

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

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OCTA Board Protests Impacts of Northwest Power Line



National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow makes a presentation to the OCTA Board meeting in Denver.

By Bill Martin

NFP Editor

The National Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association has unanimously passed a resolution calling for changes to the Bureau of Land Management's draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Boardman-Hemingway power line.

The power line will be "an absolute disaster for the Oregon Trail," Board member and Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer Bill Symms told the Board at its Mid-Year meeting held at the historic Four Mile House in Denver in early March.

The 300-mile power line will impact about 270 miles of the Oregon Trail in Idaho and Oregon, National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow said in a report to the Board. Krakow called the project "incompatible with the purposes and nature of national historic trails."

The power line and its towers, ranging in height from 100 to 195 feet, will impact a number of key locations along the Trail. (See separate story on page 8.)

The resolution passed by the Board requests that routing for the power line be changed and that where avoidance is not possible, significant mitigation be required.

"The Board of Directors of OCTA opposes the 'preferred routings' as identified in supplemental maps to the draft EIS in the areas of ... emigrant trails class 1 through 3 and in the areas of undisturbed setting," the resolution stated.

In addition, the Board said that it "rejects the notion that it is permissible to degrade or destroy portions of the trails along the route under the assumption that much trail quality exists in other locations. This statement is not supportable by facts."

OCTA Headed To Iowa in 2017

The OCTA Board of Directors has approved Council Bluffs, Iowa as the site of the 2017 National Convention, departing from a long-standing policy that conventions be awarded only to Chapter hosts.

Association Manager Travis Boley noted that the convention site will allow access to a number of important trails sites, including the Western Historic Trails Center and Winter Quarters. Council Bluffs also was an important jumping off point for travel on the Mormon, California and Oregon Trails.

Dates for the convention are yet to be determined. The 2015 Convention is scheduled for Lake Tahoe in September and the 2016 Convention will be in Fort Hall, Idaho.

The decision to convene in Council Bluffs was made following a report from a special Convention Management Review Committee, which recommended that OCTA establish a national convention planning team chaired by the Association Manager.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



by John Krizek, OCTA President

This year's "Hike The Hill" event in Washington (February 7 – 11) was my first, and I came away with a number of impressions.

Number one, I couldn't help but be proud to represent the Oregon-California Trails Association. Over

the years of dealing with trail issues and the people we've had on the front lines of that cause, the reputation of OCTA is secure. To see Bill and Jean Watson honored by the whole trails community for their 30 years of work on this front, was truly uplifting.

The trust that develops among the partners in the trail "industry," and the agencies that are the custodians of the trails—the National Park Service, the BLM, the Forest Service, etc.—is palpable. We could not achieve the measure of success we've had over the years without those partners, and the leverage we collectively generate.

One cannot help but come away impressed by the sheer size and complexity of our government—and the effort it takes to get anything done. In a political environment where Congress and our government are besieged with wars, pestilence and various disasters, senators and congressmen still find time for their staffs

to sit down with we trail advocates, to listen to our concerns about saving history. To open the conversation with a chart showing how the value of all those volunteer hours and contributions by OCTA members dedicated to trail preservation far outweigh any federal outlays for the same purposes—sure helps lead to a positive discussion.

Of course, one of our agenda items was to seek sponsorship for a bill to study the feasibility of designating the Southern Trail as a National Historic Trail. That's been an agenda item for a few years, and we sure hope that effort pays off one of these days.

Another lesson is the value of maintaining contact with legislators back in their home districts—where issues affecting the trails, their value historically and as well as heritage tourism draws, is likely to get a little more attention. We live in a noisy and crowded world, where pressure on the trails from development and energy needs will only increase, and our determination and diligence—our voice raised on behalf of the trails—was never more important.

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Conventions

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It was noted at the Board's meeting in Denver that OCTA was not changing the policy that conventions be awarded to chapters, but was making an exception to open an area where conventions have not been previously held. There is no OCTA chapter in Iowa.

The Convention Management Review Committee also recommended several additional steps to improve attendance and financial results for OCTA's annual conventions.

The committee noted that convention attendance averaged 498 and income averaged \$32,871 between 1995 and 2004, but since 2005 the average attendance has been 338 and income has averaged \$25,811. Part of that is attributable to declining OCTA membership, which has decreased from 2,700 in 1999 to 1,400 in 2014.

Among its recommendations, the committee suggested that conventions be scheduled at locations that are most affordable – such as National Guard Armories, Trails Centers, museums, or civic centers.

In addition, it called for flexibility of convention times to allow for travel time on weekends and recommended that nationally sponsored symposiums should be revenue generating and held in conjunction with Mid-Year Board meetings.

Members of the study committee included Vern Osborne, chair; OCTA President John Krizek, OCTA Vice President John Winner, Association Manager Travis Boley, and OCTA members Jerry Eichorst, Jean Coupal-Smith, and Ross Marshall.

— Bill Martin

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OCTA Board

(continued from Page 1)

"The EIS does not propose any mitigation for adverse effects on historic trail resources though it does offer a mitigation plan for sage grouse," Krakow noted. "A key point to be made about the impacts is that sage grouse reproduce but once an Oregon Trail resource is compromised, it is forever gone."

In other action, the Board:

- Received the results of a financial review supervised by the OCTA Audit Committee (see story on page 11).
- Spent a full day reviewing and updating OCTA's Strategic Plan (see story on page 14).
- Approved a request from an ad hoc financial planning committee to develop a budget planning policy for consideration at the Board's September meeting.
- Recommended that the OCTA Publications Committee provide recommendations for cost reductions and revenue enhancements to be included in the 2016 budget.
- Approved new policy statements for the Investment Advisory Committee and the Collections & Library Committee. Both will be available on the OCTA website.
- Heard that OCTA's year-end fundraising appeal was one of its most successful ever, raising more than \$37,000 as of the end of February.
- Was told that the Partnership for the National Trails System, of which OCTA is a member, is increasing OCTA's annual dues from \$1,400 to \$2,200. The increase will be considered during the 2016 budgeting process.
- Heard a report from the Tribal Liaison Committee that while there is action on many fronts, tribal listening sessions will not resume until the National Park Service replaces tribal program coordinator Otis Halfmoon, who retired.
- Heard a report from the Mapping & Marking Committee that chapter-level efforts to mark historic trails are underway in many areas, utilizing OCTA's MET manual.
- Adopted list of recommended actions from an ad hoc financial study committee as a template for developing the 2016 budget.
- Was told by OCTA Treasurer Marvin Burke that the first quarter of the 2015 fiscal year (October 1-December 31) showed an excess of revenues over expenses of \$3,394.

Financial Planners

Recommend Budget Changes

A special Financial Planning Task Force has recommended a wide range of steps to help address OCTA's financial position, which has been hit by deficit spending and lagging membership revenues.

The task force, created by OCTA President John Krizek, was chaired by Dave Welch and included Bob Schwartz, Camille Bradford, Charles Martin, Jim Budde, Bill Martin, John Winner, Marvin Burke, Gail Carbiener and Melissa Shaw Jones.

The task force report was delivered to the OCTA Board of Directors at its Mid-Year meeting in Denver. Recommendations are intended for use in developing the next budget for the next fiscal year starting October 1.

The report noted that in the period 2010 through 2014, expenses exceeded revenues by a total of \$112,448 before draws on OCTA Endowment Fund income, which reduced the deficit to \$47,448. More than 80 percent of the draws were for special projects approved by the Board. None of the draws were from endowment principal, but only taken from interest earnings, which are at the Board's discretion. However, these draws are "unsustainable," the report stated.

(Grants from the National Park Service, which accounted for more than half of OCTA revenues in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, were not included since revenues and NPS-funded expenses match, having a net zero budget impact.)

The task force noted that administration, including headquarters operations, accounted for 49.8 percent of all expenses. Administrative costs include telephone, rent, Internet service, utilities, paper and other expenses. Publications, including the Overland Journal and News From The Plains, accounted for 28.9 percent.

Comparing the 2001 and 2014 budget years, gross revenues decreased from \$159,058 in 2001 to \$149,257 in 2014; operating expenses were \$155,240 in 2001 and \$188,938 in 2014.

"The fundamental problem is that we have attempted to maintain (or even expand) programs at levels that were supportable with 2,300 members but are not supportable with 1,400 members," the report said.

Among the recommendations:

- Require a balanced budget with endowment draws only as a last resort
- Increase membership dues revenues
- Improve convention financial management

OCTA Endowment Funds

Show Growth

OCTA's three endowment funds totaled \$1,297,308 as of December 31, 2014, an increase of almost \$57,000 over the previous year, according to a report by the Investment Advisory Committee.

The funds include the Martin Fund, restricted to legal expenses, \$365,300; the Loomis Fund, designation for preservation uses, \$267,322; and the undesignated Heritage Fund, \$665,686.

The IAC report showed endowment fund contributions of \$9,365 (all to the Heritage Fund) during 2014 and withdrawals from earnings of \$24,790, including \$2,790 from the Loomis Fund and \$22,000 from the Heritage Fund.

The IAC has been studying endowment fund management options and expects to have a report for the next Board meeting in September. Presently funds are managed by the Greater Kansas City Community Fund.

The IAC also provided a recommended committee job description, which was approved by the Board and will be posted on the OCTA website (octa-trails.org).

Highlights of the committee description:

- Develop and periodically review an investment policy statement
- Monitor the performance of endowment funds investments
- Coordinate with the Treasurer on endowment fund additions and use of income.
- Make recommendations concerning the allocation of investments
- Conduct periodic reviews of investment services
- Membership of the IAC will include the OCTA Treasurer and up to five additional members appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

Current Investment Advisory Committee members include Dave Welch, Chair; Camille Bradford; Chuck Martin; Jim Budde; Bob Schwartz; Marvin Burke, OCTA Treasurer.

- Bill Martin

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- Increase advertising in OCTA publications
 - Place a staff emphasis on fundraising and financial management

PRESERVATION

By Jere Krakow

OCTA Preservation Officer

From the time of its founding more than three decades ago, preservation of the overland trails has been an important part of OCTA's purpose. Today, the model for trail preservation has shifted from the national to the chapter and local level. Chapter Preservation Officers and chapter members are often in the position of being the first to learn about potential threats to trail resources. This year is no different. Threats range from mining and mineral development to energy and housing subdivision development.

Current examples include wind energy projects and related power lines in the Pacific Northwest; mining and mineral development in Nevada and Utah; oil and gas energy undertakings in Wyoming; pipelines in Wyoming and Idaho; and irrigation reservoirs and power line re-routing in Nebraska. There is no lack of ongoing threats to trail resources. It has always been and always will be that way.

Very recently the denial of a permit in Utah by the BLM for exploration related to potash mining has resurfaced. The Canadian company has declared its intent to challenge the denial of the permit. In a published statement, the CEO frames the project as of little consequence for threats to trail resources and provides jobs in the region. A "breaking" new project is the Department of Defense plan to expand the Utah Test and Training Range in Utah and eastern Nevada, which has the support of the entire Utah congressional delegation. The 600,000 acre expansion could significantly impact the Hastings Cutoff. The Utah Crossroads Chapter of OCTA is urging protection of the trail resources and making the public aware of consequences of mining and Training Range Activities. The chapter is very mindful of the importance of trail resources to present and future generations of Americans.

In Oregon much initiative has been taken by the Northwest Chapter and the Preservation Officer to give input into the potential impact of wind energy development and related power line location. Chapter members have been very vigilant and active in providing comment and expressing concern about the probable impacts.

Power line and pipeline routing and relocation in Idaho and especially Wyoming, continue to be monitored and commented on by a cadre of chapter

members and Preservation Officers of the chapters. Their familiarity with trail routes and resources along them gives a significant assist to OCTA in seeking protection of the resources including the settings of the trail routes. There are meetings and conference calls every month about projects along the historic trails.

In the Platte Valley of Nebraska the threat to trail resources is woven around the precious resource of water for agricultural purposes and for wildlife, particularly migrating flocks of geese and sandhill cranes. A proposal to create reservoirs that would impact routes on the south side of the Platte west of Kearney, including the trail resources and sites related to raids culminating with the Plum Creek events, are at extreme risk. The resource district has been working diligently to acquire land and developing preliminary design for reservoirs. Since federal dollars are involved, the public and OCTA will have input into the project. This development illustrates the importance of finding out early from OCTA chapter members the potential threats and the project timetable in order to make a difference.

Further west in the North Platte River valley a proposed re-routing of a utility line has the potential to impact trail resources. OCTA chapter members continue to monitor the proposed alignments of the line.

Though there are other ongoing developments with potential to nibble away at or gobble up trail resources, those noted above give examples of threats to trail resources and give extra meaning to OCTA's Statement of Purpose and a key emphasis on **preservation**. We all need to be ever vigilant in monitoring trail resources and should risks occur, convey that information to the chapter Preservation Officers.



Four Candidates for OCTA National Board of Directors

Four candidates have stepped forward for election to the OCTA National Board of Directors. They are Duane Iles of Holton, Kansas; Matt Mallinson of Sugar Creek, Missouri; Vern Osborne of Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Loren Pospisil of Gering, Nebraska.

Osborne and Pospisil are seeking their second three-year terms on the Board. Doug Jensen of Idaho Falls, Idaho is completing his second term and is not eligible to run again. Brian Larson of Paradise, California, elected not to run for a second term.

A ballot is enclosed with this issue of *News From The Plains* and should be returned by June 15. Four candidates will be elected.



Duane Iles (*Endorsed by Reg Duffin, Marvin Burke and Marley Shurtleff.*)

Duane retired in 2006 after owning and operating a pharmacy for 25 years. He also retired as a U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel after serving 28 years in various capacities. He now devotes his time to his love of Western history and

trails. In 1993, he was part of the group that formed a trust to purchase Alcove Spring to preserve it and make it available to visitors. He was one of the founders of the KANZA chapter of OCTA. He previously served three years a director, followed by two years as OCTA Vice President, two years as President, and is completing a two-year term as Past President. He has chaired the OCTA Membership Committee for a number of years. He is also chair of OCTA's Tribal Liaison Committee. He was the 2014 recipient of the Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award.



Matt Mallinson (*Endorsed by John Krizek, Ross Marshall and Dick Nelson.*)

Matt Mallinson's family has been in the Sugar Creek area since the 1850s. He and his wife owned their own neighborhood pharmacy for 27 years and he was a national leader in the pharmacy industry. He currently serves as Mayor of Sugar Creek and on the Independence School Board. He has helped install trail

markers through his entire town, with several trail heads included. He has worked tirelessly to resurrect national awareness to Wayne City Landing, the main stopping point west from St. Louis until approximately 1851. He is co-chair of OCTA's new Education Outreach Committee

and has worked to alter the local school district curriculum to include local history.



Vern Osborne (*Endorsed by John Winner, Bernie Rhoades and Jere Krakow.*)

Vern Osborne is a graduate of Kansas State University in Civil Engineering. He worked on the Eldorado National Forest where he was exposed to the California Trail between Hope Valley and Pleasant Valley and on into Placerville. While on the Eldorado, he was in charge of laying out a section of the

Pacific Crest Trail between Blue Lakes and Highway 88. Vern has been a member of OCTA since 1984. He is a charter member of the KANZA chapter and its first president. He helped with trail location and mapping and served as chairman of the 2003 OCTA convention held in Manhattan, Kansas. He is a member of five other OCTA chapters and served on the OCTA Legislative Committee and has participated in "Hike the Hill" in Washington, D.C. In 1997 he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives and served four terms.



Loren Pospisil (*Endorsed by Beryl Meyer, Doug Jensen and Camille Bradford.*)

Loren was born and raised in South Dakota. He majored in history and received a degree in Education at Dakota State College. He has worked in libraries, parks or museums

since 1977. In 1986 he came to his senses and moved to Nebraska. He is the Site Supervisor at Chimney Rock with the Nebraska State Historical Society, a position he had held since the center's opening in 1994. In OCTA he has been the Nebraska Chapter President and co-chaired the 2007 OCTA Convention in Gering-Scottsbluff. He has been collecting trail documents and now has over 3,000. He would like to see OCTA take the COED project to the next level and make trail documents available on our Web site. What he likes best about the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails are the stories of the people involved. He says few other historical subjects are so heavily based upon participants' experiences. Also, few other subjects are so inclusive of the stories of women and children as well. Outside of work, some of his favorite things are classical music, single malt scotch, feeding birds, and he has a love-hate relationship with yard work.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER

By Travis Boley
Association Manager



We are excited to report lots of new developments from OCTA HQ!

Interactive Maps

First and foremost, the National Park Service has completed interactive maps for the Oregon and California National Historic Trails (among others). The maps are being integrated into our

OCTA-Trails.org website and should be available by the time this issue hits your mailbox. You can zoom in on any point on the map and in most cases find a street address, a website, a photograph and access information. As you work through the map, make note of the sites that do not have all of this information and send them to us so we can incorporate it into the website. For example, many sites do not yet have a photograph. If you have a high-resolution image of a particular site that does not have a photograph, please pass it along and we will include it. Also, if you know of sites that are not listed at all, please send that information to us as well and we will work with our National Park Service partners to add them.

OCTA-Journals.org

Last summer, OCTA intern Kelsy Sackrey scanned numerous diaries, journals, reminiscences and other 19th century primary source materials that were part of our Merrill Mattes collection at the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence. In a typical year, perhaps five to ten individuals came in to use these collections. However, many of these documents are now available on a new website recently launched by OCTA, www.octa-journals.org. The entire collection is keyword searchable, and you can also click the "Merrill J. Mattes Collection" icon to see the entire collection as a list. Simply click on the diary you want to read and a PDF will open.

OCTA in the Classroom

This spring, the Independence (MO) School District reinvented its 8th grade curriculum for social studies based on the availability of these collections. All 850 students in the district will create an original research project based on these primary resource materials. With the addition of this new website, OCTA has greatly increased the use of the Mattes collection. The Cave Spring Association in Raytown, Missouri also provided dozens of journals more focused on Independence and

Jackson County and we have incorporated those into the website as well. We envision a website that continues to grow with new content, reaching new audiences the world over. We also strongly feel that the pilot program we have just launched in Independence can be easily replicated in school districts all over America.

Overland Journal

The new website has another exciting facet: PDF copies of every single issue of the *Overland Journal*, from 1983 to the present, are available free for OCTA members. (Simply contact us so we can verify that you are a member and we will provide a password. Please do not share your password, as we envision this section of the website as an opportunity for revenue and membership growth.) Though the content of the *Overland Journal* will be keyword searchable in any search engine, access to the actual articles will be restricted to those who have the proper access. We will offer pay-for-access for individual journals, but will also heavily promote the fact that a membership in OCTA gives you free access to over three decades worth of articles. Each of these projects were completed with funding from our primary federal partner, the National Park Service. It is great working in partnership and hearty thanks are certainly due!

New Members

Finally, OCTA HQ is excited to report on two new and exceedingly enthusiastic members that we cultivated and recruited over the course of many, many months. Sugar Creek (MO) Mayor Matt Mallinson and Audrey Elder, owner of Past to Present Research and a realtor who specializes in historic homes, are now heading up a new Education Outreach committee. (See story on page 13.) One area they are focusing on is working with Boy Scouts of America to ensure that historic trails projects are available nationwide. Our trails are a perfect fit for the Scouts' Historic Trails award, the archaeology and geocaching merit badges, and innumerable Eagle Scout projects.

Please help us spread the word on all of these new tools we now have at our disposal. The combination of these projects (and others) will help us as we grow, recruit new members and advocates, and find new streams of revenue.

Power Line Threatens Oregon Trail in Northwest

By Gail Carbiener

We have seen this before: a threat to the Trail. All threats are bad, but the proposed Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) power line blankets the Oregon Trail from the Snake River in Idaho to the Columbia River in Oregon, over 300 miles. This is a massive project with construction lasting over three years, starting at both ends and working all year.

An application headed by the Idaho Power Company with help from Bonneville Power Administration and PacifiCorp, is now pending with the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District Office in Eastern Oregon. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued in December, 2014, with public comment due March 19. Several OCTA representatives submitted comments. A final EIS is due in early 2016.

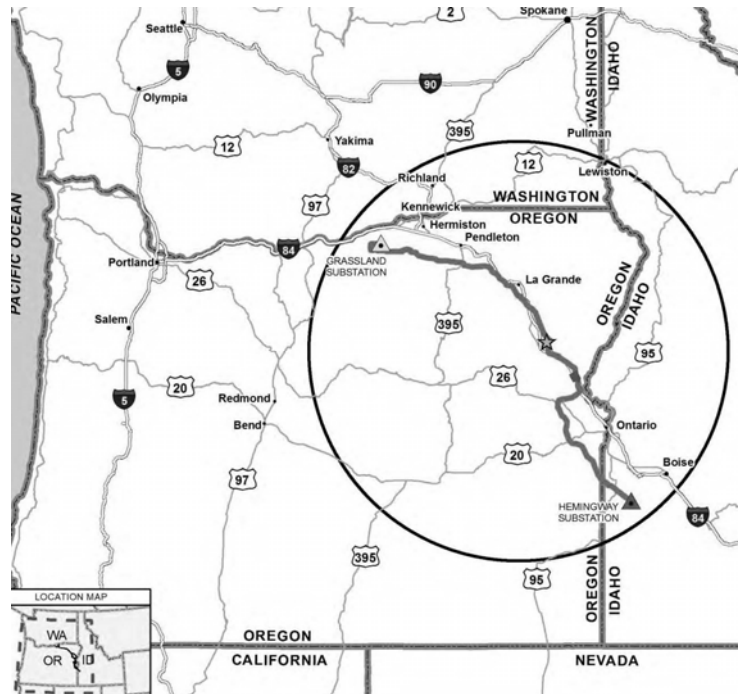
Can we stop it? Maybe. Can we influence parts of it? Certainly. You can see maps, routes and all the details here: www.boardmantohemingway.com/documents.aspx

Perhaps the most significant damage will be the views from the Flagstaff Hill Interpretive Center near Baker City. 200-foot towers will be right in front of the viewing window and even closer when you walk the path down to the swales.

Other Oregon Trail sites damaged will be Wells Spring, Echo Meadows, Blue Mountain Crossing, Hilgard Junction, Farewell Bend, Birch Creek, Tub Mountain and Alkali Springs.

The BLM has stated this: "The magnitude of the miles of the Oregon NHT that would be visible within the foreground of the Proposed Action and the alternatives would range from negligible to moderate (up to 80 percent). The Proposed Action and alternatives would have direct, long-term adverse impacts to the visual setting with the foreground of the Oregon NHT. From the middle ground of the Trail (0.5 miles to 5 miles), the Proposed Action, and alternatives would be visible greater than 80 percent within the portion of the Oregon NHT within the analysis areas of the respective alternatives. The Proposed Action and alternatives would dominate the landscape in the foreground of the trail and create strong visual contrast as compared to other features in the existing landscape."

As described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; "The B2H Project is neither required to support any particular new power generation project nor justified by any particular existing power generation project. Rather, the B2H Project would meet Idaho



Power's obligations to meet Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Oregon Public Utility Commission, and the Idaho Public Utility Commission requirements." Isn't this amazing? The project will cost about \$1 billion!

Even more disturbing is this comment in the EIS; "The influence of the alternatives under consideration would have minimal impact when compared to the qualities of the entire 2,170-mile long congressionally designated trail, the 529.2 miles of trail in Idaho, or the 519.5 miles of trail in Oregon."

This statement seems to imply that losing "just a little bit" of the Trail is acceptable. The power line crosses the Trail 11 times, with its 250-foot wide clearing.

Sage Grouse reproduce, even trees regrow, but the Trail once gone never comes back.

On March 14, the Northwest Chapter Board passed a resolution calling on the Bureau of Land Management to protect critical trail resources. The resolution also called on the BLM to eliminate the comment about the project having minimal impact compared to total trails resources. It urged the BLM to consider alternative routes that eliminate multiple crossings of the Oregon Trail.

Progress Made Against Utah Air Force Expansion Plans

Quick work and attention to detail by the Utah Crossroads Chapter has helped slow an effort by the U.S. Air Force to expand a training range to lands that include the historic Hastings Cutoff on the California Trail, as well the Pony Express and Central Overland Stage routes.

Last fall, Utah trails, agriculture and recreation interests learned that Utah Senator Orrin Hatch had submitted an amendment to a Department of Defense bill that would give the Air Force control over an additional 600,000 acres of public lands in Utah for its Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR).

The result could have been to restrict access to National Historic Trails in the area.

After concerns were expressed by the Crossroads chapter and others, Sen. Hatch withdrew his amendment, which was a victory for historic trails preservationists. The Chapter has received word that a revised amendment will retain control and management by the Bureau of Land Management, which the chapter prefers.

"OCTA members have led a strong and ongoing

response to stop the amendment or change the language in the bill to reflect protecting key landscapes and settings, plus outdoor recreation opportunities and events by trail enthusiasts," said OCTA National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow.

Sen. Hatch and the Air Force appear to be responsive to the historic trails community for insuring access, scheduled events, and key sites and segments of the Hastings Cutoff, the Pony Express Trail, and in raising awareness of the complex of historic trails in that part of Utah, Krakow said.

Crossroads members active in fighting the issue include T. Michael Smith, Linda Turner, Gar Elison, Terry Welch, Chuck Millikan, Jess Petersem and Roy Tea, with help from Pat Hearty of the National Pony Express Association and Steve Erickson of the Great Basin Water Network.

The UTTR is just one of several threats to the trails in Utah. The Chapter is also monitoring the proposed Canadian Mesa Bounty Potash mine and the Yaryca master planned community that would impact trails in Morgan County east of Salt Lake City.

Education Awards Planning Underway

The process for selecting OCTA's Outstanding Educator Award recipients has begun. Letters and announcements were mailed last fall to schools, universities, and parks & museums. The necessary forms for **Outstanding Educator Award** are also permanently located and available on OCTA's web site under the **Learn** and then **Opportunities**. We are again looking forward to some very good candidates. Applications were due at the end of March. The selection committee will review the forms and make their selection by the beginning of June. Their announcement will be made in early summer with the presentations of the award made during the Lake Tahoe convention.

For our budding artists, our student calendar contest deadline was April 15th. It is open to primary school-aged children. The theme for our 2016 calendar is "Emigrant and Indian Children's Games and Toys." Information and guidelines for the **Western Calendar** contest is also available on OCTA's website under the **Learn** and then **Opportunities** section. Notices were mailed to various school districts last fall. Students, with their

teachers' guidance, are encouraged to research the theme or topic and then submit artwork depicting it. Individual students may also participate even if their school or class does not.

In May, twelve to fourteen drawings depicting the children's games and toys will be selected, and each individual student whose work is chosen will be notified. Each student whose entry is selected will receive a check for \$50 and a copy of the calendar. The calendar will be printed and should be ready this summer before the convention at Lake Tahoe. Each year the contest has drawn more attention and participation. Encourage your child or grandchild to participate either through their school or on their own. Tell your local school about the project. This is a great way for students to learn about the west and selected aspects of different cultures. The calendar is sure to be another interesting one! We will announce the student winners in a later *News from the Plains* and also the topic for next year's contest. The calendars will be available for purchase through the OCTA store at headquarters and during the convention.

-- Bill Hill

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

OCTA Leaders “Hike The Hill”

By Jere Krakow

National Preservation Officer

In early February, the annual Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) meeting was held in Washington, D.C., followed immediately by “Hike the Hill,” an opportunity to promote trails issues with members of Congress and their staffs.

The PNTS is the advocacy group for about 30 national trails, both historic and scenic, and has successfully championed congressional support, as well as representing the trails among federal agencies who handle trails issues.

As OCTA's official representative, I attended the PNTS Policy Committee and Leadership Council meetings. Several speakers updated us about numerous programs that support conservation across the nation, in particular the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA). We also heard reports from several government agencies that administer and manage national historic and scenic trails. Trail land protection strategies composed a key session as did the PNTS policy regarding development issues, including the setting of the trails. Youth programs are now underway along many of the national historic and scenic trails. New approaches and activities are being used in several instances. Expansion of such programs was strongly encouraged.

A key part of the activities in Washington was the annual “Hike the Hill” carried out by approximately 60 individuals representing PNTS organizations. Dozens of Congressional officers heard that trail volunteers donated 1,054,022 hours valued at \$23,768,196, plus private contributions of \$12,116,029. OCTA's commitment was 100,379 volunteer hours valued at \$2,263,546 and private contributions of \$686,060. The volunteer support is in addition to funding provided by the federal government to trails preservation and activities.

OCTA representatives called on over 30 offices and met with members of Congress or staff to express thanks for past support of the National Trails System and urge ongoing support. We recommended re-authorization of the LWCF program and the FLTFA program, and continued to seek a sponsor for a Feasibility-Suitability Study of the Southern Trails.

Our nonpartisan effort showed the ongoing work of OCTA and our cooperative partnering with private

Continued on page 26



National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow presents a bouquet of flowers to Jeanne and Bill Watson to commemorate their 30 years of service to OCTA on Capitol Hill.

Trails Advocacy Week

By Bill & Jeanne Watson

Legislative Liaison Chairs

Trails Advocacy Week 2015 ended our 30 interesting, challenging and rewarding years representing OCTA and our trails before Congress. Four times we were invited and testified before House and Senate Subcommittees to support authorizing the California & Pony Express National Historic Trails and to support the Four Trails Additional Routes Study Authorization. Another time, we helped defuse an energy industry protest against more trails in Wyoming. Long term actions by our Preservation Officer and the Wyoming chapter made it a successful venture.

We were very well received on Capitol Hill by House and Senate staff members, who were delighted to hear that OCTA contributed over 100,000 Volunteer Hours in 2014 plus financial contributions that Congress values at \$2.7 million. Many thanks to all OCTA members and Chapters with Volunteer Hours Coordinators who reported. These results allowed OCTA Partnership representative Jere Krakow to request increased Fiscal Year 2016 funding for our

Continued on page 26

Awards Nominations Due June 1

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2015 Convention in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

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 www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Dick Nelson, Awards Committee Chair, at kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net

OCTA Financial Review Completed

An independent financial review of OCTA procedures and financial statements has identified no major issues but some areas for operational improvements.

The review was conducted by Darin Crull, CPA, with the Kansas City firm of Emerick & Company. The work was supervised by the OCTA Audit Committee, consisting of Bill Martin as chair, Jean Coupal-Smith, Barbara Netherland and Don Hartley.

The results of the review were delivered to the OCTA Board of Directors at its Mid-Year meeting in Denver in March.

The accountant reviewed OCTA financial statements, as well as an Internal Control Checklist that had been prepared by the Audit Committee and completed by headquarters staff.

Areas reviewed and examined dealt with the handling of mail, checks, deposits, chapter financial reports, credit cards and endowments.

The financial review was not an official audit, which would have required the CPA firm to express an opinion on accounting records but would have been considerably more expensive to prepare.

OCTA Hall of Fame

The ballot for the inaugural OCTA Hall of Fame that was included in the *Winter News From The Plains* should be returned to headquarters by July 1. If you no longer have your ballot, you can simply write the names of your choices on a paper (a simple yes or no vote is required. There is no limit on the number of candidates for which you can vote) and submit it when you return your Board election ballot enclosed with this issue. The results will be announced at the September convention.

The five candidates who have been nominated are Howard Driggs, noted western historian and author and former president of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association; Greg Franzwa, the founder of OCTA and a noted author and scholar; William Henry Jackson, a prolific artist and photographer whose work exposed the American West to the United States; Merrill Mattes, the preeminent overland scholar and author of *Platte River Road Narratives*; and Ezra Meeker, an Oregon Trail pioneer of 1852 and founder of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association.

OCTA's Hall of Fame Committee is chaired by Roger Blair. Other members are Dave Welch and Bill Martin. All are former OCTA Presidents. When you submit your ballot, the committee will be grateful for the names of others you think should be considered for the Hall of Fame.

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

Or our new Journals site: octa-journals.org

Education Outreach Committee Reorganizes

Editor's note: The OCTA Education Publications Committee has been reorganized with expanded responsibilities as the Education Outreach Committee. The Education Publications Committee was formerly chaired by Bill Hill, who is now chair of the OCTA Publications Committee.

Audrey Elder of Sibley Missouri, and Matt Mallinson of Sugar Creek Missouri, have been appointed and accepted the positions of Co-Chairs of OCTA's Education Outreach Committee.



Audrey Elder is President and CEO of Past to Present Research Company, LLC. She is a realtor specializing in historical properties, ranging from the Mid Century Modern era to the era of Antebellum. Audrey has authored many research books on historic homes and is a locally well-

known historic blogger. Audrey lives just a few miles from Fort Osage.



Matt Mallinson is a pharmacist by profession and owned his own neighborhood pharmacy for 27 years. He is an elected member of the Independence Missouri School Board and the Mayor of Sugar Creek, where Wayne City Landing is located. As Mayor he has worked to get signage and trails head monuments placed through his entire city

and beyond. Matt's son, Danny, was the recipient of the Young OCTA Award at the Kearney convention (see story on page 13).

Audrey and Matt are primarily focusing on Boy Scouts of America's Eagle Scout involvement, educational curriculum changes in schools nationwide to include local history, and increasing OCTA membership.

Boy Scout Involvement: A web page/link should be set up to allow OCTA chapters to submit Eagle Scout worthy projects. These will follow the Scouting guidelines and must be approved as a worthy Eagle Scout project. The Eagle Scout candidates will be able

to access the site and search for a project that would be appropriate for them and their troop to sponsor. Each Scout is responsible for organizing the project and obtaining the needed materials. Remember, every Scout, leader and family member involved is a potential member. We will recommend that each OCTA chapter has an appointed representative to help us obtain local growth.

School District Involvement: A turnkey system needs to be constructed. This would include video instructions as well as written materials. Audrey has put together a successful program for the Independence School District that could be used as a template. One month of the 8th grade history class is dedicated to local history. Students are being assigned a journal of a person that was on the trail. They study and follow this person from wherever their westward journey begins to wherever it ends. The students are taught how to journal in two ways, one for self help and one for future generations to use. Just as with the Scouts, each one of these students, teachers and family members are potential members.

Membership: An organization needs to make itself self sustainable. OCTA, like a wagon train, needs to be always looking for new members to join them with the same goals and directions in mind. Education Outreach programs can be coupled with the membership team to help make OCTA a continuously growing organization. More awareness of a worthy program creates more membership which brings more awareness, thus even more membership. We believe that if the two programs are implemented, OCTA is poised for greater awareness and therefore more membership.

Many future projects are possible to be created from the implementation of these two exciting programs. Integrating more projects and education into today's youth will create awareness and membership for the future of OCTA.

-Audrey Elder and Matt Mallinson

Education Outreach Targets Boy Scouts

By John Krizek
OCTA President

Expanding opportunities and working relationships with the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups will be a major goal of OCTA's new Education Outreach Committee.

Chairman Matt Mallinson and co-chair Audrey Elder will be coordinating the new initiative, working to match chapters and trail projects with local scouts looking to achieve merit badge, Eagle Scout, or Historic Trail badge recognition.

"Working with scouts to help them achieve their goals as well as ours is a tremendous opportunity for OCTA," explains Mallinson. "Remember every scout leader, family member and friends are potential members."

The Idaho Chapter has worked with Boy Scouts for a number of years, according to chapter president Jerry Eichhorst.

"Typically we are involved in an Eagle Scout project, or for a young man to achieve the Historic Trails badge," Eichhorst said. "Projects have included setting concrete posts along the main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway, setting carsonites in eastern Idaho, replacing an interpretive sign near Vale, Oregon, and straightening concrete posts which were leaning badly."

"We have worked with troops from Boise, Nampa, Mountain Home, and Idaho Falls. In all cases, the young men, and an occasional girl, have been good workers and enjoyable to share the history of the trail with. It was often fun just to watch three or four young men struggle to carry a concrete post across the desert which was as heavy as any one of them."

Duane Iles, OCTA Past President, also reports having worked with scout groups on projects at Alcove Spring in Kansas. There may be other instances of OCTA chapters working with the Scouts.

The Scout's Historic Trails Award is intended "to foster appreciation of the ideals, principles and traditions that have helped make our country strong," according to Scout requirements. "It also connects Scouts with a local historical society or association, pointing them toward further exploration of history."

"That sounds like it was designed with us in mind," adds Mallinson. The Committee will be developing a web site and providing further details on the Boy Scout initiative.

Oversight of the new education curriculum project, whereby the school district in Independence is incorporating Merrill Mattes collection material into the 8th grade history curriculum, will also be a responsibility of the Education Outreach Committee.



Danny Mallinson, winner of the Young OCTAn Award, with his Eagle Scout project, the marker in Sugar Creek, on the trail from the Missouri River landing to Independence.

OCTA Updating Strategic Plan

Preserving the historic overland trails and their stories and responding to threats to the trails were the focus of a day-long strategic planning session held by the OCTA Board of Directors, Chapter representatives and Committee leaders.

The session was held the day before the Board's Mid-Year meeting in Denver the first week of March. The



planning was led by Gretchen Ward, Lead Planner for the National Park Service Long Distance Trails office in Santa Fe.

The focus was updating a strategic plan that was last revised in 2010 and included four goals:

- Preserve the historic emigrant trails
- Be an effective historic trails organization through appropriate partnerships
- Improve organizational and management effectiveness
- Keep OCTA's membership energized

The group added a fifth primary goal for the organization: "Preserve the stories of the trails."

Ward collected the input from the planning session and will re-draft the OCTA Strategic Plan for consideration by the Board at its September meeting.

Correction

A story in the Winter issue of *News From The Plains* about the passing of Janie Rhoades, the wife of former OCTA Secretary Bernie Rhoades, incorrectly stated that she died in Oregon. She passed away at the couple's long-time home in Edgewood, Washington. NFP regrets the error.

OCTA Headquarters Report

By Kathy Conway

Headquarters Manager

Many thanks to our headquarters volunteers, including accounting consultant Turner Rivenbark, membership chair Duane Iles, and local volunteers Virginia and John Poe and Jean Coupal-Smith.

Through the first of March, the year-end fundraising letter had netted \$37,034, with \$27,050 designated for the general fund, \$500 for education, \$735 for the endowments, \$3,450 for preservation and \$5,300 restricted for special uses.

Since October 1, the OCTA Bookstore recorded \$4,890 in sales, with the *In Pursuit of a Dream* video being our best seller.

In that same period, Headquarters has processed 622 national membership dues (including 48 new members) and 550 chapter memberships, representing \$46,000 in revenues.

Remember OCTA in Your Estate Plan

During our lifetimes we find many causes to support with our dollars and our time. When we leave this good earth, we hope that we have left enough footprints for others to follow. One way to do this is to include OCTA in your estate plan with a specific gift, or as the beneficiary of an old life insurance policy, or even an Individual Retirement Account.

Your intent to leave footprints for others to follow can be backed up with dollars or appreciated gifts. What is an appreciated gift you ask? It's a chance to gift a stock or an asset that has built up a substantial gain in it. When you gift it to a qualified charity, you get the whole deduction, and the charity receives the whole gift. It can be a win-win for both groups. Just keep OCTA in mind when you do your planning. We'll even give you a map to show you how!

The opportunity to leave a legacy on the trails we love is why OCTA established the "**Trails Legacy Society.**" The Legacy Society is designed to encourage supporters and donors to leave a bequest to OCTA in their wills, with funds designated for OCTA Endowments.

It's an easy way to help preserve the trails for future generations. Through the Trails Legacy Society, 100 years from now you can still be saving the trails.

To learn more about the Trails Legacy Society, visit www.OCTA-Trails.org and click on the link under Preserve.

-- Melissa Shaw Jones, Fundraising Chair

Pioneer Re-Interment Set For May 2

The Platte County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Daughters of the American Revolution will place a memorial marker at the Box Elder/Alder Clump campsite on the Oregon/California/Mormon Trail in Wyoming on May 2.

As part of the ceremony, the remains of three pioneers will be reinterred at the site, where they were originally buried. After they were discovered, the bodies were sent to the University of Wyoming Anthropology Department for study. Two unknown women and a young man – Jesse Cole, age 15, who was buried in 1865 and identified by a stone placed on his chest at burial – will be reinterred.

The chapter is grateful to Mrs. Robin Rankin, owner of the site. The ceremonies will begin at 1 p.m.

For more information, call (307) 322-9365 or email at spiritquest@wyoming.com.

Symphony at Alcove Spring On September 6



Alcove Spring plans to host a “Concert on the Oregon Trail” on Sunday, September 6, featuring the 70-piece Topeka Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the Marshall County Arts Cooperative.

The program will be heavily weighted with old west musical numbers, including some well-known movie themes, patriotic and uplifting numbers.

A daylong event is planned with self-guided nature walks, wagon rides, snacks reenactors and much, much more at the historic site near Marysville, Kansas.

A full-sized stage will be located in a large meadow in the eastern portion of the park, with professional staging, sound systems and programming.

For ticket information, call (844) 252-6830.

CA-NV Spring Symposium To Be Held April 30-May 2

The California-Nevada Chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association will hold a Spring Symposium in Chico, CA, on April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2015. All meetings will be in the Oxford Suites conference rooms.

On Thursday the Chapter Board of Directors will meet in the morning. The 2015 OCTA convention planning meeting will begin in the afternoon followed by a no host reception. On Friday the General Membership Business Meeting will be in the morning. There will be a buffet luncheon in the conference room. The afternoon will be the follow-up of the OCTA convention planning meeting.

On Saturday morning we will have a talk by Historian Dave Freeman on Lassen’s Ranch. This will be followed by lunch on your own and a tour at Sierra Nevada Brewery. There will also be an optional tour of the Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina, CA which includes wine tasting and a tour of some of the Lassen Ranch sites.

Self-guided tours of Chico’s downtown area including Diamond Alley, wall murals, and the Chico State Arboretum are recommended as well as a Bidwell Park drive-thru and a tour of the Bidwell Park Mansion.

Registration is \$30 per person for CA-NV Chapter members and \$35 for non-members. For more information and to register, visit canvocta.org. The registration deadline is April 19.

CA Auto Route Progress

The National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region has announced that it has signed the long-pending agreement with the Cal-Trans to begin placing auto-tour route signing in 23 California counties along the California, Oregon and Pony Express trails.

The \$350,000 cooperative agreement will utilize OCTA and Pony Express Association volunteers to place the signs. A volunteer training meeting will be held in Sacramento this summer.

Bonanza of Trails Leads to Lake Tahoe



The 2015 OCTA National Convention will be held on the shores of Lake Tahoe September 21-25. Full registration information will be arriving in your mail box shortly, but here's a taste of what to expect:

Bus tours of the Carson-Johnson Loops, Coloma/Placerville, the Donner-Truckee Route and a hike on the Hawley Grade-Luther Pass.

Plus speakers on topics as varied as fur traders, pioneer women, the Carson River Route, J. Goldsborough Bruff and much more.

The convention will be headquartered at Harvey's Lake Tahoe. Convention information is available on the chapter website at canvoca.org.

Convention Keynoter

Gary F. Kurutz, retired director of the Special Collections Branch of the California State Library, will keynote the 2015 OCTA Convention on the topic of "On the Extremity of Civilization: The Golden Words of the Argonauts"

Kurutz is a native of La Cañada, California. Previous to his retirement, he made arrangements with the CA-NV Chapter of OCTA in 2001 to establish its Western Overland Trails Collection at the Special Collections Branch in Sacramento.

Currently, Kurutz is the Executive Director of the California State Library Foundation, through which the CA-NV Chapter works to maintain the "OCTA collection" at the state library.

Kurutz also is chair of the Collections Committee of the California Historical Society, and an honorary member of the Society of California Pioneers. Previously, he served as head librarian of the Sutro Library in San Francisco, library director of the California Historical Society, and Bibliographer of Western Americana at the Huntington Library.

Kurutz has written extensively on California and the West. For emigrant trail research, His *The California Gold Rush: A Descriptive Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets Covering the Years 1848-1853* is of major importance.

Why Are There No Trails on Tahoe's Shores?

The convenience of following the east-to-west flowing Humboldt River across the Basin and Range Province of Nevada brought the California Trail to two easterly flowing rivers originating in the Sierra Nevada. The Truckee and Carson Rivers provided the best approaches to the massive walls of granite created by the uplifting of the Sierra Nevada Range.

From the Wasatch Range in Utah to the edge of the Sierra, the terrain is characterized by north-south trending mountain ranges separated by valleys.

In contrast, the Sierra Nevada has been uplifted and tilted westward by volcanic and earthquake activity, thus creating a very steep eastern edge and an extended western slope draining into California's great Central Valley. Many rivers and their tributaries, flowing down these slopes, have exposed and concentrated the gold deposits sought by the miners in the mid-nineteenth century. Once they crested the Sierra, the gold seekers did indeed create a Bonanza of Trails to sites along these rivers.

Lake Tahoe, belonging to the very western edge of the Basin and Range Province, was created by north-south faulting near its western shore. Minor volcanic flows to the north blocked the fault zone drainage as the land subsided, thus creating the lake. At a maximum depth of 1,645 feet, it is the

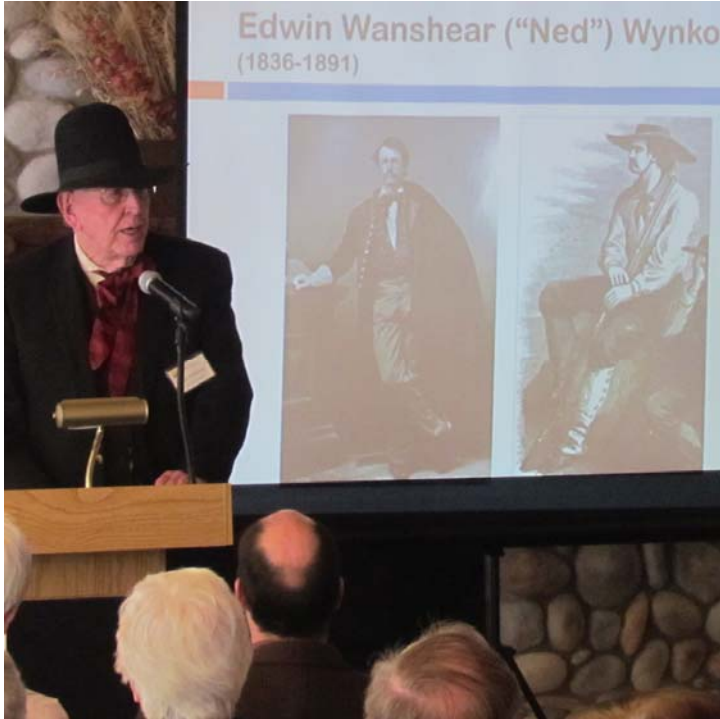
second deepest lake in the United States (Oregon's Crater Lake is 1949 feet deep.) Its north-south length is 22 miles; its east-west width is 12 miles. Its surface elevation is 6225' above sea level; its surface area is 191 square miles. The lowest part of the lake is actually lower than the Carson Valley to the east.

With the lake being the main tributary of the Truckee River, why was there no major trail along its shores? The only emigrant trail in the basin was an offshoot of the Carson Trail, established in 1852 by John C. Johnson, skirting the southern shore (through the convention site, no less) and directing travelers to his ranch near Hangtown (Placerville). (You will hear much more about this trail at the convention from a direct descendant of Mr. Johnson.)

The emigrants along the Truckee river route were headed westward, and the river flowed due north from the lake for about 15 miles before aligning itself with the route of emigration. The logical route was to follow a lesser tributary to the west whose source is the present Donner Lake. There was no reason to travel south into the lake basin in search of an alternate route.

— Bob Evanhoe

COLORADO-CHEROKEE CHAPTER



Robert Lowermilk as Ned Wynkoop at the Colorado-Cherokee symposium at Denver's Four-Mile Historic Park.

The Colorado-Cherokee chapter co-hosted a well-attended symposium with the Rocky Mountain Map Society at the historic Four Mile Historic Park in Denver on March 7. Long-time OCTA member Camille Bradford helped organize the symposium and served as master of ceremonies.

An entertaining series of speakers provided background on early Denver and its personalities, on the importance of the South Platte River Road to the settling of the Denver area, on how the 1859 Gold Rush put Colorado on the map, and the efforts of cartographers to map the American West.

Speakers included Robert Lowermilk, who portrayed Ned Wynkoop, one of the earliest residents of Denver City in 1858; Tom Noel, a history professor who is well known for his appearances as "Dr. Colorado" on PBS in Denver; Wesley Brown, a founder of the Rocky Mountain Map Society; and Christopher Lane, who operates the Philadelphia Print Shop West in Denver.

The seminar, "Trails To Shining Mountains" coincided with OCTA's Mid-Year Board meeting.



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

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER

By Mark Wilson
Chapter President

The CA/NV chapter is placing most of its effort into the planning of the National Convention at Lake Tahoe during September 19-25, 2015. Convention Coordinator Dick Waugh has organized many volunteers to take-on the multitude of tasks and details required for such an event. We have almost monthly planning meetings and are making good progress to hosting a memorable event.

The trails have not been neglected. There have been outings to locate and survey several trail segments. At our September, 2014 chapter meeting new projects were proposed. One of those projects was to establish more trail interpretive signage in highly visible locations. To that end Frank Tortorich recently submitted a proposal to work with Kirkwood Ski area, through which runs the Carson Trail, to develop interpretive signs at its lodge and along some ski trails.

A day after our September chapter board meeting we learned that the long delayed California Auto Tour Route Project (CA/NV OCTA title) had new momentum. The California Department of Transportation, Caltrans, was preparing to transfer funds to the National Park Service, to complete planning, sign production and

training of chapter volunteers in the use of a computer program to establish sign locations. I met with the Caltrans Project Coordinator and suggested it would be great to have the dedication of the first highway sign during our National Convention. An affirmative answer was not received at that time. We are looking forward to completing the next phase of the project which will be the computer training workshop with the National Park Service. This should be sometime this spring.

During March 12-15, the Chapter will represent OCTA at the annual convention of the Society for California Archeology in Redding, California. It is expected that around 400 archeologists will attend this event. Last year John Winner gave a talk at the convention emphasizing the goals and objectives of OCTA. This year the chapter will have an informational display. We hope to further John's presentation, recruit new partners and members; as well as sell a few maps and books.

The chapter will hold its annual membership/board/symposium gathering along with a convention planning session in Chico, CA during April 30-May 3, 2015. The symposium will feature revelations of some new archeology findings at Peter Lassen's Rancho which is near Chico on the Sacramento River. We shall conclude with a tour of John Bidwell's Mansion.

Advertise With OCTA!

Advertising opportunities have been restructured for OCTA's two primary publications, the *Overland Journal* and *News From The Plains*.

For the first time, both publications are offering "business card"-sized ads, comparable to one-eighth page, for \$75. Also available are quarter page (\$120), half page (\$200) and full page (\$325) ads. In addition, a full-color ad on the back page of the OJ is available for \$500

As a special inducement for advertisers, the publications are offering a 10 percent discount for two ads in consecutive issues and a 25 percent discount for four ads. Also, if an advertiser buys an ad in both publications, there will be a 50 percent discount on the second ad. As an added incentive, OCTA members receive a 10 percent discount on all advertising.

By policy, advertised products should have some educational value associated with OCTA's mission and goals, although that standard is fairly broad. For instance, a destination that promotes tourism in trails areas would be acceptable, as would book publishers and others who target their products to OCTA members.

Both the OJ and NFP are published separately four times a year and each reach nearly 1,500 OCTA member households.

Camera-ready advertisements should be submitted on a CD or via email in a high-resolution PDF, .eps or .rif format with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

For information about advertising in OCTA publications, contact OJ Editor Marlene Smith-Baranzini at tealblue1@gmail.com, NFP Editor Bill Martin at octanfp@gmail.com, or OCTA headquarters at octa@indepmo.org.

WYOMING CHAPTER

By Tom Rea

Wyoming OCTA

Company officials, federal officials, OCTA and other private history-minded groups wrapped up negotiations in late February over just what the Anschutz-affiliated Power Company of Wyoming will be required to do to make up for damage to historic sites caused by the huge wind-power project planned on public and private land south of Rawlins, Wyoming.

The final agreement on the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre project does not provide for any new public access to the historic Overland Trail, which crosses the middle of the affected area — even though half the land it crosses is public. But a Bureau of Land Management official has told us since the final committee meeting that the agency and the company are still talking about trails tours through the area. “These would be BLM-led tours,” said Bonni Bruce, the BLM archeologist who oversees the negotiations committee process out of the agency’s Rawlins Field Office.

Tours might be conducted as often as once or twice a year, Bruce said. They would run west from the Overland Trail’s intersection with Wyoming Highway 130 north of Saratoga to the historic crossing of the North Platte and on through about 20 miles of company-controlled land to Teton Reservoir, a few miles east of Bridger Pass.

The 350 square-mile project area runs south from Rawlins for about 25 miles. The 1,000 turbines, 450 feet high to the tip of the top rotator blades, will dominate the skyline south of I-80 from Rawlins west for 20 miles to Creston Junction. The project is on land on which square-mile sections alternate in a checkerboard pattern between public and private ownership, thanks to the pattern of early railroad land grants. This public-private mix complicates all land management in the area.

Besides the trail itself, other properties that will be adversely affected by the project include the trail’s North Platte crossing and a nearby cemetery, the sites of two stage stations on the trail, and a short stretch of the historic Lincoln Highway east of Rawlins.

To mitigate the damage to the historic integrity to these sites, the company has agreed to pay for a variety of projects, electronic resources and public seminars. These include signage at the three spots mentioned above; brochures; an extensive historic narrative about the trail in the area with an annotated bibliography; a website dedicated to the history; substantial articles on the various historic sites available for use on other websites; and — probably the most expensive of the mitigations —



This swale is on the west bank of the North Platte River crossing at Pick Bridge North of Saratoga, Wyoming

a curriculum unit for use in public schools, developed by Project Archeology at Montana State University, called “Understanding Migration.”

The company will also pay to host a workshop and seminar for up to 25 people on historic evaluations of landscapes, to be centered around the trail’s Pine Grove Stage Station. Remnants of the 1860s station still exist on private land on the Thayer family ranch near the southern edge of the project area. The course will examine the stage station and nearby cemetery and will evaluate the need to upgrade the station’s 1970s-era listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Connected with the seminar will be an archeology field school. If conditions seem to warrant it, the company will also pay for up to two semesters of work from a graduate student intern to upgrade the National Register nomination for the station and the cemetery.

Negotiations getting to this point have gone on for more than four years. In the summer of 2012, the so-called Record of Decision was signed, formally permitting the project but leaving the details of historic mitigation still undefined — an unusual step.

In mid-2014, the BLM hired Jessica Clement, a mediation specialist from the University of Wyoming, to help with the process. By February 2015, the company was ready to agree to the mitigation plan.

Four main players had to agree to the plan for it to go forward — the company, the BLM, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a small federal agency that oversees enforcement of the federal law requiring mitigation for damage to properties that are listed or

continued on page 21

TRAILSHEAD CHAPTER

By Dick Nelson

Chapter President

Things have been a little slow what with the colder months upon us but chapter activities will pick up soon. Our annual meeting was held in Nov. with election of officers for 2015.

They are: President, Dick Nelson' Vice-President, Jean Coupal Smith; Secretary, Mary Conrad; and Treasurer, Arnold Cole. An Executive Committee planning meeting was held in January to set an agenda for the year and plan for events and activities.

We planned a chapter meeting in late March at the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence. It will be a joint meeting with the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Assoc. One of the things we are trying to do as a chapter is partner with the other local trails organizations in the Kansas City area. It is felt by doing this that we can accomplish more for the trails here than each group could working on its own. Many Trail enthusiasts in

the Kansas City area belong to all the historic trail groups anyway, so why not work together on projects?

One of the current initiatives is signage of the three-trail corridor for driving, hiking and biking purposes as well as providing historic interpretation for the public about the trail running through the metro area.

Several miles of this have already been accomplished and it is an ongoing project with City, County, National Park Service and local trail associations heavily involved. Currently the signage portion is very close to being completed to the Kansas/Missouri state line at New Santa Fe. When complete the Trail itself will run from Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek, MO. to Gardner Junction in Johnson County KS.

The chapter is also focusing on member retention and adding new members going forward.

SOUTHERN TRAILS CHAPTER

By Jack Fletcher

Chapter President

A group of Trail Turtles spent an October week investigating southern trails in the Lordsburg, New Mexico-to-Apache Pass-in-Arizona segment. From the report: "The goal of the trail mapping trip was to continue the spring 2014 work done mainly on two routes to Apache Pass."

One route left the Doubtful Canyon route east of Lordsburg, traveled through Granite Gap and joined again east of Apache Pass. This route probably predated the route through Doubtful Canyon. Again, we were not able to get access to a portion of the trail east of Barney's Stage Station site. One day was spent revisiting Siphon Canyon leading towards Apache Pass. One day was spent working on an area east of the Lordsburg Playa.

Trail Turtles included Rose Ann Tompkins , Tracy DeVault, Richard Greene, Neal and Marian Johns, Cam

Wade, Brock and Levida Hileman, Mike Volberg, Don and Geri Talbot, Greg McEachron, and Claude Hudspeth. The total report and all of the Desert Tracks issues are available on the Southern Trails website: southern-trails.org. The January 2015 issue of Desert Tracks, journal/newsletter of the Southern Trails Chapter is available online on the Southern Trails website.

This current issue includes articles on mapping with drones, the Trail Turtles mapping trip, an update on "The Butterfield Trail" project studies, and an interview with Aaron Mahr, the Superintendent of the National Park Service.

The next chapter meeting was scheduled for April 8-11, 2015 at the Western New Mexico University campus in conjunction with the Southern Trails Symposium in Silver City, New Mexico.

Our membership numbers continue to increase.

Save the Trail

IDAHO CHAPTER

By Jerry Eichhorst

IOCTA President and Webmaster

With winter enveloping the state, the Idaho chapter was pseudo-dormant for a few months. Once the weather warms and sunlight brightens our days, thoughts will turn to getting out on the trails and enjoying the historic sites within the state.

Work is being done behind the scenes in planning for the 2016 OCTA convention at Fort Hall. Much more will have to be done this year as we need to mark trails and firm up bus tour routes in Eastern Idaho. Other ideas being considered for outings include a Toana Freight Road tour, a Jeffrey-Goodale tour, and searching a possible alternate route of the Oregon Trail north of Vale, Oregon.

Over 20 people are signed up for the two Community Education classes on the byway and North Alternate Oregon Trail I will be teaching in mid-March in Boise. The spring meeting is being planned for Saturday, May 9, in Fort Hall. Activity updates will be posted on the chapter website at www.IdahoOCTA.org as they become available.

The chapter approved matching personal donations for the preservation of the Canyon Creek stage station at the fall meeting in October. I am pleased to report that we have received \$6,000 in donations since that meeting. With the chapter match, we will be contributing \$9,000 to the Idaho Heritage Trust for their match, thus providing up to \$18,000 in funding for preservation work. It is extremely gratifying to see such a great response from the chapter membership for this work to save a wonderful piece of Idaho's trail history.



Idaho Chapter members at Canyon Creek Stage Station

We are developing a partnership with the Idaho Genealogy Society to assist them with their program of providing Oregon Trail Certificates to honor people who traveled the Oregon Trail through Idaho. The chapter will receive a small fee for our research to attempt to confirm that the person traveled the trail. I anticipate that this partnership may yield new activity participants and possibly new members as both groups share a strong interest in history.

Wyoming

(continued from page 18)

could qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other smaller groups — OCTA, the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, TRACKS Across Wyoming, the Frontier Prison in Rawlins and the Carbon County Historic Preservation Commission — had a formal advisory status and were also represented throughout negotiations. Most active on OCTA's part was Fern Linton, of Green River, Wyo., treasurer of Wyoming OCTA and former board member of the national organization. Wyoming OCTA President Tom Rea also took part.

Construction on the project has not yet started and is likely to take four to five years. Costs have been projected at around \$5 billion. The 1,000 turbines would produce

about 3,000 megawatts of electricity, roughly as much as four conventional, 750-megawatt coal-fired power plants the size of the Dave Johnston plant in Glenrock, east of Casper. The power is aimed primarily at markets in Nevada and California. A new high-voltage transmission line, TransWest Express, is planned to take it there. It, too, will cross historic trails. The formal process for figuring out historic mitigation for that project has not yet begun.

Thanks to longtime OCTA member Lesley Wischmann of the Alliance for Historic Wyoming for an earlier report that provided much of the material for this one. The Alliance has interest in the historic trails and other issues.

UTAH CROSSROADS

By Oscar Olson

The new year at Crossroads has started early with activities. A board meeting was held in January and plans for the year got started.

One of the big things was to make the long-awaited rail-stock transfer. To explain: some years ago we made a purchase from California of some rails to make more rail posts for marking trail sites. The rail turned out to be unacceptable—too old and rusty. Roy Tea, Vic Heath and others were able to locate a scrap dealer in Springville, Utah, who would trade us one pound of acceptable rail for two pounds of scrap. A deal was made. But, when to do it? The old stock was in Tooele, Utah. Machinery was necessary—a forklift as well as a truck. A couple of years passed, but it finally came together on February 7, 2015, as Jesse Petersen from Tooele got with his son-in-law, Jeff Pashley, and his work (Wollam Construction) to donate the equipment to make the transfer. A truck and forklift and a fellow employee, Chris Clegg, worked through the day on Saturday, February 7, to load the scrap and take it to Springville. Ron Westhoff helped unload and reload the rails for the return trip to Tooele. Good job! Well done! And a long time coming! Thanks, Jesse, Roy, and Vic for helping see this through as we have many sites yet to mark in Utah.

March 19 is planned for our spring membership meeting and plans for fieldtrips will be forthcoming. Our speaker will be Scott Christensen who will speak on the Indian/Emigrant relations on the trails. He is a recognized authority on the Shoshone.

There are others in the state who are working to help mark trails and sites. We must not overlook their efforts. Linda Smith, Historian of Morgan County (Utah), has plans for marking some of the trail sites through her county which would be the Hastings Road/Mormon Trail, and Chris Haramoto of East Canyon State Park has similar plans to mark trail sites through the state park property. We salute them and their efforts and will give them our support. Let us know what you need, please.

Nothing pleases us more than to see an old friend and trails supporter unexpectedly. While in Coalville, Utah, recently an old trail historian was spotted in a restaurant. For those who remember him, Frank Catelan was seen and visited with. He is the one-man band of Echo, Utah, who has supported the history of trails, the railroad, and roads through Echo. He operated the Echo Cafe and Bus Stop for years and now is aging but still gets around driving his 1989 Cadillac. It was good to see



Jess Peterson, right, with Ron Westhoff while helping move rails in Springville, Utah.



Frank Catelan, left, and Nate Olson.

him. He still operates the Echo City Museum during summer months.

Hope Welch (wife of President Gary) will be taking over the task of recording our volunteer hours and miles for National. Nyla Eldredge asked to be released. Thanks, Nyla, for a good job!



OCTA Annual Fund Appeal Reaches Record Levels

OCTA's annual fund raising appeal had raised more than \$37,000 through the first week of March, setting a new record for member support. We are grateful for the tremendous generosity of our members across the country.

Contributors since December 1 include:

Harry Abraham	Susan Gardner	William and Margie Nolan
Barbara Abrahamer	Curtis and Nancy Grant	Alma O'Hare
Eva Allen	John P Graves	Richard Olson
Billy and Jacque Arends	Sharon Hanson	James Owen
Jacqueline Ball	Glenn and Carol Harrison	Lethene Parks
Jim Barr	William G Hartley	Judson Parsons & Diana Gardener
Della Bauer	Barbara Hesse	Jerry P Peppers
Lorraine Bennett	Robert Hovey	Jess and Nancy Petersen
Roy and Zelma Bernd	Lu Ann Hunter	Dick and Penelope Peterson
Thomas and Dee Birch	Art and Kathy Iworsley	Henry and Glenna Pittock
Gary J Bjorge	Billie Johnson	Thomas Rea
Roger Blair & Susan B Doyle	Melissa Shaw Jones	James and Sallie Riehl
Carolyn Bowser	Leon Jones	Louise Hammer Rossi
William Braden	Polly N Kennison	Richard Schmidt
Dennis Brown	Mary B Korpi	Robert and Janice Schwartz
Timothy A Burns	Jere L Krakow	Robert and Alice Shellenberger
Gail and Muriel Carbiener	Michael La Salle	Marley Shurtleff
John and Roseann Carpenter	Richard H Lachmann	Dean Soenksen
George Carruthers & Marilyn Gaddis	Eric A Lauha	Bill Speiden
D Robert and Lyndia Carter	Hugh and Carol March	Jil Stark
Dr Lynn Corson and Dr Janet Ayres	Ross and Shirley Marshall	James Tompkins
Linda and Herb Crew	Bill Martin	Campbell Wade
George W Davis Fund	John Gary Maxwell	Lorna Waltz
Richard M. Davis Fund	Carole and Karen McClellan	Steve and Kathryn Wang
James W Dayley	Michele McGeeney	Gil and Mary Ward
Ronald O Downs	Gordon and Carolyn McGregor	David and Wendy Welch
Douglas V Duncan	Kendall McNabney	Nola Wilkerson
Raymond and Maura Egan	Phil Miller MD	Max Willard
Frank and Jackie Ellis	Jerry Mogg	John and Hazel Willmarth
Joyce Everett	Paul Moreno	Gareth and Deann Wilson
Teri Feasel	Judson Mygatt	Kirke and Anne Wilson
John and Thelma Fromm	David and Donna Newberry	John and Susie Winner

Welcome New OCTA Members

Merle Anderson, Mt Shasta, CA	Jack Hultquist, Minden, NE	Gene L Rasch, Topeka, KS
Ruth Atkins, Lake Elsinore, CA	Dale and Jackie Johnson, Sandwich, IL	Carol Rempp, Lincoln, NE
Frank Beltran, Crestwell, OR	Douglas and Sue Johnson, Sycamore, IL	Meredith Renard, Orlando, FL
Jon Boursaw, Topeka, KS	Mark and Gina Jones, Davis, CA	Jerry Rogers, Santa Fe, NM
Craig Bromley, Lander, WY	Josh Kean, Antioch, CA	Nick and Linda Schmitz, Beattie, KS
William Buckalew, Tooele, UT	Leslie Larson, Cupertino, CA	Calli Smith, Reno, NV
John Carter, Lincoln, NE	Bob and Shelley Lencioni, Auburn, CA	Darwin and LaDawn Sorensen, Riverton, UT
Lois Cohorst, Marysville, KS	Matthew Mallinson, Sugar Creek, MO	Mary Flournoy Strohm, Patagonia, AZ
Joan Conzatti, Sacramento, CA	John More, Eudora, KS	Jack and Karin Trolor, Dayton, TN
Maria Costa, Granite Bay, CA	Karen Murphy, Martinez, CA	Marta Ullman, Sammamish, WA
Sharon Dennis, Sacramento, CA	Cindy Nickles, Eugene, OR	Scott Vail, Placerville, CA
Don Dingman, Kearney, NE	Linda Nuessle/TVCC & Jasper Westfall Museum, Westfall, OR	Kyle Watson, San Rafael, CA
Audrey L Elder, Sibley, MO	Dawna Ourada, Kearney, NE	Cole Watson, San Rafael, CA
Steve and Theresa Fisher, Kent, WA	Thomas K Owen, Campbell, CA	Susan Weber, Lincoln, NE
David Fullerton, Sacramento, CA	Richard Pariset, Beaver Crossing, NE	Don and Connie Werner, Horton, KS
Judy Gamble, Granite Bay, CA	Ron Parks, Manhattan, KS	Judy Wickwire, Markleeville, CA
Nancy Gillis, Walthill, NE	Erica Parson, Silver City, NM	
Emily Glassburn, Tillamook, OR	Dale Pedersen, Graham, WA	
Richard Gould, Republic, KS	Terrie Peets, Markleeville, CA	
Linda Grimm, Aurora, CO	Pete Pobor, Sacramento, CA	
Jerry Hallstrom, Carmichael, CA	Nancy Powell, Albany, OR	
Electa L Hare-RedCorn, Pawhuska, OK	Pueblo City-Co Library Dist, Pueblo, CO	
Dan Holtz, Nebraska City, NE		

OCTA 2013-2014 Financial Statements

Financial Position—Year to year as of September 30, 2014

	<u>9/30/2014</u>	<u>9/30/2013</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
General Operating Accounts	10,639	35,519
Restricted Accounts	24,289	16,586
Accounts Receivable	1,911	1,619
Prepaid Expenses	3,500	1,000
Inventory (at cost)	36,523	38,039
Investments (Endowment Funds)	1,271,730	1,173,132
Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization	214,519	250,272
Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation	<u>2,678</u>	<u>4,053</u>
 Total Assets	 <u><u>1,565,789</u></u>	 <u><u>1,520,220</u></u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	44,126	49,836
Deferred Revenue	<u>16,654</u>	<u>11,596</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>60,780</u></u>	<u><u>61,432</u></u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted:		
Designated by Governing Board	479,688	447,535
Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment	217,197	254,325
General	<u>8,447</u>	<u>26,341</u>
	<u>705,332</u>	<u>728,201</u>
Temporarily Restricted	342,531	291,488
Permanently Restricted	<u>457,146</u>	<u>439,099</u>
Total Net assets	<u><u>1,505,009</u></u>	<u><u>1,458,788</u></u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u><u>1,565,789</u></u>	 <u><u>1,520,220</u></u>

Save the Trail

Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/2014 vs Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/2013

	<u>9/30/14</u>	<u>9/30/13</u>
Operating Revenues		
National Park Service	166,799	226,212
Membership Dues	73,548	71,326
Convention and Symposium	54,221	72,016
Contributions	35,984	37,455
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	9,810	9,647
Other	7,632	7,437
Total Operating Revenues	<u>347,994</u>	<u>424,093</u>
Operating Expenses		
Board and Officers	8,139	20,458
Committees	33,143	33,672
Administration and Management	197,586	186,207
Publications	54,339	47,795
Convention and Symposium	44,919	63,701
Signs	-	25,000
Other	49,549	57,704
Total Operating Expenses	<u>387,675</u>	<u>434,537</u>
Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	<u>(39,681)</u>	<u>(10,444)</u>
Non Operating Income (Deductions)		
Endowment Fund Investment Income	105,195	120,403
Film Amortization	(35,753)	(35,753)
Endowment Fund Contributions	9,802	10,222
Life Memberships	5,700	1,700
Total Non Operating Income (Deductions) Net	<u>84,944</u>	<u>96,572</u>
Increase in Net Assets	<u>45,263</u>	<u>86,128</u>

Hike The Hill

Continued From Page 6

landowners, federal agencies, and government at all levels. We did not seek new funding for the Oregon and California Trails, although we did call attention to uses made of current federal funding. Through the Partnership, we did ask Interior Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate for funding at current levels plus three percent, similar to requests made in the past.

Though we did not achieve a sponsor for a Study bill of the Southern Trails, we continue to raise awareness of their national significance and once more demonstrated our persistence in seeking a Study bill. Some encouraging exchanges occurred and we heard key recommendations for getting letters of support from local historical organizations, chamber of commerce offices, and local and state government.

It will be recommended that the Southern Chapter of OCTA name a chair of the Southern Trails Committee and embark on a campaign of getting letters that show local support for a Study bill. A member of Congress from Nebraska has introduced a similar Study bill this month for the Chief Standing Bear Trail.

The Executive Director of the Partnership, Gary Werner, reiterated the increase in dues for member organizations. For OCTA the dues increase will rise from the current \$1400 per year to \$2200, or about \$.60 per member per year. Our membership in PNTS is of considerable value including support for legislation on the horizon for an amendment to designate Additional Routes and a Study bill for the Southern Trails.

Others participating on OCTA's behalf were Bill and Jeanne Watson, Board member Cecilia Bell and her husband John, Association Manager Travis Boley, and OCTA President John Krizek. The Watsons were presented with an award from the Partnership for their 30 years of service.

Business Sponsorships

For just \$50 a year, you can become a business sponsor, connecting 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 (888) 811-6282.

Current business sponsors include:

State Bank of Blue Rapids, Blue Rapids, KS
Little Hap's Bar & Grill, Home, KS
Lewis Seed & Fertilizer, Home, KS
Wagon Wheel Café, Marysville, KS

Advocacy Week

Continued From Page 6

National Park Service Trails Team in Salt Lake City and Santa Fe, including funding for OCTA Trail Projects.

All OCTA members, PLEASE continue to record or estimate your Volunteer Hours and Financial Contributions and report them in December to Headquarters or your designated chapter member.

We want to thank each of you who helped us make office visits on Capitol Hill. Special thanks to our "silent members" who quietly contacted their Congressional delegation in support of OCTA legislation whenever asked. And thanks to the OCTA members who wrote letters to Congress in support of legislation. Three times while we tried to get the California Trail designated you supported us with 300 - 500 letters. With all your help and encouragement we have achieved significant OCTA legislative & federal funding objectives.

Many thanks for our OCTA Meritorious Achievement Award and Special 27th Anniversary Trophy. We are also proud of our Partnership for the National Trails System Lifetime Achievement Award and our Department of Interior - Take Pride In America Award.

Unfortunately, our Co-Vice Chairs Vern & Carol Osborne have been unable to join us in Washington, the past two years for Trails Advocacy Week. Our prayers and best wishes remain with them.

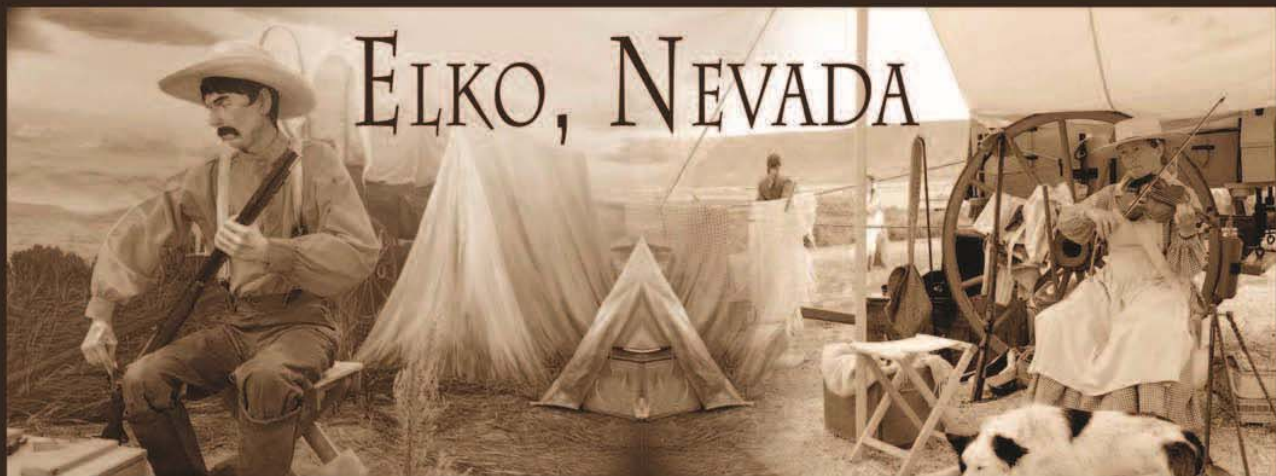
Thirty years ago, OCTA President Tom Hunt asked us to create and lead the Legislative Liaison Committee. Our age and stage in life have caught up with us. We can help with coordination, listening and advice. But we recommend that OCTA now find two Legislative Team Leaders each willing and able to make a 4 - 5 year commitment their project:

Additional Routes Study Team Leader - To focus on studies completion including public meetings and prepare Congress for its implementation.

Southern Trail Project Team Leader - To find a House or Senate sponsor for a study authorization bill and lay the ground work for Congressional authorization.

Each Leader will need a team of OCTA members familiar with the routes involved and will need OCTA budget support for their legislative activities.

Waver Hotel, Waterville, KS
Trails N Rails, Marysville, KS
Heritage Inn Express, Marysville, KS
First Commerce Bank, Marysville, KS
Y Loop Road Trips, Wapiti, WY
American Fire & Safety, St. Joseph, MO
Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, Gering, NE
Morrill County Visitors Committee, Bridgeport, NE
Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd., Big Piney, WY
Barn Anew Bed & Breakfast, Mitchell, NE



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