



LAKE GEORGE BATTLEFIELD PARK ALLIANCE

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## **Battlefield Park Alliance Holds Annual Member Meeting**

**Lake George, NY:**

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance held its annual membership meeting on Saturday (August 20) at the park to review what Alliance Board of Trustees President John DiNuzzo called “a magnificent year” for the organization. At the meeting, Alliance members elected officers and representatives to its Board of Trustees. The gathering also included a presentation by guest speakers from Warren and Saratoga Counties who described plans for the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States.

DiNuzzo pointed to the Battlefield Park’s new Visitor Center, which opened its doors to the public in May, as a “game-changer” in sparking added awareness of the Park, including support for the non-profit Alliance’s efforts in preserving the site’s unique character. The Battlefield Park and adjoining lands were the location of key battles and served as important staging areas during both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

The Visitor Center has attracted 1,500 people to view artifacts uncovered at the Battlefield Park during archaeological digs supervised by the late Dr. David Starbuck. Other related displays include maps, original artwork, and historical dioramas. With the assistance of over 260 hours of volunteer time by members, 155 guests from different parts of the US and Canada have accessed the Alliance’s free guided tours of the Park’s history, conducted each Saturday. Overall, membership in the Alliance has grown by 35% since August 2021.

Voting for officers and Trustees was also held at the meeting. The following individuals were elected by the membership:

OFFICERS (1-year terms)

President: John DiNuzzo, Lake George

Vice President: Francis Coccozza, Lake George

Secretary: Nancy Ross Bellamy, Ballston Lake

TRUSTEES (3-year terms)

Larry Arnold, Clifton Park

Lindsay Doyle, Malta

Todd Earl, Lake George

Margy Mannix, Lake George

Pat Niles, Cambridge

They will be joining Rosemarie Earl (Treasurer) and Trustees Dr. Russell Bellico, Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann, Jay Levenson and Dr. Bruce Venter on the organization's governing board.

Alliance members heard presentations on plans for the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States from Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian, and John Berry, the Town of Queensbury Historian who is overseeing Warren County's activities for the anniversary. Roberts shared a series of events planned by the Saratoga County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission over the next five years, which will culminate in the October 2027 anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, generally considered the turning point in America's fight for its independence. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our incredible history to be showcased," she emphasized. Roberts recited a number of commemorative events in the county that are already scheduled.

John Berry is collaborating with Dr. Stan Cianfarano, Warren County Historian, to bring a resolution to that county's Board of Supervisors for authorization to develop a 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee similar to Saratoga County. They expect to closely link their efforts with Warren County's municipal historians and to coordinate closely with Saratoga and Washington Counties.

**About the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance: *The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance is a volunteer-driven organization of individuals from various regions of the United States and Canada who have an abiding interest in the Lake George Region's critical role in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. The Alliance manages the Battlefield Park's Visitor Center and sponsors events throughout the year that educate the public about the site and its unique history. For more information, visit [www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org](http://www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org).***