



THE VAN WERT COUNTY FOUNDATION

ed: 15th, 1925.
pt. No. 118184.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

We the undersigned, having the qualifications pre-
scribed by its regulations and desiring to become members
thereof, do hereby subscribe our names to the foregoing
copy of the Articles of Incorporation of The Van Wert
County Foundation:

NAME.

DATE.

- 1 *D. L. Dox*
D. L. Brumback
- 2 *J. W. Cline*
- 3 *C. H. L. Brown*
- 4 *J. W. Lang*
- 5 *John H. Koch*
- 6 *H. M. Lee*
- 7 *See R. Brown*
- 8 *E. M. Cline*
- 9 *Clyde Foster*
- 10 *Thursnight*
- 11 *M. M. John*
- 12 *C. S. Lang*
- 13 *H. D. Hard*
- 14 *Wm. Gilliland*

Oct 26, 1925

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same

Same



PLEASE WELCOME GARY TAYLOR!



Join us as we welcome Gary Taylor to the Van Wert County Foundation Board of Trustees. Gary is the owner of Taylor Auto Sales which was started by his father Don Taylor in 1947.

Gary Taylor is dedicated to the community he serves. He makes an impact, either from a leadership capacity or financial supporter of various organizations including The Van Wert Civic Theatre, Community Health Professionals, Brumback Library, Starr Commonwealth, Van Wert County Foundation, Wassenberg Art Center, Salvation Army supporter, lifelong member of the YMCA, a multiple time Paul Harris Member of the Van Wert Rotary Club, and served on the Board of Directors at The Van Wert County Hospital. Gary is active on the Board of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. He began his term as a Trustee of The Foundation in December 2013.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Seth A. Baker

COORDINATOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

Paul G. Hoverman

DIRECTOR OF WASSENBERG ART CENTER

Hope Wallace

TRUSTEES

Thad Lichtensteiger

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Michael Gearhart

Vice-President

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Secretary

Gary L. Clay

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Larry Greve

Bruce C. Kennedy

Charles F. Koch

F.W. Purmort, III

C. Allan Runser

Brian Renner

Gary L. Taylor

Robert C. Young

Michael R. Zedaker

HONORARY TRUSTEE

Larry L. Wendel

OFFICE MANAGER

Renee Thatcher

ASSISTANT

OFFICE MANAGER

Tracey Reichert

FOUNTAIN PARK SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Join us at 7pm in Fountain Park in Downtown Van Wert for our popular summer entertainment series! Folding chairs are encouraged and food vendors are eager to please.

6|6 PAPA DOO RUN RUN

6|20 TOM RIGBY & FLAMBEAU

6|27 BRASS TRANSIT
THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO

7|4 THE LIMA SYMPHONY POPS ORCHESTRA

7|11 THE MOTOWN SOUNDS OF TOUCH

7|25 SCARBOROUGH FAIR
SIMON & GARFUNKEL TRIBUTE

8|1 NEVER STOP BELIEVING
JOURNEY TRIBUTE





Does it bother you that our work ethic seems to be eroding?

Young (and older) people that cannot – or will not – work.

We've managed to produce a generation of young people that have never been taught how to work, have never seen their parents get up every morning and go to a job – or perhaps they just do not like the idea of having to do something, or be at someone's beckon call! My fellow farmers tell me they have trouble finding young guys who are willing to come out to the farm and do a hard day's work. That was standard fare for young bucks when I was that age: baling hay, hand hoeing in the bean field, moving bagged feed and seed, etc. You did it because Dad was going to "skin you" if you didn't. After a certain amount of time, you accepted that that was just the way the world turned.

On this issue, we have only ourselves to blame. As parents, perhaps we have not been as diligent in teaching our kids how to work as we should have. We have been too busy ourselves! Mom and Dad are both working and running back and forth to meetings, church and ballgames. Quite honestly, it is easier to hire somebody to do the mowing, trim the shrubs, or rake the leaves. Then, we unwittingly hand our kids a twenty for the weekend – or whatever their social calendar requires. The message, knowingly or not, has been sent: you get money just for the asking!

It is kind of a shame really, because the success of our nation and our culture has been built on the ability to put our backs into it and get things done. Am I hinting that this regression signals the end of the Republic? I do not think so. It just seems to be the end of an era – and it was a good one! It is bad for people too, because we are depriving them of the ability to be productive and to appreciate the results of their labor. We are also simultaneously creating dependence. If you are not depending on yourself, you must by definition be relying on someone or something else: the federal government for some kind of relief, your parents (family, church, etc.) to support or subsidize you.

The bottom line is this: we have to get back to work. We have to **want** to work. We must re-learn that you earn a livelihood by working. That is the only way the system and our nation keeps functioning! Incidentally (and you know where I am going), the Van Wert County Foundation is in the business of appreciating hard work. We have been a great place for people to leave a lifetime's worth of hard work – not only so it can be recognized, but also so it can keep on working! The myriad of ways it benefits our community and the number of people's lives it enriches is incredible!

Keep us in mind. – **Thad Lichtensteiger**, *President*

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver, the other gold. I can't help but be reminded of this tune as I start the journey as the newest Executive Secretary of the Van Wert County Foundation.

The Foundation has had many great friends since it began 89 years ago. Our hallway of donors is evidence of that. The Foundation has a small but humbling list of those who have led the charge. I am replacing Larry Wendel. Larry graciously served in his position since 1996. He oversaw many great additions and changes. He has had an incredible impact on the residents of Van Wert County.

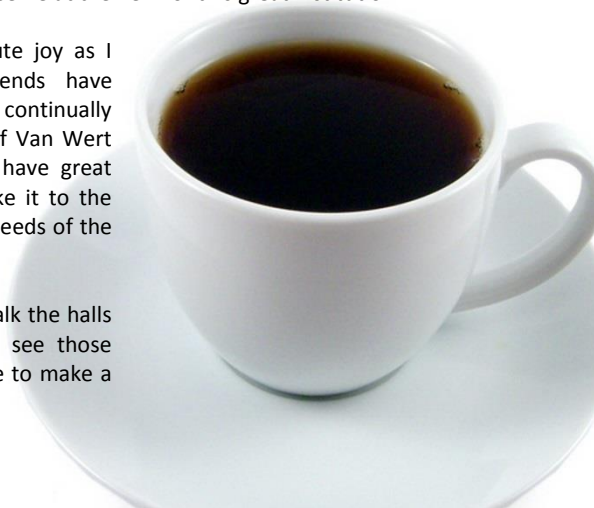
I find myself in Larry's seat because the community first gave to me. I grew up as a farm kid west of Ohio City. I was very active in 4-H, Junior Fair, church and school activities. I was fortunate enough to have been surrounded by a group of people who invested their time, talents, energy, and assets to ensure that I was given the opportunity to succeed. They didn't do the work for me, but they did give me the tools, the training, and the advice.

I am a graduate of The Ohio State University with an Associate Degree in Horticulture, a Bachelor Degree in Landscape Architecture and a Minor in City and Regional Planning. I started my career at a Community Planning and Design firm in Orlando, Florida. I later had an opportunity to return to Van Wert to serve as the Program Manager for Main Street Van Wert. This allowed me to work with various community members on revitalization efforts. I loved what I was doing and soon realized that I wanted to find a way that I would be able to more permanently plug in and help my community become an even better place. I decided to pursue graduate work at Wright State University Lake Campus. In 2013, I was awarded a Master's in Business Administration with a focus on Management, Change, and Innovation. After a brief stint in economic development in a neighboring community, I was selected to serve at the helm of this great institution.

These first months have been an absolute joy as I continue with traditions that old friends have established. It has been a pleasure to continually meet people who believe in the future of Van Wert County as much as I do. Many of you have great passions for how we can once again 'take it to the next level'. I look forward to serving the needs of the community as we continue to grow.

The coffee pot is on, the door is open. Walk the halls of the Van Wert County Foundation to see those great old friends, and stop in for a chance to make a new friend – one is silver, the other gold!

Seth Baker, Executive Secretary



MAKE A DIFFERENCE....

The Van Wert County Foundation is only able to benefit the community because of the foresight and generosity of others. Consider choosing The Van Wert County Foundation to continue your passions and legacy!

YOUR GIFT WILL BE HELD IN PERPETUITY

The income generated from your gift will continue to benefit the community now and in future years.

GRANTS WILL BE MADE IN YOUR NAME

You may name the fund with your name, or that of your family, friend, or organization. Your fund is open ended and may be increased with additional gifts at any time. Grants from your fund will be recorded in the name of your fund as a lasting symbol of your caring.

YOUR GIFT MAY BE DESIGNATED FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

As a donor, you may specify how the income is to be used. Should the intended purposes of your gift become obsolete in the future, The Foundation's Trustees will amend the provisions of your fund to continue to meet the changing community needs. You may also donate undesignated funds for use at the Trustee's discretion.

TAX BENEFITS

Gifts made to The Foundation (a public charity) will qualify for maximum deductions for income, gift and estate purposes.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual reporting and filing of tax returns, public disclosure of all grant activities and a broad based Board of Trustees representing diverse areas of expertise assures continued use of public funds in the public interest.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE PROFESSIONALLY AND PRUDENTLY MANAGED

The Foundation's investment Committee provides the oversight of our investment portfolio. Investment managers are monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis. Because funds are pooled for investment purposes, donors have the advantage of a diverse investment mix. The Foundation's Trustees are elected for their integrity, competence, knowledge of the community and concern for its philanthropic needs.

TO ESTABLISH A DONOR FUND

Contact The Foundation office for further assistance in establishing your fund.

VISUAL ARTS IN VAN WERT



The novelty has not worn off. The steady stream of traffic through our new space continues since we opened in November. Happily, the expansion of this new, beautiful area of Van Wert continues with the development of the grounds around us. We constantly receive rental and tour requests, we have provided space for meetings, fundraising events and the influx continues. It seems Van Wert was starved for a central gathering space and we are more than happy to fill that void. We are so thankful for all the enthusiasm, and contributions.

We are reintroducing vital, visual arts programming and have doubled our ArtReach program to two afternoons per week. Working in tandem with Van Wert City Schools, children are bussed to the Goedde Building where our instructor escorts them to the art center. Vine & Palette classes continue to sell out well in advance and sessions are scheduled through August. Office manager, Matt Temple demonstrates on stage and I assist on the floor to make sure participants have what they need. Everyone has a lot of fun exploring with paint, becoming more confident and experimenting with the subject. Wassenberg Art Center wine and paint events are slightly different from some of the other programs out there. We encourage artists to go in their own direction with their own ideas as opposed to creating exactly the same thing as the instructor.

Two areas of the "Faces of Little Bighorn" website are live and functioning. The next menu items to be added will be an interactive map and timeline. Future plans include an educational, online game in which the player is assigned a character who navigates the scenario according to the choices they make.

The Big Wassky membership drive was a success with most of the guests dressing the part of that Roaring 20's themed party. Since 2011, Wassenberg Art Center membership has grown from 264 to over 390 memberships! More events will occur throughout the year, so stay tuned!

If you have any questions regarding exhibits, classes or programs or would like to get involved please contact us at the Wassenberg Art Center:

419.238.6837

info@wassenbergartcenter.org

wassenbergartcenter.org

Hope Wallace

Executive Director

Wassenberg Art Center



PERFORMING ARTS IN VAN WERT



As the Coordinator of Performing Arts for The Van Wert County Foundation, my time is basically spent on three areas within our community. The entire year is filled with activities, planning and managing the operations of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. At the same time, I am constantly thinking of Fountain Park summer music concerts. There are certain times of the year where this activity is more intense, but idea accumulation is ongoing, just as it is for the Niswonger Performing Arts Center.

Throughout the year, there are other musical endeavors that we at The Foundation are also involved in. Each year, we organize and present the VW County Young Artist Recital, featuring high school musicians from the three VW County schools. Biennially, we fund, organize, and present a community performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Christmas time. This is a Van Wert tradition which I gladly continue with the assistance of many volunteer singers and in cooperation with First United Methodist Church. This will be a *Messiah* year and it will occur on December 14. Mark your calendars now!

Without a doubt, programming for the Niswonger takes up a large chunk of the year. Although ideas are being looked at and information gathered throughout the entire year, the intense process takes nearly five months of work to put a year of events and entertainment together. With the assistance of a dedicated programming committee and board, we eventually have a brand new season ready to unveil by late spring.

Literally thousands of emails and snail mail pieces get perused throughout that time as well as many ideas from committee members and numerous other interested individuals. Our hope is to provide a highly entertaining season of concerts, shows and events that will appeal to many diverse people throughout the region. We earnestly seek offerings that will appeal to all ages.

The support of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert has been nothing short of amazing! People throughout the country are amazed at what you have allowed us to accomplish. We thank you and look forward to another busy, but exciting year of performing arts in our community of Van Wert

Paul Hoverman

*Coordinator of Performing Arts
Executive Director of the
Niswonger Performing Arts Center*





THE VAN WERT COUNTY FOUNDATION
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Return Service Requested

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Van Wert, OH

DATE REMINDER

May 15, 2014 – First Round Grant Applications Due
June 1, 2014 – College Scholarship Applications Due