

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

*Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association*

Spring 2018

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## B2H Fight Draws Allies

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) has gone on record supporting OCTA's opposition to the proposal Boardman-to-Hemingway (B2H) power line that would parallel and cross portions of historic national trail in Oregon.

"The power line has the potential to significantly damage the integrity of the Oregon National Historic Trail," PNTS Executive Director Gary Werner said in a letter to the Oregon Public Utilities Commission, which is consider the application to build the line.

Citing the importance of the nation's historic trail system to the public's ability to experience history in its original setting, Werner said "the quality of this uniquely authentic experience of history is threatened with destruction by the proposal location of the power line project."

OCTA is one of 36 nonprofit organizations that are members of the Partnership, which works to protect and sustain America's 30 federally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails, including the Oregon National Historic Trail.

PNTS agreed to get involved after Bill Martin, the OCTA Board's designated liaison to the organization, told the PNTS' Advocacy & Policy Committee that "B2H represents perhaps the greatest threat to the integrity of the Oregon National Historic Trail that we've seen in decades."

OCTA has called the 300-mile power line project an "absolute disaster" for the Oregon Trail. More than 85 percent of the route will parallel the trail and cross it as many as eight times. Construction of towers up to 195 feet tall will compromise viewsheds essential to the historic trails experience.

OCTA has joined the Stop B2H Coalition, alliance of individuals, citizen organizations and public officials that has organized to fight the project. OCTA has provided \$20,000 from its Martin Endowment Fund to help provide legal representation before the PUC.

As NFP went to print, a hearing was pending on April 10 before the PUC to allow "preliminary construction" before final approval of the project, which is being promoted by Idaho Power, Bonneville Power and PacifiCorp. OCTA and the Coalition oppose the proposal. Watch OCTA E-News for the latest information.

## OCTA Trails Head to Ogden Crossroads



The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association will be held August 6-10 in Ogden, Utah.

A full schedule and registration information is included in this special edition of *News From The Plains*, beginning on page 13. You may also register on line at [octa-trails.org](http://octa-trails.org).

The Convention, with a theme of "Rails and Trails: Confluence and Significance at Utah's Crossroads of the West," will include two days of bus tours highlighting, the Bear River Shoshoni, the Bidwell/Bartleson emigrant party, the Transcontinental Railroad, and Echo Canyon pre-Mormon routes.

Speakers will be highlighted by keynoter Dr. Leo Lyman on the impact of the confluence of trails and rails. Other speakers will discuss such varied topics as construction of the railroad, the Bear River massacre, fur traders, pre-1847 emigrants to Utah, plus more.

A new feature for the 2018 gathering of trail lovers will be two afternoons of workshops, featuring nearly 30 activity stations and subject specialists. Topics will range from woodworking and tool making in the 1800s to artifacts from the Salt Desert, rock art, U.S. Army overland roads, genealogy, and more.

**For full convention information, visit**

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

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



2018 is ramping up to be a banner year for OCTA! The recent Symposium at Gila Bend, Arizona was well-attended and packed with good speakers, tours to unique sites and the opportunity to enjoy the company of our OCTA friends from the Southern Trails states and elsewhere.

Your Board of Directors met and held a workshop to review the revised Policy and Procedures Manual, and all attended the Mid-Year Board Meeting. The warm hospitality of the southwest was enjoyed by all.

Travis Boley, Association Manager, and this officer anticipate visits to three chapters in May: Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado-Cherokee. We will be focusing on chapter revitalization, auto tour signage plans, the Solar Car Challenge, which will follow the Oregon Trail in July, and future convention venues. Our goal is to visit each chapter during the next year or so. Don't invite us if you don't want us to come!

Can you strengthen OCTA during this Anniversary Year? When you sign up a NEW member, that new member and you will receive a specially-commissioned 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coin. There are only 300 available, so you will want to get in on this special REWARD soon!

Have you seen the new website for Utah Crossroads Chapter? [www.utahcrossroadsocta.org/](http://www.utahcrossroadsocta.org/)

In preparation to host the 2018 Convention, NPS funds were utilized to create this spectacular website as part of an overall redesign of OCTA's website, to be revealed later this year. Please visit the Crossroads website—it will arouse your desire to join us in Ogden in August for a well-planned and, in many ways, a unique Convention.

Please join me in welcoming Lauren Manning to our OCTA family for this year. Lauren was hired as an intern through a generous grant from the Partnership for the National Trails System and the City of St. Joseph, MO. Lauren has a degree in urban planning, and is a native of St. Joseph. It was a delight to meet her and nine members of the Gateway Chapter in January, along with city officials

and civic leaders. Lauren exhibits a keen sense of historical preservation and interpretation and was a charming tour guide around the city. She is tasked with some lofty goals to achieve, but is most capable of accomplishing them with our encouragement. I hope you got to visit with her in Gila Bend.

It's most gratifying to observe the committees functioning at a high level all across the Board and OCTA membership. Qualified and invigorated chairmen

are in place to accomplish much in this year, and they are truly appreciated. In addition, it is our membership that accomplishes the real work of our Association. It is our members who are the "local authorities" and "watchdogs" all along the Trails. My hearty thanks to each of you who work towards our five goals:

- 1) Preserve the historic emigrant trails
- 2) Preserve and promote the stories of the emigrant experience
- 3) Be an effective historic trails organization through appropriate partnerships
- 4) Improve organizational and management effectiveness, and
- 5) Keep OCTA's base membership energized.

Yours in OCTA,

— Pat Traffas, President



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# Board Moves Ahead With Convention, Budget Actions

The OCTA National Board of Directors, at its Mid-Year meeting in Gila Bend, Arizona on March 2, approved moving ahead with plans to revamp the nine-year-old OCTA Convention Manual.

An ad hoc committee chaired by Jerry Eichhorst of Idaho and Jean Coupal-Smith of Kansas has been studying ways to improve convention planning, including taking the burden off smaller chapters who may want to host a National Convention but lack a large membership base.

Eichhorst, whose I-OCTA chapter hosted the 2016 convention at Fort Hall, noted in the Committee's presentation to the Board that the current convention structure leads to excessive work for small chapters who have no familiarity with the convention-hosting process, resulting in member burnout and other issues.

In his presentation to the Board, Eichhorst said the goal of revisions in the convention planning process is to have the national organization perform common, recurring tasks such as budgeting and negotiating with host hotels and venues, and local organizers deal with local topics such as tours and volunteers.

The ad hoc committee will continue to work on revisions to the Convention Planning Manual over the next year, with a progress report due at the Board's annual meeting in Ogden, Utah, in August.

In other action at the Gila Bend meeting, the Board:

- Approved a procedural change in the budgeting process that will allow endowment funds used in the budgeting process to be withdrawn in the first month of

the fiscal year, deposited in a money market fund, and returned to the endowment if they are not spent during the course of the budget year.

- Approved, on a 7-4 vote, a bylaw change removing the word "emergency" from the previously adopted bylaw that allows the Board to hold email votes between the Mid-Year and Annual meetings.

- Ratified votes that were taken via email since the Council Bluffs convention, including: 1) two separate votes that withdrew a total of \$58,000 from the Heritage endowment fund, with the proceeds used mostly for internal financial needs and to retire organizational indebtedness; 2) renewal of an existing line of credit with the Bank of Commerce; and 3) a policy statement that restricts new projects or the hiring of new personnel without having funding in place beforehand.

OCTA President Pat Traffas also announced that the 2019 Mid-Year meeting will be held at OCTA headquarters in Independence, Missouri.



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# Candidates for OCTA Board of Directors

Four candidates have placed their names in nomination for election to the OCTA National Board of Directors.

There are four vacancies this year. Two current Board members, Loren Pospisil and Vern Osborne, are completing their second three-year terms and are not eligible to run again.

Current candidates are John Briggs of Idaho, Helen Hankins of Nevada, Duane Iles of Kansas, and Matt Mallinson of Missouri. Iles and Mallinson are seeking their second three-year terms.

An official ballot can be found on page 5 and must be returned to OCTA headquarters no later than June 15.



**John Briggs** moved to Boise, Idaho from the United Kingdom in early 2008, joining OCTA not long after. He served as Secretary and Vice President of the Idaho Chapter and was Chair of the 2016 National Convention the chapter hosted at Fort Hall. In the past few years, he has driven, hiked and biked most of the Goodale's Cut-off and

helped replace many damaged trail markers. He has led tours along the Cut-off and on the Main Oregon Trail from Bonneville Point to Boise. He has given many talks on the Oregon and California Trails in Idaho and been published in the Overland Journal and Trail Dust, the Idaho Chapter newsletter.

He is an avid photographer, with more than 7,500 photos of the trails and trail sites. He also contributed to the Idaho Songs Project, a historical effort featuring songs predating 1923. He is a naturalized citizen and professionally worked in the metallurgical, printing inks and lubricant industries.

Goals: "If elected I will vigorously support the mission of the Association, especially the preservation of trail and trail sites and of the knowledge that exists within the membership as well as the research needed to expand that knowledge. To support all this, it will be important to find ways to grow the membership."

Endorsed by Jerry Eichhorst, John Winner and Don Wind.



**Helen Hankins** is president of the California Trail Heritage Alliance, an Elko, NV-based nonprofit that works on a range of issues and projects. She is retired from a 42-year career with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, during which she served in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Alaska and

Washington, D.C. She was the Elko BLM district Manager from 1995-2007 and Colorado State Director from 2010-2013.

She served on the BLM National Preservation Board for two years, working with trail and other historic preservation issues in managerial positions for the BLM in Alaska, Arizona and Nevada. In addition, she was the lead BLM official involved with design, construction, and development of the California Trail Interpretive Center between 1995 and 2007.

Goals: "I am interested in serving on the national OCTA board because I embrace OCTA's mission of trail preservation, protection and education. I believe the best way to live in the present is to understand and value the past. Working in managerial positions for the BLM for more than twenty years has given me a very broad understanding of issues related to protection and preservation of historic trails and the difficulties in avoiding or mitigating impacts to those trails. Lastly, I enjoy the stories of the emigrants and walking where they walked."

Endorsed by Dick Waugh, David Smythe and John Winner.



**Duane Iles** 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. In this capacity he has worked closely with the Kansas Historical Society, the National Park Service, and other partners to create a high quality park.

He served a three-year term on the OCTA Board of Directors, resigning his second term to accept the office of Vice-President, then serving as President. He is currently serving as a director. He has chaired the Membership Committee for a number of years. He helped create and serves as chair of the Tribal Liaison Committee to gain the American Indian side of the wonderful story of our trails. He is working with the governance committee and chairs Board Committee B, which is upgrading our policy and procedure manual to make it more current and user friendly. He was the 2014 recipient of the Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement award. He belongs to all OCTA chapters as well as other trail-related organizations.

Goals: "We are in a challenging time that will require our board to be aggressive and active to correct problems and forestall the threats to our trails. The demand for energy is creating challenges in every portion of our trails. We will be required to work with partners and alone to protect as much of our trail remnants as possible. The changing demographics and aging of our organization is making it very difficult to maintain our membership. New programs must be sought to remedy this loss. I believe my years with KANZA, Alcove Spring and the national organization of OCTA as a board member, committee chair and president give me a perspective on leading our organization that we will desperately need in the next few years."

Endorsed by: Marvin Burke, Gail Carbiener and Ross Marshall.



**Matt Mallinson** is in his third year of service on the OCTA Board and is seeking a second three-year term. He is co-chair with Audrey Elder of the Education Outreach Committee, which has a nationwide effort to incorporate primary source materials from the emigrant trails in school. He has represented OCTA at three

National Convention of Social Studies meetings to promote the program, as well as many local and state programs.

He is a former Mayor of Sugar Creek, Missouri and worked to organize the 47-mile historic recreation trail from Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek to Gardner Junction, Kansas, one of the largest multi-jurisdictional projects in the nation. During 2016, he hosted a dinner and presentation for attendees at a national trails conference at his winery to celebrate preservation of the trails.

Goals: "I feel that my efforts on the Education Outreach Committee and my work with National Park Service have been beneficial to OCTA and to membership as a whole. I would like to be able to serve another term on the Board of Directors."

Endorsed by: John Krizek, Marvin W. Burke, Bill Martin and Camille Bradford

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

**OFFICIAL 2018 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 (2018-2021)**

	<u>Member 1 Vote</u>	<u>Member 2 Vote</u>
<b>John Briggs</b>	_____	_____
<b>Helen Hankins</b>	_____	_____
<b>Duane Iles</b>	_____	_____
<b>Matt Mallison</b>	_____	_____
<b>Write In Candidates:</b>	_____	_____

**Your ballot needs to be marked clearly and postmarked no later than June 15, 2018 to be included in the election. Return to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051.**

# PRESERVATION



*By John Winner  
National Preservation Officer*

Hardly a week goes by without hearing of a new threat or a potential activity that could compromise the thousands of miles of mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century routes that are worthy of OCTA's attention. Our concerns are for both direct impacts, physical

alteration to a trail, and indirect impacts, alteration to the view shed.

Pristine trail segments are not a renewable resource: once gone, gone forever. Things change rapidly and we need to be proactive. Your keen awareness of activities in your area is greatly appreciated.

If you see or hear of activities that may impact a historic route, bring it to my attention, through your local chapter Preservation Officer, or OCTA Headquarters.

Here are some of the preservation issues currently on OCTA's radar:

## **Wyoming:**

**Lander Road Damage:** A roughly 200-foot section of the trail mistakenly damaged by Forest Service personnel.

**Rocky Ridge:** BLM monitoring of extensive use near South Pass.

**North Savery Project:** 6,670 acres of vegetation treatment including salvage logging near Encampment. Potential impact to Cherokee Trail.

**Landscape Vegetation Analysis Project:** Proposal for treatment of up to 350,000 acres of beetle infested land on the Medicine Bow-Routt NF. Possible impact to Cherokee Trail.

**Normally Press Lance Natural Gas Development Project:** Proposal to drill approximately 3500 wells south of Pinedale.

**Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision:** Plans for federal lands to specify where development and use may occur.

**Gateway South Transmission Line Project:** 321 miles of 500kv transmission lines

**Continental Peak Grazing Allotment – Fencing Project:** Proposal to install 26 miles of electric fence to separate grazing allotments. Impact to Oregon-California, Mormon & Pony Express trails. Public and private parties including OCTA have agreed on several mitigation items.

**Wheat Creek Meadows Habitat Management Enhancement:** BLM proposal to improve wildlife habitat and rerouting traffic to avoid trail ruts on the Dempsey-Hockaday section of CNHT north of Kemmerer.

**Blue Forest MOA:** 10-year extension to Memorandum of Agreement between public and private parties including BLM, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service and OCTA for authorizing future projects.

## **Kansas:**

**Proposed Cell Tower:** Proposal for a 190-foot cell tower south of Eudora, roughly 1.5 miles south of the Oregon-California Trail.

## **Utah:**

**Skull Valley Solar Farm:** Proposal to construct a solar array on state school trust lands west of Salt Lake City which could impact the Hastings Cutoff.

## **Nevada:**

**Rye Patch Gold US Inc. (Oreana Exploration Project)**  
**Gold Bar Mine Project:** Potential view shed impact on the Pony Express and Central Overland Trail.

**Long Canyon Open Pit Mine:** At Big Springs on the Hastings Cutoff. Mitigation negotiations in progress.

**NDOT Maintenance Station:** Nevada Department of Transportation Maintenance Station. This 20-acre site is directly on the Carson Route of the California National Historic Trail.

**Battle Mountain Renewable Energy Park:** A proposal to construct a solar photovoltaic plant generating up to 20 megawatts on the Battle Mountain Indian Colony land near I-80. Possible impact on Class 1 and 2 trail traces on the California Trail within one-half mile of the proposed project.

**Hycroft Mine Expansion Alternative:** Proposed expansion of the Hycroft Mine in the Black Rock desert area of Nevada near the Applegate and Nobles Trails. The project would have significant adverse effect to the Applegate Trail and a moderate adverse effect to the Nobles Trail.

## **California:**

**Johnson Cutoff:** The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management (LTBMU) Unit is proposing to reduce excess vegetation on approximately 3,800 acres of National Forest lands on the south end of the Lake Tahoe Basin in order to reduce the risk of wildland fires. The Johnson Cutoff emigrant trail is in the heart of this proposed area.

## **Oregon:**

**Deschutes National Forest Ringo Project:** USFS preparing Environmental Impact Statement on 30,000 acres to reduce tree density.

**Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H):** A 305-mile, 500 kv transmission line through Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho directly and indirectly impacting the Oregon National Historic Trail. The BLM released its Record of Decision (ROD) on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The decision is a misfortune to OCTA and to the preservation of the Oregon National Historic Trail.

In addition, these are “new” projects included in the National Park Service's National Trails Intermountain Region Compliance Roundup:

**Crow Creek Pipeline, Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** Montpelier Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho and Wyoming. The Forest seeks public comment on a proposed 48-mile-long pipeline to carry natural gas from Montpelier, Idaho, to Afton (Star Valley), Wyoming. The Lander Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail south of Afton and the combined Oregon and California National Historic Trail corridor southeast of Montpelier are in or near the project area.

**Converse County, Wyoming, Oil and Gas Development Draft EIS.** An operator group composed of five energy companies proposes to develop oil and gas leases on 1.5 million acres in Converse County. Approximately 83 percent of the surface acres are privately owned; the remaining acres are administered by the BLM, USFS, and the State of Wyoming. Visual impacts have been identified to Childs Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail and mitigation measures proposed.

# FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



By Travis Boley

Anniversary years are always fun times to reflect on where we've been, what we've done, where we're going, and to celebrate our successes. This year we have the extraordinary luck to have twin anniversary dates, with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oregon Trail coinciding with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails Act. OCTA is taking advantage of these anniversaries to spread its message far and wide via fun, interactive and innovative programming all along the trail.

We kicked off our celebration year with a highly successful and recently concluded symposium in Gila Bend, Arizona during the first weekend in March. We had a capacity crowd and everyone was in high spirits with perfect weather, excellent food, and tours that took us to places such as the Oatman massacre and burial sites and Painted Rock.

Most of our chapters have activities planned throughout the year, including on National Trails Day in June. The American Solar Challenge (see story on page 8) will be a unique eight-day event in July that will see college teams from the U.S. and abroad traveling loosely along the Oregon Trail through Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon, helping to bring awareness to our trail corridors and anniversaries. The Partnership for the National Trails System will have its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebratory conference in Vancouver, Washington in October, and we even have events planned right up through the end of the year, with an Oregon Trail Symphony debuting in November and the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree being cut in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon and making its way along the Oregon Trail to Washington in December.

But the Greater Kansas City area is where this all began 175 years ago, and we plan to party like it's 1843. In fact, we are partnering with the Jackson County Historical Society, the National Frontier Trails Museum, the Independence Square Association, the Truman Library, and many others to put on a three-day mini-festival May 18-20 on and around the Independence Square. Dubbed "Party Like It's 1843" ([www.partylikeits1843.org](http://www.partylikeits1843.org)), festivities will kick off on Friday night with a "Westward Ho! Down" on the grounds of the National Frontier Trails Museum (right next door to OCTA HQ). Dancing, live music, period dress, mule-drawn wagons, and a bonfire will set us up for the fun weekend.

On Saturday morning, we will re-create an 1843 Independence Streetscape starting at 10 a.m., complete

with a marketplace so visitors can buy their goods and prepare for the trip west. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. we will feature five speakers in the historic Brady Courtroom inside the Truman Courthouse. We are excited to kick things off with Jon Boursaw from the Citizen Band of the Potawatomi Nation detailing his tribe's "Trail of Death," which passed through Independence on its way to their Kansas reservation. Next up is Theresa Hupp with "Historic Fiction on the Oregon Trail," followed by former Jackson County Historical Society Executive Director David Jackson on "Independence in 1843." OCTA's own Ross Marshall will follow with "KC's Historic Trails Circa 1843," and I will close with "KC's Historic Trails in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," where I will discuss the 3-Trail Corridor project.

A very fun and interactive "Live Action Oregon Trail Game" is planned at Hiram Young Park on the east side of the Independence Square. Hiram

Young was a freed slave who would go on to become one of the wealthiest men in Jackson County by building upward of 50,000 yoke and 10,000 wagons annually and helping other slaves to achieve freedom. We will close out the day with a "Pioneer Fashion Show" at the Truman Memorial Building that will feature men, women, and children donning trail attire of 1843.

Finally, on Sunday we will start with a 5K run on the Oregon Trail (it turns out that it's exactly five kilometers from the Wayne City Landing to the Independence Square) and "Sounds From the Oregon Trail" that afternoon at the National Frontier Trails Museum. Be sure to check the event website or Facebook page for frequent updates and be sure to participate in your own chapter's activities. No matter where you are, you can party like it's 1843!



## Graves & Sites Marks 56th Gravesite



OCTA's Graves & Sites Committee has marked its 56<sup>th</sup> gravesite, the burial place of John W. Lane on the Lander Trail in Idaho.

"Nothing was known of Lane except his date of death before the Committee's work," said committee chair Randy Brown. "Permission to mark the grave was given by the landowner, Dwight H. Lloyd of Wayan [Shown at the site in the photo above]. Mr. Lloyd drove out to help with putting up the marker, which I appreciated very much."

According to the OCTA marker erected at the gravesite, diarist William Babcock wrote that Lane died of "some disease like the cholera" on July 18, 1859. Lane was captain of a small wagon train traveling to Oregon from Webster County, Iowa. It was Lane's third trip on the trail, having previously traveled in 1849 and 1853.

## Awards Deadline Is June 1

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2018 Convention scheduled August 6-10 in Ogden, Utah.

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

Awards nomination forms can be found on the OCTA website by visiting [www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms](http://www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms).

Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Awards Committee Chair Dick Nelson at [kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net)



If you live along the Oregon Trail in Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho or Oregon, mark your calendars for the week of July 14-21 so you don't miss the American Solar Challenge 2018.

Teams of college students will be driving solar-powered vehicles from Omaha, Nebraska, to Bend, Oregon on 1,700-mile "race" that will follow the Oregon Trail as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails System and the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oregon Trail.

The race officially starts on July 14 at the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail headquarters in Omaha, preceded by a week of team meetings and trial runs.

Over the next week, teams will stop at Grand Island, Gering and Scotts Bluff in Nebraska; Casper, Lander and Farson in Wyoming; Arco and Mountain Home in Idaho; and Burns and Bend in Oregon. To find out more, visit [americansolarchallenge.org](http://americansolarchallenge.org).

OCTA will have a presence at each of the stage stops and check points. For information about how you can be involved, contact Travis Boley at OCTA Headquarters [tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org).

*Save the Trail*

## Investment Advisory Committee

OCTA three endowment funds have grown to a value of \$1,465,999 as of February 9, according to a report to the OCTA Board of Directors from its Investment Advisory Committee (IAC).

The funds increased in value by about one percent from July, 2017. The IAC noted the increase would have been above six percent without the withdrawal of \$70,000 from the funds during past year.

Withdrawals from the Heritage Fund (\$58,000) were 7.95 percent of the ending balance, including about \$40,000 in principal (see separate story on Board actions on page 3)

An additional \$20,000 was withdrawn from the Martin Fund to provide legal support for opposition to the Boardman-to-Hemingway power line project in Oregon.

As of February 9, the Martin Fund held \$421,949, restricted to legal expenses; the Loomis (preservation) Fund held \$321,857; and the unrestricted Heritage Fund was valued at \$722,193.

"The six percent growth could only have been achieved if no distributions had been taken," noted OCTA President Pat Traffas. "Historically, OCTA has relied on annual distributions from earnings. By vote of the Board, distributions from the Heritage Fund earnings and principal were taken to retire long-standing indebtedness in 2017. Despite these necessary distributions, there was still positive growth. These serious matters received careful deliberation and appropriate action by the Board. Protocols are in place to guide our Association in a fiscally responsible manner going forward."

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

## OCTA Volunteer Hours

OCTA contributed 60,000 volunteer hours valued at \$1,448,000 in support of historic trails during 2017, according to a report submitted to Congress by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS). The volunteer hours and were in addition to \$133,000 in private contributions from OCTA members.

Overall, the Partnership said member organizations contributed 1,046,194 volunteer hours valued at \$25,255,118, plus \$15,158,24 in private contributions in support of 30 historic and scene trails.

The numbers are used to show ways OCTA and other organizations support the trails without being totally dependent on federal dollars.

Be sure to visit [www.octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer](http://www.octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer) to report your hours as you log them.

## Publications

The *Overland Journal* is one of OCTA's major means of spreading our message to the public. As such, the greater our circulation, the more our message of the importance of trail education, conservation, protection, and enjoyment is spread. Thus, increasing our membership is very important as dedicated members are needed for a healthy and effective organization providing financial support to volunteer help to spreading our message.

We also believe that library memberships can have a multiplier effect. We recently began a review of present memberships and also started to encourage our chapters and members to sponsor local libraries. Our present list now shows that we have only 40 libraries - 28 local libraries and 12 college and university members. We are asking chapters and members to consider sponsoring a library. You can either sponsor a library of your own choosing or donate the cost of a membership to OCTA Publications and we will find one for you. The cost is only \$45 for one library membership. Be sure to inform headquarters and the publications committee.

We hope to at least match the five previously donated or double it if we can. Thanks again to those who donated earlier and to those who do in the next few months. One member has already pledged to match the cost for the first ten new library memberships. So each membership donated is really two. Not only will we reach our initial goal, we at least double it. We can't afford to let this challenge go unanswered!

The committee is also contacting different libraries asking that they consider joining as members themselves. If you know of a library that should be contacted, please let us know. And don't forget the matching challenge.

Happy Trails!

- Bill Hill, Publications Chair



## Trails50.org

Visit the [Trails50.org](http://Trails50.org) website, sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System, to find information about activities on our national trails during 2018, the 50th anniversary year for the National Trails Act.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 43,120	\$ 21,531
Accounts Receivable	3,036	1,466
Prepaid Expenses	1,200	-
Inventory (at cost)	30,906	32,303
Investments (Endowment Funds)	1,452,145	1,359,280
Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization	107,260	143,013
Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation	<u>185</u>	<u>185</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,637,852</u>	<u>\$ 1,557,778</u>
 <b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,348	\$ 30,094
Note Payable - Bank	8,400	8,400
Deferred Revenue	1,145	5,741
Total Liabilities	<u>24,893</u>	<u>44,235</u>
 <b><u>Net Assets</u></b>		
Unrestricted:		
Designated by Governing Board	525,124	505,005
Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment	107,445	143,198
Undesignated	<u>53,369</u>	<u>11,065</u>
	685,938	659,268
Temporarily Restricted	459,299	386,823
Permanently Restricted	<u>467,722</u>	<u>467,452</u>
Total Net assets	<u>1,612,959</u>	<u>1,513,543</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,637,852</u>	<u>\$ 1,557,778</u>

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
National Park Service	\$ 125,896	\$ 162,032
Membership Dues	70,663	73,679
Convention and Symposium	82,972	96,719
Contributions	45,018	37,335
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	8,944	8,665
Other	7,500	8,716
Total Operating Revenues	<u>340,993</u>	<u>387,146</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Board and Officers	8,216	10,159
Committees	24,146	30,899
Administration and Management	202,794	219,284
Publications	56,021	54,116
Convention and Symposium	63,559	70,359
Other	1,957	17,387
Total Operating Expenses	<u>356,693</u>	<u>402,204</u>
Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	<u>(15,700)</u>	<u>(15,058)</u>
<b>Non Operating Income (Deductions)</b>		
Endowment Fund Investment Income	146,946	123,866
Film Amortization	(35,753)	(35,753)
Endowment Fund and Other Restricted Contributions	920	3,790
Life Memberships	3,000	4,000
Non Operating Income - Net	<u>115,113</u>	<u>95,903</u>
Increase in Net Assets	<u>\$ 99,413</u>	<u>\$ 80,845</u>

*Save the Trail*

## Education Outreach Continues

After the Education Outreach Committee attended the National Conference on Social Studies in San Francisco in November, we have exploded with opportunities to attend State Conferences for Social Studies. Each allows us to meet with hundreds of educators who are excited to use OCTA's education tools or are already using them.

Limited by time and expense, we will be attending future conferences in Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, and possibly Texas. Eventually we want to train a local OCTA chapter how to do what we do, so hopefully they can represent OCTA at these important conferences.

We have also been awarded the opportunity to present and participate in a panel in Jefferson City, Missouri at the 2018 Missouri Conference on History. We really could not have tailor-made an event better. We plan on attending this year's 2018 National Conference for the Social Studies in Chicago.

Attendance allows us to optimize our exposure, promote membership and further explain how our Education Outreach curriculum is structured and how our tools can be found online. The networking time is very productive.

We request any chapter that would like for us to present in their state to please contact us for consideration of next year's schedule.

Another educational project we are working on is the "Traveling Trunk." We would like to see an OCTA traveling trunk created that can make its way into as many classrooms as possible.

At OCTA's National Conference last year we requested and were granted the opportunity to request donations for a special account to support the work of Education Outreach. We are grateful to have received about \$3,000 in support, which will help defray the cost of attending state and national conferences. We are very encouraged by the committee's progress and would like to add more members to our committee. Please let us know if you can help. Thank you greatly for your support.

- Matt Mallinson & Audrey Elder, Co-Chairs



## Four New Members Added to OCTA Hall of Fame

The OCTA Hall of Fame Committee has voted to induct four new members in 2018. They are:

- **Horace M. Albright:** Noted American conservationist. Second director of the National Park Service, succeeding Stephen Mather. Director of OTMA/APTA.
- **John G. Ellenbecker:** Leader of the early trail preservation movement in Kansas. Author of *The Jayhawkers of Death Valley* and *The Pony Express*. Regional director of OTMA/APTA.
- **John D. Unruh, Jr.:** Author of *The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants on the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-60*, one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in History.
- **Merle W. Wells:** Noted Idaho historian. Instrumental in establishing the state's highway historical marker program with the Idaho Department of Transportation. Also established the State Archives and State Historic Preservation Office.

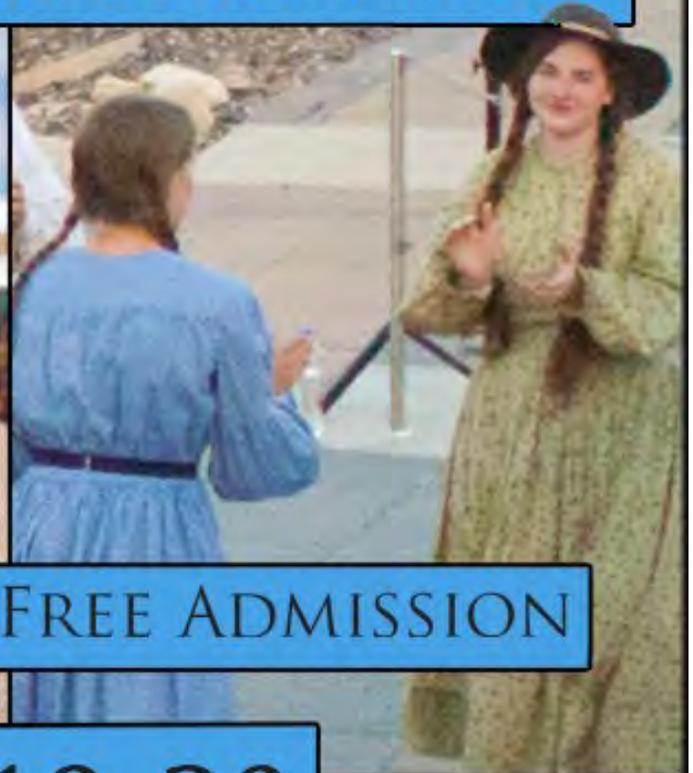
The committee will vote in October for up to four new members to be inducted in 2019. The committee welcomes nominees in the following categories:

- **Preservationist:** Promoted trail marking, interpretation and preservation through significant activities with lasting impact.
- **Trail pioneer:** Made significant contributions to trail development and migration or to the history and culture of the areas where they settled.
- **Author:** Enhanced public awareness and understanding of trail history through first-hand accounts or research of original source materials.
- **Philanthropist:** Made significant financial contributions to support the trail preservation movement or the preservation of cultural resources associated with it.
- **Public official:** Helped promote public recognition of trail history and/or expansion of trail marking and monument programs.
- **Executive:** Led corporate initiatives to support the trail preservation movement or enhance public awareness.

Members of the committee are Chair Camille Bradford, Roger Blair, Bob Clark, Bill Martin and David Welch.

# CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS

PIONEER &  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
DEMONSTRATIONS



FREE ADMISSION

MAY 19-20



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8 MI WEST OF ELKO, NV EXIT 292

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# SOUTHERN TRAILS

## Gila Bend Symposium Attracts More than 100



*Southern Trails Gila Bend symposium attendees on a trip to Painted Rocks.*

*—Photo by Jan Iwashita*

**Over 100 attended the Southern Trails Symposium in Gila Bend, Arizona, the first week in March. They enjoyed field trips, a great panel of speakers, terrific food and wonderful hospitality.**



*Southern Trails Chapter President Reba Grandrud*



*Left, examining a gravesite near the Oatman Massacre site—Photo by Jan Iwashita*



*OCTA President Pat Traffas presents a plaque and a pin to OCTA's newest Ezra Meeker Life Member, Ivan Baker of Beaverton, Oregon. The presentation was made at the Gila Bend Symposium*

# UTAH CROSSROADS

The Crossroads Chapter's big activity for 2018 will be to host the OCTA National Convention in Ogden in August. We took a brief trip last fall and visited some private land which will be part of a pre- and post-convention field trip re-tracing an early route from Wyoming country called Trail Canyon which parallels Echo Canyon (today's I-80 into Utah). It was used in 1846 and is still used today. The fortifications from the 1857-58 Utah War are still visible today. This should be an interesting trip. Our convention committee has also visited Ogden to acquaint themselves with the venues of the convention – the Bigelow and Hampton Inns.

Our first membership meeting was held March 22 at the Ft. Douglas Museum and featured Chris Merritt from our state's "SHPO" Office (State History Preservation). Also planning for a spring field trip will be in order.

Other news from Grantsville, Utah. The Donner-Reed Museum has been closed for some time due to a deteriorating wall (adobe). It is an old building which was first used as a Mormon Church building, then a school, and in recent years a museum to house artifacts from the Donner-Reed tragedy on the Bonneville Salt Flats in 1846. Many artifacts were brought in during the early 20th century by Charles Kelly and others. Because one wall of the museum is deteriorating, the city of Grantsville closed the building and ordered all artifacts removed and placed in storage. A tragedy for sure. Many wanted the building removed, but others in the city say the building itself is an artifact (dating from the late 1800's). Finally, someone who understands adobe was located, and repairs are being made at this time (spring, 2018). Opening is planned for this Memorial Day.

We regret the passing of yet another early Crossroads member. Dave Bigler was one of the charter members and one of Utah's premier historians. I had a friend here in Salt Lake City who knew him from high school. He said Dave was smarter than the teachers. He was awarded an honorary doctor of letters in 1979 by College of Southern Utah (now Southern Utah University). He was an organizer and president of the Utah Westerners and a contributor to the historical community for more than five decades. We regret his passing but will always remember his accomplishments.

-- A. Oscar Olson



Early Crossroads leaders, left to right, Dave Bigler, Carl Woolsey and WL "Bud" Rusho.

## Visit the All-New Crossroads Website

We are excited to announce that Utah Crossroads has launched its new website:

[utahcrossroadsocta.org](http://utahcrossroadsocta.org)

A work in progress for the past six months, chapter members Terry Welch and Gar Elison worked with Gina Sifers of Bella Media to design this colorful, informative website.

Be sure to take some time to scroll through it and especially note the sections on "Trail Tours," "History of the Trails," "Preservation," "Trail Marking," "Trail Blogs and Events," and the "Trail Photo Gallery."

Most gratifying of all is the new section on the upcoming August 6-10, 2018 Ogden Convention. Check back frequently for updates.

Not only is the Chapter to be congratulated on the new website, but we also thank our National Park Service partners who agreed to include funding in our cooperative agreement to assist with the development of this long-needed website.

# GATEWAY

Gateway Chapter is pleased to welcome Lauren Manning as the OCTA intern. Lauren is assigned to develop plans for enhancing awareness of the trails and Gateway in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

To aid in her knowledge, the several Gateway members (Corky Smith, Carol Smith, Cindy Weaver, Jackie Lewin and Jerry Lewin) took her out on the St. Joe Road through Doniphan County, Kansas. January, of course, is not a good time for traveling the trail, but we needed to begin her education. Lauren got a true test of the trail as our vehicle got stuck on a back road - exactly on the trail - and had to be towed. She had her first taste of "the elephant."

The Gateway schedule of activities for 2018 includes:

Program presented by six of our members on April 12. Members will present vignettes of life in St. Joseph during the emigration.

Joint field trip with KANZA Chapter of the St. Joe Road from the Missouri River to the Seneca, Kansas, area on June 2.

OCTA President Pat Traffas will be our guest at a picnic on July 7.

Joint field trip to the Marysville, Kansas, area hosted by the KANZA Chapter at a yet to be determined date in the fall.

The National Park Service will conduct a charrette during the first week in November with our community members. Goal is to develop a plan of trail interpretation for the St. Joseph/ eastern Kansas area.

- Jackie Lewin

## KANZA

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. KANZA will be involved in many activities, starting with an April 15 auto tour with the Gateway chapter starting in St. Joseph.

KANZA chapter members are working with a group planning a park and interpretation at the site of the Pappan Ferry in Topeka, and a writer traveling the Oregon Trail will visit Alcove Spring, as will a member of the Jedediah Smith Society, an organization dedicated to Smith and the fur trade.

KANZA members will work with Marysville High School teacher Mary Kessinger-Wassom this spring when one of her classes will do geocaching at Alcove Spring. KANZA members will present historic lore.

The chapter also plans to host a writer/speaker at the Great Overland Station in Topeka, and the presentation will be open to the public.

Other tours and projects are in the planning stages.

At our November Annual meeting we elected Duane Iles president, Arleta Martin treasurer, Alicia Keegan secretary and Carolyn Iles to the Board of Directors.

-- Duane Iles



OCTA Intern Lauren Manning with Gateway President Corky Smith at the Corder-Richey Cemetery in northeast Kansas.

## NEBRASKA

Because of the lack of auto-tour signs in Gering or the surrounding area (much of Western Nebraska), the Nebraska Chapter began interacting with locals and members in the region to create a plan and draft for installing new signs in five counties in the Panhandle of Nebraska. At this time, we are reviewing this draft for sign locations. Our next step is to contact county commissioners and department of roads to get their input into the project.

Legacy of the Plains Museum and Scotts Bluff National Monument are teaming up together to host the American Solar Car Challenge to be held at Legacy of the Plains on July 15th. We are doing a collaborative float in Gering's Oregon Trail Days parade which will be held the day before their arrival. Grand Island is a check point location earlier in the day, and we are hopeful to have chapter members present at this location.

Next year is the centennial of Scotts Bluff becoming a National Monument and we are excited to honor this monument's legacy. A centennial commission is being formed and a number of events will take place in 2019 that we hope to get the chapter involved in. We are also working to revive the chapter's newsletter.

We are planning a chapter meeting in Gering, Nebraska on May 11 at Legacy of the Plains Museum.

-- Amanda Gibbs

# TRAILSHEAD

# IDAHO

Trails Head is gearing up for a very busy 2018. Planning for the 175th Oregon Trail celebration and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act are the main events that we want to bring the most attention to.

Solar Car Races blast off from Council Bluffs & Grand Island, NE and several members are volunteering to represent OCTA at both locations. We will have a table with OCTA materials, items to sell, and water and snacks for the racers. This should be a prime opportunity to reach out to those attending and make them aware of our organization.

June 3, 2018 – National Trails Day Event - Joint venture with Missouri River Outfitters – Santa Fe Trail Association & Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association. Lone Elm Park – Olathe, KS – activities, speakers, & food.

Field trip planning is in the works for the end of the school year with St. John Paul II grade school, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, about 36 kids. This will be done in conjunction with Trails Head & KCAHTA members determining the best stops to represent our local trails in a half day trip for the kids.

This was suggested by our calendar contest winner's mothers and girls last summer at Council Bluffs; they thought this would be a great way to get school kids and parents interested.

American Heritage Girls Troop has inquired about a trails-related program to help their girls earn their merit badge. Members from both Trails Head and KCAHTA are working together to plan a short informative presentation. Area maps provided by both organizations will show where the local trails crossed and which parks they may need to contact to conduct the remaining activities of preservation/cleanup of the trails. This presentation can be used going forward with our local school groups/ Scout groups when requested

-- Jean Coupal-Smith

A mild winter has been enjoyable for the Idaho Chapter, especially compared to last year's "snow-maggedon". Spring appears to be early this year which means more time out on the trails.

Three Community Education classes were held in February with 15-20 people in each class. Several participants took the OCTA brochures and said they were going to join OCTA. About 15 people have signed up for the spring byway tour in April.

The following dates and events are planned for 2018. It should be a year with a number of interesting activities.

April 14 – Annual Spring Byway Tour

May 5 – Northwest chapter symposium in La Grande, Oregon

May 17-18 – City of Rocks stage station archeological survey work

May 19 – Spring chapter meeting, Burley, Milner ruts marking

Guest presenter – Lou Kitner of the BLM to discuss interpretive sign plan for Milner Recreation Area which contains Oregon Trail ruts

Guest presenter – Adam Calkins about photographing the Oregon Trail using drones and specialized software

June 2 – National Trails Day, outing, North Alternate Oregon Trail

June 23 – Lander Road marking outing

August 6-10 – OCTA convention in Ogden, Utah  
Second or third Saturday in September – Goodale Cutoff outing

October 6 – Fall chapter meeting

I hope to have good attendance at all of the outings this year. We are seeing some areas that the chapter has not been to in a number of years and issuing the schedule of events earlier to allow members to make plans further in advance.

-- Jerry Eichhorst

# COLORADO-CHEROKEE



*The Colorado chapter was well-represented at the Southern Trails Symposium in Gila Bend. Our next chapter event will be on May 12 at Three Eagles Ranch in Larkspur which is owned by OCTA members Rollie and Paula Johnson. We are looking forward to visiting the ranch and seeing their Milking Devon Working Oxen. Pat Traffas and Travis Boley will be attending this event, which will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.*

# CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The 2018 CA-NV Chapter Symposium will be held in Fernley and Fallon, Nevada, April 27-29. The symposium will open with a board meeting on Friday, followed by a reception that evening. A formal dedication, including the community, will be held on Saturday morning in Fernley for the recently-installed interpretive panels. The Symposium will be held at the Churchill County museum with tours on Sunday. Detailed information and registration details are available on the CA-NV Chapter website at [canvocta.org](http://canvocta.org).

Nevada Chapter members have been energetic in taking on projects along the California Trail. A Hastings Cut Off Mapping Group has been formed and trained in MET Mapping. Also, members have been working on obtaining for permits from the USFS and BLM to work on the Cut Off Trail corridor.

Preliminary work has begun on the Hot Hole Project in cooperation with the City of Elko. Although the California Interpretive Trail Center is located seven miles west, Elko has no California Trail sites developed in the immediate area of the City. Local groups, including the CA-NA Chapter are applying for grants to develop the site.

The Hot Hole (Springs) consists of a huge travertine dome (approximately 50 feet across) with hot water inside, a hundred yards above the river. Humboldt



*Hot Hole Springs*

River Hot Springs, downhill from the Hot Hole, are actually hotter in temperature and consist of several clusters of springs emerging on

the banks of the Humboldt. These springs were a well-known landmark for those on the California Trail.

Thanks to a generous donation from Terrible's Casino in Fernley the Chapter will be posting no dumping and private property signs at the Fernley Sand Swales. With assistance from OCTA's Western Region Representative Sharon Brown and Chapter Board member Duane Jones we are seeking grants for

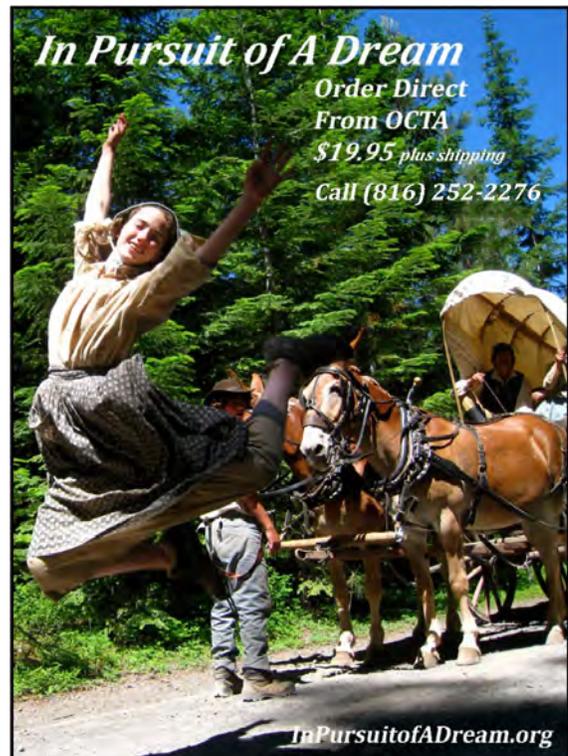
community input and design to preserve and improve public access to the Sand Swales.

The 2020 Elko OCTA National Convention Committee, led by Chairperson Helen Hankins, has 17 committee chairmen in place and have held several meetings including one on February 27<sup>th</sup> to determine a theme for the event.

Chapter members continue giving local presentations and attending events to promote OCTA. Members have spoken at local Rotary and other service clubs, and to community groups and events. Kudo's to Dee Owens who has been giving presentations to large groups in her area of Placerville. She has been scheduled to be a presenter to the California Geography Conference at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento to 300 people on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

As we anticipated, governmental agencies and utilities are out in force working on numerous projects. Chapter Preservation Officer, John Winner, along with other members, have been monitoring projects with possible impacts on the Carson and California Trails. A new request was received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for input on a solar farm on the Battle Mountain Indian Colony. The chapter has requested we participate in the project as a stakeholder. The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office suggested the BIA contact us, reflecting the continued value of networking with other historic preservation organizations.

*-- Dick Waugh*



# NORTHWEST

While the Northwest has experienced a rather soggy winter, plans for an active spring are afoot. The 2018 Annual Meeting of the NW OCTA Chapter was scheduled for March 17 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles. Henry Pittock, Mapping and Marking, and Paul Massey, VP, are planning trail marking and hiking activities for this summer and will report on their plans.

This year's election resulted in the following: President: Rich Herman; Vice-President: Paul Massey; Secretary: Polly Jackson; Treasurer: Glenn Harrison; Sallie Riehl was elected to fill the open position on the Board of Directors.

We started off the year with an invitation to the State of Oregon's 159th birthday celebration, which was held at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, on February 17.

The event featured displays, covered wagons, and family activities. Dr. John McLoughlin was there to meet overland emigrants arriving from the Oregon Trail. The 175th anniversary of the vote in Champoege that formed the first provisional government was also observed, and the original state constitution was on display. NW OCTA members met with the general public, handed out brochures, maps, and answered questions about the Oregon Trail and the pioneers of early Oregon.

Planning is well under way for the spring symposium to be held at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon, May 5. A major goal in holding this event is to re-introduce our chapter to the local community. Over one hundred local citizens are expected to attend and/or take part in this all-day event. We hope to highlight the role La Grande played in the Oregon Trail story, tell of Ezra Meeker's efforts to save the trail, and explain OCTA's current role in responding to threats facing the trail in Oregon today. A highlight of the program will be the story of the recent rediscovery of the nearly century-long missing Ladd Canyon Meeker Marker.

La Grande is also the home of the StopB2H organization (Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project) and where OCTA is working on National Register status

for a section of the Oregon Trail. Oregon OCTA members have been encouraged to write letters to Governor Kate Brown to draw her attention to the B2H threat to eastern Oregon and the Oregon National Historic Trail.

As mentioned, this year marks the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails Act. President Rich Herman has been working with the Oregon City Heritage Coordinating Committee as they plan activities for this summer. The NW Chapter has committed to helping celebrate the arrival of the pioneers on October 11, 12, and 13. This will be an indoor event at the Museum of the Oregon Trail and will initially involve a chapter information booth and answering questions of the public.

One other threat to the trail has been sidelined, at least for now, ending a fight that began in 2013. Last April, OCTA partnered with the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to co-sponsor a symposium in Vancouver, Washington, in an effort to shine a light on the disastrous effects a proposed oil terminal would have on the city's riverfront and Oregon/Lewis & Clark National Historic Trails. Recently, the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) voted unanimously to recommend denial of a permit for the nation's largest oil terminal. Washington's Governor Jay Inslee, who had the power to make a final decision, upheld the EFSEC vote. Riverkeeper is the lead on this effort, and they have worked with several tribal nations, including the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Nez Perce, and Cowlitz, to stop this project. They led the efforts to protect the Columbia and were assisted by the Stand Up to Oil coalition; local and state leaders; firefighters; and labor unions. Lethene Parks of our Northwest Chapter has been exceptionally passionate and vocal about this project and deserves a hearty thank you from us all. -- Dennis Larson

## When Did You Receive Your News From The Plains?

If you signed up for email delivery, the Winter issue was in your electronic mailbox **before Christmas**. If you had to wait for the USPS to carry it to your house, you probably didn't get it until mid- to late-January.

That's another great reason (along with full-color editions and saving OCTA the cost of printing and postage) to sign up to receive *News From The Plains* in a convenient email format.

To start, just send an email to [octa@indepmo.org](mailto:octa@indepmo.org) and ask to be put on the list!!

# Pay It Forward for the Trails

In 1847 my relatives walked from Iowa to San Diego with the Mormon Battalion. I knew my mom had Mormon roots, but we were raised Methodist, and we looked to the future, not to the past. It wasn't until I had my own sons, that I found an incredible desire to learn more about the Oregon Trail. I was raised in the Portland, OR area and had lots of opportunity to learn about the past but had little desire and no one encouraged me to learn more or understand the importance of my local history.

In 2005 we drove the Oregon Trail backwards from Oregon City to Independence. I'd never heard about Nauvoo, Illinois before that trip, nor understood religious persecution here in America. I'd always loved history and went to good schools, but still I was ignorant to the history of the trails.

I think now, my desire to learn and understand the trails comes from a depth of knowledge that genealogy opened in my head, my heart and my DNA. When I joined the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers I also joined OCTA, so that I could gain access to real history, and real stories and find other people who shared my interests and had the knowledge and stories I wanted to hear.

A famous pioneer, Melissa Burton Coray walked alongside her husband William Coray with the Mormon Battalion as a laundress. Her journey and their story

humbled me. I had no idea my own Pioneer Spirit was forged by people who had to struggle so hard to make America the amazing country I grew up in. We had so much abundance we took it for granted: Clean water, food, shoes, and transportation.

It is our job to "Pay it Forward." As OCTA, we can enlighten the minds of people who just don't know. They had famous relatives too but haven't taken the time to ask the questions of the universe that help enlighten us. There are angels in your past that want to whisper in your ear and help guide the future.

The Endowment Funds we're building up are earmarked for specific goals and objectives. Our planned giving as members allows us to "Pay it Forward" so that the stories, education and trails are available to teach generations to come. America is great already, and it was the footsteps of our ancestors that helped make it that way.

Maybe life really is a game of "capture the flag" and it is our job to carry that message on through our family lines, or through our membership in OCTA. Together, OCTA can pay it forward to honor those that came before us. Remember to include a specific gift in your estate plan for OCTA, so that if you're not here as a member to carry the flag, your gift will help others do it for you. Together, we will pay it forward so that 100 years from now, history won't be forgotten. - *Melissa Shaw Jones, Fundraising Chair*

## Will your grandchildren follow your footsteps on the trails?



**Our irreplaceable historic trails are disappearing at an alarming rate.**

**Leaving a legacy for your grandchildren can help make sure the trails are always there for them to enjoy.**

## Join OCTA's Trails Legacy Society today.

**Your gift to an OCTA Endowment fund through a bequest or estate gift will guarantee our ability to preserve and protect the trails.**

**The threats have never been greater. We need your help.**

**To learn more, visit [octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-legacy-society](http://octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-legacy-society)**

## Thanks to Our Business Sponsors

For just \$50 a year, you can become an OCTA Business Sponsor. 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:

**Blue Mountain Diagnostic Imaging**, 1100 Southgate, Suite 700, Pendleton OR,

**Jim Blau Insurance Agency**, 2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO.

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

**Lew Printing**, 227-B East College St. Independence, MO

**Kenneth J Weinand DDS PC** - 14500 42 St, Suite 210, Independence, MO 64057

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## Use Your Camera: Support the Trails; Win Prizes

OCTA members with a camera can help support the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Trails System and win cool prizes through a photography contest being sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Rules and information are available on the [www.trails50.org](http://www.trails50.org) website. The deadline is August 1, so get your photos in pronto!!

It's a great opportunity to submit your best photo of the historic trails and share them with other trails supporters.

## 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](http://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.

## Visit OCTA on the Internet

[OCTA-trails.org](http://OCTA-trails.org)  
[OCTA-Journals.org](http://OCTA-Journals.org)

[Report OCTA Volunteer Hours at  
octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer](http://Report OCTA Volunteer Hours at octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer)

# 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:

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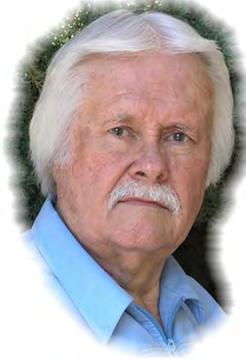
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## Welcome New Members

Cathy Amador, Boise ID  
Carol Arnold, Seattle WA  
Bannock Co Historical Society & Museum,  
Pocatello ID  
Mrs J E Barry, La Grande OR  
Lee Bouchard/Sons & Daughters of Oregon  
Pioneers, Fossil OR  
Cheryl Cardoza, Reno NV  
Thomas Cardoza, Reno NV  
Phillip Crawford, Stevenson WA  
Ross Deter, El Dorado Hills CA  
Brian L Dukleth, Dardenne Prairie MO  
David & Vicki Evans, Washington UT  
Bill Ferguson, Placerville CA  
Keith Fessenden, Arvada CO  
Pamela French-Stern, Hewitt NJ  
Ken Alford, Provo UT  
Michael Kaiser, Colorado Springs CO  
Edward Kurtz, Spring Hill KS  
David T Loofbourrow, Walnut Creek CA  
Cliff Looney, Meridian ID  
Dennis Lowrey, Granite Bay CA  
Richard Machen, La Conner WA  
Joyce Marsing, Willard UT  
Andrew McCarthy, Raleigh NC  
Roland Meyer, San Francisco CA  
Amy Molthan, White City OR  
Roger Moore, Hydesville CA  
Sandi Morgan/Gold Trail School, Placerville CA  
Theresa Nauschuetz, Berlin MD  
Elaine Nock, Beaverton OR  
Old Freighters Museum, Nebraska City NE  
Tom & Lori Parker, Blue Rapids KS  
Elizabeth Rapp, Albany OR  
Tedd Remm, Littleton CO  
John Ritter, Salem OR  
Judith Roy, South Jordan UT  
Robert D Ruckman, Palmdale CA  
Philip Smith, Griffin GA  
Robert Thomas, Fort Thomas KY  
Stephen Thomas, Gwent UK  
Darin Tuck, Columbia MO  
Sandra M Warren, Seattle WA  
Douglas G Williams, Kaysville UT  
Carla Wood, Panora IA  
Rob Woodworth, Los Angeles CA

# REMEMBRANCES

## Dave Hollecker



A long-time member of the California-Nevada chapter and active in the Southern Trails Chapter and others, Dave Hollecker died at his home in Reno in late February at the age of 78.

At his passing, Dave was editor of the CA-NV Chapter newsletter and active in the Fernley Sand Swales project completed in the past year. For years, he was a familiar face on OCTA trail outings and a familiar

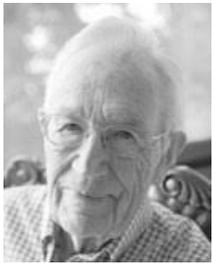
name on research articles.

Dave was the son of George and Louise Hollecker. He was born in the Eastern Montana town of Glendive and grew up in Great Falls. He was a graduate of the University of Montana.

He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 CA-NV Chapter Spring Symposium in Grass Valley/Nevada City.

Per his direction Dave was interred in Glendive, not far from Hollecker Lake, which is named after his family.

## William Buckwalter Smart



Journalist and historian William Buckwalter Smart died in January at the age of 95. He had a 40-year career with the *Deseret News*, serving as editor and general manager from 1972 to 1988.

A member of the Utah Crossroads chapter, he authored *Mormonism's Last*

*Colonizer*, a biography of his grandfather, William H. Smart, and, with his wife, Donna, *Over The Rim*, an account of the first Mormon expedition to Southern Utah.

Other books include *Utah: A Portrait*, his 2016 autobiography, *Words and Action*, and *Message for a Happier Life*, a collection of essays of personal and spiritual guidance.

## Memorial & Tribute

Gifts represent a wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.

To learn more, visit

[OCTA-trails.org/donate-online](http://OCTA-trails.org/donate-online)

## David L. Bigler

Writer, historian and past OCTA President David L. Bigler died at age 90 on January 31 in Roseville, California.

Trained in journalism at the University of Utah, Bigler was a Navy veteran of World War II and Korea. For his contributions to its community and special collections, Southern Utah State College (now Southern Utah State University)

awarded him an honorary Doctor of Letters in 1979.

He spent his professional career with U.S. Steel, rising to become its director of public affairs before retiring in 1986 to devote full time to the study of America's western emigration and Mormon history in the West.

A gifted researcher and narrative historian, Bigler wrote five and co-authored three books, covering subjects ranging from the California gold discovery to the impact of Mormon theocracy from 1847 to 1896 to the Native peoples of today's Idaho and Montana and to overland emigration. He won best book awards from Westerners International, the John Whitmer Historical Association and Western Writers of America.

Dave was a Fellow and Honorary Life Member, Utah State Historical Society; a former director, Utah Board of State History; a founder and long-time president of Utah Westerners; and president of the Oregon-California Trails Association, 1993 to 1995.

*(Photo of Dave Bigler at Devil's Gate Courtesy of Will Bagley.)*



## Chuck Hibbard



Utah Crossroad member Chuck Hibbard passed away in March at the age of 92 in Salt Lake City. A native of Michigan, after service in World War II in the Pacific, he entered the Air Force in 1949, retiring as a chief master sergeant. He received a doctorate from the University of Utah, becoming an Air Force historian. He is survived by his wife Mavis, his children

Elizabeth, Catherine, Rebecca and Robert, stepchildren Susan, Joe, and John, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was buried at Fort Douglas Cemetery in Utah. Donations to the Fort Douglas Museum were requested in lieu of flowers.

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## NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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