

To the Members of the Great War Association,

I would first like to thank the member who nominated me for the position of President, and the enthusiastic shouts of "second!" that came from the Allied side of the line across from my location. I found it truly humbling—not only to be nominated by someone outside of my own Central Powers unit—but to be seconded by members of the Allied side as well. That gesture of trust and camaraderie from across our organizational divisions speaks volumes about what this Association can be when united.

Before the nomination, President Boswell had asked me if I would continue serving as Treasurer in the event no one else was nominated, as has been past practice due to term limits. I told him I would. In the days leading up to the nominations, numerous Central Powers unit commanders approached me, encouraging me to run for President. At the time, I expressed uncertainty—I've genuinely enjoyed my work as Treasurer. But when I was formally nominated by someone outside my unit, and that nomination was met with public support from across the field, I felt a deep obligation to accept. I do so with respect, gratitude, and a strong sense of duty to those who placed their trust in me.

With over 20 years of active involvement in the Great War Association and my current service as Treasurer, I am proud to announce my candidacy for President of this exceptional organization.

In my time as Treasurer, I undertook a full audit of our financial and administrative state and found years of oversight, neglect, and mismanagement that could not be ignored. I took swift and decisive action to correct those issues.

Key accomplishments include:

- Secured 501(c)(7) IRS compliance for the GWA by engaging legal and accounting professionals
- Filed Federal tax returns and updated our incorporation in New Jersey, replacing a long-outdated Resident Agent
- Filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Attorney General over a waste management contract, ending an exploitative agreement and erasing a \$1,500 debt—saving over \$5,000
- Corrected our insurance coverage, which had been insuring 179 acres when we only owned 79
- Reinstated ambulance requirements for unit-sponsored events to remain compliant with our insurance policy
- Ended late property tax payments, switching to early payments that now save the organization money annually

I immediately reported these findings in a detailed Treasurer's Report, distributed at the next GWA event with hard copies for full member transparency.

I also led or supported critical bylaw reforms, including:

- Aligning Treasurer and Secretary roles with IRS regulations
- Creating a Financial Oversight Committee
- Introducing a bylaw—backed by member signatures—requiring procedures for any G8 purchase or project over \$5,000
- Currently gathering support for a reform of the nomination and election process to ensure fair, secure Officer elections

- All bylaw proposals are reviewed by legal counsel I have worked with through other nonprofit boards to ensure IRS compliance

In addition to my role here, I have been elected by members to leadership positions in multiple nonprofit and fraternal organizations:

Currently serving:

- President, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 50 (501c7)
- Treasurer, Great War Association (501c7)
- Treasurer, Great War Foundation (501c3 charity)
- Vice President, German Law Enforcement Association of Maryland (501c3 charity)

Previously served:

- Secretary and Event Coordinator, World War 2 Historical Preservation Group (W2HGP Inc., 501c3)
- Vice President, Treasurer, and Bylaws Committee Member, Maryland Police Emerald Society (501c3)
- Delegate, FOP Lodge 4 to State and National Conventions (501c7)

These roles reflect the trust placed in me to lead organizations with integrity, financial discipline, and strategic foresight.

As your President, I will continue to champion:

- Transparent, responsive governance
- Strong financial and legal stewardship
- Authentic historical representation
- Open communication with members
- Infrastructure improvements
- Strict compliance with nonprofit regulations

This is a pivotal time for the Great War Association. I am committed to building a stronger, more accountable, and united future for us all. I respectfully ask for your vote and your support.

In service and solidarity,

Bryn Blackburn
Candidate for President
Great War Association