

HMGS Director Candidates' Biographies

TIMOTHY BROOME

I've been an active HMGS member for a bit over 10 years and during that time have renewed many old friendships, made even more new friends, played in lots of games, and have come to realize what a great organization HMGS is. Over the past 30 years I've helped organize and run several wargames clubs and conventions in my local area. In these organizations I've done everything from being a Game Master to a Governing Committee Chairman, and most of the roles in between. Since joining HMGS I've served as staff at virtually every convention I've attended, working in registration, events, and in the vendor hall and have been the Onsite Events Coordinator for Historicon since 2012. I have run numerous games at HMGS conventions and was fortunate enough to win Best of Show at Historicon 2014.

I recently retired from the US Army as a First Sergeant with 26 years' service and now work in the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, obtaining and restoring militaria for display there (imaging playing with minis – but at 1:1 scale!) A significant part of my job includes running educational wargames at the National WW2 Museum in New Orleans as well as at other area museums, bringing in local high school wargames clubs to participate.

I have more free time than I did when on active duty and want to use some of that time to give more back to HMGS. I have no agenda beyond wanting to help make the Society more successful in its pursuit of its goals.

My military career required a high degree of organizational skill, the ability to get things done (generally with fewer resources than were required), to play well with others, and

most importantly, to accomplish the mission. I believe these skills can all be put to good use in service to HMGS and in support of what I see the HMGS mission to be. That mission is to (and I paraphrase very loosely from the HMGS Articles of Incorporation, to say this) foster historical gaming and scholarship, promote historical gaming through outreach to the public (e.g. supporting History Day programs and other efforts that extend beyond our own membership), and to hold wargaming conventions. HMGS does a great job of doing all of these things but I would like to help it to do an even better job.

I have experience in convention operations both inside and outside of HMGS. I've negotiated facility contracts, I've humped tables and I've raised Cain when the bathrooms were dirty. I ask you to allow me to bring all of this to the HMGS Board of Directors and to the governance of our Society.

MICHAEL FATOVIC

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Michael Fatovic and I'm running for the HMGS board.

I have been a war gamer for 46 years starting when I was in 8th grade playing Avalon Hill board games. In 1975 I was introduced to Column, Line and Square while attending my first miniature game at the Battle Ground in NYC and became the youngest member of NYWA at that time. I attended my first HMGS Con in 1985 and have been a member ever since. Many of you have seen the large 54MM WWII and AWI games I have hosted, winning several awards and ribbons. I take GMing seriously and try to put on the best game every time.

I've been in banking for 36 years, I run the Asset Recovery Division for one of the largest community banks in

NJ. Some of my job Responsibilities curtails the following: analyzing income statements, balance sheets, drafting and negotiating complex contracts of sale for bank owned assets, planning and managing budgets and completing projects on time and budget. I oversee a staff of 16 employees. I have worked closely with Executive Management in implementing and planning corporate strategic goals and objectives for three and five year business plans. I've been the chairperson for the finance council of St. Ann's Church and currently I'm a member of the finance council and construction committee for Most Holy Trinity Church.

Many of my friends know I'm not a political person, I come to conventions to enjoy games and the camaraderie, but however there comes a time when we must take stock as to where our organization is going.

SO WHY VOTE FOR ME FOR THE BOD AT THIS TIME?

Certainly one person cannot change all of the problems that still plague our organization but I'm willing to take up the challenge.

We must continue to improve communication with our membership educating them on cost and space requirements for the organization's three conventions thus making the BOD decisions more convincing and understanding the WHY! This could be accomplished by having additional talks/seminars at the conventions.

We must take a hard look at the loss of vendors at the conventions. We need to act immediately to get lost vendors back, create incentive programs, and listen to them.

We must continue to look for alternative sites to host our conventions.

We have seen the downhill decline of the quality of games at

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the conventions. As an avid game master we need to take a hard look into this. What would happen to our conventions without the Game Masters! We need to support GM's with incentives and find ways to make their job easier to put on games.

Finally given my years of experience as a Financial Professional, Chairperson of a finance committee for a non-profit, and my GM skills, I believe I can help solve these problems. I hope you will consider and support me with your vote. Thank You!

MICHAEL S. FIJALKA

I have accepted a nomination to run as a candidate again for the HMGS Board of Directors. I was the Society's Secretary on the board for four years (2012 to 2016). During my tenure, all Board of Directors and Society minutes were brought up to date and published timely to the membership as approved. The By-Laws were also revised and recertified twice. I will strive to provide service to all our membership, the Historical Wargaming community as well as the wider audience of individuals interested in history, the joys of gaming, and the satisfaction of participation in the entire hobby. I endeavor to devote the attention necessary to support the HMGS business needs and entire membership at large.

I continue to participate in local wargaming activities at a local hobby shop and club as I have for over ten years. We play regularly at our local hobby shop and enjoy the banter on historical outcomes, the variety of historical gaming rule sets from Ancient armies to modern times, and the occasional trash-talk of challenging game lists.

I have also been in attendance at many of the HMGS conventions over the past ten years, observing

and participating in a wide variety of HMGS games and activities. I have been the registrar for Historicon for the past two years and a game master or assistant game master at recent HMGS conventions in presenting several Crimean War based games including the Charge of the Light Brigade, the Siege of Sevastopol; assisting with the presentation of the Battle of Little Roundtop; both were featured in Wargames Illustrated. More recently I assisted with a 28 mm WW-II game – Operation Deadstick, the attack on Pegasus Bridge, and the huge WW-II Bolt Action desert game at Historicon two years ago.

Professionally, I have over thirty years of project and program management experience. I Graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1980 and retired after 20 years of military service. I then took a job in the Coast Guard HR Information Systems Management Division and lead that Division, managing the military HR and payroll systems for the Coast Guard, retiring finally from the Coast Guard in January with over 40 years of service to this great nation.

I volunteer on a regular basis with the Boy Scouts of America, having held positions as Assistant Cub Master and Assistant Scout Master. I am currently a BSA Colonial District Unit Commissioner. I have been a participant and coach for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training for ten years, helping to raise funds to help find a cure for blood cancers.

I married my Academy Classmate, Sharon, immediately after graduation and have been happily married for over 33 years. We had one son, Michael, who was also an avid war-gamer, and Eagle Scout. He passed away in February, 2016 from complications from cancer.

I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to serving the entire HMGS membership.

DUDLEY J. GARIDEL

I've been a gamer since 1974 (WW II and Ancients). It goes without saying I love historical miniatures and want to promote the hobby.

I was previously on the HMGS Board of Directors (BOD) during the 'Baltimore debacle' and was not reelected. All I can say is I did my best to make a decision based on the information we had at the time. Sadly, however, the lies which were told about Baltimore were greater than the truths which existed about it. I'm not a politician, although I'm familiar with politics and its pitfalls, having fallen victim to it already, but that is why I'm again running for the BOD. I don't normally see things in shades of gray—everything is right/wrong, true/false, yes/no, black/white. That's how I try to live my life and conduct business—I want to be a straight-shooter in everything I do.

I was Registrar for Cold Wars 2007 and Historicon 2005. I ran Flea Markets several times for John Drye, and, I've run games since 1990. I have been in charge of the Historicon Vendor Hall but also have worked staff for the Cold Wars Vendor Hall for several years now. I know something about HMGS convention operations but don't consider myself an expert in this area—many others know more about Convention Operations than I.

I'm a CPA and the Director of Internal Audit at the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). I spent all or part of five decades on active duty or in the US Marine Corps Reserve (Desert Storm/Iraqi Freedom) and am now a retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 of Marines. I guess that's why I don't see shades of gray.

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My leadership philosophy goes back to my first commanding officer in the USMCR. I believe in surrounding myself with the most capable people I can find, and then I get out of their way and let them do their job.

I decide to run for the BOD again this year because I have been greatly disturbed by what I consider to be the actions of the current BOD. My attendance at the last couple of Member meetings has convinced me certain members of the BOD have an agenda based on what a few HMGS members want not what is best for HMGS as a whole. A BOD member has a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of the entire organization not just for those who voted for him or her. In my opinion, at least 4 members of the current BOD are more interested in their agenda than what is best for HMGS as a whole. If something is not done to stop this, it will jump up and bite HMGS in the ass not too far down the road.

If you feel as I do, I ask you to give me your vote so the BOD will regain a sense of stability and balance oriented to HMGS not their agenda.

SCOTT LANDIS

My name is Scott Landis and I am running for my final term for the HMGS BoD to continue my service to HMGS and to the hobby. I am currently the Vice President of the BoD, active on the site selection committee, and I also serve as the Vendor Coordinator for Cold Wars. The organization is healthy financially and we have made some improvements in areas like outreach to after school gaming programs and expanding the reach of our hobby, but there is clearly a large issue that needs to be addressed by the current and future HMGS BoD, viable locations for our conventions.

We need to look for alternatives to the Lancaster Host. We currently have contracts for Cold Wars, Historicon and Fall-in at the Host through 2018, but we need to start looking now to find reasonable alternate sites for at least one if not 2 of the shows and communicate with the membership, vendors and others to discuss needs and compromises that may need to be made to keep our conventions viable in the future.

When I ran 2 years ago I wanted to make sure that we didn't move all our shows to Fredericksburg, VA. Now I am concerned that we have a similar situation with all of our shows at the Lancaster Host. I have been working with the current BoD and other volunteers to help identify potential places to not be dependent on a single location that could fail and leave us in a bad place like the Host did 2 years ago and Sommerset did to us just recently. This process has not been easy. The amount of space that HMGS requires for a given show is large (>50Ksqft), the shifting to more "Day Trippers" at our shows reducing our need for hotel room nights, and the limited number of venues that we can even afford has made the process of finding suitable locations challenging. The core HMGS membership base is spread out along the I-95 corridor from Connecticut to Northern VA and we need to address all regions, not just isolated to a single area. This is now and will continue to be the number one issue that the HMGS BoD needs to address.

Communication with the membership has improved but there are still many members and non-members that do not understand what it takes to run a convention of the size and scope of our HMGS conventions. Understanding the costs, space requirements, and issues associated with our conventions is important

in understanding the BoD decisions. As an all-volunteer organization, we need to have informed members and a responsible and accountable Board to keep us running conventions now and in the future. I will continue to listen to your concerns and work hard for you and our hobby. Please take the time to select those running for the board that will support your needs from HMGS and keep the organization and the hobby strong into the future. Thank you.

JOHN SPIESS

My name is John Spiess, and I am grateful to be considered for another term on the HMGS Board of Directors. While a member of HMGS since the late 1980's, two years ago I sought a position on the Board since I felt I had the skills to make our great organization even better. My first position as Director of Communications was a chance to start issuing more frequent announcements to the membership about important events, such as the proposed sale of the Host in late 2015. A better informed membership and transparent Board is always in our society's best interest.

After six months, I transitioned to Treasurer. This is a good fit since I work in the Trust department of a large international bank. While due diligence and fiduciary responsibility are key aspects of my job, I would say that "trust" is the key word in my professional job description. With currently over \$300K of cash in the HMGS bank accounts, you can trust me to safeguard those funds and use them efficiently to further the purpose of our organization.

As HMGS Treasurer, I prepare the budget and quarterly financial statements. I negotiate and review our convention contracts. I review our tax returns and renew our insurance and trademarks. I pay the bills. Basically,

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I'm on top of all the boring stuff that needs to get done.

However, I have also started other programs during the past two years. One of these is our PTA Initiative, through which HMGS supports school teachers to use historical miniatures in their classrooms and after school clubs. The first year was very successful with four teachers from New York, Connecticut, Tennessee, and Virginia taking part and total outreach to over 250 students. As announced at the Cold Wars membership meeting, I have budgeted funds in 2017 to expand this program with the goal of creating multiple school teams that compete at our conventions, similar to a Model United Nations club.

Many of my friends are hardworking game masters. I am one myself. I know the hard work and preparation which goes into many of their convention events. Once again, I have initiated several items to support and reward the GMs' efforts such as distributing convention vouchers to PELA winners in addition to the current trophy. While a small amount, I feel these vouchers still serve the purpose of making GMs know they are appreciated.

I have a lot more ideas aimed at increasing vendor attendance, improving relationships, and making our conventions a better experience for all. I am also a very good listener, a key component to being an effective Board member. In the simplest of terms, the Board of Directors exists to serve the membership.

One last note. I do not serve on any convention staff. Therefore, I receive no free hotel rooms and no cash per diem payments from HMGS. I am a volunteer and happy to do the substantial work required. Once again, I thank you for your consideration.

PAUL TRANI

I am Paul Trani and I am running for reelection to the HMGS, Inc. Board of Directors.

First, I'd like to congratulate all of the candidates on their nominations and wish everyone the best of luck.

Second, I'd like to urge all members to vote. It doesn't matter who you vote for, this is the opportunity for your voice to be heard so please utilize it.

So why should you vote for me?

I have over 25 years of experience negotiating contracts with vendors, managing vendor relations, planning and managing budgets and completing projects on time and on budget. As a corporate manager, I have also spent a considerable amount of time working with executive level management planning and implementing corporate strategic goals and objectives.

I've been a member of HMGS for 20 years, a convention volunteer for 13 years, a HMGS officer of one kind or another for the past 7 years and I am currently finishing my 2nd term on the Board.

Additionally, in 2005, at Cold Wars, Heather Blush and I started running events that would eventually become known as the "Hobby University".

All of this has provided me with a great deal of experience understanding what HMGS does well and what areas HMGS still needs to improve upon.

Through these efforts I've met many fantastic people both inside and outside of HMGS and I've come to realize just how much I enjoy this organization. I want to give back in a significant and meaningful way. I can't think of any greater way to serve HMGS than to work for the membership as a member of the BoD.

I believe the Board should be focused on the following key

operational areas in no particular order: a) Communicating with the membership in an open, honest, timely manner; b) Operating the organization in a fiscally responsible manner; c) Creating and maintaining operational documentation including position descriptions for the Board and Officers; d) Maintaining a strong convention program; e) Promoting the hobby of Historical Miniatures War Gaming.

HMGS has experienced significant upheaval over the past few years. By following the above listed tenets and ensuring that we have an organized plan for the present, and that we are able implement and follow that plan into the future, I believe that HMGS can weather these turbulent times and continue to be successful far into the future.

I believe I can continue to make a positive contribution to this organization and relish the opportunity to continue to serve the HMGS membership

Thank you for your consideration.

DAVID WAXTEL

I am an incumbent running for my second term on the HMGS, Inc. Board of Directors. During the past two years, I have served on a Board that has made preventative measures to head off potential disasters. Despite such a challenging atmosphere, we have still run successful conventions and are moving forward to purchase our own chairs and tables that can save on expenses and add as much as \$300,000 into our funds over the next five years. We are also investigating using a single vendor for all our printing and mailing needs, once again saving money. Online voting will also be on my agenda in 2018, making it simple and cost effective to vote.

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As the Director of Convention Operations, I have gone to Salute in London (paying out of my own pocket), and hope to bring more British vendors to our shows. I also attended Adepticon in Chicago (once again at my own expense), asking vendors to come to our shows. The goal is to expand our vendor base, making our conventions an outstanding shopping experience. Finally, I have fully supported the Board efforts to increase our educational programs, resulting in more children interested in history and painting figures.

It seems like ages ago when I was staying at Wally's house and we were attending a local convention. The attending board gamers were canceling miniature games at the convention and replacing them with board games. We left the convention and returned to Wally's basement where Dick Bryant and Wally debated about having our own convention. I was part of that first group to raise the flag and HMGS was born. I am one of the original founders of our organization.

My employment background was the printing business, and by 1982 I had started my own company, Quantum Printing. As a side business, I started publishing as well, and was printing The Courier magazine for Dick Bryant. I also published Verlorene Haufe, Koenig Krieg, They Died for Glory, and The Sun Never Sets. Working with Arty Conliffe, the first 4-color rulebook was produced: *Tactica Ancients*, *Tactica Medieval*, *Spearhead*, *Crossfire*, *Armati*, *Shako*. After another collaboration with Rich Hasenauer, *Fire and Fury* was published. I produced *Grand Arme*e with Sam Mustafa, and I produced *Napoleonic Fire and Fury* with Wilber Gray.

As shown above, I have connected with many people in this hobby that love the games and comradery that

goes with them. I have published new sets of rules that have expanded the hobby. Going forward, with your help, I hope to inspire a new legion of history lovers who enjoy miniature wargaming. Thank you.

BILL WHITE

I'm Bill White and I began collecting, painting and gaming with historical miniatures back in the 1970s. Throughout my life I've really enjoy historical miniatures gaming; both playing in and running games as a Game Master. I have volunteered at all three HMGS conventions primarily working on information technology projects to improve registration and helping out in other areas wherever needed. Volunteering for HMGS has lit a desire in me to continue to give more of my time and experience to our society. In particular, as a volunteer I enjoy meeting so many like-minded men, women and kids at every one of our conventions. Being a Game Master not only provided me with an opportunity to teach others through scenarios and discussing history while gaming but I've learned from others as a participant. Hobby University is a fantastic source of inspiration and instruction for me. I am excited every convention because HMGS provides a valuable tool for anyone interested to educate others through miniatures, gaming and history while having fun.

Professionally, I am an accomplished Information Technology professional as Deputy Senior Director for a mid-sized non-profit that manages about 40 conventions and events every year ranging in attendance size from 1,000 – 14,000+. My role has expanded well beyond IT and includes convention management, site selection, exhibitor sales, event management, budgeting and process improvement. With that experience I've learned to take

a fiscally conservative approach to budgeting and finance, while always looking to provide the best experience for everyone. I started doing this kind of varied work about 10 years ago for other non-profits and I've seen many different formats and how each organization has its own unique needs. I've previously been elected as a vestry member and then the Senior Warden for Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church. Through that I gained a lot of experience as a leader of other volunteers, presenting a budget for approval and wording resolutions for vote by the vestry or the entire parish.

I believe there are "pillars" to our society. These are Game Masters, Volunteers, Hobby University, Exhibitors, tournaments and, of course, our attendees. Each pillar is vital to sustaining the organization and needs attention from HMGS leadership. Including but not limited to; strategic planning, governance, stabilizing our convention locations, promoting Hobby University, and expanding our attendance. As a member of the board I will continue to support and improve those important pillars. I will apply my experience and skills to work with the board, convention directors, volunteers, members and exhibitors to build on our strengths providing the best experience possible.

Vote for me, William "Bill" White for HMGS, Inc. Board of Directors.