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Todd Callewaert, Natalia Wohletz Elected to Mackinac Associates Board of Trustees

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Todd Callewaert, of Mackinac Island and Gross Point Shores, and Natalia Wohletz, of Mackinac Island and Milford, were unanimously voted to the Mackinac Associates Board of Trustees at its annual meeting August 15.

Callewaert is the CEO of Island House Hotel and restaurants. He has spent his summers on Mackinac Island, and has assumed just about every role in the Island House business family, from dishwasher and busboy to server and confectionary artist at Ryba's Fudge Shops. He moved into Island House Hotel administration in the late 1980s working alongside his father, Victor. Proud alumni of Central Michigan University, Todd has held leadership roles with the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association and Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau. He is active in the day-to-day operations of the Island House Hotel during the May to October season and is visible to employees and guests alike. He enjoys working beside his wife Jennifer and sons William and Andrew, each involved throughout the family businesses.

"It is very exciting to be appointed to the Mackinac Associates board," Callewaert said. "Mackinac Island State Park has a very special place in my entire family's heart, and I am excited to be involved in making it even better." Wohletz has been a summer resident of Mackinac Island since 2006. After graduating from Kalamazoo College with a BA in Mathematics and minor in Studio Arts, she turned down the corporate analyst world to become an entrepreneur and printmaker. Currently she is the proud owner of Main Street Art in Milford and treasures working with customers to create the perfect pieces for them. Additionally, she owns Mackinac Memories with her mother Jennifer which captures Mackinac Island in books and fine art.

"Mackinac State Historic Parks has been an integral part of my experience on Mackinac Island, from learning and playing in the Kid's Quarters at Fort Mackinac as a child to writing my college senior thesis on Mackinac's summer monarch butterfly population," Wohletz said. "I hope that by serving on the Mackinac Associates' Board of Trustees and working to preserve the Straits area's culture, history and environment, I will be able to ensure the same opportunities for others."

Callewaert and Wohletz replace Peter Pellerito and Ann Parrish, who were term-limited off the board.

"We're very fortunate to have Todd and Natalia join the Board of Trustees of Mackinac Associates," said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director. "Todd brings a wealth of community involvement and leadership to the associates, and Natalia brings a great perspective to the board as a young person who has collaborated with Mackinac State Historic Parks in many ways."

Additionally, at Mackinac Associates' regular meeting August 28, the board of trustees elected Harriet McGraw of Petoskey president, Jeb Burns of Cheboygan vice president, Nancy Porter of Mackinac Island secretary, and Tom Lockwood of Mackinac Island treasurer. Other members of the Board of Trustees include Jack Barnwell, Kathy Lieder, Wes Maurer, Steven Murray, Todd Petersen, Sheldon Smith, and Skip Young.

More information on Mackinac Associates can be found on its website, mackinacassociates.com, or at (231) 436-4100. A downloadable version of this release can be found here. See the attached pictures of Callewaert and Wohletz.

Mackinac Associates, founded as a 501(c)(3) in 1982, was created to support the mission of Mackinac State Historic Parks by providing funding to do projects and implement programs the park would otherwise not be able to afford. Mackinac Associates has supported needed projects in every area of museum operation and make possible interpretive programs, publications, exhibits, natural history education, park improvements and more. Since its inception, Mackinac Associates has provided \$1,590,470.00 in funding for projects throughout Mackinac State Historic Parks sites. Mackinac Associates has provided support to the education outreach program since its inception in 1987 providing over \$700,000 in funding to support staff and interpreters to visit area schools throughout the region during the winter months with the Historic Mackinac on Tour and Water, Woods, and Wildlife programs. Included in these funds are scholarships given to local schools to help defray the cost of visits to Mackinac State Historic Parks sites. More information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at mackinacassociates.com.

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