

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Spring 2013

VOL XXVIII NO. 2

Board Approves Preservation Management Change

OCTA Board Cut to Nine Members

*By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor*

At its Mid-Year Board meeting in Tucson the Oregon-California Trails Association voted to gradually reduce the size of the Board from its current 12 members to nine.

The reduction would occur through attrition over a three-year period unless vacancies occur in the interim because of resignation or other departure of Board members. The action was taken as a cost-saving measure and to address the issue of difficulty in finding members to run for Board positions.

The Board also adopted a new model for future preservation work, agreed to raise dues by a small amount, and will form a standing committee to work with American Indian tribes.

Earlier this year National Preservation Officer Lesley Fryman resigned her position, leading the OCTA Board to revisit the way it will manage preservation issues in the future. An ad-hoc committee led by Board Member Jere Krakow, recommended establishing a number of preservation officer positions in OCTA Chapters or regions of the trails.

Following extensive discussion the Board agreed with the concept. A preservation committee will be established to guide OCTA preservation activities. OCTA also authorized hiring a consultant who would be familiar with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations related to resources preservation.

OCTA will provide travel compensation and an annual stipend for the preservation consultant and for travel expenses

of regional or chapter preservation officers.

Over the past two years, OCTA has worked with the National Park Service on holding a number of listening sessions with Indian tribes who have an interest in the trail story and landscape. The most recent of these sessions took place at Fort Hall, Idaho, involving representatives from eleven different tribes.

The sessions have evolved so now the tribes are interested in greater involvement and opportunity to tell their stories related to the trails. To further work on expanding this relationship, OCTA will form a standing committee to work with the tribes.

National Park Service tribal liaison Otis Halfmoon, who participated in the meeting via teleconference, said the Indian nations are developing a council of trail tribes. "They want to be involved. They are ready to work with us. The tribes have been talking among themselves," he said.

Also during the meeting the Board approved a \$5 per year dues increase for the Emigrant and Pioneer membership levels. Dues will now be \$50 (Emigrant) and \$65 (Pioneer), effective October

OCTA Election 2013

Inside this issue of *News From the Plains* (pages 4 and 5) you will find candidate statements and your ballot.

This is the first time all Election information is included in a regular issue of NFP.

Give the candidates your attention, then complete your ballot and return it by June 15.

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NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Summer Issue Deadline
May 25, 2013

Send materials to
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CALENDAR

April 14-17, 2013
International Trail
Symposium
Scottsdale, AZ

July 22 - 27, 2013
OCTA Convention
Clackamas, Oregon

2012-13 OCTA Officers.

Duane Iles, President, P.O. Box 310, Holton, KS 66436; 96cruisin@embarqmail.com

John Krizek, Vice President & President-Elect, 1190 Tanglewood Rd., Prescott, AZ 86303; JKrizek33@gmail.com

Joyce Everett, Secretary, P.O. Box 1020 Camino, CA 95709; joycefollowthedust@yahoo.com

Marvin Burke, Treasurer, 10548 Quivas, Northglenn, CO 80234; mdburke@msn.com

Bill Martin, Past President, 706 Country Club Road, Georgetown, TX 78628; bmartinocta@gmail.com

2013 OCTA Board of Directors

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btlarson@sbcglobal.net

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bradford@usa.net

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jpffletcher@wavecable.com

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David Vixie, Paradise, CA
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Committee A - Headquarters Operations, and Publications

Paul Massee, chair
Fern Linton
David Vixie
Brian Larson
Joyce Everett, Officer Liaison

Committee B - Finances, Grants, Long Range Planning, and Governance

Barbara Netherland, Chair
Camille Bradford
Jere Krakow
Patricia Fletcher
Marvin Burke, Treasurer, Officer Liaison

Committee C - Preservation, Collections, Public Relations, and Property Management

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Pat Surrena
Vern Osborne
Loren Pospisil
John Krizek, Officer Liaison

Duane Iles, President & ex officio on all committees

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OCTA Board Meets in Tucson

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1. It has been nine years since OCTA has approved any increase in general membership dues.

Although federal travel restrictions made it impossible for NPS officials to attend the meeting in person, several did take part via video and telephone conference. NPS Intermountain Trails Office Superintendent Aaron Mahr told the board he expects federal funding levels to remain at about 95 percent of prior year amounts, which should enable the agency to maintain its funding support for OCTA at 2012 levels. But he and other agency representatives urged the organization to quickly develop and submit budget requests.

The NPS representatives also urged OCTA and the various chapters to undertake projects this year that will utilize funding already approved by NPS. This includes \$25,000 for trail marking and signage, and other travel money that is already allocated. Some of the travel money may be used to bring chapter webmasters together in Oregon for a workshop that will help them better develop their sites.

In other action the Board:

- Heard the NPS will have draft documents for internal review later this year, and for public review in 2014 for the feasibility study underway to evaluate addition of 69 trail routes to the National Trails System. The Environmental Assessment is now underway. It is expected to ultimately include three alternatives.

One considers only the routes that meet national trail system criteria, periods of significance, and purposes, that are found to be feasible and suitable for admission, and that are based on current beginning and ending points for the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express trails. Another alternative is one that meets similar requirements, but could change the beginning and end points of the trails. And there will be a no action alternative.

- Learned that the grand opening for the New Fork River Crossing Historical Park, Sublette County, WY, will be held Sept. 6, 2013.
- Heard of plans for an interpretive kiosk regarding the Lander Road and California Trail to be placed near the Shoshone-Bannock Museum at Fort Hall, ID.
- Was updated on plans for additional trail signs in Kansas, and a proposal that would expand national protection for a larger area at Alcove Spring.
- Heard concerns about the Bounty Potash project in Utah, and other development projects ranging from development of wind projects to establishment of high voltage transmission lines.
- Heard reports on future conventions including this year's meeting in Oregon, the August 2014 meeting hosted by the Nebraska Chapter

in Kearney, NE, and the September 2015 convention in South Lake Tahoe, CA, to be hosted by the CA/NV Chapter.

- Agreed to allow existing promotional contracts with Ostrow Company and McLean Media for "In Pursuit of a Dream" to expire. This will enable OCTA to develop its own marketing for the documentary film. This action will result in greater return on film sales for the organization. The distribution contract with Landmark Media, which sells into the school market, may also be amended to give OCTA greater opportunity for self-marketing.
- Urged all OCTA members to better report volunteer hours, which are important when seeking federal support for trails activities.
- Heard about an upcoming sign plan with Cal-Trans, a multi-million dollar project that has been years in the planning process.
- Authorized the Investment Advisory Committee to work with the Greater Kansas City Foundation to determine whether the allocation of funds between equity and fixed income and money market should be changed. The current allocation is 60 percent equities (stock), 35 percent fixed income, and 5 percent money market. As of December 31, 2012, OCTA had \$1.06 million in its endowment funds

2013 Board of Directors Election

This year four of the OCTA Board members' three-year-terms expire. Those who have served one term may run again, but two consecutive terms is the limit without a break.

Don Hartley, Dick Nelson, and Jim Payne are seeking their first terms on the Board. Billy Symms is seeking a second term on the board after a two-year absence.

Fern Linton has served two terms on the board so was ineligible to run. Camille Bradford, Paul Massee, and Patrick Surrena, had only served one term, but chose not to seek reelection.

By February 15 all candidates needed to submit the following:

- A good quality photo.
- Information about the nominee's trail background and experience and the extent to which the person has participated in OCTA and chapter activities.
- A written statement from the member being nominated indicating his or her willingness to serve actively on the board and a board committee if elected.
- A brief statement (approximately 100 words) of what the candidate would like to the board to accomplish in the next three years and how the candidate can help OCTA reach its goals.
- A written endorsement from a minimum of three additional OCTA members explaining why the candidate would be a good board member.

The four qualified OCTA members who met the candidate deadline are profiled in this issue. The letters of endorsement are not reprinted, but the names of the

supporters are included.

Because OCTA Directors serve at-large, location of residence or chapter affiliation is not a consideration.

Be sure to return your ballot by the June 15, 2013, deadline. OCTA needs good leadership and your participation in this election is vital.

Nominating and Leadership Committee

Bill Martin, Chair

Lethene Parks

John Winner



Don Hartley, Wyoming

Don was encouraged to learn about trails history after hearing his father tell of his grandmother coming into the Black Hills of South Dakota over the Bismarck Trail. He still recalls the thrill the first time he realized he had found a genuine rut and was walking on a trail. In Sweetwater County where he lives there are natural gas fields, among other resource developments. He has spent many hours working with the BLM, the natural gas industry, and other operators in an effort to minimize

impacts to the trails. He is a retired coal miner, father of two grown sons and the husband of a landscape painter. He and his wife live on a ranch on the Wyoming/Colorado border. He has been involved with Wyoming chapter meetings, treks, conventions, and bus tours. He supports efforts to expand OCTA membership. He has experience with the nitty-gritty of trails preservation and believes it is one of the duties of OCTA to continue this important work. Don is a past recipient of OCTA's Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award and has been the Western Wyoming trails preservation officer for several years. He has been the trek leader and planner for the Wyoming chapter's spring trek in Western Wyoming.

Endorsed by Tom Rea, Lee Underbrink and Pinky Ellis



Dick Nelson, Kansas

Dick has been an OCTA member since 1989 and has served as Treasurer, Vice President and two terms as President of the Trails Head Chapter. He is currently chair of the OCTA Awards Committee. He helped

2013 Board of Directors Election

plan 2000 and 2012 Conventions that were held in Kansas City and Lawrence. He is retired from a 33-year career with GE. He is active in a number of other organizations, including Santa Fe Trail Association, Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, Friends of the Shawnee Indian Mission, Friends of the National Frontier Trails Center and the Heart of America United Way in Kansas City. He is past president of the local chapter of Sons of the American Revolution. His goals as a Board member with OCTA would include growing our membership and retaining current members; finding new means of funding and raising revenues; encouraging and promoting youth by working with schools; and trail preservation and mapping

*Endorsed by Ross Marshall,
Duane Iles and Roger Blair*



Jim Payne, Idaho

Jim Payne is a retired engineer having spent most of his career in aerospace. He joined OCTA while living in California in 1990 and

his first "official" activity was bartending at the 1994 Placerville Symposium. He participated on several of the CA-NV Chapter outings involving clearing and marking on the Carson River Route and the Big Tree- Carson Valley Wagon Road and assisted with the pre-convention tour of

Return Your Ballot by June 15, 2013

the Big Tree Tour and hike for the Reno Convention in 2002. After moving to Idaho in 2004, he attended his first convention at Vancouver and has attended several conventions since then. He served on the planning committee for the Nampa Convention in 2008 and is a Director for the Idaho Chapter. His particular interest is the fur trade era as it relates to the development of the Oregon and California Trails. Along with two other Idaho Chapter members he led a workshop on that subject during the Nampa convention.

*Endorsed by Bill Wilson, Frank
Tortorich and Jerry Eichhorst*

Billy Symms, Washington

Billy Symms is a retired school teacher of 23 years teaching U.S. History, Geology, Geography, Chemistry, Physical Education, Physics and Earth Science. He retired in 2007 from the Forest Service after spending 16 years at Angell Job Corps, first as a counselor and finally as the Work



Programs Officer for 9 vocations to support 216 students. He previously served a partial term on the Board, but resigned due to health issues (which he no longer faces). He currently is the Preservation Officer for NWOCTA and an Ad Hoc member of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC).

He has authored a travel and interpretive book, "Guide to the Oregon and California Trails in Idaho," and is currently working on one for the state of Oregon. He has extensively traveled the Oregon and California Trails in Idaho and Oregon. He helped preserve a portion of the Barlow Road on private land by convincing the landowner to allow OCTA to mark the trail. He has also been involved in marking and mapping at Keeney Pass and in the Blue Mountains. His goals as a Board member will be to preserve historic trails and increase membership at both the local and national levels.

*Endorsed by Glenn Harrison,
Rich Herman and Gail Carbiener*

Vote! Vote! Vote!

By Duane Iles
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

The election for the OCTA Board of Directors is in this issue. Candidate biographies and the ballot are included in this issue of *News from the Plains*. At the last board meeting, the board voted to conduct our annual election only through *NFP*. This will save about a thousand dollars annually. Also, a change was made dropping the requirement for a quorum on the election. Now, a simple majority of votes received via mail will be the final vote. In the past we never received a majority of the ballots back, so the election had to be approved by a majority vote at the convention. Your vote does count, so please send your ballot in now!

The long, cold winter is coming

to an end and planning for hitting the trails is beginning

We will have a new process for preservation that you will be hearing about. It will emphasize chapter and regional vigilance, involvement, and action.

Crossroads has been working hard to prevent damage in the western part of the great salt desert. Transmission lines seem to be a big current intrusion in Wyoming, Idaho, and Kansas. When companies build the wind turbines their next step is to get the electricity to the customers. We will have to be on the watch for new projects that endanger the trails.

To preserve OCTA, the marketing and membership committees have been working hard. We have kept a pretty stable

number of memberships. Mailing lists have been used to recruit members that are interested in history.

Business sponsors have been recruited. Please patronize the sponsors listed in this issue (below) and look at the list whenever you travel. Remember, YOU are the best recruiter of new members. When you plan programs and hit the trails this spring and summer, invite a guest.

In February, I nominated Lethene Parks to chair the Collections and OCTA Libraries Committee. In an election conducted by e-mail, the board approved the nomination.

Have a great spring and plan to get together in Oregon City for a tremendous convention in July.

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First Commerce Bank	902 Broadway	Marysville KS
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American Fire and Safety	PO Box 272	St Joseph, MO

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FROM THE

HQ MANAGER

Annual Appeal Raises Funds for OCTA Programs

*By Kathy Conway
Headquarters Manager*

Contributions for the annual campaign are continually flowing in! So far, we have collected over \$17,000 toward our \$20,000 goal. Listed below are the names of contributors. We truly appreciate their generosity.

If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time to make a difference. Please mail your check to OCTA, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051 or you may donate directly by visiting our website, www.octa-trails.org.

Listed below are the names of those contributing since our last printing of the Fall *NFP*.

Eva Allen
Carol Bachhuber
Cecilia and John Bell
Terry Bennett
Todd and Betty Berens
Margaret Bowen
Carolyn Bowser
Lloyd Brownell
Marvin Burke
Timothy A Burns
Gail and Muriel Carbiener
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Northwest OCTA Chapter
Alma O'Hare
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James T Owen
Thomas Parkes
M Lethene Parks
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Dick and Penelope Peterson
Richard Pingrey
Henry and Glenna Pittock
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ASSOCIATION FROM THE MANAGER

Trail Partnership Work Continues for “Hike the Hill”

Travis Boley
tboley@indepmo.org

The Partnership for the National Trails System participated in its annual “Hike the Hill” week in Washington, D.C., in February to advocate for funding and legislation to protect, preserve, and promote our National Trails. We also had the opportunity to meet with numerous agency heads and their assistants to hear about new developments and to express our own hopes and concerns.

The National Trails community met with National Park Service (NPS) Director Jon Jarvis who indicated that he is staying on as NPS Director throughout President Obama’s second term, and then spoke about three initiatives already underway:

1. In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The NPS has hired a top New York marketing firm to help with promotional activities. Jarvis invited the National Trails System to partake of the celebration and to think of ways to create a broad trails initiative to hook into the America’s Great Outdoors program. The 50th anniversary of the National Trails System will follow in 2018. If you have ideas along these lines, please forward them to me at tboley@indepmo.org.

2. The NPS will make a major push to address the economic benefits of the National Parks system, developing a new model

to capture and quantify economic benefits beyond simply counting tourism expenditures. Director Jarvis cited a new study recently published by the Harvard Kennedy School’s Environmental Economics program entitled “Evaluating the Economic Benefits of the Maine Island Trail Association” (which won the 2011 Kaneb Prize for Best Masters Student Paper) as the basis of this new model (the full 69-page study can be found on Harvard’s website as a PDF download).

3. “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” is a new initiative that includes public health values of the National Park system. As Jarvis described it, “this is a whole new field (of) prescribing the outdoors” for health and well-being. He acknowledged that little has been done in this field, but that there are plans to study the science linking outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles.

In sum, NPS Director Jarvis invited the trails community to be more engaged in NPS planning, and he recognized the importance of our linear resources in not only linking traditional National Parks, but in also bringing a public health venue proposition to the table. We need to leverage the growing perception that trails are far greater than a simple corridor, and that they involve linking iconic landscapes; cultural, historical, and archaeological resources; and the places people live, work, and play; and further,

that trails enhance quality of life, property values, public health, youth outreach opportunities, and conservation of landscapes.

We also had the opportunity to meet with the Directors of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The BLM representatives reported that they have completed a three-part series of National Trails System Manuals. These include #6250 – “National Scenic and Historic Trail Administration;” #6280 – Management of the National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails Under Study or Recommended as Suitable for Congressional Designation;” and #8353 – “Trail Management Areas: Secretarially Designated National Recreation, Water, and Connecting and Side Trails.”

These policy manuals emphasize the nature and purpose of trails, identify National Historic Trail high potential sites and segments, the continuous nature of National Scenic Trails, selection of official National Trail Rights-of-Way, and establishment of National Trail Management Corridors at the local planning level.

The manuals are already in use, as a developer contacted OCTA HQ in late February. The developer cited these manuals in asking for our participation in establishing a use plan along and near the Cherokee Trail in southern Wyoming.

Continued on Next Page

Trail Partnership "Hike the Hill" Planning to Avoid Adverse Impacts

Continued from Previous Page

It was also announced that the Lander BLM Field Office in Wyoming will soon release its proposed South Pass Resource Management Plan (RMP), which did occur on February 22. It is expected that the trails through South Pass will have a six-mile wide corridor of protection. The BLM expects that the offices adjacent to the Lander district will match this corridor. The relevant sections for National Historic Trails begin on page 1,103 of Volume 2 and the various management alternatives can be viewed at www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander/docs/PRMP-FEIS.html.

Also, the Cedar City BLM Office in southern Utah will soon release its RMP for the Old Spanish

National Historic Trail and the Salt Lake-Los Angeles Route. The RMP for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (as well as the Southern Route to California) will soon be released for the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona. These plans are expected to afford better protections for the trails through these areas.

Going hand-in-hand with the exciting new work being done in NPS, and BLM, we also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE). Lauren Azar, a Special Assistant with the DOE, led the meeting to help us understand how energy planning across the nation will take into account the existence of the National Trails System. To that

end, Dr. John Krummel of the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois (a sub-contractor of the DOE) announced that he is building an online repository of existing National Trails, National Landmarks, National Parks, National Wild & Scenic Rivers, and other areas valued for recreational purposes to help developers avoid, as much as possible, adverse impacts upon such areas. They are working with the aforementioned agencies (and others) to develop this resource. It can be found at www.evs.anl.gov.

(Thanks to North Country Trail Association Executive Director Bruce Matthews for providing his notes from our meeting with NPS Director Jon Jarvis.)



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the **National Frontier Trails Museum** offers:

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
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Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org



OCTA National Convention

End of the Trail and Beyond

By Jim Tompkins



Jason Lee Wallamet Mission

Week of July 21, 2013
Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, Oregon

Trail Related Learning Sessions

- Opening Session with Keynote by Kerry Tymchuk
- Eight hours of speakers on End of the Oregon Trail and settlement topics
- Chapter Meetings and Workshops
- Book Room
- Heritage Resources Fair

Tours and Outings

- Two days of bus tours to Mt Hood, the Willamette Valley, or Oregon City
- Barlow Road hike
- Pre-convention caravan tours on the Oregon Trail, Cowlitz Trail, or Applegate Trail
- Fort Vancouver post-convention tour

Special Events

- Awards Banquet and Auction
- Authors Night
- Living History Night at the Abernethy Center
- Salmon dinner at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The 2013 OCTA National Convention, "End of the Trail and Beyond, Oregon City, Oregon." will be held the week of July 21, 2013. Most of the events will take place at the host hotel, the Monarch Hotel & Conference Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas, OR 97015 (1-800-492-8700 or www.monarchhotel.cc).

Three auto caravan tours are being offered Sunday and Monday before the convention. Chuck Hornbuckle will lead a tour to Puget Sound along the Cowlitz Trail including a dedication of an OCTA plaque in Tumwater for Nathan Pattison, husband of Oregon Trail emigrant Rachel Pattison, who died near Ash Hollow. Leta Neiderheiser, a descendant of Jesse Applegate, will lead a tour up from Yoncalla along the Applegate Trail. Roger Blair will lead a tour and hikes along the main stem of the Oregon Trail and the Barlow Road starting in Pendleton.

On Monday, before the start of the actual convention, will be two special events. The annual OCTA Board meeting will take all day. In the afternoon there will be a Heritage Resources Fair, coordinated by Mary Bywater Cross and Lethene Parks. This first time ever event for OCTA. You will have an opportunity to meet and ask questions of various people involved in many aspects of studying, recreating, or preserving heritage. Seventy or more historical societies, museums, genealogical societies, and similar heritage organizations will be represented.

Tuesday and Thursday will include over eight hours of speakers, workshops, and meetings. The convention will kickoff with a keynote address by Kerry Tymchuk, head of the Oregon Historical Society. Speakers Tuesday afternoon and most of Thursday will address various topics including Native Americans, settlement, claiming land, and beginnings of government, including a panel of pioneer descendants.

Tuesday also will include workshops on trail

Monarch Hotel ★ Clackamas, Oregon

July 21-27, 2013



mapping using traditional tools as well as technology, historical pioneer clothing, doing historical research and creating smartphone apps for historical tours.



Oregon State Capitol Entrance.

Thursday afternoon will include chapter meetings.

Wednesday and Friday will be two days of convention tours. Participants will have the opportunity to take two of five tour options around Mt Hood, on the Barlow Road, to Oregon City, or into the Willamette Valley.

Mt Hood and the Barlow Road will be the center of attention on either a bus tour or a hike. The bus will circle Mt Hood by way of Multnomah Falls, Hood River, Government Camp, and Eagle Creek. Hikers will walk the Barlow Road at Barlow Pass, Pioneer Woman's Grave, Summit Meadows, and Laurel Hill.

The Oregon City tour will include stops at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, the McLoughlin House, and the Museum of the Oregon Territory.

Two Willamette Valley bus tours will each have a different theme. The Missions Tour will look at the Catholic missions in French Prairie and Jason Lee's missions at Mission Bottom and Chemeketa. The Settlements Tour will look at Champoege State Heritage Park, mountain man "Doc" Newell's house, the utopian Aurora Colony, and Mt Angel Seminary. Both of these tours will be through

the rich agricultural land of the Willamette Valley looking at vineyards, hop fields, and orchards.

There will be a special evening event every night of the convention. On Monday there will be a coming-together social at the Monarch. Tuesday will be our annual Banquet and Auction with entertainment by Phil and Gayle Neuman and Mick Doherty of the Trail Band. Wednesday will be Authors Night in the Bookroom, presented this year by Sallie Riehl. Thursday will be Living History Night in Oregon City at the Abernethy Center with historical re-enactments by Susan Buttrill as Abigail Scott Duniway, Ray Egan as Father Luigi Rossi, and Karen Haas as Narcissa Whitman, interspersed with musical interludes by the Heartstrings duo of Nancy and Rob Downie. Friday will be our farewell salmon dinner at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City followed by an evening of special entertainment courtesy of the City of Oregon City.

After the formal closing of the convention there will be a Saturday event when Lethene Parks will lead a tour of Fort Vancouver.

In addition to all of the above there will be other amenities and events including luncheons, the OCTA Bookroom, static displays, and other entertainment as well as a few surprises we are saving for when you arrive.



One OCTA tour will visit the Philip Foster House.

Nominations Accepted until June 1 for OCTA Awards

*By Dick Nelson
Awards Committee Chair*

The OCTA Awards Committee seeks nominations for deserving candidates to receive recognition at OCTA's 2013 Convention in Oregon City, OR. Please be aware that recognition comes from the general membership and not from the Awards Committee.

Nominations should be submitted on the Awards forms available on the OCTA web site. To find the form go to www.octa-trails.org. At the bottom of the left hand column, click on Member Area. Then click on "Activity Forms" when the new page opens, scroll to near the bottom and click on "OCTA Award Fill-in Nominations Form" in the list of forms. This opens the forms in pdf. You can now scroll through the forms to find the appropriate one(s). Complete the form(s), print, and e-mail to Dick Nelson, Awards Chair, at kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net.

Alternatively, the forms may be sent via postal mail to Dick Nelson, 12812 W. 100th Terrace, Lenexa, KS. 66215-1704. If you do not have access to the Internet (or have trouble locating the forms on the website) and need a form, contact OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282.

In making a nomination be sure to provide sufficient justification and qualifications so that the committee can make informed decisions. The forms direct you to contact the nominees before nomination and the end of the forms mentions follow-up

publicity. This is not necessary in order to submit the nomination, especially if it discourages you from submitting a deserving nomination. **Deadline for completed nominations is June 1.**

★★★

If there are no nominations forthcoming from the membership, no awards will be presented.

★★★

Please use the form best fitting the qualifications of the candidate. The award categories are:

Meritorious Achievement Award—OCTA's highest award granted for long-term significant contributions to OCTA. Only members qualify.

Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award—Awarded to OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA shorter term goals and objectives.

Distinguished Service Award—Recognition of organizations, businesses, or individuals who contribute, participate, or share interest in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education. Non-members may qualify for this recognition.

David Welch Preservation Award—For special efforts

regarding preservation. Not necessarily given every year.

Friend of the Trail Award—Presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, education of the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources.

National Certificates of Appreciation—Given to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certificates are for efforts of national scope.

Young OCTAN Award—Presented to youth 6-21 years of age who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. An entire class or group of school-aged children may qualify as one aggregated nominee. OCTA membership is not required.

If you have any questions about the awards program, please contact Dick Nelson at the e-mail and postal addresses provided above. Again, these are awards to recognize your friends and OCTA co-workers; if there are no nominations, there will be no awards! Don't let that happen. Make a nomination.

Promoting OCTA to History and Social Studies Teachers

By Mark Wilson
wwht@sbcglobal.net

Many organizations like ours with a preponderance of older members often lament the fact that we need younger members. Our organization has taken several steps to address this issue.

One group of obvious potential new members is history and social science teachers. I first learned about OCTA from a history teacher. During the last year I have worked with the national office to promote OCTA to this natural constituency. Last spring I represented OCTA in southern California near Disneyland during the state convention of the California Council for the Social Studies (CCSS). Last November I did the same at the annual convention of the National Council for the Social Studies in Seattle. The Disneyland convention had over 800 attendees while the Seattle convention pulled in 3,500 educators from around the country. This March I shall once again be at the CCSS convention, which will be in the San Francisco Bay Area at Burlingame.

This endeavor is primarily funded by the OCTA national office while the CA/NV Chapter has provided some funding for the California conventions. A booth is rented in a hall along with other education vendors and exhibitors. The booth is typically

set up with OCTA information and products on one side and National Park Service trail brochures and information on the other side. In the back of the booth the OCTA video, "In Pursuit of the Dream" is played along with information about purchasing the DVD. In



OCTA has had a booth at several recent education conferences. (Photo Courtesy of Mark Wilson)

order to bring attention to our presentation, I dress up in the period outfit of a wagon master. To get the teacher's contact information we have them sign up for a drawing of a complementary prize such as a membership or DVD of "In Pursuit of the Dream."

The purpose of this effort is as follows:

1. Raise awareness of OCTA's mission, objectives and goals
2. Raise awareness of the National Historic Trails System
3. Recruit new members

4. Sell OCTA's various educational materials
History and social science teachers are natural partners for using the activities, publications and services of OCTA. The teachers who attend these conferences are typically young

and have an inherent interest in the goals and objectives of our organization. One topic I raised with many of those who stop by our booth is the possibility of local members taking them on one day or weekend field trips, so they may incorporate the information into their curriculum.

Each state in which OCTA has a chapter has an annual history and social sciences teachers'

convention. These conventions provide a readily accessible forum to inform a large number of people about the mission, activities, products and services of OCTA. These conventions also provide the opportunity to engage these educators through a formal presentation at a paper session of how the mission and activities of OCTA can benefit teachers. I encourage each chapter to pursue this "path" as a way to expand OCTA's membership and visibility. In addition, individual members might contact teachers in their local schools.

OCTA Publication Editor Applications Now Accepted

OCTA is accepting applications for the positions of Editor of *News From the Plains* and the *Overland Journal*. Contracts with current editors expire September 30.

Both editors serve as private contractors and receive modest fees for services.

To apply send a letter of interest, resume and work samples to Bill Martin, Chair of the Nominations and Leadership Committee at 703 Country Club Road, Georgetown TX or to bmartinocata@gmail.com.

A full job description for each of the positions is available upon request.

The deadline for application is June 20, 2013. Applications will be reviewed by the Nominating & Leadership Committee, which will make a recommendation at the Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Convention in Oregon City.

OJ Editor Bob Clark is retiring at the end of his contract. NFP Editor Candy Moulton has indicated she will re-apply.

Education Projects Move Forward New Calendar Coming

By Bill Hill
Education Committee Chair

Late winter and spring is a busy time for the Education Committee. February saw the completion of our book raffle for a class set of one of OCTA's educational activity books. Winner of this year's set of *Reading, Writing, and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails* is Sheila Ackerman, a fourth grade teacher in Trail Elementary in Torrington, Wyoming. The Wyoming chapter assisted us in the presentation of the books.

If teachers in your district did not participate in this year's raffle, they can enter next fall for our next raffle. Information about the raffle will be posted on OCTA's website.

The end of March brings the deadline for our Outstanding Educator Award program. (There still may be time to send an application in.) Nominations/applications are sent to headquarters. During the month of April and May a review and evaluation of the applications are made, with the selected recipient(s) notified in June. The award will be presented at the awards dinner during our convention in Portland. The award includes a check for \$250. Those attending the convention may meet and talk with those receiving the award.

April 15 is the deadline for

student submission for our 2014 calendar. Each year we select a theme that relates to westward expansion and the trails. This year's theme is Mountain Men & Military Clothing and Equipment. During the normal study of westward expansion teachers are encouraged to have their students research and discuss the selected theme. Those interested are encouraged to create original artwork representing the theme. The artwork is sent to headquarters and forwarded to the education committee. Each year, participation in our project has grown. Twelve to fourteen items are selected from all those submitted that best reflect the aspects of the selected theme. The calendar is put together, and the students are notified in June. Copies of the calendar and a \$50 check are sent to each student whose artwork is selected. Copies of the calendar will be available for purchase during the convention and through OCTA's bookstore.

The theme for next year's 2015 calendar is Plants Along the Trails – Edible, Medicinal, and Dangerous. Encourage teachers and schools in your school district to participate in the project. Information about the project and guidelines will be posted during the summer on the website, www.octa-trails.org. This is a great project that brings history and art together in a fun and educational manner.

Spring Trip to Venture Along Southern Utah Trails

By A. Oscar Olson

We have had a quiet winter here at Crossroads. There's been a lot of snow. It may be a while before we can get out to do anything with the trails, but we have new books to read including one on the Central Overland Trail by Jesse Petersen and another on Skull Valley by Ouida Blanthorn.

Mike Landon, co-author of the book, *Trail of Hope*, who is historian and archivist for the Mormon Church, has taken over as our new speaker coordinator. Our past coordinator, Lyndia Carter, has taken leave. We wish her well and hope she will again be with us in the future.

Our spring field trip on the Southern Trails is scheduled for May 2, 3, and 4. Author/historian and Crossroads past VP, Dr. E. Leo Lyman will be leading this group and we look forward to that.

New bylaws will be discussed at the meeting and voted on. Many other items were covered and we will report on them as we progress including our T-Rail Post Project on the Central Overland Trail, Donner Springs work, Potash issues and other trail preservation efforts.

Last month, we are saddened to learn of the passing of early Crossroads member Dr. Jay M. Haymond. As a professional historian and teacher, Jay was instrumental in the shaping of early Crossroads, including our name, Crossroads. He was living in Boise, ID, at the time of his death.

Also, we mourn the passing of

Tooele County resident and Crossroads supporter, Boyd Blanthorn, husband of Ouida Blanthorn (Tooele County historian). Roy Tea said he remembered Boyd as a great person, a hard work-

ing supporter of many Crossroads activities including Rails projects around Donner Spring.

Exploring the St. Joe Road

By Dick Nelson,
Chapter President

Trails Head Chapter partnered with two other local trails organizations, the Santa Fe Trail Association Missouri River Outfitters Chapter, and the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, to hold a symposium at the Mahaffie Heritage Center in Olathe, KS, in conjunction with the chapter's annual meeting. Several speakers gave excellent talks to a large group of trail enthusiasts.

During the annual meeting chapter officers were elected for

2013 including President Dick Nelson, Vice President Sandra Wiechert, Secretary Mary Conrad and Treasurer Arnold Cole.

Summer activities will include the cleaning of trail markers in the Kansas City area. Many of these have been in place for decades and have never had anything done to them to make them look better and improve their legibility.

Mapping work on trail segments in our area is also on the agenda. We look forward to an active trail season and being able to involve more members in chapter activities.

OCTA's Volunteer Work "Wows" Congress

By Bill and Jeanne Watson
Legislative Liaisons

Congress was WOW-ed by OCTA's 2012 Achievements Report of 650 active volunteers who donated 200,000+ miles to contribute 92,000+ hours to our projects and activities. Congress estimates the value of OCTA's volunteer hours and financial contributions at \$2.4 Million.

OCTA received \$44,000 in Challenge-Cost-Share-Funds plus \$142,000 from Federal Agreements & Grants for a total value of \$186,000. Congratulations to each of you who participated in these activities.

Wind Energy Projects at Ladd Hill Discussed at Annual Meeting

By Jim Tompkins

Three recent events bring wind energy to the forefront of Northwest chapter. Iberdrola Renewables announced the pending sale of two wind power facilities in Gilliam County, OR, to Portland General Electric. Leaning Juniper II is a portion of a larger site that was split apart for the sale. The other is Montague facility that includes the location of Four Mile Canyon and their spectacular Oregon Trail ruts. Iberdrola is using the mitigation with NWOCTA as an example of working together.

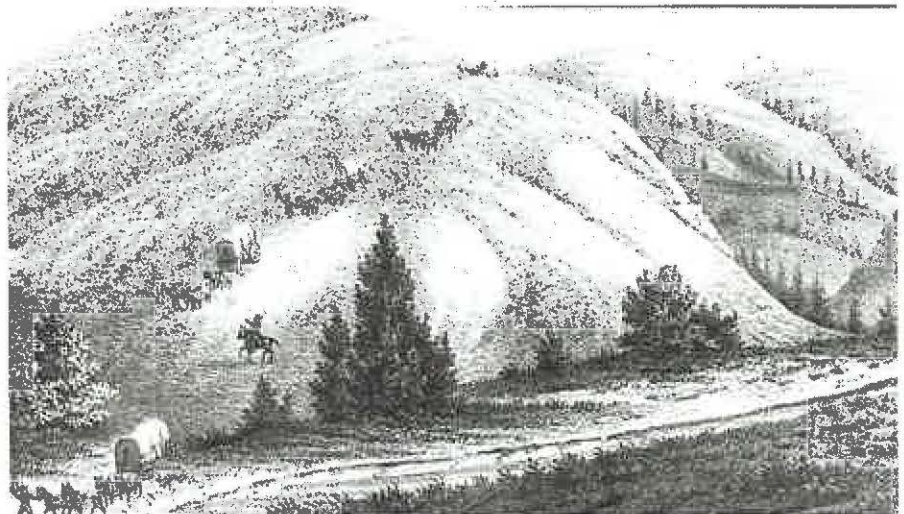
On Sunday February 24, 2013, the *Oregonian* newspaper had a front-page article titled "A hard look at tax credit windfall." The primary portion of the article was about Cathness Shepherd's Flat wind project, one of the largest such projects in the world, being divided into three projects to triple the Oregon tax credits from \$10 million to \$30 million. The article challenged the legality of the move. Glenn Harrison, past NWOCTA and OCTA president points out that Shepherd's Flat also got federal tax credits and loan guarantees. "And of course all the electricity produced has been sold to Southern California Edison. What is the benefit to Oregon's citizens?"

The third item is the announcement that the NWOCTA board just voted 8-0 to authorize mapping and marking chairman Henry Pittock to proceed with the nomination of Ladd Hill (known

as Antelope Ridge wind power facility), where the Oregon Trail drops down into the Grand Ronde Valley in Union County, Oregon, as one of the Historic Preservation League of Oregon's 2013 Most Endangered Places. Henry did a remarkable job of cataloging the

reasons why this segment of the Oregon Trail should be recognized as endangered.

A new Notice of Intent to start a wind farm has been received in Oregon just south of Well Spring and Echo Meadows. We will report details as we get them.



An 1849 drawing by Tappan shows a wagon train making its way down Ladd Hill (shown top), while trail ruts can still be seen in a more recent photograph of the area. (Drawing by Tappan, Photo courtesy of Henry Pittock).

Grain Belt Express Being Considered along Trail in Kansas

By Arleta Martin

Houston based Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC, a wind energy transmission line project, is proposing to build a high voltage, direct current electric transmission line from wind farms in western Kansas to a substation near Sullivan, ID.

The clean energy will be transported via an approximately 700-mile overhead, high-voltage direct current transmission (HVDC) line. HVDC is the most efficient and cost effective technology to move large amounts of power over long distances due to its lower electricity losses and smaller footprint than comparable alternating current (AC) lines.

Public meetings were held to provide information about the Grain Belt Express Clean Line and collect feedback that will help select a single proposed route to file for approval with the Kansas Corporation Commission. At the meeting the siting committee showed three proposed routes for the transmission line. Landowners, businessmen and concerned citizens were asked to rule out two of the proposed lines. A number of KANZA Chapter members have been involved.

Before attending these meetings, Arleta Martin visited with Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region and Patrick Zellner of the Kansas SHPO (State Preservation) office, asking them for advice.

After the public meeting in Marysville, four KANZA members, Martin, Alicia Keegan, Charlie Weickert and Duane

Iles, met with Tim Gaul from the Engineering firm that is conducting the siting process. Martin furnished him with Maps of the Independence Road where the KANZA Rut Nuts had mapped, measured, and marked evidence that they found on the ground. She also gave him a copy

of a map of the St. Joe Road.

Grain Belt Express is studying and reviewing a wide range of routing alternatives consistent with federal, state, and local laws and regulations to determine the preferred route for the Grain Belt Express transmission line.

Trail Sites Considered for National Register

By Duane Iles

An expanded area at Alcove Spring, Scott Spring, and associated trail swales in the Westmorland, KS, area are being considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The sites were recognized in February by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review.

The new recognition for Alcove Spring will include the entire 223-

acre park to assist in protection for all the swale, campground, and grave areas. Also included in the approval of sites was Scott Spring a favorite emigrant campsite. Although there are not intact swales in the immediate vicinity of the spring, great swales are nearby. An unknown gravesite is also in the vicinity. Both nominations were unanimously approved and will proceed to Washington, D.C., for consideration by the NPS.

With Visions Bright Before Us Will Bagley Wins Spur Award

Will Bagley won his third Spur Award from Western Writers of America for his second volume in a trail history trilogy. *With Golden Visions Bright Before Them: Trails to the Mining West, 1849-1852* (University of Oklahoma Press) was selected as Best Western Nonfiction-Historical book. The Spur Award will be presented in June at the WWA Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

Since 1953, Western Writers of America has promoted and honored the best in Western

literature with the annual Spur Awards, selected by panels of judges. Awards, for material published last year, are given for works whose inspiration, image and literary excellence best represent the reality and spirit of the American West.

Bagley won earlier Spurs for *The Mormon Rebellion* (co-written with David Bigler), and *Blood of the Prophets*. His earlier trail volume, *So Rugged and Mountainous*, was a Spur Finalist.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 AND 2011

	<u>9/30/12</u>	<u>09/30/11</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
General Operating Accounts	17,706	19,556
Restricted Accounts	9,586	19,861
Accounts Receivable	9,933	19,241
Prepaid Expenses	1,813	2,350
Inventory (at cost)	40,196	37,682
Investments (Endowment Funds)	1,048,854	903,587
Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization	286,025	321,778
Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation	<u>5,052</u>	<u>6,049</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>1,419,165</u></u>	<u><u>1,330,104</u></u>
 <u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	41,915	39,371
Deferred Revenue	<u>4,590</u>	<u>15,578</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>46,505</u></u>	<u><u>54,949</u></u>
 <u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted:		
Designated by Governing Board	395,542	323,906
Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment	291,076	327,827
General	<u>27,740</u>	<u>38,456</u>
	714,358	690,189
Temporarily Restricted	233,078	172,327
Permanently Restricted	<u>425,224</u>	<u>412,639</u>
Total Net assets	<u><u>1,372,660</u></u>	<u><u>1,275,155</u></u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>1,419,165</u></u>	<u><u>1,330,104</u></u>

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 and 2011

	9/30/12	9/30/11
Operating Revenues		
National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management	154,236	202,780
Membership Dues	70,920	71,168
Convention and Symposium	62,707	83,633
Contributions	29,068	38,134
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	13,281	15,501
Other	8,698	9,018
Total Operating Revenues	338,910	420,234
Operating Expenses		
Board and Officers	17,983	10,396
Committees	27,341	38,402
Administration and Management	183,270	175,236
Publications	49,819	42,954
Convention and Symposium	47,945	61,113
Task Agreement Expenses Not Included in Other Categories	17,064	67,507
Challenge Cost Share Program	12,090	14,555
Other	7,429	9,563
Total Operating Expenses	362,941	419,726
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Operations	(24,031)	508
Non Operating Income (Deductions)		
Endowment Fund Investment Income (Loss)	149,695	(15,916)
Film Amortization	(35,753)	(35,753)
Life memberships	4,750	3,595
Endowment Fund Contributions	2,844	3,230
Total Non Operating Income (Deductions) Net	121,536	(44,844)
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	97,505	(44,336)

NEW MEMBERS

Mary H. Long Andrews, Chico, CA
 Andrea Mary Binder, Laramie WY
 Peter Braisted, Summerland Key, FL
 Terry L. Brawdy, Petaluma, CA
 Fay Chandler, Kennewick, WA
 Shania Cook, Elko, NC
 Michael Corradi, Stockton, CA
 Robert Davis, Twentynine Palms, CA
 Sandra Elam, Yreka, CA
 James R. Fazio, Moscow, ID
 Brad Haertling, Jackson, MO
 Robert Henderson, Greeley, CO
 Robert Hill, Canby, OR
 Marilyn & Art Howell, Shawnee, KS
 Kate Kelly, Los Angeles, CA
 David Loera, Sacramento, CA

Susan Loucks, Fresno, CA
 David Low, BLM-California Trail Interpretive Center, Elko, NV
 Everil Loyd Jr, Redmond, WA
 Kathleen McMullen, Wilsonville, OR
 Dina Moerschbacher, Sacramento, CA
 Victor Mongeau, Legacy Americana, Tucson, AZ
 Neil Moore, Shingle Springs, CA
 Tammy Muschweek, East Liverpool, OH
 Susan Nelson & Lindsey Woolsey, Green Valley, AZ
 David Pearson, Meridian, ID
 James Pomajevich, Vancouver, WA
 Barbara Reeder, Reedley, CA
 Mark Robillard, Buckley, WA

Robert Scholl, Bay Village, OH
 Christopher Smith, Boise, ID
 Steven S. Smith, Los Angeles, CA
 Marlene Smith-Baranzini & JB Baranzini, Red Feather Press, Tracy, CA
 Megan Spring, Belgrade, MT
 Mimi Stieler, Gig Harbor, WA
 Brian Stucky, Goessel, KS
 Theresa E. Tucker, Fall River Mills, CA
 Tim Tyson, Gardnerville, NV
 Pam Warner, Oakdale, CA
 Ryan Wendel, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Sheridan, WY
 Sandra Williams, Portland, OR
 Roger Woelfel, Cambria, CA
 Marvin B. Woolf, Boulder, CO



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