

HMGS Director Candidates' Biographies

Jim Stanton

My name is Jim Stanton and I am honored to be nominated to serve in a position on the HMGS Board of Directors. The important question is; why should you cast a vote for me? The answer to the question lies in what you are looking for in a Board Member.

I was first introduced to miniature wargaming in 1996. Since that chance encounter at Crusades (a Connecticut Games Club convention) I was completely hooked and have immersed myself in the hobby. I have attended all three HMGS conventions in different capacities; attendee, GM, volunteer, rules author, and most recently as the coordinator of HMGS's Teachers Program.

As an attendee and GM I looked for and would hope to help provide, as Hemingway put it, a clean well-lighted place. Convention venue and location has been a hot topic in recent years as the Board has tried to find suitable venues to meet our needs. My intention would be to focus on the needs of GMs when considering future potential venues, making it a priority to ask for input before providing any suggestion or voting on the topic. GMs are an important component of a successful convention and should be encouraged and assisted. I run multiple games at conventions and have an idea of what GMs need. I intend to offer suggestions for onsite assistance as well as increasing GM recognition.

I also have several good relationships with our vendors and would like to meet regularly with all of them and in an effort to hear their concerns and suggestions for any issues that may arise at the newer convention sites where HMGS is headed.

For years at HMGS conventions members have been talking about the "greying of the hobby" and how the younger generation is often distracted by iPhones. The current Board member and Cold Wars convention director Heather Blush approached me to head the formation and implementation of the new HMGS Teachers Program. The mission of the program is to provide focused seminars and hands-on workshops for teachers, interested parents, and students in an effort to promote the use of historical miniature wargaming as a teaching tool in the classroom. Cold Wars 2019 was the first convention for the Teacher's Program and it was a success which featured two days of seminars and games.

I was able to bring my experience working at a middle school that has incorporated historical miniature wargaming into its classrooms and units. We have an entire 6th grade (241 students this year) participate in a *Tactica* medieval era campaign. There is also a jousting tournament similar to *The Joust* that I run at all HMGS conventions. The students compete against each other in Social Studies classes, with each class champion squaring off in the school cafeteria to crown the grade level champion.

I believe these efforts are the way to reach the next generation of miniature gamers and would love the chance to expand these programs.

Thank you for your consideration.