

**PROXY BALLOT FOR 2026 GMM
RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.--AMERICAN BRANCH**

To be valid, this Proxy Ballot must be received by Membership Chair Wayne Ingalls, 704 NW Euclid Ave, OK 73507 or via email to membership@r3.org no later than October 25.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

A motion to **approve the Minutes of the 2024 GMM** (minutes can be found at <https://r3.org/branch-documents/> - Minutes dated November 2, 2024)

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

A motion to **increase the size of the Board of Directors to 13.**

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

A motion to **allow appointments to an Advisory Panel at Board's discretion.**

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

A motion to **allow Digital Records & Electronic Signatures.**

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

A motion to **approve the Proposed Budget** for 2027-28 (budget can be found at <https://r3.org/branch-documents/> under Member Resources/2026 GMM).

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

(continued on next page)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS TO AMERICAN BRANCH**

Election of Maureen Chelak to serve as Vice Chair of the American Branch from the time of the 2026 GMM until the time of the 2028 GMM.

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

Election of Liz Bateman to serve as Secretary from the time of the 2026 GMM until the time of the 2028 GMM.

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

Election of Sally Keil to serve as Director-at-Large from the time of the 2026 GMM until the time of the 2028 GMM.

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

Election of Dr Compton Reeves to continue as Research Officer & Immediate Past Chair.

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

Election of Joan Szechtman to serve as Director-at-Large from the time of the 2026 GMM until the time of the 2028 GMM.

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

Election of Denise Testa to serve as Director-at-Large from the time of the 2026 GMM until the time of the 2028 GMM.

FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐

****Note to Members:** *Susan Troxell, Deborah Kaback, and Wayne Ingalls have served the maximum 4 years as Chair, Treasurer and Membership Chair. As no nominations were received for these offices, Section 6.4 of the Bylaws allows the incoming Board of Directors to appoint the incumbents to serve in these offices until the next GMM election. Susan, Deborah, and Wayne have all kindly agreed to serve another 2 years.*

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

LIZ BATEMAN joined the Richard III Society in 2018, after meeting Bob Pfile and George Usher at a lecture about Richard III at the Smithsonian Institution. She writes: “I was so surprised and pleased to hear that there was a society dedicated to this king, and that there was a chapter in my local area! Fast forward to 2022, when I volunteered to plan and coordinate the very successful GMM in Washington, DC, and to 2023, when I became chair of the Tidewater chapter, which has been challenging yet rewarding, too. Since our chapter members are so geographically dispersed, we had to find ways to come together, and Zoom was an important tool. I introduced a book reading club for the Tidewater Chapter using Zoom, and so far, we have covered several books together. As I continue to learn about Richard III and the Wars of the Roses, I think about how sad it is that so many students are not interested in history. All of us have a charge to help educate others and make this period of history ‘come alive’. I’ve served as Secretary on other non-profit boards and a historical society, and my style is to keep to the key points while following the agenda. My minutes are in bullet-point style rather than prose, and I know it’s important to circulate them to the entire board soon after a meeting to ensure their accuracy. I’ve been the American Branch Secretary for the past two years, and it has been an honor. I hope you will elect me to continue in this role. Thank you.”

MAUREEN CHELAK is currently the Vice Chair of the American Branch and has been acting in this capacity since January 2025. In this role, she assists the Chair in developing agendas and preparing for the branch’s bi-monthly board meetings. She spearheaded the branch’s recent sale of author Annette Carson’s book *Richard III: Unspun*, was instrumental in the development of the branch’s membership survey, and is assisting in the formulation of the branch’s upcoming 2027 Zoom presentations. Maureen’s interest in this period of medieval history began while watching a miniseries on King Edward IV and has grown and been nourished through her involvement with the Smithsonian Associates where she has been a volunteer since 2014, first as an in-person volunteer and then, post covid, providing support for Smithsonian Associates online streaming programs. Maureen has been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 2020 and has served as both chapter treasurer and chapter historian. It was through her research for membership that she was able to determine her ancestral line could be traced back to William the Conqueror and beyond. This connection heightened her interest not only in the medieval English period, but also in conducting genealogical research.

Professionally, she was employed in the federal law enforcement sector both as an investigator and in a management capacity where her duties included case management, budget oversight, development of program goals, objectives and metrics; and assessments of investigative programs. She was often called upon to conduct high-level briefings to senior executives and provide program briefings to internal and external partners as well as congressional representatives. Maureen is looking forward to assisting the Richard III Society American Branch in its future growth and development and is excited for the opportunities which lie ahead.

TIFANNY HOLMES Originally from northern Minnesota, Tiffany Holmes has had a deep interest in British history and theatre from an early age, particularly Shakespeare and the work of Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier. Through Shakespeare, she became familiar early on with the traditional story of Richard III—a story she would later discover bore little resemblance to the man revealed by history.

Like many Americans, Tiffany's introduction to the historical Richard came largely through the work of Philippa Langley and two documentaries in particular: *The King in the Car Park*, chronicling the extraordinary search for and discovery of Richard's remains, and *Resurrecting Richard III*, featuring Dominic Smee. She became fascinated not only by Richard himself, but by the historical, archaeological, medical and genetic questions surrounding his discovery and identification. That fascination soon developed into a lasting interest in Ricardian history. Along the way, Tiffany also became a close friend of Dominic Smee and his mother, Christina, herself a published Ricardian author. Those friendships remain among the treasured personal connections that have grown from her interest in Richard III.

During her time with the American Branch of the Richard III Society, Tiffany has greatly valued the opportunity to continue learning about Richard's life and times while meeting and working with fellow Ricardians. She hopes that she, in turn, has contributed something worthwhile to the Society and its work. More recently, the genealogical story surrounding Richard has taken on an unexpected personal dimension. Research published by Murrey & Blue has traced a direct line of descent from the Norwegian king Harald Hårfagre ("Fairhair") to Richard III. Tiffany's own documented Norwegian family history also traces her direct ancestry to Harald, a lineage preserved in family records both in the United States and among her family in Norway. For someone with a lifelong interest in both British history and her Norwegian heritage, discovering this possible distant intersection between her own family history and that of Richard III has been a particular delight.

Outside the Ricardian world, Tiffany is a classically trained concert violinist and teacher who began playing at the age of three. She studied with distinguished teachers in the United States and Europe, including in Vienna, and with violinist Adam Han-Gorski, the last known student of Jascha Heifetz. She has performed widely throughout her career and counts violinist Joshua Bell among her lifelong friends. Tiffany continues to make her home in a small Minnesota town and would be honored to continue serving the American Branch of the Richard III Society.

WAYNE INGALLS received his undergraduate degree at San Diego State University and then was commissioned into the US Army where he served for 22+ years as an armor officer and military intelligence officer. While on active duty, he served as the American Branch Treasurer (2000 – 2004), including his favorite assignment as the J2 – Intelligence Officer, Joint Task Force-Bravo, at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. His term as Chair of the American Branch (2006 – 2010) began near the end of his Army career. After retirement from the Army, he worked as an Electronic Warfare instructor and is currently a Field Artillery brigade security manager (with an additional duty as the unit Motorcycle Mentor) at Fort Sill, OK. He earned his MA in the Humanities (specialization: History) from California State University – Dominguez Hills, and his doctorate in Strategic Security from the Henley-Putnam School of Strategic Security at National American University. He has served as Membership Chair since November 2020. Since 2008, he has served as a prison ministry volunteer at several state prisons. He is married to fellow Ricardian Cecily Ingalls, and they reside in Lawton, OK.

DEBORAH KABACK currently serves as Treasurer of the American Branch. She is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, Yale University, and NYU School of Law. She recently retired from

serving as a Managing Director of Oppenheimer Asset Management Inc and resides in New Lebanon NY, having practiced securities law for 50 years.

SALLY KEIL is a resident of Gulfport FL and Tellico Lake TN. She holds a BA Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Wheaton College (MA) and a Masters Degree from the U of Pittsburgh (PA). She is the retired President and CEO of AcquiData, Inc. She held the position of Membership Chair for the Richard III Society - American Branch during that historic period when the remains of King Richard III were found. She has also served on the Board as Secretary. Sally frequently lectures on a variety of topics relating to medieval English history.

DR COMPTON REEVES has served multiple terms as Chair of the American Branch, and has retired from a long career in academia. He was professor of medieval history at Ohio University, where he served as Chair of the History Department. He has published many books and articles about various aspects and key people of the late medieval age, and has given many talks at our past GMMs.

JOAN SZECHTMAN was Editor of the American Branch publications from 2011-2024. She has a BS in Electrical Engineering and spent most of her career in computer science and data communication. Her journey with the Richard III Society began in 2004 when she read Penman's *Sunne In Splendour*. To learn more about the real Richard III, she joined the American Branch, wrote three time travel novels about this monarch, and submitted articles to the Register.

DENISE M TESTA has been a member of the American Branch for the past 10 years. Since May 2024, she has led the Mary Shelley line of inquiry in support of the Missing Princes Project. The Shelley group is active, having members from the USA, England, Brazil, and France. Last summer, they made a discovery which appears on page 345 of the latest edition (USA) of Philippa Langley's *The Princes in the Tower*. Denise's professional background is in Veterinary medicine practicing small animal physiotherapy. Prior to that she was a Marketing officer at Chase Bank and served as a docent at the Susan B Anthony House in Rochester, NY. She writes: "I've noticed an uptick in the energy from the American Branch and am willing to put in the work to keep this enthusiasm going. It is my sincere belief that a group representing evidence-based points of view in a positive manner can only serve to strengthen the Society."

SUSAN TROXELL has served as Chair since 2021, and has been our Research Librarian since 2015. She has a Juris Doctorate and is retired after practicing law for 20 years. An enthusiastic amateur historical researcher, more than 20 of her articles have appeared in the *Ricardian Bulletin* and *Ricardian Register*, with several being posted in full on the website of the UK's Richard III Society (richardiii.net) as well as having been cited by professional historians. In July 2022, she was invited to speak about Richard III at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford Ontario, Canada. Her article about the Edward IV Roll project, co-authored with Laura Blanchard, was included in the 2024 Special Centenary issue of *The Ricardian*, the peer-reviewed journal of the UK Richard III Society.