

**TCHA BOARD REPORTS SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA
FOR NOVEMBER 28TH MEETING**

**Executive Directors Report
November 2017**

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The mailer going out to 12,500 residents of the county went out today. The Facebook aspect of the campaign will start next week. We will keep you posted on progress.

FOUNDATION MONEY

The final board meeting of the Foundation met on November 16th. It was voted and passed that a 3% disbursement of funds that are outstanding for the past few years will be made to TCHA. The balance of the Foundation money will be handed over for deposit into the TRUT fund no later than December 18th.

TAYLOR STUDIOS

Our work with Taylor Studios is going well. We are giving them the first phase of text for the exhibits this week, with the second phase to be written and handed over to them in January. They will be delivering to us their deliverable of the color drawings of the final exhibits layout by the end of the year. These drawings are what I will be able to use for fundraising. As for exhibit fabrication and installation, this could occur as early as March but will be dependent on fundraising as we need to raise \$225,000 for the fabrication and installation.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The Fowler House has graciously offered their facilities to us for our annual meeting this year as the History Center will be in full construction mode at this time. As for the meeting date and time, my recommendation is for Saturday, January 27th at 4:00 PM. A weekday evening date is simply not good for people with families and work to attend and we are hoping to increase our membership of families and would love for them to be able to attend.

BOARD RETREAT PROPOSAL

I think that it is important that we return to doing a board retreat and training beginning in 2018 and I would propose a two-day retreat to take place on a weekend in March. Saturday would consist of board training and vision for the future and Sunday would be a field trip to the Indiana Historical Society Museum. We would do a tour in the morning, have lunch and then

meet with members of their board and staff in the afternoon. This is a vital part of keeping our board informed, trained and healthy as a well-run and functional board.

BOARD MEETINGS

In keeping with the theme of an informed board and building relationships, I propose that we hold at least half of our board meetings in 2018 at other museums and institutions in the area as a way to reach out to these groups and allow them to become more familiar with us as we become more familiar with them. I would encourage all of you to make recommendations as to where you would like us to hold these meetings.

IMLS AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

I am putting the finishing touches on the IMLS grant for submission at the end of this week. I am also working on a Community Foundation grant for work in the History Lodge, specifically, painting the auditorium walls.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UP-DATE

See Walt's report

TCHA Programs & Membership Department Monthly Report—November 2017

Dept. Team: DJ Tucker-Director

Preamble:

This monthly report will seek to illuminate on the various doings of the department over the course of the last few weeks and since our last communique.

Report:

November has been a busy month for the department. A respectable number of school groups and education programs at the battlefield have kept us hoping. What a wonderful thing it is to have these folks at the battlefield during the time of year when those hostilities of long ago actually occurred. We even had a class of students from Warsaw Christian School visit on the anniversary date proper. We're sure the lads on both sides were looking down and pleased to know they haven't been forgotten and that there are young people still pacing the grounds of their youthful exploits. If there is one thing we as an organization can be proud, it's the continued reverence we have for the sacrifices made of both soldier and warrior brave at Tippecanoe and the dedication we have shown to keeping their memory alive. And speaking of that...

TCHA once again hosted a commemoration affair at the battlefield to mark the November anniversary of the clash. Much thanks to Craig Hadley and Mr. Mike Dotson for handling the details and coordinating volunteers, etc. And, speaking of volunteers, we are grateful for the participation of our living history friend John Wickett. John is simply one of the best living historians in the nation and we are so lucky to have him at the Tippecanoe event a few weeks ago. While many other participants shied from the public and sought the warmth of the indoors, John delivered hourly outdoor demonstrations and engaged our visitors without complaint. That alone makes him a hero, but if you were present that day you would have also been amazed at this man's incredible costumed impression. Good living historians of this time period are hard to come by and John is one of the best. Again, TCHA is very lucky indeed to have someone of his caliber in the local area and more than willing to assist with our mission to educate and commemorate the actions of our noble ancestors of 1811 and beyond.

November the department represented TCHA at the MOMCC Fall Conference at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. MOMCC is the regional affiliate of the nationally respected professional museum association ALHFAM of which we are a member. The conference ran the gamut of topics relating to museum management and interpretation and was a gathering place for many like-minded folk working to do the same kind of stuff TCHA has been doing for the past nine decades. Of particular interest was the number of sessions or workshops dedicated to foodways study and the implementation of such innovative program initiatives. In 2018 we sincerely hope to delve deeper ourselves into this fascinating realm of museum instruction. Meeting with others undertaking this work, and inspired by the leadership of such pioneers in the field as Ms. Sandra L. Oliver, we return to Lafayette even further convinced that our dream of developing an ample foodways curriculum is not only doable but imperative.

And speaking of such things now is the time for our TCHA board to consider the future of our organization's annual programming and contemplate a slate of potential offerings we have crafted for the 2018 calendar of events. Please ponder the following:

TCHA Programs Department Schedule Proposal 2018

Author: DJ Tucker—Programs & Membership Director

Fall 2017

January: TCHA Annual Members Meeting

Concept: The primary mission of your TCHA programs department is to produce and deliver the best in "value added programming." Thus the annual meeting shall serve to showcase what we have planned for 2018. The department will use this opportunity to formally announce a schedule of monthly maximum effort events and whip-up excitement for the upcoming slate of superlative offerings. Each event will be announced, previewed and described in brief. This is our chance to plant a seed by challenging our membership to take ownership of the association's educational mission and become ambassadors for our program initiatives. We are really striving to recruit our membership to play a more active role by not only attending our programs but serving as an echo chamber to advocate for these meaningful undertakings. The annual meeting will therefore provide a great opportunity to get our people to invest in the mission and get on board with TCHA as we double-down on our program plans.

Proposed Budget: \$500

Revenue: \$5.00/per person

February: TCHA 4th Grade Diversity Initiative

Concept: *See formal proposal document for full outline

Proposed Budget: *\$0.00 cost to TCHA

Revenue: *\$4000

March: French & Native Colonial Living History Weekend Encampment

Concept: In an effort to promote TCHA as a cutting-edge player in the colonial era living history realm, we propose the development of an annual costumed encampment at the Fort Ouatenon Historical Park

blockhouse. Focusing on the much storied French occupation of this strategic settlement along the Wabash our program will seek to attract the best living historians interpreting this dynamic chapter of the region's history. Participants will be encouraged to share their research, knowledge and real-world experience through the creation of a collaborative environment conducive to this aim. Demonstrations of period crafts, lifeways and cultural modalities typical of the era will serve not only to benefit our costumed cadre but also act as a hook intended to draw the general public to the site at a time of year not normally known for such activities. Think of this as a chance for TCHA to shine in the eyes of those that seek a more intimate approach to costumed interpretation and experiential education.

Proposed Budget: \$150

Revenue: \$150 plus membership sales and associated merch

April: WW2 Themed Gala and Fundraiser

Concept: Coming on the heels of a rather successful TCHA Gala in the spring of 2017 this companion event will follow closely the model established by our first such annual fundraiser. With a full swing era big band and the delightful Victory Belles as our premier attractions this magical evening is sure to prove a homerun for TCHA. Partnering a small compliment of Second World War reenactors and educators we hope not only to entertain but also edify. Artifact and equipment displays will complement our glittering affair and reinforce the notion that our association is purpose driven with a strong commitment to learning even in the midst of what typically would be all pizzazz and lean on substance. TCHA may be well advised to use this opportunity to highlight this fact and seize the chance to really hit home the idea that we solicit funds for this specific aim. Our outreach programs and didactic initiatives can be the magical ingredient necessary to open wallets and soften hearts to the good work being achieved by our TCHA family.

Proposed Budget: TBD

Revenue: TBD

May: Tippecanoe and the War of the Rebellion Weekend Living History

Concept: Building on the success of the first TCHA sponsored Civil War living history (July, 2017) the department seeks to further improve our product with more participants and an even more ambitious scope of interpretation. Last year we focused solely on the story of the recruitment and training of various companies of local boys; those that dutifully answered the president's call for volunteers in the beginning months of the war. Next year we propose to expand the narrative to include the chronicle of

some 800 Confederate prisoners brought to Lafayette after the fall of Fort Donelson in 1862. Surely this compelling tale of the “enemy in our midst” coupled with enhanced camp life demonstrations and visitor interactions will fascinate the many patrons we are certain to attract.

Proposed Budget: \$500

Revenue: \$5.00/per participant registration fee and History Store sales

Also May: Beginning in May and running through November we hope to staff the battlefield the first Saturday of each month with at least one costumed interpreter doing demos and giving talks about the battle.

June: TCHA BSA Themed History Day Camp

Concept: The TCHA programs department aims to step out a little on faith with this concept proposed for early summer, 2018. The idea is to recruit a small troop of area Boy Scouts and conduct a sort of trial—the lads will experience what it was like to be a scout in the first quarter of the 20th century. In those early years of Scouting, boys were required to attain a level of proficiency in fieldcraft and assorted outdoor skills that some contemporary troops now overlook. This noticeable lapse has spawned the creation of a number of “retro” scouting outfits keen to take the practice back to the movement’s heyday when the basics were foremost in the mind of each lad. Thus, our objective is to give these scouts a taste of some classic customs and hopefully instill a little appreciation of the legacy set forth by their ancestors. Boys and girls of the organization today will leave feeling like they are part of something bigger than themselves and will have a newfound appreciation of their own history and that of the vibrant community of which they are a part.

Proposed Budget: \$300

Revenue: \$1000 plus

July: Membership Appreciation Party and Summer Fling

Concept: This program affords a chance to engage in something no association should be without, appreciation for their volunteers and membership. And as an added bonus, we shall partner with a sister organization, the Farm at Prophetstown, to fete our beloved peeps. The Farm has many of the same members and so we thought it might be fun to share expenses and give everyone an even greater time. Can you say fabulous entertainment, gourmet grub and unforgettable hospitality? Yes, I’m sure you can.

Organizations like ours should function as hubs for our community; to foster corporate celebration and meaningful communion. Here's our chance to showcase these attributes and let our members know we care and that they are a part of something vital and real. That we are more than ancestor worship, that we have relevance in the here and now. TCHA and the Farm can be a place where friendships are made, old wounds may be healed and understanding is abundant. Tall orders for a picnic we know, but why else do we do what we do? Here's an opportunity to shine like never before.

Proposed Budget: \$750

Revenue: Additional membership and retail sales of TCHA merch

August: The Farm/TCHA Classic Camping and Bushcraft Weekend Experience

Concept: This special event will mark a second collaboration with our friends at the Farm in 2018. Recognizing a unique sub-culture within the world of historical reenactment, our Classic Camping weekend will host a small group of costumed enthusiasts keen to share their love of nostalgia and traditional bushcraft. Classic Camping defined: "Classic Camping is the use of tools, techniques and traditions in the style of the Golden Age of Camping (1880-1930)." In other words, it's "where the frontier skills of Daniel Boone meet the industrial age of Henry Ford." Demonstrations of camp life and displays of period appropriate tools and artifacts will serve as the main attraction. Campfire cooking will likewise play a vital role in the public outreach component of the weekend's activities. And evening supper experience and barn dance are in the works as well.

Proposed Budget: TBD (Working with our counterparts at the Farm to set numbers)

Revenue: TBD

September: TCHA Historical Foodways Happening

Concept: Foodways events and programs are taking the public history field by storm. The department proposes that we get on the bandwagon and stake our claim in this exciting area of cultural study. Hoping to establish our expertise in the field may we suggest a weekend of lectures, indoor and outdoor cooking demos, and an evening production designed to allow a select group of community guests to participate in the cooking and consumption of an extraordinary meal. TCHA leadership has already shown a commitment to developing a regular foodways program—we attended a recent museum conference that featured a lot of foodways content. We can also look to the Feast for the establishment of certain precedent. It's not a secret that many individuals flock to the Feast every year because of the

perceived historical dimension of the foods offered there. Here's a chance for our organization to expand on this to initiate an extension of a well-recognized allure.

Proposed Budget: \$500

Revenue: \$75/per person and associated memberships and merch

October: Feast 2018

Concept: Need we say more?

Proposed Budget: A whole lotta dough

Revenue: Yes, please

Also October: Potential Halloween Costume Ball

November: Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration & Living History Weekend

Concept: Carrying on a tradition well established by TCHA over many years the department plans to continue to honor the memory of the brave warriors on both sides during those tumultuous couple of hours on the early morning of November 7th, 1811. 2018 marks the 207th anniversary of the battle so our plans are comparatively modest as compared to past remembrances. Nevertheless, as our department continues to flesh out a first rate costumed interpretation plan, this year includes an expansion of the living history component of the weekend's activities. Active camp life demonstrations, cultural displays and hands-on educational opportunities will set a standard heretofore not seen in previous iterations.

Proposed Budget: \$200

Revenue: Additional membership and retail sales of TCHA merch

December: TCHA 90th Anniversary Birthday Party Weekend

Concept: It's a historic birthday for a historical association of note. Let's party! We're going to make good use of our new TCHA History/Event Center and have a throw-down to remember. Food, entertainment, prizes, and all the razzmatazz you might expect from your very own TCHA. This is no small milestone so let's make it count. This would be a great time for our association to reflect and renew our commitment to preservation, education and community involvement. This will similarly serve as a great venue to announce program plans for 2019 and to poll our membership as to how well they enjoyed the previous twelve months of scheduled offerings. Here's a wonderful opportunity to end the year right and with a celebratory bang!

Proposed Budget: \$1000

Revenue: \$20.00/per person and additional membership and retail sales of TCHA merch

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BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM REPORT – RICK CONWELL

206th Battle of Tippecanoe commemoration activities were well attended with chilly but nice weather.

Thanks is due Mike and Phyllis Dotson for their hard work in organizing programming and providing the noon meal, Frank Doughman and Ron Ghoulson for their interesting presentations and demonstrations, and all of Dubois' Company of Spies and Guides for their usual great job of interpretation.

Thanks, as always, to Laura for the find job she does of helping manage the store.

Activity is now slowing dramatically, and we can focus on budgets, housekeeping items, and getting ready for 2018.