

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Spring 2017

Volume XXXII, No. 2

OCTA Sets Sights On Council Bluffs For 34th Annual Convention

OCTA will hold its 2017 National Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa, offering members a chance to see trails and historic sites never before available at an OCTA annual gathering.

The Convention will be held August 8-12. Watch your mail or check online for registration information and full details.



OCTA is working with the local Lewis & Clark chapter, the Western Historic Trails Center, the Union Pacific Railroad, the local Westerners chapter, the LDS

Church and others in order to guarantee a well-rounded experience for OCTA members.

Featured tours will include the California Trail as well as the Mormon Pioneer Trail, the Lewis & Clark Trail, steam boating, railroads, and early highways like the Lincoln Highway. Incredible museums and outdoor amenities await you, from the Lincoln Highway Center in Missouri City, Iowa to the beautiful and wild DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.

Other tours will include Mormon Winter Quarters in Omaha, Nebraska, the log tabernacle in Council Bluffs, exhibits related to the Steamboat Bertrand along the Nebraska/Iowa border, as well as the Old Freighters Museum (Russell, Majors, & Waddell facility) and the Lewis & Clark Center in Nebraska City.

OCTA will visit the monument erected on the bluff where Abraham Lincoln stood looking west making the determination to plan the transcontinental railroad through this area, the General Dodge (of Union Pacific fame) home, and the Western Historic Trails Center of Council Bluffs.

Also on the itinerary is the amazing block-long bronze wagon train statuary in downtown Omaha and some of the western collections at the Durham Library, plus visits to river crossings for the California and Mormon Pioneer Trails as well as the Lewis & Clark expedition.

Vancouver Symposium



OCTA President John Winner and Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation President Phillippa Newfield presented a special award to Daniel Ogden, one of the authors of the National Trails System Act, which observes its 50th anniversary in 2018.

More than 220 people attended the “Vancouver: Layers of History on the Columbia River” symposium co-sponsored by OCTA’s Northwest chapter and the Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation on April 1.

Featured speakers focused on the cataclysmic Missoula Floods, native peoples of the northwest, Lewis & Clark travels in the Vancouver area, fur traders, pioneer families, and the geography, flora and fauna of the Columbia River.

The Symposium was preceded by the OCTA Board of Directors Mid-Year Meeting (see stories on pages 3 & 4).

An additional symposium photo is page 16. More photos will appear in the Summer issue of *NFP*.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John Winner, OCTA President



Greetings to all...We have just completed a whirlwind of OCTA activities in Vancouver, WA. Special thanks to OCTA's Northwest Chapter, Chapter President Rich Herman, Symposium Chair Lethene Parks, The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and of course OCTA Association Manager, Travis Boley

and all the OCTA participants for a great symposium. Preceding the weekend symposium was two days of OCTA committee presentations and the OCTA Board of Directors Mid-Year meeting.

This past February, I received an email from William R. "Billy" Symms that he was resigning as a member of OCTA's Board for reasons of health. In addition to service on the Board, Billy, who hails from Yachats, Oregon, has served as Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer and a member of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council. He has been active in preservation of Oregon Trail resources, donating countless hours to preservation efforts including the adverse impact of the Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission line (B2H) project on the Oregon Trail. Thanks to Billy for his devotion to OCTA and our best wishes.

At the Board of Directors meeting in Vancouver, the Board appointed Dick Waugh, from Oroville, California, to fill the unexpired term of Billy Symms. Dick, a retired Police Chief and now a part time DA investigator is currently President of OCTA's California-Nevada Chapter. He chaired the 2015 OCTA National Convention in Lake Tahoe and leads a mapping team reviewing the MET mapping of the Historic Beckwourth Trail. We look forward to Dick's participation on the OCTA Board.

Another milestone coming from the Vancouver Board meeting was the contracting with retired National Park Service official Sharon Brown to serve on a part-time basis as OCTA's Western Region Representative. With all the activities that are happening on the eastern end of the emigrant trails, the Board agreed to contract for some addition help to assist with other OCTA activities. Much of headquarters energy has been devoted to the many projects that are in the east, which are all important to OCTA's mission.

The highly successful urban trail retracement project in the Kansas City area, multiple park dedications, a new Fairbanks medallion at the Truman Courthouse and

another proposed medallion at the new Rock Chalk Park, a joint project between the University of Kansas and the City of Lawrence, the 2017 convention in Iowa, a proposed riverfront development in St. Joseph, new proposed auto tour route signs in western Nebraska, and ongoing administration at Headquarters represent a handful of things happening back east.

With all of the excellent trail activity occurring on the eastern half of the trail, we need more help on other portions of the thousands of miles of trails, especially in the western regions. Assistance through the National office with projects that promote OCTA's mission through public awareness, contacts for speaker engagements, educational research, trail preservation through conservation easements, trail signing, and urban trail projects are some of the items on which our new Western Region Representative will focus.

With this in mind I approached the Board to contract with Sharon a trial, part time, basis to assist OCTA's Association Manager and some western chapters with many of the ongoing activities. Sharon, who now resides in Portland, Oregon, retired in 2015 after 37 with the Park Service. Sharon received OCTA's Distinguished Service Award in 2014 in recognition of her long-standing contributions to OCTA.

On a closing note, make plans to attend OCTA's National Convention, August 8-12, 2017 at Council Bluffs, Iowa. There's lot's to see between where you live and Council Bluffs. Enjoy the journey.

And last but not least, I once again thank OCTA's membership for your contributions to the legacy of the western trail experience. Your in-kind gifts, your volunteer time and your faithful and generous financial support are greatly appreciated. Thanks again.....*More to come*

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Published quarterly by the
Oregon-California Trails Association
P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

Phone: (816) 252-2276
Fax: (816) 836-0989
Email: octa@indepmo.org

OCTA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

Bill Martin, Editor
706 Country Club Road, Georgetown TX 78628
(512) 818-1609

Summer Issue Deadline
May 25, 2017

Send Materials to
nfpocta@gmail.com

Board Okays Western Rep



The OCTA Board has approved hiring Sharon Brown as OCTA Western Region Representative, a part-time position supporting OCTA's Association Manager and Western chapters.

The initial term of the position is April 1 to August 31, with an option to renew. The cost for the initial five months would be \$9,500.

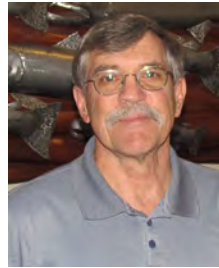
Sharon has attended OCTA functions for many years. She received OCTA's Distinguished Service Award in 2014 in recognition of her long-standing contributions. Sharon also led the OCTA effort to develop and finalize the current Strategic Plan.

Now living in Portland, OR, she retired in 2015 as Chief of Trail Operations for the NPS National Trails Intermountain Region in Santa Fe. In her final NPS post, she supported partnership activities for nine national historic trails.

According to a job description prepared by OCTA President John Winner, her duties will include assisting chapters in generating public awareness of the trails; serving as liaison with OCTA's national offices, the National Park Service and other organizations; and assisting chapters with promotions and projects.

In addition, she will serve as OCTA's clearinghouse and information center for trail preservation and development activities in the West; develop proposals for funding interpretive and trail preservation projects; and assist OCTA and chapters with development of trail preservation projects.

Waugh Named to OCTA Board



Dick Waugh of Oroville, CA, has been appointed to serve on the OCTA Board of Directors, filling the unexpired term of Billy Symms, who resigned due to health reasons.

The action was approved at the OCTA Board meeting in Vancouver.

Waugh is a retired police chief and part-time investigator for the local District Attorney's office. He is currently president of the California-Nevada Chapter. He chaired the 2015 OCTA National Convention in Lake Tahoe and leads a mapping team reviewing the MET mapping of the Historic Beckwourth Trail.

He will serve the remainder of Symms' term, which expires in 2019.

"I don't think there is any doubt that today's environment of trail activities warrants an expansion of OCTA's effort," Winner told the Board, "especially if we are to continue to be an effective trail organization. Whether it be legislative issues, preservation threats, education outreach, public awareness, trail retracement, or a plethora of other issues, our volunteers could use some guidance and assistance."

Funding for the new position largely will come from unspent funds in the current NPS Cooperative Agreement and salary savings at OCTA Headquarters.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Cecilia Bell, Silver City NM
ceciliajb@aol.com

Ginny Dissette, Brighton CO
vdissette@gmail.com

Duane Iles, Holton KS
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Jere Krakow, Albuquerque NM
jlkrakow@msn.com

Matt Mallinson, Sugar Creek MO
ms844@hotmail.com

Dick Nelson, Lenexa KS
kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net

Vern Osborne, Cheyenne WY
vcosborne58@gmail.com

Loren Pospisil, Gering NE
loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov

Dick Waugh, Oroville CA
camalobo@comcast.net

2016-2017 OCTA Officers

John Winner, *President*
Placerville CA
swinner@dataentree.com

Pat Traffas, *Vice President-President-Elect*
Overland Park KS
traffasp@gmail.com

Sandra Wiechert, *Secretary*
Lawrence, KS
wiechert@ku.edu

Marvin Burke, *Treasurer*
Northglenn CO
mdburke@msn.com

John Krizek, *Past President*
Prescott AZ
Jkrizek33@gmail.com

Jere Krakow, *Preservation Officer*
Albuquerque NM
jlkrakow@msn.com

OCTA Will Move Endowment Funds to New Management

The OCTA Board of Directors has approved a recommendation from the OCTA Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) to move the organization's endowment funds from the Greater Kansas City Community Fund (GKCCF), which has administered the growing investments since 1999.

The move to the investment management firm of Brighton Jones will take place after completion of an investment policy statement.

The move will reduce total fees OCTA current pays and remove what the IAC says "an unnecessary layer of administration."

"We expect performance to be at least comparable to the market with less variability," the IAC said in its recommendation to the Board. A possible change has been under study for several years.

OCTA's three endowment funds totaled \$1,374,494 as of December 31, 2016, an increase of about eight percent from the previous year. The funds include the Martin Fund (\$388,805), which is restricted to legal uses; the Loomis Fund (\$289,132), which is designated for preservation; and the Heritage Fund (\$689,557).

The IAC said the change was recommended for several reasons, including: 1) the GKCCF annual fee of .69 percent is high relative to services provided; 2) the Fund's financial approach is exclusively passive rather than a diverse mix; 3) the annual administrative fee is used almost entirely to support GKCCF

operations that do not benefit OCTA; 4) Poor communications, including failure to communicate changes in investments, investment approach and fund allocations in a timely manner; 5) there is a "one-size fits all" investment philosophy that does not allow for customization to match unique uses of each OCTA fund.

Among the reasons for the selection of Brighton Jones are: 1) lower administrative fee (0.50%) with active management of investments customized to each OCTA fund's needs; 2) investments are customized to meet potential cash flows of each fund; 3) comparable (slightly better) investment performance based upon 10-year data; 4) quarterly (or as needed) consultations with the IAC to discuss performance, the investment climate, and proposed investment changes, if any.

In approving the appointment of Brighton Jones, the Board also directed the IAC to develop an investment policy statement with Brighton Jones to describe how funds will be invested. Upon completion and approval of the investment policy statement, the OCTA Treasurer will move OCTA's endowment funds to Brighton Jones.

Brighton Jones is a full-service financial management and planning firm founded in 1999. It is headquartered in Seattle, with other offices in Portland, San Francisco, Scottsdale and Washington, D.C.

The Investment Advisory Committee includes David Welch, Chair, Camille Bradford, Jim Budde, Gail Carbiener, Jerry Mogg, Gary Dissette and Marvin Burke.

OCTA Board Hears of Possible Park Service Budget Cuts

The National Park Service is anticipating budget cuts in the range of 10 percent for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the OCTA Board of Directors was told at its Mid-Year meeting held March 31 in Vancouver, WA.

It is too soon to tell the specific impact the reductions will have on its trail partners, including OCTA, said Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trails Intermountain Region, which includes a number historic trails.

Mahr said the NPS is urging trails to get budget requests in as quickly as possible and noted a preliminary request from OCTA has already been received. During the current fiscal year, OCTA depends on NPS for about half of its \$323,000 budget.

In other action, the Board:

- Heard a report on the on-going update of OCTA Convention Manual, which has been virtually unchanged since it was adopted in 2009.

- Held an informal meeting with the Board of the Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation at which it agreed

to work on a joint membership development effort that will not involve an exchange of membership lists.

- Heard a report from Aimee Awonohopay of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) about the importance of working with tribes on trails preservation and tourism.

- Received a report from OCTA's Fundraising Committee on ways to grow OCTA's endowment funds

- Was told that plans are being developed for a revamping of OCTA websites, with further information expected at the Board meeting in Council Bluffs in August.

- Heard that the 2018 Mid-Year Board meeting will be held near Gila Bend, Arizona, in conjunction with a symposium sponsored by the Southern Trails Chapter.

- Approved a new three-year contract for the editor of *News From The Plains*.

- Accepted as submitted a report from OCTA Treasurer Marvin Burke (see financial statements on pages 18-19).

Mapping Workshop Held

A group of OCTA mappers took advantage of their escape from colder climes (joined by a few that live in the Southwest) to meet in Arizona and discuss mapping issues and share “lessons learned” from their activities. Attending were John and Susie Winner, Dave and Wendy Welch, Tracy DeVault, Rose Ann Tompkins, Dee Owens and Bruce Watson. Topics discussed included:

1. Form a mapping “geek squad” to develop and implement a procedure to facilitate transfer of existing paper map data into Terrain Navigator Pro (TNP). Data that appears on 24K USGS quads needs to be digitized for import into TNP.
2. Prepare a list of emigrant trails that would be recognized as part of OCTA’s mission and establish a list of individuals that are known to have knowledge or expertise for specific trails. The list of trails in the on-going NPS Feasibility Study provides a starting point for this work.
3. Pursue the development of “Training Videos” to be part of OCTA’s mapping education outreach. Tracy DeVault provide a sample video on using a GPS for the groups review. The product would be a CD/DVD or a YouTube-type video.
4. In addition to the information listed in the MET manual, expand contacts and sources for artifact identification. OCTA’s archaeology committee is dormant. A re-vitalized committee could pursue this task.
5. Establish a mapping contact for each chapter. Incentive might be a chapter subscription to TNP, if a mapping project was established. Training is available for other OCTA members.

Related to Item 1, last winter Tracy DeVault, Bruce Watson and Dave Welch converted and standardized many years of marker (waypoint) data collected by the Trail Turtles during their research. We now have the capability to convert data in any common format to the format required by TNP and from TNP into the NPS’s desired format.

If you would like to help with any of the tasks listed above, please contact John Winner or Dave Welch. We work at a leisurely schedule. There are tasks available for all levels of capabilities. It is not necessary to do field work to make a valuable contribution to our mapping efforts.

-- Dave Welch

Three Elected to Emigrant Hall of Fame

Three new inductees have been named to OCTA’s Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame. They are **Aubrey Haines**, **Jesse Applegate** and **Walter Meacham**. (Full biographies will be in the Summer issue of *NFP* and in the *Overland Journal*.)

The Hall of Fame was established to honor those who laid the foundation for OCTA’s mission of trails preservation. The six categories for selection include Preservationist, Trail Pioneer, Author, Philanthropist, Public Official and Executive.

Inductees are selected annually by a committee of three OCTA past presidents (currently Dave Welch, Roger Blair and Bill Martin) and two members appointed by OCTA President (currently Camille Bradford and Robert Clark).

This year’s inductees are:

Aubrey Haines was a historian of the fur trade, the emigrant trails and Yellowstone. He led the 1973 team that mapped the entire Oregon Trail in unprecedented detail. He identified and documented over 300 trail sites during the survey. The results were published in limited edition government documents and later provided the basis for Greg Franzwa’s maps and documentation of Oregon Trail sites.

Jesse Applegate is best known for his role in the “Great Migration of 1843” which marked the beginning of the major migration to Oregon and his later role in helping to establish the southern route to Oregon, known as the Applegate Trail and the Southern Road to Oregon. He was also a leader in the pioneer community of early Oregon.

Walter Meacham, a son of Oregon Trail pioneers, had a lifelong interest in preservation of the trail and encouraged the work of Ezra Meeker. Meacham was a founder of the Old Oregon Trail Association in 1923. He later became active in the work of OTMA and APTA and served as a Regional Director for Oregon. Meacham’s publications included *Old Oregon Trail: Roadway of American Home Builders*.

They join previous inductees (2015) Howard Driggs, Ezra Meeker, Greg Franzwa, Merrill Mattes and William Jackson and (2016) Paul and Mary Henderson, Minnie Howard, John McLoughlin, and Marcus and Narcissa Whitman.

For additional information visit octa-trails.org/learn/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



By [Travis Boley](#)

OCTA Headquarters has been active on a number of fronts since our last issue. Here are just a couple:

Websites

One of the things we are examining is a complete overhaul of the main OCTA website at octa-trails.org that will overlap into our Journals website and even our Paper Trail and In Pursuit of a Dream websites.

We feel that our main website could be greatly improved in two areas. One is in a broader search capability and layout/design function. The other is a renewed focus on revenue enhancement.

Last year, OCTA engaged a local Independence company called Bella Media to make some improvements and additions to our journals website. In further discussions with Bella Media, we talked about how to get all of our websites functioning in a more inter-linked fashion. In addition to original trail journals, our Journals website also allows OCTA members to access all back issues of the *Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains* as PDFs. We want to add a direct link to our Paper Trail website and eventually begin the process of cross-linking the digitized journals with the indexed information found on the Paper Trail website.

Other areas we are exploring is the digitization of past convention tour guides. Since the early 1980s, OCTA has created over 1,000 pages of very localized trail tour information, including site narratives and detailed maps. For the most part, only convention attendees are aware this information exists. By digitizing this information, we can add value to an OCTA membership while at the same time providing new incentives for non-OCTA members to either join the association or purchase access to the tour guides so that they can download a PDF and begin exploring the Oregon and California Trails in the richest detail possible. We firmly believe that providing this level of service to a burgeoning heritage tourism industry is a key for future growth.

We continue to expand the number of trail diaries available on the website. When we launched, we had about 130 diaries available. We have now digitized close to 300 and we are seeking grant funding to allow us to add even more.

Three Trails Corridor Project

The 3-Trails corridor project in the KC metro area is a 47-mile long area extending from the Missouri River landing in Sugar Creek to the spot west of Gardner, Kansas where the Santa Fe Trail splits away from the

Oregon and California Trails. As you're all well aware, it is our intent to build recreational trail in this corridor to connect up the remaining historic sites, serve as a model of how to preserve, protect, and promote historic trails in an urban setting.

Our National Park Service partners have entered into a cooperative agreement with the Mid-America Regional Council so that a landscape architect could be hired to create a comprehensive plan on how to build this project. The timeline for the creation of the planning document is aggressive, with the plan slated to be released by autumn 2017. From there, we will at long last be ready to apply for money from a variety of sources to build this 47-mile long recreational trail, the first of its kind in the nation. This is in keeping with the original intent of the National Trails Act, and we should all take great pride that OCTA (once again) is leading the way with our partners in fulfilling the intent of the Act.

By building a resource that young, active people like to use, we can expect to attract a new generation of members, especially if we are innovative in how we approach the idea of membership.

Other cities are getting involved all along the trail, including Topeka, where our members have been very involved in recreating a trail experience along the Kansas River; Lawrence, where we are first looking to sign the auto tour route and work with the city to create a retracement trail project; and Council Bluffs, where we are looking to partner with our friends in the Lewis & Clark organization to better interpret these new recreational and tourism draws. Further west, our Nebraska Chapter has created a task force to look at creating an auto tour route project from California Hill to Scott's Bluff. Nearer to the west coast, Salt Lake City, Portland, Boise and Sacramento also have burgeoning infrastructure projects that we should capitalize on to increase our own name recognition as we seek to expand our base.

We also need to continue to think about the Southern Routes as we look to establish infrastructure projects designed to increase awareness of our trails in urban areas. The first clause of the National Trails Act discusses the creation of retracement trails in urban areas, and with cities like Galveston, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Tucson, Phoenix, and Los Angeles lying along those routes, there are ample opportunities to reach new audiences. These Sun Belt cities are thronging with retirees looking for heritage tourism experiences and young people looking for recreational opportunities. Our trails are unique in that we can provide both.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS

JUNE 3-4, 10AM TO 4PM
PIONEER & NATIVE
AMERICAN
DEMONSTRATIONS



FREE EVENT!



1-80 HUNTER EXIT 292
8 MI WEST OF ELKO
775-738-1849



CALIFORNIA TRAIL
INTERPRETIVE CENTER
2012-2017 • 5TH ANNIVERSARY
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

CALIFORNIATRILCENTER.ORG



PRESERVATION

In lieu of a report from OCTA's Preservation Officer, NFP is providing the latest review of development proposals from the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region (formerly the Long Distance Trails Office), which administers the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails. The NPS "compliance review" is a new service to help interested parties determine whether proposals might have an impact on the national historic trails.

If you have any questions about this report, you can contact OCTA National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow (jilkrakow@msn.com) or NPS representatives Lee Kreutzer (lee_kreutzer@nps.gov) or Jill Jensen (jill_jensen@nps.gov). More information about the NPS office and the trails it administers can be found at nps.gov/ntir/.

Rocky Ridge. Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lander Field Office. BLM's 2016 monitoring report for the Rocky Ridge section of the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails corridor near South Pass, Wyoming, is posted online at <http://bit.ly/Handcart-SRP>.

Blue Forest Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Amendment, Wyoming. The Blue Forest MOA among the BLM, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), National Park Service, and Oregon-California Trails Association has been extended for 10 years. The Blue Forest is east of the Green River in the general area where Sublette, Lincoln, and Sweetwater Counties meet. Under the MOA, the signatories agree that the setting of the national historic trails in the Blue Forest has been compromised by development and that BLM may authorize future projects in that area without further SHPO comment "provided there are no impacts within 1/4 mile of contributing trail traces" or impacts to other cultural resources. The Sublette Cutoff, Baker-Davis Road, and Kinney Cutoff cross the Blue Forest area.

Boardman-to-Hemingway Transmission Line. Final Environmental Impact Statement, Oregon and Idaho. Oregon Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office. The public protest period for the Boardman to Hemingway Final Environmental Impact Statement concluded on December 26, 2016, and the BLM expects to release its record of decision in the spring of 2017. Following release of the record of decision, Idaho Power will work with the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council for siting portions of the project in Oregon. Those hearings will be open to the public. For

more information and to sign up for updates, go to boardmantohemingway.com/blm_nepa_process.aspx

Gateway West Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Idaho. Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, State Office. BLM has signed a record of decision for the final two segments of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project (Segments 8 and 9), which connects the Hemingway substation in southwest Idaho with power generation facilities in central Wyoming. The two segments consist of 321 miles of 500 kV transmission lines on BLM-managed lands in Idaho's Gooding, Elmore, Owyhee, Cassia, and Twin Falls counties.

North Platte Public Power District (NPPD) R-Project Transmission Line, Nebraska. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska. NPPD has selected a final powerline route that will cross intact ruts of the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trail on private property in the Sand Hills near Sutherland, Nebraska. The Fish and Wildlife Service, which is federal lead agency for the undertaking, last year engaged the National Park Service in consultation concerning potential impacts of the powerline to the national historic trails. However, federal solicitors later determined that the project's area of potential effect must be restricted to those areas where the transmission line could potentially affect migratory birds and an endangered species of beetle—resources of statutory concern to Fish and Wildlife—but cannot include other resources outside of those areas. The trail remnants fall outside of the redefined areas of potential effect and are not within the management authority of the federal lead agency. Therefore, the Fish and Wildlife Service has terminated consultation on the project, and the National Park Service is unable to comment meaningfully on the alignment. According to the project website, NPPD considers the public involvement phase of the project to be completed and is in the process of acquiring easements. For more information visit nppd.com/rproject/

Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision, Wyoming. Resource management plans for federal lands specify where development and use activities may occur and areas or zones (such as national historic trail corridors) where certain restrictions or special considerations will apply. The National Park Service, along with various Wyoming state departments, counties, and other government-affiliated organizations, is a cooperating agency in developing the environmental impact statement for revision of the Rock Springs Field resource management plan. Cooperating agencies are

prohibited from sharing planning information with other parties during development of the environmental impact statement for the project, but nonprofit organizations and members of the public will be able to participate in the public review process when BLM releases the draft document later this year. To follow this process, go to eplanning.blm.gov/epl-frontoffice/eplanning/

Utah Test and Training Range Closures, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 at the end of last year. In part, the bill authorizes the Department of Defense to order temporary, short-term closures of 625,643 acres of BLM lands and roads (including national historic trails and nearby driving routes) across those lands during expanded military testing and training activities in Utah. The Pony Express and California National Historic Trails through Utah's West Desert, approximately 80 miles west of Salt Lake City, will be subject to these occasional closures. The act also authorizes the BLM in Utah to exchange federal lands for state lands (which could potentially allow BLM to acquire additional trail resources or setting), subject to public review, and requires BLM to consult with the Air Force before issuing new use permits or rights-of-way (which would include energy and resource development that could interfere with military activities).

Long Canyon Mine Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Proposed Mitigation. Nevada Bureau of Land Management, Wells Field Office. The Long Canyon Mine is an open pit gold mine located south of Interstate 80, just south of Oasis, Nevada (approximately half way between Elko and Wendover). The final EIS found there will be an adverse effect to the Hastings Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail, and the record of decision for the project was signed in early 2014. Mitigation discussions with the project proponent, BLM, NPS, OCTA, Trails West, and other interested parties have been ongoing. The FEIS can be found at blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_information/nepa/long_canyon_eis_7.html

Save the Trail

B2H Powerline Remains In Holding Pattern

The Final Environmental Impact Statements for the Boardway-to-Hemingway (B2H) powerline project was published on November 26, 2017 and included a maximum 30-day protest period. As was the case with the Draft EIS, this tended to impact our holidays.

The final Agency (BLM) Preferred Alternative tended to be somewhat better for the Oregon Trail. A sincere message of thanks goes to all who responded in supporting the Trail. The National Park Service was especially strong in its response.

I submitted a protest concerning the transmission line near the Flagstaff Hill Interpretive Center outside Baker City and the major part is quoted below:

"With no logical route alternatives, the BLM has placed the Agency Preferred Route closer to the Interpretative Center to protect agriculture farm ground, which dramatically damages the visitor vicarious viewing experience.

A distance of about 1.2 miles of buried transmission line will reduce viewer exposure and with distance, the magnitude of change in the landscape.

*The Final Environmental Impact Statement should have obtained cost and factual reliability data from the 3.5 mile Chino Hills, California underground 500-kV transmission line. No hard data has been obtained on soil, water table, effect on agriculture, wildlife, noise, nearby residents or how it improves visual characteristics. Just because it is more expensive does **not mean that it is impractical.**"*

The protest goes to Washington D.C. and is processed through five phases, so who knows when a response to the protest will be received.

Idaho Power has indicated that they do not like the Agency Preferred Route, so may submit to the Oregon Department of Energy their routes for private lands. Approximately two-thirds of B2H would be located on private lands, and the route will be decided by state, county, or local government entities rather than the BLM. Some good Trail ruts could be damaged if Idaho Power chooses this option.

Oregon's Energy Facilities Siting Council will begin their analysis after the BLM issues the Record of Decision, estimated to be this Spring. It is believed that this will take two years or more.

A very small number of dedicated volunteers, spending their own funds, are up against full time BLM, Idaho Power and Oregon Department of Energy employees whose job it is to make B2H happen. There is not much Trail left in Oregon, we are working hard to save it for the future.

- Gail Carbinier

Candidates for OCTA National Board of Directors

Two candidates have announced candidacies to serve on the OCTA National Board of Directors. They are Cecelia Bell of Silver City, N.M., who is seeking a second three-year term, and Chuck Milliken of West Jordan, Utah, who is running for his first term. Members will receive a mail ballot form, but for your convenience a "clip and return" ballot can be found at the bottom of this page. New officers will take their positions at the 2017 Convention in Council Bluff, Iowa.

Cecelia Bell, in addition to her service on the Board, is a leader of the Southern Trails Chapter. She coordinated both the 2015 Silver City and 2017 El Paso Southern Trails symposiums. One of the purposes of the symposiums was to grow interest in gaining National Historic Trail recognition for the Southern Trails.



She also worked with Western New Mexico University to establish an OCTA-affiliated library for Southern Trails literature. If she is reelected, she will emphasize continuing to share the mission of OCTA and the story of the Southern Trails, working to partner with local organizations to support "their segment of the trail" through the Southwest.

"Living in southwestern New Mexico has allowed me to explore the Southern trails used by Native American, emigrants on wagon trains and stages, and soldiers, including Buffalo Soldiers, who remained in the southwest and became community leaders," she said. "As a retired adjunct history professor, I know the value of experiencing a thing or a place. How will our future citizens experience the story of America's westward movement, if our trails are not preserved! There is work to be done!"

Endorsed by: Reba Grandrud, Jere Krakow and Susan Loucke

Chuck Milliken retired from 40 years of service with the National Park Service.



Early in his career he spent time at Yellowstone, Everglades, Bent's Old Fort, Mt. Rushmore, Chiricahua National Monument and Redwoods National Park. In the 1990s he spent 10 years writing and developing publication guides and auto tour route brochures on the history of the Jersey Shore before joining the

NPS Long Distance Trails Office in Salt Lake City, where he enjoyed the last 10 years of his career.

Chuck worked with a variety of chapters and individuals from the Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer trail, as well as state and federal agencies and museums helping develop interpretive media including the auto tour route state interpretive guides, outdoor wayside interpretive exhibits, museum exhibits, a variety of brochures and traveling exhibits for use and display at meetings and fairs.

He is an active member of the Crossroads Chapter and currently serves as its newsletter editor. "I am confident that I can work with OCTA's members, chapters, and management team as we pursue efforts to preserve, protect, and interpret the experiences of the pioneers who blazed pathways across more than 2,000 miles of untamed wilderness, their entanglements with the land, travel conditions, and interactions with native people and environments," Chuck said.

Endorsed by: T. Michael Smith, Jere Krakow, and Frank Tortorich

OFFICIAL 2017 BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION.

All current members are eligible to vote. Membership levels with two members listed have two votes.

(Check the mailing label to see if multiple names are listed for your membership, or contact Headquarters at 816-252-2276.)

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO DIRECTORS FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS (2017-2020)

	Member 1 Vote	Member 2 Vote
Cecelia Bell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chuck Milliken	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In Candidates:	_____	_____

(Please clip and return to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051 no later than June 15)

2017 Means Critical Times for Trails in Washington, D.C.

Over 100 individuals representing over 40 trail organizations from throughout the country traveled to Washington, D.C. this February to “Hike the Hill.” Now in its 20th year, Hike the Hill is a joint effort between the Partnership for the National Trails System, of which OCTA is a member, and the American Hiking Society.

The purpose is to increase congressional and Federal



agency leader awareness of funding and authorities needed to sustain the National Trails System (NTS).

During our week in D.C., we met with agency partners, congressional staff, and members of Congress to discuss the opportunities for and the threats facing our NTS.

There are many pieces of legislation that aid or threaten our national trails. The year ahead will prove critical to our NTS. Some of main issues or pieces of legislation we discussed while in Washington include:

Increased Funding

We believe that greater federal funding for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and USDA Forest Service's trails programs will help leverage our ability to care for, connect, and protect our NTS. In 2016 alone, for every federal dollar provided the return on investment equaled 1.5:1—thanks to volunteer stewardship of the trails. In total, over 1,000,000 hours of volunteer service were documented within the NTS, which equates to a value of over \$24,256,000.

Additionally, private contributions from the national trails organizations for the NTS totaled over \$13,184,000. However, as incredible as these contributions are, they are not enough to fully develop and sustain our trails.

(OCTA members contributed 52,067 volunteer hours valued at \$1,226,699 and also recorded \$161,545 private contributions to trails preservation.)

Full funding of the LWCF and greater funding for the agencies' trail programs by Congress will help to provide means to close missing links, protect high-priority recreational and historic areas, and fund additional maintenance and necessary resources to already existing trails.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (HR 502):

This is one of the most well-known bi-partisan issues that relates to the NTS. The LWCF provides funding that

allows for protection and completion of crucial sections of trails. Revenue from offshore drilling for oil and gas helps to fund various conservation projects with no cost to tax-payers. The LWCF is only authorized until September 30, 2018 and will expire then unless Congress re-authorizes the program. We believe, however, that LWCF should be permanently authorized and fully funded at \$900 million annually. There is currently a bill (HR 502) in support of the LWCF in the house, but no similar bill in the Senate.

Wildfire Disaster Funding:

We believe that the federal government should budget for the suppression of wildfire disasters by treating wildfires like other U.S. disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Currently, more than 50 percent of the US Forest Service budget is being spent to fight unprecedented wildfires. This takes money away from other important functions such as maintaining national forests and trails.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)

This bi-partisan act would restore the authority to facilitate the sale of unneeded federal land by the Bureau of Land Management in order to provide funding to purchase high-priority land for conservation and outdoor recreation.

BLM 2.0

BLM Planning 2.0 makes land use planning more accessible to the public, more responsive to the changing conditions on public lands, and more efficient. Despite its benefits, Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions were introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to prohibit its use moving forward.

- Gary Werner, PNTS Executive Director



SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails Chapter elected new officers during its annual meeting held during the Spring Symposium in El Paso. Officers were elected for two-year terms.

Officers are: President Reba Wells Grandrud, Phoenix, AZ; Past President Dave Miller, Tulsa, OK; Vice President/President-Elect Gerald Williams, Gilbert, AZ; Secretary Susan Loucks, Fresno, CA; Treasurer Lee Black, Albuquerque, NM, CA State Director Bob Jacoby, Oceanside; AZ State Director Doug Hocking, Sierra Vista; NM State Director Cecilia Bell, Silver City; TX State Director Harry Hewitt, Wichita Falls; Membership Coordinator, Jud Mygatt, Corcoran, CA; Webmaster Tom Jonas, Phoenix; Historian-Archivist Rose Ann Tompkins, Chandler, AZ; and Desert Tracks Editors Jon and Deborah Lawrence, Santa Fe, NM.

Also at the meeting, the membership voted to hold the 2018 Spring Symposium at a location near the proposed Great Bend of the Gila River National Monument in Arizona. Membership Coordinator and former treasurer Jud Mygatt said the chapter currently has 152 members, a record high.

The chapter also voted to move ahead with plans to host the 2019 OCTA National Convention in Santa Fe.

During the El Paso Symposium, attendees heard from a range of speakers and enjoyed field trips to Mesilla, N.M., the historic Concordia Cemetery and Magoffin House, Chamizal National Monument, Hueco Tanks State Park, and historic missions near San Elizario, Texas.



Symposium Chair Cecilia Bell with her husband, John.



OCTA members at Hueco Tanks State Park.



Symposium attendees enjoyed a tour of the historic Magoffin House in El Paso.



Doug Hocking gets into the spirit of the culture.



OCTA President John Winner updates symposium attendees on national activities.



Tour guide Al Borrego speaks to OCTA members about the history of the mission trail near El Paso.

IDAHO

An unusually harsh winter pounded Idaho this year after a long, mild fall. An overabundance of snow is finally melting away leaving us ready to get out on the trails again.

The annual Spring Byway tour is scheduled for April 15. The spring chapter meeting will be held in Burley on Saturday, May 6. After lunch the group will visit the Parting of the Ways site on Raft River to attempt to confirm the marked graves using cadaver dogs. An elderly local rancher has indicated that the bodies were not removed from the field when the rocks were removed and the resulting piles fenced. We hope to confirm the bodies are within the fenced enclosure or find their location in the field. We attempted the search last spring but were rained out as people and dogs became a muddy mess.

A schedule of activities is being prepared and will be presented to the chapter at the spring meeting. Tentative activities include a tour of the North Alternate Oregon Trail in June, a repeat of the pre-convention tour going from Soda Springs over the Fort Hall reservation in July, a tour of the beginning of the California Trail from Raft River to City of Rocks in September, and the fall chapter meeting will be held in Mountain Home followed by a tour to view the progress made of the Canyon Creek stage station restoration. The back wall was rebuilt in 2016 and plans are to rebuild the front wall in 2017.

Efforts are still being made to perform another ground penetrating radar search of the suspected mass burial site or even a professional archaeological dig of the site on Ditto Creek. The chapter is also considering to undertake a project with the NPS to improve trail signage and interpretive displays in the Boise area.



Canyon Creek Station restoration.

- Jerry Eichhorst

Save the Trail

TRAILS HEAD

On an 80 degree afternoon in February, the dedication of the Penn Valley Park Marker and Wayside exhibit took place. They are placed in the front lawn of the Federal Reserve Bank, which looks across to the World War 1 Liberty Memorial on Memorial Drive in Penn Valley Park, Kansas City.

Even though this is not an official Trails Head Chapter project, the wayside exhibit and two original plaques are placed at an excellent site on the National Trails System in the Kansas City area. This exhibit sets primarily on the Westport Route of the Oregon-California-Santa Fe Historic Trails. Many from our organization have made major contributions of time and talent towards overseeing the completion of this project.

Penn Valley Park is one of two dedication sights that highlight significant trail travel in the Kansas City area. This has been accomplished in partnership with Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, Penn Valley Park Conservancy, Kansas City Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service. The second site in Mission Hills, KS (Nymph Island) will also be completed and dedicated in the near future.

We planned a spring membership meeting in March with Bob Courtney, President of the Olathe Historical Society. He planned to show three of the regional Emmy award-winning videos: "The Bricklayer", "William Quantrill's Raid on Olathe" and "Mahaffie Family and Farmstead". These short films, 10-12 minutes long, tell the story and history of the Johnson County area in its early days. Each film is extremely well produced. The most current film in this series, which is now nearing completion, will focus on the historical trails in Johnson County.

Trails Head Chapter will co-host a commemorative event with the Missouri River Outfitters and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association to celebrate National Trails Day. The National Trails Day Rendezvous will take place on June 3 at Lone Elm Park Rendezvous shelter, Olathe, KS. Planning is still underway with the intent of not only our organizations being a part of this but the community as well. We want to make this a family fun day to get to know your trails in the area. Weather permitting, Tim Talbott of Mahaffie Farmstead and Stagecoach Stop will bring out his newest pair of oxen. This has always been a hit with the kids that have attended in the past. The last time this was held as a joint gathering of all three organizations was in 2010. With all of the latest happenings with the Historic trails around southern Johnson County this will be a good time to share what has taken place and what still needs to be accomplished.

- Jean Coupal-Smith



Unveiling of the Penn Valley Park Marker & Wayside Exhibit.

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

Colorado-Cherokee Chapter member Lee Whiteley received The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution History Award and Medal "in recognition of contributions that significantly advance the understanding of our nation's past through the study and promotion of an aspect of American History." The award was presented to Lee in February at a meeting of the Society's Front Range Chapter in Thornton, Colorado.

The Colorado-Cherokee Chapter is planning a chapter meeting and event in June where Camille Bradford will provide us with a presentation on the famous photographer W.H. Jackson.

In addition, we are scheduling a Cherokee trail auto tour of Lafayette for late summer, but the date has not been confirmed.

Berl Meyer will host a one-day car tour of Fremont's travels in southern Colorado on July 8. The tour will begin in Pueblo, CO and head west looping through Westcliffe and concluding in Canon City.

Mark Voth will host a chapter meeting and historic tour of the Morrison CCC camp and Red Rocks amphitheater in October 2017. The tour will be presented by the Denver Mountain Parks.

Mappers Bruce Watson, Roger Hanson and Rich Deisch completed four Douglas County Townships on the Cherokee Trail and submitted to OCTA and National Park Service.

- Mark Voth

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Spring is here at last. The very rainy winter put a lot of pressure on the California and Nevada landscape as well as its people. We are hopeful there hasn't been any significant impacts to the trails, but common sense tells us we will see erosion, downed trees and weather effects on markers. We will have to get out and see what the wet and snowy weather has done to the trails, our markers and work sites. In addition, governmental agencies, utilities and land owners will be out in force repairing and clearing away sections for the next round of storms this year and the next. We need to be vigilant about looking and listening for projects that may affect the trails.

On the bright side, the chapter has moved steadily ahead with the Historic Fernley Swales marking project. A site has been identified and permission secured to place information panels on the location. The content of the panels were vetted by a committee as to the design and content. A vendor has the information and panels will be in production in time for the dedication. Local contacts are excited about the project and will be involved as the project moves forward. We have had great co-operation with the stakeholders and look forward to an energetic and fun dedication ceremony and clean up event at the Swales this fall.

Board and chapter members have been giving local presentations and attending conventions to promote OCTA and our chapter. We will continue looking for opportunities through the summer and into the fall.

We hope to see many CA-NV OCTA members at our spring symposium, April 28 - 30 2017, in Grass Valley and Nevada City.

Friday April 28, Board members meet with Chapter President Dick Waugh at Humpty Dumpty Restaurant, Grass Valley. Friday evening there will be a reception for all members in the Railroad Museum, Nevada City.

An all-day meeting will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Nevada City Elks Lodge on Route 49. There will be a general meeting from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by speakers on various subjects. Rick Lemyre will tell about the John Marsh House in Brentwood. Chris Enss, local comedian and writer of many books on western history is guaranteed to keep you awake and laughing after lunch. You will hear about Alonzo Delano who crossed the plains in 1849, and went on to write much about his travels, later becoming the Wells Fargo agent in Grass Valley where he lived the rest of his life. Chuck Simeca, retired State Park Ranger, will tell about the Henness Pass route from Marysville to the Nevada Mines.



Old Henness Pass Road

Sunday April 30, there will be a tour on what remains of the old Henness Pass route. The trip is limited to 10 vehicles and advance registration is required.

Also on Sunday, those not on Henness Pass will enjoy visiting the Empire Mine State Park and the North Star Mining Museum in Grass Valley, and the Firehouse Museum in Nevada City, which has many native American Nisenan artifacts, a Chinese altar from Grass Valley's Chinatown, and Donner party artifacts. For more information, visit the California-Nevada Chapter webpage at canvocta.org.

- Dick Waugh



CROSSROADS

While our usual outdoor activities came to halt with winter weather, we have, nevertheless, been busy with our “thinking caps.”

The Crossroads board and officers met in February to put together ideas for 2017 and 2018 activities. The first part of the meeting was an update with our partnerships in maintaining our sites and keeping a GIS database relating to our historic markers and their condition due to weathering and vandalism.

Other plans were discussed on how to involve members as well as the public. Discussions continued for field trips, work parties and speakers for our upcoming meetings.

It's time to start gearing up for the 2018 OCTA National Convention in Ogden, Utah. We discussed speakers and speaker subjects, field trips and how to make them relevant to speaker topics. Much conversation took place for two hours. Notes were taken and ideas exchanged. We still have time, but 18 months will go by fast. At this time, we want to recognize Gar Elison and Terry Welch for their hard work as they begin to structure the Ogden Convention. There has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work going on.

Attending were Jesse and Nancy Petersen, Linda Turner, Drew Wanosik, Terry Welch, Monty and Marsha Buckalew, Stu Pollock, Gar Elison, Sarah Rivera, and myself.

On other matters, our legendary Roy Tea sent a letter informing me of the passing of a Crossroads member, Doug Howard. To quote: “My good friend and *Amigo*,



A. Oscar Olson at Jefferson Hunt historical site along the SL-LA Road/Spanish Trail and 49ers Trail site.

Doug Howard, died on December 9, 2016. My association over the years has been a joy and pleasure. I got to know Doug when I asked for someone to help locate the property that we needed to place our rail post monuments. Doug and his wife volunteered and helped locate most of the land owners where we needed to put the posts. They did a marvelous service by supplying the names of owners whom we contacted so we could place the posts on their property. Crossroads members may not be aware of what Doug and his wife did for us. Doug, I don't know about others but I will miss our phone calls and the times we spent together painting and locating rail placements. We will surely meet again on the other side and have a joyous reunion. Until then, *adios Amigo.*

-- A. Oscar Olson.

NORTHWEST



Educator, author and naturalist Jack Nisbet delivers the keynote speech to a capacity audience at the Vancouver symposium co-sponsored by OCTA's Northwest Chapter and the Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation on April 1.

FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

Thank You!

Thanks to many donors who support OCTA's preservation work through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Recent gifts include:

Harry Abraham
Jim Allison
Merle Anderson
Jacqueline Ball
Jerry Bedell
Todd Berens
Gary & Nancy Bjorge
Carolyn Bowser
William & June Braden
Bonnie Breen-Wagner
John & Patty Brissenden
Glenn & Peggy Calhoun
Roseann Carpenter & Family
George Carruthers & Marilyn Gaddis
Don Clark
Arnold L Cole
Joan Conzatti
Robert & Karen Corder
Arthur & Nancy Costa
Robert R Coward
Linda & Herbert Crew
Heather & Ken Eagon
Charles Edwards
Richard Einspahr
Craig Fuller
Vern & Ilene Gorzitze
John P Graves
Tom Gray
Sharon Hanson
Jim Hardee
Theodore Heil
Scott Hendricks
Nancy Hevly
Charles Hibbard
Cheryl & Gil Hoffman
Julian Holt
Julia Ann Horton
Nancy Horton
Robert D Hovey
Robert A Iverson
Mary Kelley
John M Kissane
Jeff & Kathy Koester
Richard H Lachmann
Sue Linam
Charlotte Lorberbaum

Susan Loucks
Brenda Lozier
Hugh & Carol March
Don & Kay McCarter
Tom McCutcheon
Vernon A McDannald
Mary Jo Meyer
Walter H Meyer
Jennifer Miller
Dan Miller
Shirley Myers
NW Octa Chapter
Joe & Leta Neiderheiser
Virginia Nelson
David Newberry
Alma O'Hare
James Owens
Lethene Parks
Judson Parsons
Jerry & Sue Peppers
Henry Pittock
Thomas Richtsmeier
Charles Rossbach
John Schmale
Gene Serr
Donald L Siebert
Harry Smith
Gibbs M Smith
Malcolm E Smith
Marlene Smith-Baranzini
Dean Soenksen
Grayson Sorrels
Joseph Spivey
Gordon Tompkins
Pat Traffas
Linda Turner
Priscilla Vanderpas
Julie Martin Videon
Dick Waugh
Nelson S Weller
Gary Werner
Max Willard
Kirke & Anne Wilson
Robert Winchell
Dick & Joan Young



Welcome New Members

Kais Alkuraishi, Los Angeles CA
Daniel Bliss, Abbottstown PA
Christopher Chapman, Woodinville WA
Trevor & Kinsey Cox, Clay Center KS
Craig Davenport, Bend OR
Rosemary Devinney, Fort Hall ID
Paul Diehl, Northridge CA
Robert Easley, Jamestown CA
John Fisher, Juliaetta ID
Rick Frey, Loomis CA
Sharron Gregg, Independence MO
Bernadette Hammelman, Molalla OR
Melissa Monahan Jankovsky,
Glenwood Springs CO
Jane Knox, Storrs CT
Mary Kollmansperger, Richmond VA
Kevin Kucera, Plymouth IN
Rick Lemyre, Brentwood CA
Jack Long, Dallas OR
Doug Meyer, Crestwood MO
Linda Mitchell, Deltona FL
Kristin Wingo Parks, Beaverton OR
Chuck & Penny Raddon, Orofino ID
Steve Russell, Ames IA
Larry Swearingen, Fort Wayne IN
Carolyn Synovitz, Altus OK
R Gordon Tompkins, Sibley MO
Randall Trowbridge, Portland OR
Bill Winn, Denver CO

**Visit OCTA on the
Internet**

OCTA-trails.org

OCTA-Journals.org

Paper-Trail.org

And don't forget the

OCTA Bookstore:

OCTA-trails.org/store

OCTA Annual Financial Reports

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Operating Revenues		
National Park Service	\$ 162,032	\$ 167,746
Membership Dues	73,679	73,803
Convention and Symposium	96,719	80,697
Contributions	37,335	48,318
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	8,665	7,157
Other	8,716	6,444
Total Operating Revenues	<u>387,146</u>	<u>384,165</u>
Operating Expenses		
Board and Officers	10,159	12,056
Committees	30,899	44,493
Administration and Management	219,284	209,677
Publications	54,116	53,151
Convention and Symposium	70,359	60,978
Other	17,387	20,247
Total Operating Expenses	<u>402,204</u>	<u>400,602</u>
Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	<u>(15,058)</u>	<u>(16,437)</u>
Non Operating Income (Deductions)		
Endowment Fund Investment Income (Loss)	123,866	(26,567)
Film Amortization	(35,753)	(35,753)
Endowment Fund Contributions	3,790	2,445
Life Memberships	4,000	4,000
Total Non Operating Income (Deductions) Net	<u>95,903</u>	<u>(55,875)</u>
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	<u>\$ 80,845</u>	<u>\$ (72,312)</u>

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
General Operating Accounts	\$ 10,908	\$ 59,237
Restricted Accounts	10,623	9,124
Accounts Receivable	1,466	1,816
Inventory (at cost)	32,303	34,224
Investments (Endowment Funds)	1,359,280	1,246,183
Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization	143,013	178,766
Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation	185	1,304
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,557,778</u>	<u>\$ 1,530,654</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 30,094	\$ 78,616
Note Payable - Bank	8,400	13,000
Deferred Revenue	5,741	6,342
Total Liabilities	<u>44,235</u>	<u>97,958</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted:		
Designated by Governing Board	505,005	462,131
Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment	143,198	180,071
Undesignated	6,183	3,661
	<u>654,386</u>	<u>645,863</u>
Temporarily Restricted	386,823	327,174
Permanently Restricted	472,334	459,659
Total Net assets	<u>1,513,543</u>	<u>1,432,696</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,557,778</u>	<u>\$ 1,530,654</u>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 15 - Idaho Chapter Spring Byway Tour.

April 28-30 – CA-NV Chapter Spring Symposium, Grass Valley, CA.

May 6 - Idaho Chapter spring meeting, Burley, Idaho.

May 7-10 - International Trails Symposium, Dayton, Ohio

June 3-4 - California Trail Days, California Trail Interpretive Center, Elko NV

June 3 - National Trails Day

June 3 - National Trails Day Rendezvous, Lone Elm Park, Olathe, KS.

August 8-12 - OCTA National Convention, Council Bluffs, Iowa

OCTA Awards Deadline June 1

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2017 Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Awards for OCTA members include the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award and the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. Non-members are eligible for Distinguished Service Awards and Friend of the Trail Award.

Awards nomination forms can be found on the OCTA website by visiting octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Dick Nelson, Awards Committee Chair, at kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net or by mail to 11113 W. 132nd Pl., Overland Park, KS. 66213.

Shop Amazon, Save The Trails!



OCTA is now part of the Amazon Smile program and each purchase made through Amazon will result in a donation to OCTA's trails preservation efforts. Just bookmark smile.amazon.com. The first time you visit you will be asked to designate a charity.

Follow the instructions and find OCTA. Then, each time you shop on Amazon, enter the storefront through Smile and your purchases will result in a donation.

There is no additional cost. Amazon will track OCTA spending and cut a check for us on a quarterly basis. It's an easy way to shop and benefit trails preservation at the same time.

Business Sponsorships

For just \$50 a year, you can become an OCTA business sponsor, a great way to connect your business to tourists following the trails.

Business sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

Current business sponsors include:

Heritage Inn Express, 1155 Pony Express Hwy, Marysville, KS

Little Hap's Bar and Grill, 211 2nd St, Home, KS

Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, 2930 Old

Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE

Wagon Wheel Café, 703 Broadway, Marysville, KS

Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd, P O Box 96, Big Piney, WY

State Bank of Blue Rapids, PO Box 157, Blue

Rapids, KS

Low Printing, 227-B East College St-LL, Independence, MO

First Commerce Bank, 902 Broadway, Marysville, KS

Weaver Hotel, 126 S Kansas, Waterville, KS

Convention Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help with the 2018 OCTA Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Opportunities are available on the book room/exhibitors committee, raffle/auction committee, tours committee, and registration committee, but we also welcome volunteers who want to help in other specific areas.

If you're interested in helping with the raffle and/or auction, please contact Jean Coupal-Smith at jcs1fun1@kc.rr.com.

If you're interested book room/exhibitors or the registration committee, please contact Kathy Conway at kconway@indepmo.org.

Finally, if you're interested in the tours committee or any other area, please contact Travis Boley at tboley@indepmo.org.



PUBLICATIONS

We hope our members are reading all of the articles in both our publications. *News from the Plains* will keep our members informed of some of the national and state issues impacting the historic trails. Be sure to read the chapter news columns. It is good to keep up with all our members' efforts. We still encourage our members to go paperless and sign up with headquarters for the electronic edition of NFP. It will get to you faster and it is also in color. More timely issues are available through Executive Director Travis Boley's electronic communiques.

The *Overland Journal* was recently noted by the California State Library for its professionalism and work in the preservation of the history of the overland trails. It is a credit to Marlene and those who write the articles, and if we have the space it will be published in the OJ. If you have a particular passion for a special aspect of trail history, consider writing an article and submitting it to the OJ. Information about the submission guidelines is available on the website.

Expenditures for our publications for this year have been within our budget and guidelines. We continue to look for additional advertisers. We encourage those trail-related businesses to consider our publications as a perfect means to contact like-minded customers about their products. If you know of a business, please

help us and bring our publications to their attention. Of course, for those who plan on donating to OCTA, please consider having part of it earmarked for publications.

Our raffle and drawing for OCTA's educational activity books was held in February, and the teacher whose card was selected was Robert Pouch, who teaches 7th grade Humanities in Cascade Middle School in Vancouver, Washington. His students will now have the benefit of using *Here Comes the Pony!* We know they will benefit greatly through its use. The presentation of the books was done during the Vancouver symposium.

For our budding artists, our Western student calendar contest deadline is April 17. The contest is open to elementary school aged children. The theme for our 2018 calendar is "Emigrant and Indian Children's Musical Instruments." Judging of the submissions will take place in May and the students whose artwork is selected should be notified in June. The calendar will be available for purchase during the convention in Council Bluffs. If the elementary schools students in your community did not enter this year school please tell them of OCTA's student calendar project. It is a good way to combine history and art. The students whose artwork is used will be announced in the summer edition of *News from the Plains*. The topic for our next calendar contest will also be announced at that time. -- Bill Hill, OCTA Publications

Shhhh... Passwords

OCTA Website Passwords

OCTA-Journals.org:

No user name. Password: ezrameeker1852

Paper-Trail.org:

username/member, password/wagons

NFP Via E-Mail

Get *News From The Plains* in living color by having it delivered directly to your email box.

It is convenient for you and will help OCTA save thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs.

To sign up, just send an email to octa@indepmo.org.



JEDEDIAH SMITH SOCIETY

Summer 2017 Rendezvous

in cooperation with
Green River Rendezvous
Museum of the Mountain Man,
Pinedale, Wyoming

Thursday, July 6 to
Sunday, July 9, 2017

Displays, Rodeo, Presentations
See www.museumofthemountainman.com
for schedule.

Jedediah Smith Society meeting:

9:30 to 12:00 noon

Friday, July 7, 2017

A no host breakfast starts at 8:00 am.
Hampton Inn - Pinedale, WY

Jedediah Smith event coordinator: Jim Smith
jim@smithandmcgowan.com

See www.jedediahsmithsociety.org
for more information

REMEMBRANCES



Roy Tea, an OCTA member who achieved a nearly legendary reputation because of his work on historic trails in Utah, passed away in March at the age of 89.

He was considered OCTA's foremost authority on the Hastings Cutoff and the Bidwell/Bartleson Trails, not only

marking and locating historical emigrant trails across Utah, but also giving his time as a trail guide and author of many tour guides.

He was honored by OCTA with the Merrill Mattis Excellence in Writing Award for his work in the *Overland Journal* and also honored for his volunteer service. The Utah Historical Society honored him with an award for the preservation of the trails by marking and photographing.

He was also an active member of the Lincoln Highway Association.

Roy (LeRoy) David Tea was born on November 19, 1927 in Riverton, Utah to Charles Edward and Margaret Antonia Weenig Tea, the last of 13 children. After serving in the Army with occupation forces in Japan, he attended Brigham Young University, where he earned a degree in geology in 1952 and later a professional engineer's license. Roy was employed by the Utah Department of Transportation for 35 years as a surveyor and District Materials Engineer. He assisted in the survey location for Interstate 15 and Interstate 80.

When he retired he devoted his time to history. He is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters Tamara Elsberry, Tiffani Adamson (Chris), sons Ray (Nancy) and Darin (Ana), 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.



Wilma L. 'Billie' Johnson, a long-time OCTA member, passed away on March 26 in Bridgeport, NE, at the age of 91. Attending college at Cornell University, she met Art Johnson, a Bridgeport native. They celebrated 66 years of marriage before his passing in 2011.

After Art's discharge from the Navy, they made their home in Bridgeport, Art's hometown. Raising four children, tending to business responsibilities, volunteering in the community and participating in church activities filled their lives.

She was active in many elements of the Bridgeport community, including Cub Scouts, Campfire Girls, PTA, public library board, the Bridgeport Centennial

Committee and the Panhandle Tourism Board. She also taught swimming and lifesaving classes and directed the Red Cross swimming program for 20 years.

One of Billie and Art's interests for many years was membership in the Oregon-California Trails Association. They were familiar faces at OCTA conventions and visited points of interest along the trails from Nebraska to Oregon and California.

She is survived by her children James (Debby) Johnson of Casper, WY; Nancy Shaw (Gene Gatti) of Alliance, NE; Richard (Linda) Johnson of Hastings, NE; Thomas Johnson of Cheyenne, WY; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Leave a Legacy

for the trails through OCTA's
Trails Legacy Society.

Find out how easy it is.

Visit

[octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-
legacy-society](http://octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-legacy-society)

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Memorial and Tribute gifts are wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.

Leave your own legacy on behalf of those whose lives were marked by dedication to our Western heritage.

Visit

OCTA-trails.org/donate-online

Leaving A Legacy for the Trails: Elaine & Kendall McNabney

This is part of a regular series focusing on donors who have chosen to make legacy gifts to the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Elaine McNabney, a co-founder of OCTA, who established the first headquarters office for the organization in Independence in 1988, passed away in 2005 - but her infectious energy and dedication lives on, through the Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award, presented annually at OCTA's national convention.

Kendall McNabney - who happily became swept up in Elaine's enthusiasm for trail history and joined her at many OCTA conventions and events - has remained a steadfast and substantial supporter of the organization and its causes over the years.

"It was a very important part of our lives, honoring those people who were willing to take that life-changing trip to settle the West," Kendall comments. "We don't have a problem in this country putting up monuments and recognizing other leaders, but what those people did was of more lasting importance. I'm awestruck by how tough those pioneers were. They chose to do it. They were real heroes. They are our heritage."

Kendall last attended the OCTA convention in Lake Tahoe, where he enjoyed getting together with Bill Watson, another of our organization's heroes, who passed away in 2016.



Kendall is a retired surgeon and medical school instructor. He was a significant supporter of the *In Pursuit of a Dream* project a few years ago.

"I'm pleased to continue to support the important work OCTA does," he adds. "Elaine contributed in so many ways. She knew everybody. She got things done. It's important that we continue that tradition and preserve our trail history as best we can."

- John Krizek

FUNDRAISING

OCTA members already appreciate the importance of history and the early work of the pioneers. It took true grit and courage to head out onto the open trail in hopes of creating a new and better life out west.

If they had only known how hard it was going to be, many of them wouldn't have started at all! The hardships they endured were real and we're still thankful for their perseverance.

We work hard to identify and preserve the trails. We must continue to tell the stories of the 1850s and help people find their own strength and courage in the tales of their ancestors. I'm not sure if I found the trail, or if the trail found me. I was drawn to the trail, and my own family had hearty pioneer stock on many branches of our family tree. I found that I could become closer to those ancestors by researching their stories, their travels and walking in their footsteps. I could participate in the past.

Your efforts today keep OCTA strong, and enlighten a whole new generation to keep learning and understanding the ways of the past, and our progress toward the future. We

may call it planned giving, but what we really mean is planning on giving back. We can give in so many ways with OCTA, and we appreciate all that you do now and in the future. Through the Endowment Funds, we will continue to generate income to help grow and sustain the causes that matter most to us as an organization. You can participate in the long-range success of the trails and OCTA with just a little planned giving. The wagon train is heading west, and we want you to continue to grow with us.

- Melissa Shaw Jones, OCTA Fundraising Chair

**Visit the OCTA Bookstore
for new books and special
prices.**



**5% Discount for
OCTA members.**

**[www.octa-
trails.org/store](http://www.octa-trails.org/store)**

**Your best stop for
books and more!**

Mark Your Calendars!



2017 OCTA Convention

August 8-12



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
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

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