, 2009	HFWC Workday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Membership Meeting 1:00PM
April 17, 18 and 19, 2009	Federal Combined Arms Drill
April 24, 25 and 26, 2009	Medich Battalion Drill
July 11 and 12, 2009	Civil War Days

HFWC Holiday Shopping

This is to remind all members that you as your think about holiday presents for friends and loved ones, don't forget that you all get a 10% discount of the selling prices at the HFWC store. We are working on expanding our offerings and with luck will shortly have the items on the website as well. As of

the 16th of November we have t-shirts and caps to promote your love of the Fort. We also have the Arcadia book and booklets on the history of the Fort. Share your love of the Fort this holiday with that history buff in your life. Take advantage of one of your membership perks and help restore the

Fort all at the same time! If you are interested in making a purchase, please contact me.

- Will Eichler

Will can be reached at:
will@historicfortwaynecoalition.com

Projects Update

October has been a very busy month for Projects. As more volunteers increase their skills based on the leadership of others, more and more projects are being started. More importantly, more projects are being completed!

Continuing on with the window restoration work, Bob Hovansian was able to reinstall the first of many windows during the November 1 workday. The window team he has established is performing beyond all expectations. Many volunteers who saw the benefit to the window work stepped up to the challenge. Some training sessions under the instruction of Bob and Jeremy Bevard really kicked off the team and continue to develop a crew that is now able to train. Training the trainer is the team motto and the barracks windows are looking beautiful as a result!

Casemate #3 has been completed, based on the generosity of the 17th Michigan re-enactor group. There were many nights and days of hard work by Jeremy Bevard, Tom Steele, Bob and Mary Hovansian, Glen Larsen, Rich Napier, Will Eichler in getting this cover up. Once the arches were set and the 1x4

roof boards nailed in place, the doors were reinstalled. Thanks to Mike Guralewski for refurbishing, repairing and painting the door fixtures and hinges. Finally, the tarpaper and vinyl cover was installed, and caulking was injected beneath the seams for better waterproofing. It was truly wonderful to see this casemate take shape and continue to show the 360° of improvement around the Fort. Keep your eyes open for two more casemate covers being installed by Rich Napier and Joe Rebandt. One is in the Northeast corner; the other is opposite Casemate #3 by the Powder Magazine! These covers are funded through the generosity of the Richards Middle School donation.

We are continuing to work on the Spanish American guardhouse porch. We were able to remove the deteriorated press-board flooring of the porch and replace the entire surface with new decking. Some modifications are still needed to get all the boards to fit just right and replace several that have warped. Once the winter weather passes, we will apply a fresh topcoat on the deck to keep that preserved. The \$1000 in materials for this

project was funded by Detroit Historical Society.

Many of you may have noticed already the painting that is occurring in Building 112. The front three rooms and the bathroom are all receiving the Coalition extreme makeover! All of the wallpaper is being removed; the walls have been repaired with spackle for painting. Thanks to Dale Jones, Sean O'Berski, Jane Kaminski, Heather Clark and anyone else not mentioned for the hard work, because the painting is at or near completion! There is nothing quite like the smell of fresh coats of paint in a place that you call home!

The work on the blacksmith shop continues to improve the look and functionality of this structure. The interior walls are almost complete and we look to have the interior painted next spring when the weather returns to painting temperature. In addition, we'll add a wooden barrel below the downspout on the new eave trough that will provide blacksmiths with a ready source of water in a very period manner.

- Tom Steele

Dues

As the incoming treasurer for the next two years, let me give you all fair warning that our 2009 dues will come due January 1st. If you want to get paying them out of the way early, you can do that. Dues have not changed this year. Individual prices will remain at \$20.00 per person. A family may join as a group for \$35.00 (families are parents and any children under 19 years old). Students between the ages of 14 and 25 may renew at the student rate of \$10.00.

Earlier this year, we amended the bylaws to include two new categories of membership.

Other non-profits, social and fraternal groups can support the HFWC officially by joining as an Organizational member for \$75.00. If a business is interested in joining us, it can join for \$100.00 per year. Neither of these membership are meant to replace individual – rather it is a way for supporting organizations and business to financially support us in a small way. We still ask that organizations and businesses that join as members aid us in growing by recruiting their members to also join individually in the effort.

If you want to pay your dues,

please print off a membership application from the web at the bottom of the page and fill it out. Then, mail it to the address at the bottom of the page. The web address is at the bottom of this article. We ask you to please fill this form out; we want to assure that we have your correct mailing and (if relevant) email address. Your membership dollars go a LONG way toward supporting this Fort. Thank you!

- Will Eichler

www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/involved.html

Christmas at the Fort

“Christmas at the Fort” will mark the first time the holidays are interpreted at Historic Fort Wayne. The event will be hosted by the HFWC on Saturday December 13th. “Christmas at the Fort” will be open to the public through guided tours only. On the tour, visitors will get to see how American celebrated Christmas through the different eras the Fort was open. They will also learn more about our Fort in the process. On the tour, guests will meet soldiers and civilians from the Civil War, as well as soldiers from the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. What holiday event would be complete without Santa? Santa will appear to visitors as he did at the USO shows of World War II.

A great event like this only is successful if we have the peo-

ple to help. We passed a sign-up sheet around at the annual meeting and have recruited from others we know and we are about 2/3 of the way to having the people we need. Can you help us? There will be two tour sessions on the 13th. The first will run from 2-5pm and the second will be from 6:30 – 9:30pm. We will have a potluck dinner for participants in-between. If you can only help with one tour or the other – that’s fine as well. Sign up for one or both; your help is welcomed.

We still need help greeting guests and getting them parked. We need a few more tour guides (don’t worry – a tour guide specifically designed for this event has been created to help you). We will be offering coffee, tea, water and having a Christmas cookie bake sale for

visitors. We need help with organizing that as well as we need cookies and other baked goods donated.

Do you see something you can help us with? Please contact me as soon as possible. Do you want to just come enjoy the tour that day? Come be a guest! Parking is \$5.00/car. Tours are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Group rates are also available.

This will be the first time the history of the Fort during the holidays will be interpreted. Come be part of it! I’ll see you at the Fort.

- Will Eichler

Will can be reached at:
will@historicfortwaynecoalition.com

Webmaster's Update

When I agreed to be the webmaster for the Coalition's website I was very excited. I had two goals in mind. One was to make sure that our website tells the story of the Coalition along with enticing visitors to get involved. My second goal is to make our site the premier website for Historic Fort Wayne history and research. I am sure many of us know how hard it is to find information on the Fort online. I want to change that. Myself and others have been working hard on this goal and it is a long road. There is so much research that is available that I hope to be able to start getting some of it online. I do believe we have a great start with our Historical Photo Gallery.

As the Coalition's webmaster I want to take a moment and let the membership know about the many great features that are now available. I also want to showcase some of the many improvements and additions that have been added in just the last couple of weeks. There have been many additions to the Coalition website since the beginning of the year. You can now meet the Coalition's Executive Board members, Project's Committee members and the Grounds Committee members right on the web. A page dedicated to Civil War Days is now available year round. There is also a link page that showcases organizations, companies and other websites that support the Coalition's mission. Please take a few moments and support them as well by visiting their websites. A virtual tour of Historic Fort Wayne is also available online. Now my favorite website addition is the Historical Photo Gallery. It is a

great way to see and imagine the Fort in the eras past. It is also a great motivator before a work day too!

For those of you who visit the site often there are some latest updates for you to check out. There are updated along with new pictures to view in the virtual tour. These include an inside view of the Span Am Guardhouse, a picture of the Rainbow Division marker on Officers Row and many more. Thank you to Will Eichler for taking some time to take these great shots. Four more historical photographs were also added to the Historical Photo Gallery that are from 1903-1909. These photos from my collection add to the many photos from Tom Steele's collection which all really helps tell the story of Fort from years past. Many photos from Civil War Days 2008 are now available for everyone to enjoy too. The event calendar has also been updated recently. The updated calendar now shows the planned work days through the end of winter. This should help everyone's future schedule planning.

So what else is coming down the pipeline you ask? Continuing to add and improve upon the virtual tour along with continuing to add and improve on event photo galleries. There are many more historical photographs that are in the works to be posted on the web. Eventually the Historical Photo Gallery will be broken into time frames for easier viewing. There is so much more but I want to move on before I run out of room!

Remember to check the site often especially the Breaking News page. I post many of the

updates there so you can find them quickly. For those statistics geeks like me here are a few website statistics:

17921 hits as of 11/16 at 3:30pm

223 hits since the Detroit News article as of 11/16 at 3:30pm

Strangest country with visitors: Seychelles (Islands in the Indian Ocean)

A few other counties with visitors: Italy, Germany, Japan, Czech Republic, Estonia

Top 7 referring sites:

- Google
- detroithistorical.org
- Yahoo
- MSN search
- atdetroit.com
- authentic-campaigner.com,
- wikipedia.org

Other interesting referring sites:

- graveaddiction.com
- fortours.com
- search.boatnerd.com

Average visit lasts 4.2 minutes

Top 5 most visited pages: Photo Gallery, Event Calendar, Visitor Information, About Historic Fort Wayne and Civil War Days.

- Jeremy Bevard

**Historic Fort Wayne
Coalition**

3660 Columbiaville Rd.
Columbiaville, MI 48421

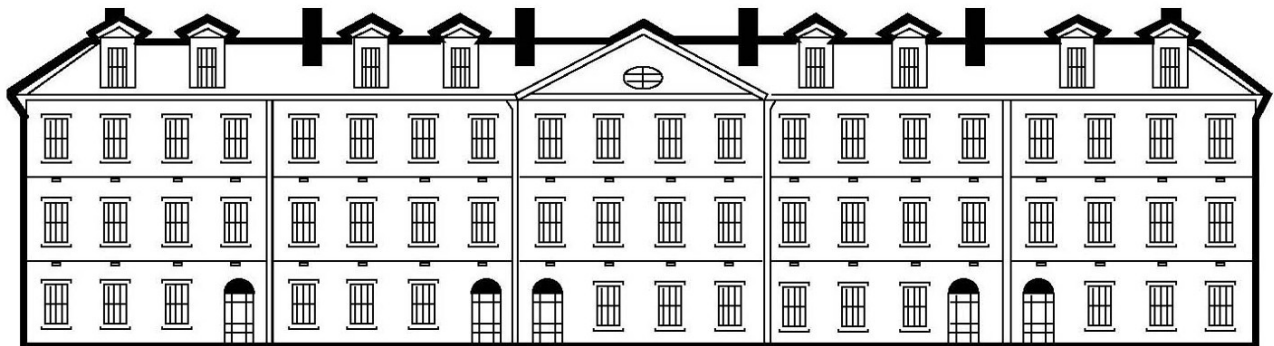
Our Vision:

Historic Fort Wayne shall be restored to its former state of grandeur. The Fort is a vital link to Michigan and American history. Historic Fort Wayne shall be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. The Historic Fort Wayne Coalition will utilize strong partnerships to promote historical knowledge and educate the public on this Detroit jewel.

Historic Fort Wayne Coalition's Mission:

To assist the city parks department in organizing and implementing living history events, and aid in the development of the Fort as a historic destination for future generations.

<http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com>



Historic Fort Wayne Coalition