



Rexpoede, Calais - 1917 (photo by Paul Castelnaud)

On the Wire

Official Newsletter of the Great War Association Fall 2025

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Ladies and
Gentlemen of
the Great War
Association,



Over the past
6 years, it has
been my
distinct honor to serve first as
Vice President, and then as
President of world's premier
living history organization. We
stand above the rest by
continuously honing our
impressions via research and in-
depth living history experiences.
We lead by example. We recruit,
cultivate and grow deeply
dedicated historians. We are one
of the few living history
organizations that own their
battlefield. We are unique in the
reenacting world.

As I reflect on my tenure, I recall an eventful past.

We found ways to survive the repercussions of the COVID-19 outbreak and our thoughtful G8 leadership ensured we emerged from the pandemic in good shape. Over the next four years we improved GWA fiscal and legal policies which made us financially stronger than ever before.



Admin NCO McMahon. 113RIT

In This Issue

President's Farewell Message	1
From the Secretary's Desk	3
From the CP Combat Commander	4
Announcement: Kaiser Maneuver	6
Notes from the RK	7
Happy Birthday, USMC!	8
G-8 Officer Candidate Statements	9
Sample Ballots	15
Proposed Bylaw Amendment	16

President's Farewell Message

(cont. from p. 1)

I also look back to November 2022, when Tom Rock from the 80th ID had a fatal heart attack on Sunday morning as he was walking out to his truck. I will always remember that day, not just for the passing of a good man, but for the heroes who immediately came to his aid. To those men who rendered immediate CPR, the members who took charge to clear site traffic and the leaders who assisted in the aftermath of this tragedy, I will forever be grateful for your actions.

I have been blessed with an amazing G8 and energized membership. At the behest of the GWA members, the G8 authorized the installation of two additional wells, increased site parking, created a dedicated vendor area, and constructed both Entente and Central Powers command bunkers. We have streamlined event registration, modernized the website, and increased communication through the re-launch of the On the Wire publication. We have led the way with transparent and conscientious leadership resulting in a greatly improved GWA. I have the utmost faith that successive G8s will sustain this level of expert stewardship.

As I look towards the future, I will leave you with some words from RAF Group Captain Peter Wooldridge Townsend, CVO, DSO, DFC & Bar. He talks about his favorite word "Maintenance" in his book "Time and Chance":

"Maintenance: It is a pretty word when spoken and written. Also, whatever it may concern, alive or inert, it connotes love, respect and continued sustained care and effort."

May you continue the maintenance of your high level of enthusiasm and authenticity.

May you continue the vigilant maintenance of our GWA site.

May you sustain our mission to commemorate the brave men and women of the Great War.

May you continue the love, respect, sustained care and effort towards each other.

It has been my greatest honor to have served as your President and Vice President.

Yours truly,

Sgt. Jim Boswell, 27th Div., 107th Regt, AEF (recreated)

GWA President

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Fellow GWA Members,

I imagine you're all readers at some level. Some of you might be optimistic readers like me (I love to read, and buy books all the time... but I stink at carving out time to actually read them). Some of you qualify as fanatical or even pathological readers — I'm married to a guy who has upwards of 2500 history books [and he's read ALL of them at least once, most multiple times]. Some read to learn, some read to relax, some read to keep up on current events, and some people even read instructions. No matter what or how much we read, though, the most valuable wisdom of all is stuff we all learned as little kids. That's the premise of a fantastic book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" by Robert Fulghum. Here are his 16 brilliant points:



- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Flush.
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
- Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.
- Take a nap every afternoon.
- When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.
- Wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
- Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we.
- And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK.

Take from that what you will. I think it's a pretty good set of reminders, and I felt compelled to share, in case this is my last column.

Please travel safely next week as you head toward Newville. Tip your waitresses, don't park at the pump, hold a door open for somebody, let the next car in, and take your hat off at the dinner table. It's not hard to just be nice.

It's been an honor to serve as your Secretary for the last two years, and I thank you for your trust.

Erica Miller

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026 Spring Tactical

2026 Fall Tactical

April 17-18

November 6-7

INFO ON UNIT-SPONSORED EVENTS AND SITE CLOSURES CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB SITE:

[HTTP://WWW.GREATWARASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.GreatWarAssociation.org)

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER



Reenactors of the Central Powers,
Meine Herren und Damen,

Achtung! Achtung! Achtung!
Erlaub is cancelled and the Kaiser

calls on all Soldaten to defend our gains over the past four years in France! Russia is defeated and our Spring Offensive has been very successful, but recent Entente campaigns, reinforced with the Americans, have forced us onto the defensive. Never worry for we are still on foreign soil with a strong army and excellent morale!

I truly believe that Bret and I have created another very exciting event this November. As always, we'll have periods of intense combat, structured living history opportunities, as well as decentralized scenarios to develop the planning, execution, and leadership development of our leaders at all levels. I am very happy with all our leaders and it is a wonderful sight to see how each one of you is developing.

That leads me to the election and I very much appreciate each of you in your confidence in my leadership and vision. I take this very humbly and promise to give you all my very best over the next two years (and beyond). That being said, it is not my intent to command until defeated, but rather I wish to set the conditions for our hobby and then get out of the way for younger leaders to take charge. It is imperative that we develop every Soldat to lead to their best ability, regardless of their level of command. I see some very promising young leaders emerging, but I'd like to see more. You shouldn't wait until you are in a leadership position to start

developing your leadership skills. You never know when your time comes and it is essential and dutiful to have the knowledge and personal skills when you take over a position – your men deserve the very best from you. I call your attention to the “real” military. Junior officers are always very young men and their advisors are always seasoned older men. The young men are trained to make decisions, use judgement, and take responsibility. The older men mentor and develop the younger ones. The young men have fresh ideas, energy, and enthusiasm; the older ones have hard learned experience, wisdom, and patience. Our older reenactors are who we built this hobby upon; our younger ones are our future. Let us all encourage the development of our future leaders and celebrate those who have brought us here. On the Central Powers side, I'm very pleased at how much we've come together to make the hobby so much better! It shows!

Speaking of training, we will conduct another Soldaten Kriegsschule on Saturday at 1pm (muster at the Hauptquartier). We will go over drill (especially the new movement from the front to column and back), tactics, leadership, and much more! Our 7 Zugführer, Eric Cleveland, will be conducting this training. Speaking of training, we should have our new training trenches completed for this event and these are located to the immediate North of the quarry. We need to thank Eric Cleveland for making this happen! Eric has been an excellent CP Representative for the past 5 years and has been my right hand man. This position's sole reason for existing is to be “the go between” the CP units and

(continued on p. 5)

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

(continued from p. 4)

the G8 and I can't say enough about his exceptional leadership and dedication to our hobby. I look forward to still wearing him out as the 7 Zugführer and training officer, along with other special projects when they absolutely need to be accomplished. Replacing Eric is our 1 Zugführer, Duffy Bauer. I am very excited to have Duffy in this role and he has been an invaluable asset transcribing and publishing German texts for our training and education. Our units remain in very capable hands! Willkommen Duffy!

Drill...we need to really work on this! Our Appell on Friday will have some dedicated time for this. My expectations are not to make you drill masters, but every reenactor needs to have at least a basic level of expertise at drilling. Every Soldat was well drilled before entering the operational army and units routinely used drill movements to administratively move large formations over the battlefield. Bring your units' Fahnen for our Friday night Appell. The Kaiser will be the reviewing officer as well. He is offering a "blue uniform peacetime maneuver" in 2026 and a "grey uniform maneuver" in 2027 at two different locations, Wisconsin and Virginia. Unsere Kaiser will have flyers with more information at the Fall event, but both events will include drill, parade, parade step, German language, and singing German songs.

After the Friday night Safety Brief, our chaplain, Tyler Holcomb, will conduct a quick period sunset church service at the Ceasar Krauß Memorial open to all (including the Entente). We'll have our customary Catholic Rosary at 9m from Thursday-Saturday nights, a Protestant service Saturday around noon, and the RK will have a "first person workshop" at 11:30 Friday at the H.Qu on delousing and hygiene (Soldaten to receive information and pocket trash). The RK will also be providing great support for us during the event near the farm house. Please visit them!

Happy 250th Anniversary to my brother Teufelhunden! What a great battle history we Marines have!

Almost lastly, we are introducing "barrage fires" this event. What does that mean? We will have artillery simulations as part of attacks and we will try to work out how this works, but the gist is that if you are receiving mortar fires where the mortars are firing independently, this is normal fires, but if the mortars fire a salvo (all the mortars fire at the same time and impact roughly at the same point) you are expected to take appropriate actions (bunker area with overhead protection). There will be a corresponding artillery explosive simulation with impact noise and earth clumps falling to earth. Barrage fires create the conditions that force you into overhead covered areas or you need to take the appropriate casualty "hit." Expect aircraft strafing in relation to these new tactics. Be prepared to experience both preparation fires as well as walking barrages. We will discuss more with the commanders on Friday, but wanted to prepare everyone's mind to what this means. As always, if you have ideas on implementation of this or any other combat or non-combat capability, please bring them forward!

Lastly, this is an election year and your vote provides for the direction of our hobby. I don't take this lightly and neither should you. I have always taken my role as Vice President or Combat Commander as a great responsibility

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

(continued from p. 5)

with the entire GWA, and our future, at stake. Whomever we elect into these critical positions should represent the entire GWA membership, regardless of uniform or impression, and not form factions or coalitions. I may lead the Central Powers, but my loyalty has always and always will be to the GWA and so should all who serve on the G8 board. I have always believed we need members with a vision towards our future in these positions and I trust that you will take this election seriously and vote as an informed member. I have been guaranteed that we can, and will, announce election results at our 8am Saturday morning Appell so that we all know and can congratulate them.

I'll be arriving very late Wednesday night/Thursday morning; see y'all on the parade ground and in the trenches, Mensch! Let's get ready for a great event!

„Wir haben einen Willen; Sieg oder Todt!“

Mike Landree
Otto Landrik



Announcement: Kaiser Maneuver



Brent Mikulak, who portrays the Kaiser at Newville events, is working to establish a Kaiser Maneuver in Summer 2026. For more information, check out the event's Facebook page [here](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582360034277).

Full text of link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582360034277>

NOTES FROM DAS ROTE KREUZ

We're thrilled to celebrate one year since the revival of Das Rote Kreuz! Our group has grown to 15 members, and we couldn't have done it without your support. Thank you to everyone who has purchased our reproduction offerings, joined in our t-shirt campaign (t-shirts and other goods are still available online - check our Facebook!), visited our camp, or even took the time to correct yourselves when calling us "DRK" (it's just "RK" now). Every bit of support helps keep us moving forward.



A big thanks goes to Mike Landree, who has spearheaded the creation of a Central Powers medical group. Looking ahead, we're excited to coordinate large-scale medical scenarios in future years, as well as host first-person workshops on Fridays before the battle starts. More information on that to come.

If you haven't yet stopped by our camp near the old farmhouse, you may not know that we've chosen to portray the Crefeld/Krefeld POW camp. With help from our friends in the Swiss and CAMC, we're working to make your experiences of capture and repatriation even more immersive and memorable.

A little bit about "our" camp - the Crefeld (modern Krefeld) prisoner-of-war camp was located near Cologne and operated under the command of the German VIII Army Corps (Coblenz). It was used in both World Wars and, during WWI, served as both an Offizierslager (officers' camp) and a Lazarett (hospital camp). Crefeld housed prisoners from across the conflict, including Australian, British, Belgian, French, and Russian officers. Reports from inspections and first-hand accounts of prisoners describe the camp as being housed in substantial stone barracks arranged in quadrangles, surrounded by a discreet mesh fence topped with barbed wire. Armed guards were present but not obtrusive.

Conditions at Crefeld were relatively luxurious compared to other camps. German guidelines for officer camps emphasized adequate accommodation, furnishings (mattresses, tables, chairs, washbasins), sufficient heating, and freedom of movement during the day. Facilities included large, heated shower rooms with hot and cold water, exercise yards suitable for games and walks, and communal areas that supported music, smoking, and recreation. Prisoners were not segregated by nationality, which many officers appreciated. Limited parole walks into the surrounding countryside were permitted, often interacting with local civilians and children (the latter would often beg the officers for money or candy, sometimes with success).

Officers received monthly pay, with lieutenants earning about 60 marks (though much of this went toward food, set at 2 marks per day). Officers above lieutenant rank were paid more, with salaries scaled up by rank, though capped at colonel-lieutenant level. Meals were generally regarded as satisfactory, and officers were even allowed to purchase beer or light wine at their own expense.

While we do not have the facilities described above, Crefeld's dual role as an officer and hospital camp, combined with its proximity to Cologne and the Western Front, gives the RK a more substantial historical context for being present at Newville. So please, come visit us! Whether you're being captured or repatriated, we have postcards, paperwork, refreshments, and baked goods to share.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, USMC!

The 78th Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines of the Great War Association would like to wish the United States Marine Corps a Happy 250th Birthday on November 10th, 2025!

World War I had a profound impact on the history of the Marine Corps. Much has been written on the Battle of Belleau Wood; however, each of the engagements the Marines participated in for the remainder of the war set higher standards, forged new tactical doctrine, and resulted in significant casualties. Right up to the final minutes of the war, with the 5th Marine Regiment fighting in the heights above the Meuse River, Marines upheld their high standards and fighting efficiency.

Following the Great War, General John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps and the only Marine in WWI to command an Army Division, directed that each November 10th be observed as the birthday of the Marine Corps. Since then, each year, Marines across the world pause to remember the inception of our Corps, and the great legacies forged from the fields of Princeton to Afghanistan. Without the brave Marines of the Great War, our legacy would not be what it is today.



G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate for President: David Strichko

My name is David Strichko, and I'm excited to announce that I'm running for President of The Great War Association Inc. Some of you know me, and some of you don't — but I'd like to take just a minute of your time to ask for your vote.

A little about me: In my professional life, I'm the Building Commissioner for Lake County, Ohio, and have been for the past ten years, overseeing an annual budget of \$1.2 million. I run my department by two simple rules — **Consistency is key** and **Help, not hinder**. These rules speak to leadership values our organization needs.

I've been reenacting for about 25 years, and during that time I've had the privilege of helping build and lead some great organizations. I founded and served as President of both the 25th OVI Reenacted, and the Airborne Reenactors Incorporated (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit). I also served as President of Chardon Baseball, our local youth baseball league; I was a board member for ten years and a coach for about 20.

Across all these roles, the goal has always been the same: create strong, welcoming organizations where everyone feels valued.

If elected, my focus will be straightforward: **Consistency for All Members** – Fair and equal treatment across the board.

Open and Transparent Communication – No surprises, no secrets.

Planning for the Future – Ensuring the Great War Association is strong for years to come.

I believe that the GWA's strength is in its members — and together, we can make sure it continues to thrive.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Best regards,
Dave Strichko
Candidate for President
The Great War Association Inc

Candidate for President: Bryn Blackburn

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

G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(Blackburn, continued)

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

Candidate for VP: David Horton

Dear Fellow GWA Members,

Thank you for the trust and support you've shown me over the past two years as Vice President. It's been an honor to serve the organization, and I remain deeply committed to ensuring our events are both safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Throughout my term, I've taken action to strengthen our safety protocols and streamline essential processes:

- Ensured every bunker has working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as accessible fire extinguishers.
- Developed a contact list for each bunker to be used during non-event periods.
- Collaborated with the Safety Committee to streamline pyro inspections.

G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(Horton, continued)

- Simplified the process for first-time attendees to receive safety briefings.
- Worked with the G-8 to investigate and address safety violations.

These improvements reflect my commitment to proactive leadership and transparent communication. As I seek your support for a second term as Vice President, I promise to continue advocating for safety, accountability, and shared enjoyment at every event.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve and thank you for your vote.

Sincerely,

Dave Horton

Candidate for Secretary: Erica Miller

Fellow Members of the GWA,

My name is Erica Miller, and I humbly ask for your continued confidence and support as Secretary of the Great War Association. Over the past two years, I've worked hard to modernize and enhance communication and transparency within our organization, while remaining mindful of what makes the GWA and its members so unique.

Since taking office in 2023, I've:

✓ Facilitated recorded G-8 meetings via Zoom with transcription, and ensured that accurate meeting minutes are compiled and distributed to the entire membership.

✓ Revamped and modernized our entire event registration process, enabling members to pay dues and fees via credit or debit card, electronically sign liability waivers, and streamlining the process from start to finish for a more seamless experience.

✓ Resurrected *On the Wire*, the official GWA newsletter, on a quarterly publication schedule.

✓ Created a new, more secure, and user-friendly website to replace the outdated version that expired and died shortly after I took office. While there's still plenty of work to be done there, we've made forward progress and I'm committed to continued improvements.

✓ Remained dedicated to open and transparent communication, ensuring that all members are kept informed and engaged.

✓ Worked tirelessly to project a positive and professional image for our organization.

I've proven that I'm not afraid to roll up my sleeves and tackle the tough jobs, literally and figuratively, and it remains my goal to ensure that the GWA is an organization where every member feels valued and heard. There's still work ahead, but I'd be honored to have your support for another two years to continue building on the progress we've made.

Let's keep the momentum going—together. Thank you for your trust, your time, and your vote.

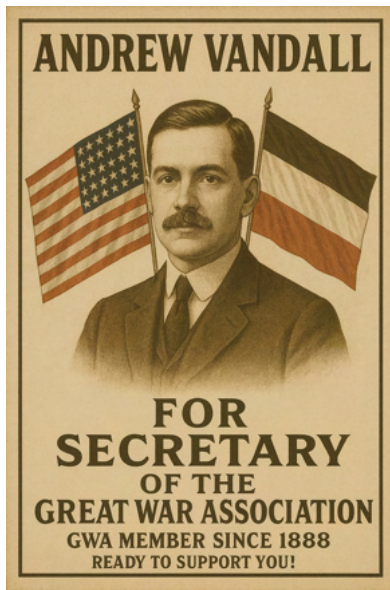
Respectfully submitted,

Erica P. Miller



G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (continued from p. 12)

Candidate for Secretary: Andrew Vandall



Candidate for Treasurer: Jennifer Domitrovich

I'm Jennifer Domitrovich, and I am running for the position of Treasurer of the Great War Association. I grew up an Army brat, an experience that fostered a love for travel and history, and instilled in me a keen ability to adapt to change. The values that guide me in everything I do are honesty, loyalty, family, respect, and responsibility.

I first became involved with reenacting in the early 2000s, but my commitment deepened significantly in 2013 when I became active in a World War II civilian group. I joined the Great War Association in 2017 with the 3rd RMZT (Zouaves) as a civilian supporting the French Cantine/Co-Op. In September 2022, the Zouave unit was brought into the 113RIT, so I became a member of the VAD attached to the 113RIT, and shortly thereafter became Treasurer of the 113 Living History Club (a 501(c)(3) organization).

I manage social media and communications for a Philadelphia-based professional photography firm. I currently serve as a Council Member for both the Rockhill Furnace Borough and the Orbisonia / Rockhill Joint Municipal Authority (water and sewer authority). I'm also an active member of the

Orbisonia/Rockhill Historical Society, and Team Leader for the Orbisonia/Rockhill Community Homecoming Committee.

I decided to run for GWA Treasurer because I believe that effective financial management is crucial for the success of any organization, especially one of our size that owns tangible assets. I want to help ensure that our funds continue to be managed wisely and transparently, and that they are utilized for the benefit of all members.

As Treasurer, I'd bring several contributions to the table. First, my attention to detail, strong organizational skills, and experience as Treasurer of the 113LHC will help me to succeed in continuing all of the amazing work Treasurer Blackburn has done over the past four years to set the organization on a solid financial path. I feel it is crucial to maintain transparency and earn members' trust, since the assets of any 501(c)(7) social club truly do belong to the members. To that end, I will ensure that our financial statements are always clear and accessible to all members. Additionally, my experience in municipal government and community involvement speak to my passion for collaboration and communication. If elected, I will work closely with other G-8 members to ensure our financial strategies remain aligned with the needs of the membership and with the overall mission of fostering enjoyment of the hobby in which we all invest so much time and money.

Ultimately, the role of the GWA Treasurer is to serve **the members** through helping guide our organization's financial future responsibly and transparently, and I feel I am uniquely qualified to do just that. I would very much appreciate your vote in November and the opportunity to earn your trust.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at j.ann.w80@gmail.com if I can answer any additional questions. Thank you so much for your time.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Domitrovich

G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(continued from p. 12)

Candidate for Entente Representative:

Scott Miller

Hi! I'm Scott Miller, and I'm running for the position of Allied/Entente Representative of the Great War Association. A great many of you know me, but there are plenty of guys who don't, so I'd like to take a moment and explain to you why I'm asking for your vote.

With 40+ years of dedicated reenacting experience and a proven record of leadership, I believe I am uniquely positioned to represent the interests and aspirations of our Allied/Entente membership. My commitment is anchored in honesty, transparency, and consistent, engaged representation. I believe the Allied/Entente voice deserves not just to be heard, but actively included in GWA decisions. This means two-way communication—listening to concerns and ideas, providing regular updates, and creating clear channels for feedback. It means making sure all of the members on our side of the line, not just the unit leaders, know who I am and how to reach me, and are comfortable doing so.

As the commander of one of the largest units in the line, I bring hands-on leadership experience and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities the reenacting community faces. My track record of completing projects on time and under budget speaks to my ability to turn plans into reality. Now retired, I have the time and dedication to fully commit to this role. I live right here in Newville, just minutes from the Caesar Krauss Memorial GWA site, allowing me to stay closely engaged with site conditions and progress. Over the past few years, I've built strong, positive relationships with local leaders and community members, which will be invaluable in fostering collaboration and supporting GWA's goals.

I am passionate about site improvements that enhance the experience for all members. From preserving the integrity and authenticity of our one-of-a-kind site to helping guide its development, I will work tirelessly to ensure our site remains a place we are proud to call our own. It truly is something special, 'World War I Disneyland,' and we shouldn't lose sight of that.

If you entrust me with your vote, I will bring decades of experience, a commitment to honest and open communication, and a proven ability to deliver results—all while ensuring the voice of the Allied/Entente community is heard loud and clear.

Let's work together to make the
GWA stronger, more
transparent, and better than ever.

Thank you,
Scott Miller
(sm82132001@yahoo.com)



Candidate for Entente Representative:

Matt Hewson

Greetings Allied/Entente Great War Association members,

First, please allow me to thank you all for making our site and organization one of the finest and most immersive historical experiences available anywhere. Your tireless efforts and dedication to Great War history and the history of your individual units makes the experience each member enjoys truly incredible. Thank you for all you do and for your time and consideration of me as your Allied/Entente Representative.

My name is Matthew Hewson, Matthew Thomas on Facebook. I am Commander of the 27th AEF New York State National Guard in the GWA. As a reenactor of over 28 years, in numerous time periods from the French and Indian War through the Vietnam War, I am very familiar with the unique challenges and rewarding experiences that reenactors and living historians encounter. In my professional life, I am an educator and have the privilege of spending everyday sharing the history and legacy of the United States Army with the American people at the United States Army Heritage and Education

(continued on p. 14)

G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

(Hewson, continued)

Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. My dedication to our organization and site comes from a lifelong passion for history and education.

The GWA is one of the foremost living history experiences available to reenactors and is a uniquely wonderful place to be immersed in history and the individual experience of those in the Great War. This is only possible through dedication and hard work on the part of every GWA member and individual unit. If chosen by you to serve as your Allied/Entente Representative, I will strive to continue to support our collective efforts to make our organization and site the most incredible experience possible for all of us. I promise to hear and communicate to the entire GWA your concerns, needs, and ideas honestly with a focus on transparency without specific unit bias. I will be a representative for all Allied/Entente members and units. I promise to support specific unit initiatives and improvements to enhance the overall experience of our members. I will support our collective efforts to continuously improve authenticity and immersion throughout the Allied/Entente community. I further promise to support our Allied/Entente members and units in reaching our unified goals while respecting and supporting our individual unit autonomy ensuring that individual unit concerns and goals are respected. The Great War Association is an incredible organization and experience for its members. It would be my honor and privilege, should you select me, to work with each of you to continue this tradition of excellence forward.

I appreciate your time and consideration of me for your Allied/Entente Representative. I look forward to seeing you all at our November event.

Thank you,

Matthew T. Hewson
mhewson@gwmail.gwu.edu

Candidate for Central Powers

Representative:

J. Duffy Bowers

Dear GWA Central Powers Members,

I am running for the position of Central Powers Representative, not as some way to pad my resume or stroke my ego, but because this time period and hobby have means a great deal to me. I have been an active member since 2008. I have seen a lot of things change for good and ill. The GWA is or should be dedicated to honoring the history of the Great War era and still be humble enough to remember this is a hobby and we are doing this for fun. Why else would we spend Hundreds of Dollars of our own money to play in the mud, if not for the fun and kameradschaft?

As CP Rep, my goal is to ensure the CP remains an equal part of the GWA. I'm not going to puff myself up, trying to sound more important to you than the CP Rep should be. The CP Rep should serve as an invisible hand guiding positive change in the CP, and also advocating for the CP's interests by being a thorn in the side of the G8 when necessary. But a Rep must serve as primarily facilitator.

I want to leave the CP better off, as my predecessors have done so. As such I have a few items on my agenda.

1. Revise the current CP guidelines. We have more and better access to information, as such we need to expand the guidelines. This should include a more comprehensive list of vendors and update it regularly as quality and availability change. This will help units evaluate who to recommend to their members.
 - a. Solicit reviews of gear and uniforms, creating an ongoing resource for units to use.
 - b. Use the CP authenticity committee; the goal of which isn't to flog members for less than perfect kit, but to give action items for improving the CP as a whole.

G-8 OFFICER CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

(Bowers, continued)

2. Work on guidelines for trench works, and wiring. You don't know what you don't know and it will help empower the Trenchmeister to guide you to constructing authentic and safe trenchworks. We already have an excellent resource on bunkers, but let's build the knowledge base to make our experiences in the lines better (and keep the Entene guessing).

3. Ask the treasurer to explore a budget where seed funds for construction are possible. This would be something applied for by units trying to kick start improving their AO; and approved by the G8. Not every unit has a sugar daddy.

a. Also make sure that there is budgetary parity between both the CP and Entente. This has far too long feed the Us vs Them mentality. We are in this as a whole organization. The Entene has a dedicate training area, the CP could benefit from a similar consideration and aid.

4. Quarterly surveys of the CP membership about the issues of the day. This will be by CP, for CP development.

5. Ensure that units have the autonomy to choose their members without arbitrary interference by the G8.

We've all seen how poor communication has frustrated members recently. It's time for a course correction — one based on the interests of the members, not just top-down letters and empty boilerplate messages.

While I may be running unopposed this year, that doesn't make the position any less important. The CP members should know what their representation stands and will fight for on your behalf. I have great respect for the other gentlemen who could not run due to real-life obligations, and it would have been an honor to run against them.

We should be in this for fun, not letting fake rank in a fake army keep us from enjoying what we have all built over the decades.

Regards,

Duffy Bowers
IR459

Candidate for Central Powers Representative

ABSENTEE VOTING

If you can't make it to the event, you still have the ability to cast your vote for the election.

Request an absentee ballot by clicking the link near the top of the website home page, or by e-mailing Erica Miller directly at greatwarsecretary@gmail.com.

Completed absentee ballots must be received by midnight on Thursday, November 6, in order to be counted with the on-site ballots.

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOTS

Entente/Allied Fall 2025 Election Ballot

- Fill in the circle (●) next to your chosen candidate using a blue or black pen.
- Do not use X's or check marks.
- Vote for one candidate per position.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Position	Entente/Allied Candidate	Central Powers Candidate
President	<input type="radio"/> David Strickland	<input type="radio"/> Bryn Blackburn
Vice President	<input type="radio"/> David Horton	
Secretary	<input type="radio"/> Erica Miller	<input type="radio"/> Andrew Vandall
Treasurer	<input type="radio"/> Jennifer Donihew	<input type="radio"/> Joe Murray
Member Representative	<input type="radio"/> Matt Hewson <input type="radio"/> Scott Miller	
Combat Commander	<input type="radio"/> Bret Werner	
Expense Approval Bylaw Amendment	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

Central Powers Fall 2025 Election Ballot

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Secretary	<input type="radio"/> Erica Miller	<input type="radio"/> Andrew Vandall
Treasurer	<input type="radio"/> Jennifer Donihew	<input type="radio"/> Joe Murray
Member Representative		<input type="radio"/> J. Duffy Bowers
Combat Commander		<input type="radio"/> Mike Landree
Expense Approval Bylaw Amendment	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT: PROJECT APPROVAL

Proposed Bylaw Addition: Project Approval in 501(c)(7) Nonprofit Social Organization

Section 1: Project Proposal Requirements

1.1. Project Cost Threshold: Any improvement to the property or any building project benefiting membership and costing the organization more than \$5,000 must adhere to the following guidelines.

1.2. Detailed Description: A comprehensive description of the project, including the projected cost, must be prepared and presented.

1.3. Notification and Review Process:

1.3.a. The proposal and cost details must be published on the organization's website and Facebook page.

1.3.b. Each unit commander must receive the proposal via their respective G8 Representative, who will disseminate the information to their units.

1.3.c. The proposal shall be made available for member review and comment for a period of 30 days.

1.4. Funding Confirmation: Prior to presenting the proposal, the President must confirm with the Treasurer that the organization has sufficient funds to cover the project cost.

Section 2: Board Review and Voting

2.1. G8 Board Meeting: After the 30-day review period, the G8 will vote on the project at its next scheduled board meeting. If this meeting is more than 30 days away, the President shall call a special meeting of the Board to vote on the project.

2.2. Voting Records: The Secretary shall record the vote in the meeting minutes, including how each G8 member voted. This record must be retained for a minimum of 10 years.

Section 3: Contractual Obligations

3.1. Contract Signing:

3.1.a. If the project is approved, a contract must be entered into within 30 days of approval, signed by the President or another G8 Board Member authorized by the President.

3.1.b. If the contract cannot be executed within this timeframe, the President may grant an additional 30 days.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT, CONTINUED: PROJECT APPROVAL

3.2. Cost Overruns:

3.2.a. If project costs exceed the initial estimate by more than 20%, the membership must be notified and given 15 days for review and comment.

3.2.b. If the majority of feedback is negative regarding the additional costs, the project will be canceled.

3.3 Project Commencement: The project must begin within 45 days of the contract signing.

3.4. Contract Availability: Once signed, the contract shall be made available for review by the membership.

Section 4: Amendments

4.1 Amendment Procedures: Any amendments to this bylaw must follow the standard amendment procedures outlined in the organization's bylaws.

This bylaw is established to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper governance regarding projects that significantly impact the organization and its members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANY

The 2nd Annual Fort Bedford River Rendezvous will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9 AM to 3 PM at Fort Bedford Park in Bedford, Pennsylvania. While the event traditionally focuses on 18th-century Pennsylvania, the Fort Bedford Museum is expanding its historical programming as part of its efforts to recognize all eras of American history leading up to the America250 commemoration.

Event organizers are seeking to include portrayals and displays that help tell the broader story of America's military and cultural evolution. They're looking for individuals or groups that might be interested in participating in this event by setting up a WWI educational booth or display.

The registration form and more information can be found [here](#) - and the Museum's main website is <https://www.fortbedfordmuseum.org>.

Please direct any questions to Landon Defibaugh at fortbedfordmuseum@gmail.com.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

***On the Wire* Fall 2025 issue publishes October 20. Ish.**

Please submit content for the Fall issue prior to October 10, including unit updates, feature stories, pictures, etc. Something you'd like to see? Please also feel free to pass along your ideas.

Send content / suggestions to GreatWarSecretary@gmail.com.