



The Johnston Farm & Indian Agency exists to provide leadership for furthering knowledge, appreciation of its history, and of the broader cultural environment of which it is a part.

**Johnston Farm & Indian Agency**  
9845 N. Hardin Road  
Piqua, OH. 45356

Phone: 937-773-2522  
E-mail:  
ahite@ohiohistory.org

**Friends Council Board Members**

- Richard Adams
- Gary Anderson
- Michael Barhorst
- Douglas Christian
- Steve Dorsten,  
Secretary
- Margaret French
- Marty Grove
- Michael Gutmann,  
President
- Robert Lyons,  
Vice President
- James Oda,  
Treasurer
- Dwayne Thompson
- Andy Hite,  
Site Manager

# Johnston Farm Friends Council Board

## Members

Michael Gutmann	President	Attorney	Piqua, Ohio
Robert Lyons	Vice President	Business Owner	Piqua, Ohio
James Oda	Treasurer	Library Director	Piqua, Ohio
Steve Dorsten	Secretary	ODNR Retired	Celina, Ohio
Richard Adams	Resources	Retired Legislator	Troy, Ohio
Gary Anderson	Operations	Business Owner	Piqua, Ohio
Michael Barhorst	Resources	Retired Educator	Sidney, Ohio
Douglas Christian	Grounds	Retired County Engineer	Troy, Ohio
Margaret French	Resources	Business Owner	Piqua, Ohio
Marty Grove	Grounds	Piqua Police/Deputy Chief	Piqua, Ohio
Dwayne Thompson	Education	Piqua Schools/Supt.	Piqua, Ohio

## Board Responsibilities

In 2004 the Johnston Farm Friends Council was formed in partnership with the Ohio History Connection to function as an advocacy and fundraising body. The initial responsibilities rested with assisting in raising awareness of the Johnston Farm & Indian Agency and what its role as an educational and cultural venue is for west central Ohio and beyond. Additionally, the Friends worked to supply “extras” for the site to assist with presenting programming throughout the year. In 2009 the Friends Council was granted Ohio tax exempt status as well being recognized as a 501(c)(3) body. The Friends also assumed the responsibility of funding one seasonal position in response to budget issues that were impacting the Ohio History Connection.

In 2014 the Friends entered into a Management Agreement with the Ohio History Connection that transitioned responsibility for day-to-day operation of the Johnston Farm & Indian Agency to the Friends Council. This made the site a much more local site than at any time in the past. With those responsibilities, also came the financial responsibility to fund approximately one half of a \$285,000.00 annual budget. This is met through daily admissions, facility rental, museum shop sales, an annual membership campaign, special events, and an aggressive local sponsorship program.

Also, in 2014 the Friends Board undertook a capital campaign in partnership with the Ohio History Connection that raised funds to create a state-of-the-art Education Center where the outdoor patio had been overlooking both the Miami and Erie Canal and the Great Miami River. This new addition to the Indian and Canal Museum has afforded the site space for expanded exhibits telling the story of Ohio’s canal era, as well as providing program and community meeting space.

Currently the Friends Board is completing the *Share the Vision* campaign, again in partnership with the Ohio History Connection and the Ohio General Assembly to complete an interior renovation of the Johnston Home with the goal of returning the home to its original appearance.

