

HMGS Director Candidates' Biographies

John Spiess

My name is John Spiess, and I am grateful to be considered for a third term on the HMGS Board of Directors. I have been a member of HMGS since the late 1980's. Four years ago I sought a position on the Board to use my skills to make our great organization even better. My first position as Director of Communications focused on issuing more frequent announcements to the membership about important events. A better informed membership and a transparent Board is always in our society's best interest.

I soon transitioned to Treasurer. I have an extensive background in finance and due diligence and fiduciary responsibility are key aspects of my job. With now close to \$400K 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 and service contracts. I review our tax returns and renew our insurance and trademarks. I pay the bills for all of the convention and organization expenses. Basically, I'm on top of all the boring stuff that needs to get done while ensuring that HMGS is now in the strongest financial position in its history.

I have also started programs that I feel very strongly about including the PTA Initiative, in which HMGS supports school teachers to use historical miniatures in their classrooms and after school clubs to engage students in history. This program has been very successful, expanding to town libraries and soon colleges, with total outreach to hundreds of students. I have budgeted funds in 2019 to grow the program further with the goal of creating multiple school teams that compete at our conventions, similar to Model UN clubs. I was very glad to hear that some of our participating teachers were also nominated for the Board. This is the next generation of HMGS and I am proud to be instrumental in making it happen.

Many of my friends like me are game masters. I know the hard work and preparation which goes into many of their convention events. I have initiated several items to support and reward the GMs' efforts such as distributing convention award vouchers to PELA winners in addition to the trophy. I hope these efforts let GMs know they are appreciated.

During my tenure, we have moved to on-line voting. We have made substantial investments in the computer hardware needed to vastly improve our convention registration process. We have streamlined our spending and improved accountability. I have more ideas aimed at increasing vendor attendance, improving relationships with clubs, regional conventions and game days, and making HMGS conventions a better experience for all. I am also a very good listener, open to hearing your ideas and concerns, a key component to being an effective Board member. In the simplest of terms, the Board of Directors exists to serve the membership.

I thank you again for your consideration.