

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Courthouse Rock

Spring 2019

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Six To Be Inducted Into OCTA Hall of Fame

Six members will be inducted into the OCTA Hall of Fame for 2019, including **Jere Krakow**, former superintendent of the National Trails System Intermountain Region and OCTA National Preservation Officer, and **Bill and Jeanne Watson**, whose advocacy led to the inclusion of the California and Pony Express Trails in the National Trails System.

Other inductees for 2019 are **John Bidwell**, a leader of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party in 1841 and author of a detailed journal recounting the journey; **Kenneth Holmes**, Editor of *Covered Wagon Women: Diaries & Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1890*; and **Stanley Kimball**, author and editor noted for his books on the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and its leaders and studies of the Mormon Trail.

More complete biographies and photos of the inductees will be in the Summer issue of News From The Plains.

Hall of Fame members are selected by the OCTA HOF Committee, whose members include Roger Blair, Camille Bradford (Chair), Glenn Harrison, Bill Martin and David Welch. Glenn replaced Bob Clark, who resigned from the committee in October.

For a list of past members and qualifications for inductees, visit octa-trails.org/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame. To submit nominees or for other inquiries, send an email to ETHoF1846@gmail.com

OCTA Completes Membership Survey

OCTA does a great job of advocating for preservation of trail resources and generating interest in trail history, according to a recently completed membership survey.

In the e-mail survey taken in January, 89 percent of those who responded cited advocacy for trail resources and 84 percent listed the organization's ability to stimulate interest in history when asked what OCTA does best.

In addition, 90 percent said they joined OCTA because of an interest in western history and 76 percent cited a desire to preserve and protect historic resources.

When asked what OCTA could improve on, 46 percent said it should do more to educate the public and 38 percent said it should do more to encourage chapter, regional and national member activities. More collaboration with similar organizations was suggested by 32 percent.

Asked what they enjoyed most about OCTA, members ranked the *Overland Journal*, chapter functions, national conventions, *News From The Plains* and regional symposiums highest.

The survey determined that location was the most important consideration in deciding if they would attend a convention and that September is the preferred time of year to hold a convention.

The survey was a project of OCTA's Long Range Planning Committee, which is working to set priorities for the organization's future. (See story on page 20.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The winter months have been busy ones for OCTA. The US Capitol Christmas Tree traveled the Oregon Trail eastward and was viewed by thousands along the Trail, generating public interest and membership involvement.

Several members with special expertise have been hard at work defining and refining the Convention Planning process which will provide an excellent resource for all future conventions and symposia. Thank you Jerry Eichhorst and Jean Coupal-Smith who have co-chaired this effort, as well as others who have participated at a high level.

Members of the Long Range Planning Committee have been holding regular conference calls to identify immediate needs and goals of our Association. Special thanks to Camille Bradford, Glenn Harrison, Bill Martin, Duane Iles, Dick Waugh, and Lee Black for their participation in this important initiative. This committee developed a membership survey which was distributed in January. Over 200 members responded which was most appreciated and helpful in providing insight. You have spoken. Thanks to all who participated.

It's important for all chapters to feel connected to each other and to OCTA Headquarters. For the past year and a half, Chapter Presidents have been invited to participate in conference calls...sometimes with set topics, and sometimes to discuss what's happening or of concern to them. Appreciation is expressed to Duane Iles for chairing the majority of these conference calls and for summarizing content of the calls.

It was most enjoyable to attend the Southern Trails Symposium in Albuquerque from February 22-24, and to have the opportunity to visit with chapter members and

friends, and of course, eat wonderful green chile cuisine! Aaron Mahr from the National Parks Service addressed the group on efforts for national historic trail designation, and joined us for a most educational tour to Martineztown and the Gutierrez-Hubbell House along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (a "living trail" because many descendants still reside and maintain an affiliation over centuries of use).

The Mid-Year Board Meeting was held in Independence, MO on March 14. A two-day symposium followed entitled "Truman and the Trails." Trails Head Chapter assisted OCTA Headquarters with planning for all three days and were hosts to the luncheon during the Board Meeting and for the music during the evening of the Chuckwagon Dinner. Plans for a major renovation of the National Frontier Trails Museum and our OCTA Headquarters were reviewed. HQ will likely need to relocate temporarily during this effort.

After an extreme winter for many of us, we look forward to the advent of Spring and getting out on our beloved trails once again. This officer anticipates a visit with the Idaho Chapter in May, which will complete at least one visit to every chapter in OCTA. The very best part of these visits is getting to meet the members of the chapter, to hear what is happening, and what the members would like to see happen. The real work of OCTA takes place at the chapter level, and your active participation is vital to our mission. Thank you for your membership and all that you do. I hope that you will make plans to join us in Santa Fe in September for the Annual Convention .

[Pat Traffas](#)

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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OCTA Board Report

The combined value of OCTA's three Endowment funds declined during the 2018 calendar year but rebounded significantly during January as markets recovered, according to a report from the OCTA Investment Advisory Committee.

The total value of the endowments was \$1,369,927 on December 31, 2018, a decrease of \$123,608 from December 31, 2017. Most of the drop, \$91,818, reflected downward market trends nationally.

As of February 1, 2019, the total value of the endowments was still down from the December 31, 2017, value of \$1,493,535, but the decrease is almost entirely attributable to board-approved withdrawals (\$31,790) in 2018.

The February 1 fund values were: Martin Fund (restricted to legal expenses) \$415,089; Loomis Fund (restricted to preservation expenses) \$317,994; and Heritage Fund (unrestricted) \$718,638 for a total value of \$1,451,711.

The report was presented to the OCTA National Board of Directors at its Mid-Year meeting held in Independence in March.

In other action:

- The Board approved a special plaque in recognition of Turner Rivenbark's many years of service as OCTA Treasurer and CPA advisor.
- Heard that OCTA's membership remains flat, with 1,315 memberships as of February 18.
- Received a report from the National Park Service Intermountain Region on a number of topics, including the design charrette held recently in St. Joseph, MO, to develop interpretive concepts associated with the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails, and signing projects on several National Historic Trail locations in

California, Oregon, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas.

- Was told by the NPS that discussions are underway for an encore Solar Challenge along portions of the Oregon



Left to right, VP-President-elect Lee Black, Association Manager Travis Boley and President Pat Traffas confer prior to the OCTA Board meeting in Independence.

Trail in 2020, following the successful solar race held in 2018.

- Accepted a report from OCTA Treasurer Marvin Burke reflecting relatively stable organizational finances for the first quarter of the fiscal year. (See pages 22-23 for financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018.)
- Passed a resolution in support of efforts by the City of Independence to develop funding for preservation and repair of historic buildings within the city, including the National Frontier Trails Museum, where OCTA is headquartered. \$2.1 million has been identified in immediate restoration and repair needs for the Museum building and \$3 million in deferred needs.
- Defeated on a voice vote a proposal to expand criteria for how the Nominations & Leadership Committee identifies and nominates candidates for Board officer positions.

2018-2019 OCTA Board of Directors

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camalobo@comcast.net

Three Candidates Announce for OCTA National Board

Jean Coupal-Smith of Roeland Park, Kansas, **Steve Knight** of Carson City, Nevada, and **Bill Martin** of Georgetown, Texas, have submitted applications for positions on the OCTA National Board of Directors.

The terms of Board members Ginny Dissette, Dick Nelson and Dick Waugh will expire in 2019. Dick Nelson is completing his second term, so not eligible to run again in 2019. Ginny Dissette, completing her first term, has elected not to seek a second term. Dick Waugh was elected to a Vice President position in 2018 and will not seek a second term as a Director.

OCTA members are asked to fill out the ballot found on page 5 and return it to OCTA Headquarters at P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 60451 no later than June 15. If a majority of members do not return ballots, candidates will be elected by a voice vote at the Annual Membership Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Below are the candidate's statement of qualifications and experience.



Jean Coupal-Smith has been a member of OCTA since 2012 and is a familiar sight at OCTA conventions. After a 17-year career with Johnson County Department of Motor Vehicles, she has worked part-time for Hobby Lobby for the past 13 years.

She served three years as President of the Trails Head Chapter and current serves as chapter vice president. She is also treasurer of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, as well as volunteering at OCTA headquarters and during conventions and symposiums. In addition, she has been an active member of the Kansas Society of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Since 2012, she has been involved with every Convention and Mid-Year Board Meeting, assisting with registration process and lending a helping hand where needed, including helping with bookroom sales and operations. In 2017 she was awarded the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award.

Her candidacy is endorsed by Bill Martin, Dick Waugh and Jerry Eichhorst



Steve Knight has lived in Nevada since the mid 1970s, earning a degree in geology from the Mackey School of Mines and a Masters in Education from the University of Nevada. He has been a high school teacher, charter school superintendent and geologic engineer and hydrologist for the Nevada State Engineers office.

He has been active in the California-Nevada Chapter, serving on the Board, as Vice President and as President in 2005 to 2008. He and his wife, Patty, have organized five chapter symposiums and participated in the Fernley Sand Swales preservation efforts. He has received numerous chapter awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award, and has been an active trail marker and mapper.

As a Board member, he wants to emphasize research, education and preservation, especially encouraging educators and young adults to get out on the trails. He also wants to support the researchers and preservation partners to help preserve the trails for future generations.

His candidacy is endorsed by Tom Fee, Dick Waugh and John Winner.



Bill Martin has been a member of OCTA for more than 25 years and has served in a number of official

capacities, including as OCTA President.

Until retiring in 2019, he was the long-time editor of *News From The Plains*. In addition, he has served on a number of OCTA Committees, including chairing the Publications Committee. Most recently he is serving on OCTA's Long Range Planning Committee. He is also OCTA's Board-designated representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System, where he serves on the Trail Leaders Council.

He is a previous recipient of both the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award and the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. He is a member of all OCTA chapters. His goals as a Board member will be to help OCTA grow its membership, improve its financial stability, and allow it to be an even stronger voice for trails preservation.

His candidacy is endorsed by Jean Coupal-Smith, Jerry Eichhorst and Glenn Harrison.

Save the Trail

Make Plans For Santa Fe in September

When OCTA surveyed its membership several years ago, members said the place they would most like to have a National Convention was Santa Fe, New Mexico. In September, your wishes are going to come true.

A truly unique National Convention will be held in Santa Fe on September 3-8, hosted by the Southern Trails Chapter. The 37th annual gathering will be the first OCTA Convention held in the Southwest and is an opportunity to see sites never before available.

The theme of the convention is "The Gathering: A Blending of the Trails." Subtitles "Feria de Pielés," Spanish for "fur fair" and "Le Rendez-vous," French for "the appointment," and a drum in the convention logo representing Native American culture combine to reflect the blending of cultures important in New Mexico history.

A full slate of interesting speakers, tours, and special events are planned. Details of the convention and registration information will be in the July issue of *News From The Plains* and also available on the OCTA website and through OCTA's E-News online newsletter in the coming weeks.

The tentative schedule includes:

Tuesday, September 3 – Welcoming reception at the historic Palace of the Governors; OCTA Board of Directors meeting.



Wednesday, September 4 – Tours and lunch at Rancho de las Golondrinas, the OCTA general membership meeting, a keynote speech by Dr. Carlos Herrera, and the annual OCTA Awards Banquet.

Thursday, September 5 – Bus tours to Taos, Fort Union National Monument, Chimayo and the Pecos National Historic Park Site.

Friday, September 6 – Fourteen speakers at two locations, followed by chapter meetings and the annual dinner and live auction at Farmers Market.

Saturday, September 7 – A second day of tours, with a tour of the Coronado site near Bernalillo replacing the Pecos tour.

Sunday, September 8 – Morning services at the historic Loretta Chapel, followed by a post-convention tour along the Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail to Point of Rocks massacre site.

The convention has a block of rooms at the Hotel Santa Fe and the nearby Sage Inn. Registration information will be forthcoming.

Volunteers are needed! See Page 10 for a list of volunteer opportunities.

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

OFFICIAL 2019 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 have two votes.

If you have questions, please contact OCTA Headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN **THREE** DIRECTORS FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS (2019-2022)

	<u>Member 1 Vote</u>	<u>Member 2 Vote</u>
Jean Coupal-Smith	_____	_____
Steve Knight	_____	_____
Bill Martin	_____	_____
Write In Candidate:	_____	_____

**Your ballot needs to be marked clearly and postmarked no later than June 15, 2019
to be included in the election. Return to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051.**

PRESERVATION



By [John Winner](#)

National Preservation Officer

OCTA's mission is to protect the Historic Emigrant Trails Legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes.

Most of the trail activities being monitored that were listed in the last Preservation Report are still valid. Here are a few updates:

The Nebraska "R" Project has a new contact person from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Drue DeBerry [drew_deberry@fws.gov]. According to Linda Tacey, our Nebraska Chapter Preservation Officer, Bob Harms from Nebraska Fish & Wildlife has been directed to refer all inquiries regarding the "R" Project to the regional office in Denver. Perhaps the local folks from Fish and Wildlife were too friendly with us. There is tremendous opposition to this 225-mile-long transmission line that would place transmission towers and lines directly over several trail segments of the Oregon and Mormon Trails.

The US Fish and Wildlife service recently released a Programmatic Agreement for the project, on which OCTA is a Consulting Party. OCTA will *not* sign the Agreement because we believe there are flaws in the document and the power company has not met in good faith relative to the Section 106 process.

This project continues to be a hot topic in Nebraska.

The B2H Project goes on and on. Northwest Chapter member Gail Carbiener, guru of B2H, gave us the outlook for 2019 activities:

- Integrated Resource Planning meetings in Boise, Idaho (2nd Thursday of each month).
- Oregon Public Utility Commission transmission workshop. Three workshops are scheduled. The first was held in Salem on January 17.
- Sometime during the first or second quarters of 2019, the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council will issue its draft proposed order which will kick off the public hearing and comment period.
- Expect a public relations campaign, newsletter and website training and information sessions.
- Litigation planning and decisions regarding lawsuits.
- 2019 Idaho Power (IRP) Integrated Resource Plan to be filed with Idaho and Oregon Public Utility Commissions by June 30th.

Wyoming. The BLM Rock Springs field office has submitted annual reports on the status of several projects.

- Monell Memorandum of Agreement: The Monell MOA does not stipulate specific mitigation measures but agrees that the setting of the Overland Trail within the MOA area has been compromised.
- Hiawatha Programmatic Agreement: All mitigation has been completed in previous years with the exception of the location of two interpretive sign and linking of the signs to the Wyoming Travel and Tourism website.
- Point of Rocks MOA: 2018 power line work.
- Blue Forrest MOA: For fiscal year 2018, four projects were approved within the Blue Forest MOA area. The projects were related to oil and gas development, including Cathodic protection, Access Road ROW and Water Disposal Well.

There is a new project in Battle Mountain, Nevada.

The US Bureau of Reclamation is preparing a cultural Resources Management Plan for a California Trail segment along the Humboldt River. The proposal is a land exchange between the Bureau of Reclamation and Lander County. The Bureau has asked for OCTA's assistance in preparing the RMP and to identify trail locations and classification.

Long Canyon Mine. This project is a large open pit mine operated by Newmont Mining in Northeast Nevada. Most of the land is public, under the control of BLM. It impacts the Hastings Cutoff. OCTA has been involved in this project for years, resulting in several mitigation concessions. Included is a conservation easement to protect the Gravelly Ford site and the California Trail leading to the site and the development of a virtual trail.

Although MET mapping the Hastings Cutoff in the Goshute Valley is separate from the Long Canyon mitigation, BLM agreed to assist OCTA with mapping in the Goshute Valley. This past December, BLM was asked for a status report. Dayna Reale, a Cultural Resources Specialist with BLM, said work has not started on the consultation easement pending completion of a Historic Properties Treatment Plan. She said MET mapping and imagery in the Goshute Valley is not likely to start in 2019.

Recently, Newmont submitted a proposal for expansion of the mine, including underground mining activities and installation of rapid-infiltration basins in the Goshute Valley, impacting the Hasting Cutoff.

BLM is conducting pre-scoping outreach and has begun the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed Long Canyon amended plan of operation. OCTA has been invited to participate in the process as a Cooperating Agency.

More to come.....

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER

By [Travis Boley](#), Association Manager &
[Sharon Brown](#), Western Regional Representative

Many of you are aware that as of last summer OCTA's website - octa-trails.org - was updated with a new look and easier navigation. What you may not know is that many more changes have been made over the winter. There is more content for reading, more links for learning, and more chances for sharing about the trails!

In addition, we have worked with our Gateway Chapter over the winter to build a new [website](#) for them. We believe that you will all find it incredibly useful and engaging and full of information about trails in St. Joseph, Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

As a reminder, we launched a new Utah Crossroads Chapter [website](#) early last year and we could not be more excited about how user-friendly it is for those who want to explore Utah's trails.

We have also made numerous valuable updates to our Journals website - octa-journals.org - and we are in the early stages of developing a new website for our Trails Head Chapter that will shine a spotlight on trails in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area as well as Lawrence and Topeka.

Let's begin with our main website at www.octa-trails.org. You will see:

- To assist with your trail trip planning, descriptions and locations of sites protected and open to public use in federal and state parks along the trails are available, along with links for more information. Public trail-related visitor centers are included. Links to federal agency partner websites related to the trails are offered, as well as information about the National Trails System. Links to several trail guides are provided, as well as links to two mobile device apps.
- Using information from Randy Brown and Reg Duffin's *Graves and Sites on the Oregon and California Trails* (OCTA, 2nd edition, 1998) there are now short entries for 30 graves located on public property and open to the public.
- On-line reference materials for OCTA members include the new Leadership Manual, a current OCTA organization chart, and the 2015 Strategic Plan. OCTA's organizational and leadership history is provided through a list of Policy Decisions, a list of past award winners, and a Historical Record of Officers and Directors from 1982 - 2019.
- The Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame now features all selectees from 2015 - 2018.
- Photos and graphics on the website now have "alt" text providing short text descriptions of the image that

screen readers can understand and speak. These were added to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- OCTA national memberships are now presented in order of lowest cost (college student) to highest cost (life member and corporate). Chapter memberships are presented in alphabetical order by chapter name, and in order of lowest to highest cost.
- All products in the OCTA store now have short descriptions, alt text and "tags" for easier searching on our Journals website at octa-journals.org:
- Convention book and tour guides from past OCTA conventions were added to the website. Starting with the 1986 convention in Carson City, Nevada, and ending with the 2017 convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa, you can find, download, and read through these guides, most written by local trail experts in each locale. A few years are missing, so if you have one of these gems please let us know so we can add it!
- Past and current issues of the *Overland Journal* (July 1983 - Fall 2018) and *News From The Plains* (Spring 1987 - Winter 2019) are online and available for members to download. Take time to revisit articles and book reviews by OCTA members we have lost - Merrill Mattes, Patricia A. Etter, Aubrey Haines - as well as to catch up on recent trail scholarship by award-winning authors.
- Additionally, after you enter the password (which was recently changed to "Bidwell1841"), you will see the contents of each *Overland Journal* issue listed by article title and author. Now you can find that specific article about "The Trails of the Death Valley Forty-Niners" by LeRoy and Jean Johnson (Vol.6, no. 1, 1988) or Erwin N. Thompson's book review of the Sager girls writing their memories of the 1847 Whitman Massacre (Vol. 5, no. 1, Winter 1987).

Moving on to our new Gateway Chapter website at gateway-octa.org, you will find:

- Maps, maps, and maps! Not only do we have historic St. Joseph city maps and links to National Park Service Auto Tour Route Guide books, our intern Lauren Manning spent much of 2018 going through 19th century city directories in an effort to pinpoint where all the trail-related businesses were located. You can explore her work in an interactive ArcGIS map that not only shows you where the wagon makers, blacksmiths, dry goods stores, and saloons were located; you can also see where merchants and Pony Express personnel lived and are buried. In many cases, each dot on the map also contains a brief narrative about the site

(continued on Page 8)

New Editor Named For *News From The Plains*

Jay Lawrence has been named Editor of *News From The Plains*, OCTA's quarterly newsletter for members. The appointment was approved by the OCTA Board following a recommendation from the Nominations & Leadership Committee, with input from the chair of the Publications Committee.

Lawrence, of Long Beach, CA, has a long career as a graphic designer. He currently edits the *Lincoln Highway Forum*, a quarterly publication of the Lincoln Highway Association, and a monthly newsletter for the Desert Explorers of Mojave River Valley Museum in Barstow, CA.

Four applications were received for the position, which became vacant with the resignation of long-time editor Bill Martin.



"While all four applicants were qualified for the editor position, Jay Lawrence was the unanimous choice of the committee based on personal, professional and technical skills," said N&L Committee chair John Winner.

Lawrence will take over editing responsibilities effective April 1 and his first issue of *News From The Plains* will be the Summer/July issue.

"I'm excited to have been selected to edit *News From the Plains*," Lawrence said. "This will be a great opportunity to dig deeper into the OCTA mission, and to meet and work with more of the members. I'm looking forward to building on Bill Martin's excellent work and continuing to deliver a first class publication."

Contact information for the new editor:

Jay Lawrence

530 Ohio Avenue, Long Beach CA 90814.

Email: JayLawrenceOCTA@gmail.com

Phone: (562) 760-1999.

Overland Journal Editor Announces Departure

OCTA is accepting applications through April 15 to be editor of the *Overland Journal*, its quarterly scholarly historical journal.

Marlene Smith-Baranzini has served as editor since 2013 and announced her decision to leave the position when her current contract expires on September 30.

The *Overland Journal* is published four times a year. It serves as a forum for scholarly articles adding to the knowledge of the trails. In addition to research articles, the *OJ* includes book reviews and letters to the editor.

The Editor oversees production of each issue and

assumes responsibility for the solicitation and editing of articles. The Editor is also responsible for the historical accuracy and values of interpretive material.

A full job description and qualifications is available on the OCTA website at octa-trails.org/octa-enews/job-description-for-overland-journal-editor/

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, samples of work and other appropriate information to John Winner, the chair of the OCTA Nominations & Leadership Committee at swinner@dataentree.com. The Committee will make a recommendation to the OCTA Board of Directors, which will make the final decision.

Association Manager (continued from page 7)

or person as well as historic and modern photos. The map lets you know whether the site still exists but also shows you where long-forgotten buildings were once located. This map is part of a larger effort to increase heritage tourism opportunities in this important "Jumping Off" town and is a key component of our recently completed charrette.

- Speaking of the charrette, in early November 2018 Superintendent Aaron Mahr and four members of his National Trails Intermountain Region staff came to St. Joseph to work with locals to plan for future California and Pony Express National Historic Trail needs in and around the city. The Gateway Chapter website will contain the final planning document and will be updated frequently as more and more work is done to

enhance trails in the region.

- In an amazing partnership with the St. Joseph Museum, we are thrilled to announce the digitization of trail diaries, letters, and reminiscences of emigrants who jumped off from St. Joseph and the immediate surrounding area. There is also a section containing some Pony Express materials. This section will be an invaluable tool for researchers, genealogists, and students. Much thanks and gratitude to St. Joseph Museums, Inc. for this incredible partnering opportunity!
- You will want to read a section on trail history in and around St. Joseph as well as numerous other sections. Consider this your invitation to explore the family of OCTA websites and happy reading!

Education Outreach

Hello friends! 2018 proved to be another fun and busy year for the Education Outreach Committee. Conferences this last year included the Iowa Council for Social Studies in which Matt presented in Altoona, Iowa, and the National Conference on Social Studies in Chicago.



Education Outreach co-chairs Audrey Elder and Matt Mallinson present to the OCTA Board.

It is apparent that OCTA journals, curriculum and educator tools from our website are growing in use and application. We also continue to gain new membership with each education conference we attend. Where we are and where we are going:

1. The Elko, Nevada traveling trunk project is nearly complete. The

Union Pacific Grant allowed for three complete education trunks to be purchased for educators in the Elko region as well as one trunk housed at OCTA headquarters for use in the Midwest. Curriculum specific to the trunks is in its final draft.

2. OCTA YouTube channel video is becoming a mainstay in education. Having trail-based education videos on YouTube is a gift to any educator. Have a camera? Do film! Let's all get creative, have some fun and get some great content up to grow our reach.
3. Strength and growth - What education-based activities are happening in your chapter this year? Tell us about it so that we can share that information with our educator members. If any of those members live near your chapter, give them a call! Good chance they'll join the chapter if they haven't already and will likely be thrilled to hear from you.
4. Collaboration - Did you know there are youth and young adult organizations just waiting for someone like you to provide a meaningful project opportunity? Not sure where to start? Shoot either of us an email and we'll help you get rolling!

- Audrey L Elder AudreyLynnElder@gmail.com

- Matt Mallinson MS844@hotmail.com



Oregon Trail Segment May Be On National Register

The Oregon State Advisory Committee for Historic Preservation has recommended that the State Historic Preservation Officer forward OCTA's recommendation for a listing on the National Register.

A 3.66-mile segment of private property northwest of La Grande, if approved by the National Park Service, will be the first segment of Oregon Trail in Oregon added to the National Register since 1992.

The process started in 2013 and has been a long and detailed road. We could never have been successful without the support of National OCTA, Northwest Chapter, the National Park Service, and the four private property owners. Two professional archaeologists completed a formal archaeological report for SHPO.

OCTA looks forward to summer and walking this difficult segment of the Trail. In addition, a four-mile segment will begin its process for listing.

B2H Update

The Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) power line continues to rest while the Energy Facilities Siting analyst reviews Idaho Power's application for a "Draft Project Order" that will start another public comment period. Since this process has been going on for over 10 years, Idaho Power's application is now often incomplete or inaccurate. Sometimes studies cited in the application are outdated, leaving portions open to challenge.

As it stands now, the Power Line will cross the Oregon Trail eight times. Several spots are critical if we are to maintain viewshed and protect the swales. It is no coincidence that B2H comes close to the 3.66 miles recommended for listing on the National Register.

The wildfires in California, as terrible as they have been, gives us energy to oppose a new 500-kV power line through Oregon. All of OCTA have been supportive and we look forward to your encouragement in the future.

- Gail Carbiener

Awards Deadlines Is June 1

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2019 Convention scheduled in September in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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.

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

Abundant Volunteer Opportunities in Santa Fe

Volunteers are needed to help with the OCTA Convention in Santa Fe in September. If you would be interested in helping in any of these area, please contact Sue Loucks at sloucks@comcast.net.

Volunteers are needed for the following areas:

1. Set up Book Room at Farmer's Market (Work with Doug Hocking)
2. Assist with Registration (and Information Booth) (Work with Sue Loucks)
3. Chase vehicles for tours (Work with John Bell)
4. Assist with set up decoration tables (Work with Sandi Black)
5. Get Cases of Water to Hotel from Sam's Club (Work with Lee Black)
6. Load buses with water, Snacks & Lunches- tour days
7. Clean up crew for returning buses (Work with Lee Black)
8. Work with sound and A/V people at both hotel and Farmer's Market (Coordinate with company & Travis Boley)
9. Assist with auction setup, both silent & live (set up price lists, and show live auction items through audience) **NEED COORDINATOR**
10. Advertising and Promotion (Work with Bill Martin & Lee Black)
11. Help set up flags & staging at Rancho de Las Golondrinas for Wed. meeting (Work with Travis Boley & Cecilia Bell)
12. Traffic control - checking tickets for bus tours and for meals
13. Tour Guide for Taos
14. Selling convention t-shirts and hats - during entire convention 2-3 hour shifts
15. General first aid people (under John Bell)



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Save the Trail

Elko Convention Issues Call For Papers

Organizers of the 2020 OCTA National Convention in Elko have issued a call for papers to be presented at the meeting. The theme of the convention is "Through the Lens of History – Preserving the Past, Focusing on the Future." The convention will be held September 18-24, 2020.

All submissions relating to mid-nineteenth century overland migration to the West will be considered, but priority will be given to subjects related to the theme, especially what happened on the Hastings Cutoff in Nevada, and the Californian Trail from Goose Creek to Humboldt Wells and along the Humboldt River, during and after the overland trek.

Papers should be scholarly and original. Permission may be sought for publication of one or more presentations in OCTA's *Overland Journal* publication.

Abstracts should be submitted by December 1, 2019, to Ken Johnston, 5709 Casa Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. For additional information or questions call 541-883-7671 or email kljstn@msn.com

Golden Spike Sesquicentennial Scheduled for May in Utah

More than 15,000 are expected to attend the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad May 10-12 at the Golden Spike National Historical Park at Promontory Summit in Utah.

The festivities will include a Sesquicentennial Celebration Ceremony beginning at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 10, featuring a keynote address by noted historian Jon Meacham. Many member of OCTA's Crossroads Chapter are expected to volunteer during the event.

On all three days there will be a day-long Spike 150 festival, including music, performances, storytelling, historical reenactments, train demonstrations and more. The festival is scheduled from 1:30-7 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, including tickets, visit spike150.org.

Trails-Related Federal Legislation Becomes Law

In a significant victory for the trails, the President in March signed the Natural Resources Management Act, which earlier had passed both houses of Congress by wide margins.

The bill includes permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) and authorization of the North Country National Scenic trail and an eastward extension of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.

The legislation was supported by the Oregon-California Trail Association through its membership in the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS).

Immediately after the legislation was enacted, the Partnership send a pair of letters to Congress urging strong LWCF funding for national historic and scenic trails, including six national historic trails, and increased operational funding for all 30 national historic and scenic trails.

The second letter notes that funding for the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management has been flat for a number of years, hampering maintenance of existing trails.

Meanwhile, Gary Werner, who has been Executive Director of the Partnership for 20 years, has announced his intention to retire at the end of 2019. Bill Martin, who serves as OCTA's Board-designated representative to the PNTS, is serving on the five-member Executive Director Transition Task Force, a search committee to find his successor.

Finally, the status of the 64 additional routes and cutoffs study from the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Bill has been passed up from the NPS regional office to National Park Service in Washington, D.C., from where it will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Interior. There seems to be no externally known timetable as to when DOI might consider their recommendations and send them on to Congress.

The PNTS annual Gold Sheet, which was distributed to Congress during "Hike The Hill" in February, reported that member trails organizations contributed \$38,637,132 in volunteer hours and cash contributions to the trails in 2018.

OCTA's portion was officially reported as 35,927 volunteer hours valued at \$887,038 and cash contributions of \$448,542. OCTA believes both numbers are greatly under-reported because volunteers have failed to fully report volunteer hours and financial support.

Members are urged to use the easy-access form found at octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer to report hours and contributions as they occur.

News From The Chapters



Fernley Swales, Nevada

SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails Chapter installed new officers and new Board members during its well-attended Spring Symposium held in Albuquerque in February.

Mark Howe of El Paso TX was elected President and Cecilia Bell of Silver City NM was elected Vice President. Sue Loucks of Fresno CA was elected Secretary and David Smythe of Placerville CA was elected Treasurer. All will serve two-year terms.

New Board members, each serving a three-year terms, are Harry Hewitt of Wichita Falls TX, Doug Hocking of Sierra Vista AZ, Daniel Judkins of Green Valley AZ, Bill Martin of Georgetown TX, David Miller of Sand Springs OK, and Melissa Shaw Jones of Irvine CA.

During the Albuquerque symposium, chapter members heard from Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Park Service Long Distance Trail Office; Dr. Harvey Buchalter, who shared the history of Jews in New Mexico; Ron Stewart, who offered a unique perspective on early explorers who may have come from Africa; and a team of University of New Mexico students who are conducting an inventory of historic buildings along the El Camino Real.

Attendees also had an opportunity to tour the historic Gutierrez-Hubble House, the genealogy section at the Albuquerque City Library, the Petroglyph National Monument and the Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

In addition, a small group took part in a visit to Santa Fe to see locations for the 2019 OCTA National Convention scheduled for September.



New Southern Trails Chapter officers are, left to right, Treasurer David Smythe, Vice President Cecilia Bell, Secretary Sue Loucks, and President Mark Howe.



Frank Martinez, left, gave OCTA members a guided tour of the historic Martineztown site in Albuquerque.

Independence Hosts Symposium & OCTA Board Meeting

OCTA members and guests were kept busy during the “Truman and the Trails” Spring Symposium held in conjunction with OCTA Mid-Year Board meeting in Independence in mid-March.

The Symposium was hosted at the National Frontier Trails Museum, which is also home to OCTA headquarters.

The opening night reception was highlighted by an appearance from former President Harry S Truman, who called Independence his hometown and was once a leader of the National Old Trails Association. Everyone agreed he looked pretty good for 134 years of age.

Speakers during two-day symposium included Anne Mallinson (“The Roots that Grew an Oak: Harry Truman, Politics, and Preservation”), David Jackson (“Independence in the 1840s”), Lou Austin (“Utilizing Historic Trails for Community Improvement”), Jon Taylor (“When Histories Compete, Who Wins?”), and Greg Hatten (“Where Wild Rivers Meet Historic Trails”). Attendees also heard about planned remodeling and expansion of the Truman Presidential Library in Independence.

Half-day tours included the Independence Route, with sites such as Independence Landing, the Truman House, Independence Square, and the Big Blue River Crossing, and the Westport Route, including Westport Landing, River Market and Lewis & Clark Point.



Former President Harry S Truman, looking pretty good for 134 years of age, made an appearance during the Symposium.



Hardy OCTA members took horse-drawn transportation to get to the Friday evening dinner at Mallinson Winery.



Former President Truman visits with Sandi Black.



Chilly weather didn't deter OCTA members who toured local historic and trail sites.

NORTHWEST

Ronnie Allen, who discovered the long-missing Lower Ladd's Canyon Meeker marker in La Grand, Oregon in late 2017, had a busy winter despite all the snow the northwest. For those who are unaware, this Meeker marker had been missing since the 1920s.

Ronnie located it, purchased it and donated it to the Baker City Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, where it is now part of the Ezra Meeker exhibit. Since there were no stone quarries in La Grande in 1906, Ronnie next set out to determine where the stone was actually quarried.

He obtained permission from the interpretive center to have Jason McCaughy of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries take a small sample from the bottom of the marker. This was sent to the Peter Hooper GeoAnalytical laboratory at Washington State University for analysis. The rock was identified as basaltic trachyandesite taken from the north flank of Sugarloaf Mountain located 9.1 miles northwest of La Grande. This being the case, it is likely that both the marker on B Street in La Grande and the still-missing Upper Ladd's Canyon marker also came from this location.

Working with Meeker's journal entries and local landowner Dale Counsell, Ronnie next determined the exact location of the marker Meeker placed in 1906. He pinned the site down to within a foot, 110 yards east of where Ladd Creek crosses Hot Lake Lane next to the current 15 MPH speed limit sign. State and county agencies will coordinate the marking of the site with back-to-back Oregon Trail signs, allowing travelers from both directions to note the location where in 1906 Ezra Meeker believed the trail came down to the valley floor.

- Dennis M. Larsen

The 2019 Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1, at the Stevenson Community Library in Stevenson, WA.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. In the afternoon, there will be speakers and an opportunity to visit the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum or join a car caravan to see the historical Oregon Trail portage on the Columbia River.

For questions, contact Rich Herman at buddy359@comcast.net.

IDAHO

Winter has been mild this year in Idaho. There has been little snowfall in the Boise area and temperatures have been warmer than usual. As the days start to grow longer, it makes rut nuts start to think of heading out onto the Trails.

Three Boise Community Education classes on the Oregon Trail in Idaho were held in late February and early March. Visit boiselearns.org to register for these classes. As of this writing, 30 people have signed up for at least one of the classes. Hopefully they will enjoy the classes, participate in the annual byway tour on April 27, and join OCTA and IOCTA.

In a repeat of a fun activity from last year, we will be searching for the Kelton Road stage station near City of Rocks in southern Idaho on Thursday, May 9. Meet at the City of Rocks visitor center at noon. I have a new idea about where the station site may be and am trying to obtain another picture from the landowner.

The following day, Friday May 10, we will be using metal detectors to search the California Trail camping areas within the City of Rocks. Meet at the City of Rocks visitor center at 9:00 am. Consider staying at the Fairfield Inn in Burley if you go.

The spring chapter meeting will be Saturday, May 11, at the Perkins Restaurant in Burley, starting at 10:00 am. Planned guest speakers are Jim Hardee and Leo Ariwite. Both are very interesting, knowledgeable, and fun to listen to. I hear rumors that a very special guest will be joining us as well. We will visit Caldron Lynn on the Snake River after lunch.

I will be leading a second tour of the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway for the Boise City Club on Saturday, May 18. One of their members was a student in the Community Education classes last year and enjoyed the classes and tour so much that he joined OCTA and IOCTA, then requested a similar tour for the City Club this year.

Additional activities through the summer are being planned. One will likely be something on the California Trail as I have committed to lead a pre-convention tour for the 2020 Elko convention. Please let me know if there is something of interest to you.

Please visit the chapter website (www.IdahoOCTA.org) calendar page to see the activities planned for the year.

- Jerry Eichhorst

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The 2019 CA-NV Chapter Symposium will be held in San Juan Bautista, CA (south of Gilroy) on April 26-28, 2018. The De Anza Trail passes through the area and the Breens, survivors of the Donner party, settled in the area.

The symposium will open with a board meeting on Friday, April 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the old adobe owned by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. That is also the location for the President's Reception that evening beginning at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, the symposium will gather at the VFW Hall in San Juan Bautista. After the Chapter Membership meeting, Dr. Doris Dwyer will present as Margaret Breen (Donner Party survivor) in a Chautauqua. A speaker is also schedule to present on the De Anza trail.

In the afternoon there will be tours of the Old Mission, Castro-Breen adobe, Cemetery, and the downtown area. San Juan Bautista has a small downtown with shops, old adobes, wine tasting, and antique shops. Dinner that evening will be catered at the VFW featuring Mexican-style food.

On Sunday April 28, 2019 the chapter membership has been invited to a BBQ hosted by the VFW and the NDGW at Fremont Peak Park as part of San Juan Bautista's 150-year celebration.

Registration forms and information can be found at the CA-NV Website at canvoca.org

Chapter members continue efforts on projects along the California Trail. The Hastings Cut Off Mapping Group has conducted outings after obtaining permits from the USFS and BLM to work on the Cut Off Trail corridor. In California, chapter members worked this past season on the Carson Route, Luther Pass Road, Big Tree Road, the Beckwourth and the 1858 El Dorado County Road that was used by emigrants. Outings, both fun and working, are being planned on several cut offs and the main California Trail. Check the CA-NV Website at www.canvoca.org for updates.

With assistance from OCTA's Western Region Representative Sharon Brown and Chapter Board member Jon Nowlin, we submitted a grant to the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) for a stake holder/community meeting to develop a plan to preserve and improve the Deep Sand Swales. We were not selected, but the chapter will continue with efforts to involve the local community in deciding a course for the Swales. We are exploring the possibility of forming a foundation and other solutions.

The Swales annual clean-up was held on September 22, 2019 with good results. Five dumpsters of trash were



Tom Fee, long time Swales advocate and Rachael Crews, BLM Archeologist, who helped set up this year's clean up.

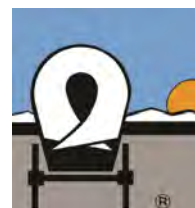
removed with the community's help. Since the clean-up, only one new dumping site has been noted. Unfortunately, the Trails West Rail Marker on the west end was pulled from the ground. We are coordinating with Trails West to reset the marker.

The Chapter will have a booth at the California Trails Days in Elko May 18-19. This year the booth will be outside by the statues of an emigrant party preparing to leave for California.

The Western Emigrant Trail Collection has moved from the California Trails Interpretive Center to the Great Basin State College Library in Elko. The books and materials are owned by the BLM and are supported by local groups and the CA-NV Chapter of OCTA. The move will allow better access and preservation for the collection. The College will maintain and organize the materials for use by students and general public.

Thanks to Bob Evanhoe and Dee Owens, the Chapter's newsletter has a renewed look and energy. The Fall issue was 12 pages. The members email/mail list has been updated, through the efforts of Janet Nowlin, membership chair. The Chapter is moving towards all digital issues in the near future.

- Dick Waugh



CROSSROADS

Welcome to Spring 2019. It has been a long, dark winter here in Utah. Hopefully, spring will be here soon as most of us have “cabin fever.”

Not much has been going on here at Crossroads (mainly because of the season). I have been doing some nostalgic daydreaming about past years and those who were involved with our activities. Some are gone, and some don't get out much these days. We accomplished a lot in discovering, recording, and photographing sites. We had a lot of good speakers and field trips and volunteerism.

That's why I feel so good about the new officers who have stepped up to carry on the tradition. Steve Allison is president; Connie Bauer, vice president; Joyce Marsing, secretary; and our loyal Drew Wanosik has stayed on as treasurer. Let's get behind them and carry on the traditions and enthusiasm. We are building partnerships with state history, BLM people, and others to make sure our message is carried on.

This year is the 150-year anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit. This will be a big event I'm sure. We plan to become involved some in this. I remember the centennial event in 1969. (I was there with JohnWayne.)

We have a new chapter brochure and hope to get it out into the public eye for distribution.

Also, we have plans for more T-posts for the Salt Lake Cut-Off (north) and the Raft River areas and perhaps some trail work using drones. We have some ideas for some activities with Eli Anderson of Wagon Town, Tremonton, and Chris Merrit of SPHO (State History Preservation Office).

Thanks to all who made last year such a success. Stay tuned!
- A. Oscar Olson

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

Noted Colorado historian and author Ken Jessup will speak on “Pioneer Roads in Larimer County” during the Chapter's meeting on Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. in the Loveland Museum.

Beginning with the Overland Trail, Jessup will discuss other historical roads, including the first road up Big Thompson Canyon, the Fall River Road, and Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous paved road in the U.S.

The event is free, but RSVPs are requested to Camille Bradford at bradford@usa.net.

TRAILSHEAD

Officer elections at our November annual meeting resulted in some new faces Both Lila Aamodt as president and Kelly Breen as secretary are new to the board. Returning are Jean Coupal-Smith, now vice president, and Mary Conrad, our dependable secretary. We passed a major revision of our bylaws that Jean had been working on over time. Our talk that evening was by Erin Blackshere-Pouppirt, a descendant of the Kaw-French Pappan family that ran an Oregon Trail ferry in the Topeka area.

Awards were presented to Larry Short for his many years of leadership with local trail groups as well as with the National Park Service (NPS); to Arnold Cole in appreciation for his long-time volunteer service with Trails Head and his devotion to the preservation of OCTA trails; and to Aaron Bartlett from the Mid-American Regional Council for their partnering with the NPS in the development of the 40-mile long Three-Trails Corridor and retracement recreation trails along that corridor.

In December we joined with Missouri River Outfitters-Santa Fe Trail Association (MRO/SFTA) and Kansas City Area Historical Trails Association (KCAHTA) for a lunch at popular Independence, MO, restaurant *Ophelia's*. We enjoyed fellowship and sharing news from each of our organizations.

Some of us inspected the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree when it stopped in Kansas City and in Independence. The tree had been cut in Oregon's Willamette National Forest and the Northwest Chapter had the foresight to decorate it with trail related ornaments to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. It travelled in a very long trailer on its way to Washington, DC, along a reverse path of the trail.

We were excited to help sponsor the OCTA mid-year March meeting in Independence. Our long-time member Ross Marshall led the bus tours along the Independence and Westport routes that began the three trails.

We are again sponsoring a calendar contest for first through fourth grade classes at the John Paul II school. The theme this year will be “Wild Creatures Encountered by Indians & Emigrants.” OCTA will print the 2020 winning drawings in its calendar for sale online or at its annual meeting in Santa Fe.

Events for our membership this year will a bus trip June 1 to Arrow Rock, MO, with MRO/SFTA and KCAHTA to celebrate National Trails Day; a trail walk and picnic at Red Bridge on August 3; and our annual chapter meeting on November 2.

--Lila Aamodt

GATEWAY

The Gateway Chapter board met to finalize the calendar for 2019. During January and February members attended the Tuesday Night Talks at the Pony Express Museum. In March, several members attended the Truman and the Trails Symposium sponsored by the Trails Head Chapter.

On April 13, the group will carpool to Leavenworth for a tour of the historic town and a visit to the museum in Fort Leavenworth. The May 18 activity will be a picnic at the Nelson-Rodgers House in Troy, Kansas. The house is the site of the 1859 speech of Abraham Lincoln during his visit to Kansas Territory.

The chapter will sponsor a bus tour to the western end of the St. Joe Road and Alcove Spring which will be open to the public on June 8. On July 25, Gateway will have a joint meeting and tour of White Cloud, Kansas with the Doniphan County Historical Society and the Mahuska Historical Society.

For August, the group is planning a service project for the community. September is the OCTA Convention in Santa Fe which it is hoped Gateway will have representation. In August, the group will have a speaker program which is TBA. To finish the year, the group will have the annual membership dinner and election on November 12 and a December 7 Christmas Party.

In 2019, the new Gateway website went live. Please visit us at gateway-octa.org.

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is well on its way toward completing a \$1.8 million fundraising campaign to make improvements to the visitor center near historic Chimney Rock in Nebraska.

The project will include the addition of an outdoor classroom and a trail that will allow visitors closer access to the iconic monument. Other improvements are also expected.



The Foundation said it had already raised \$1.4 million and is asking for donations from the public to complete the campaign. Donations can be made online at nshsf.org/projects/chimney-rock.

The campaign follows the Foundation's \$400,000 purchase of 360 privately held acres at the base of Chimney Rock, which was announced late last year. The land is located between the visitor center and the 300-foot spire, already owned by the State of Nebraska.

The property was purchased from heirs of original landowner Gordon Howard, who was born in a sod house in the shadow of Chimney Rock. Howard donated land for the visitor center and his family said he wanted to preserve the pristine prairie around the monument.

OCTA Chapter Presidents (as of March 14, 2019)

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A Life Insurance Legacy

A relic of the days of the California gold rush has been presented to Dakota Life of Watertown, S.D., by Thornt Babock in the form of policy No. 1379 in United States Life of New York. The policy provided \$400 insurance on the life of his uncle, Zurial W. Babcock of Herman, N.Y. The annual premium was \$14 and the policy was nonparticipating. It was dated March 12, 1852 and on that date, was assigned to Mr. Babcock's brother, George Babcock to enable him to go to California during the gold rush.

This is one of the earliest recorded instances of the use of a life insurance policy in the form of collateral. *The Western Underwriter, January 6, 1916.*

Most of us have acquired life insurance in order to protect our family, a form of collateral. As we have matured, the need for that first or second policy that was to provide a benefit of, say \$10,000, has been

replaced by policies of much larger death benefits. Some folks have begun to realize these smaller policies make wonderful gifting vehicles for their favorite charity.

As you take stock of your investments and estate perhaps you too have a small policy. You aren't likely to head to California for the gold rush like Mr. Babcock, but your policy would be a bonanza to the mission of OCTA. The \$10,000 placed in the Heritage Endowment could provide \$400 or more each year allowing OCTA to educate all interested in their heritage and provide a wonderful legacy for future generations.

OCTA needs and counts on your financial support. Please consider gifting your small policy today. For additional information contact Melissa Shaw 949-699-1660 x204 or Lee Black 505-379-3737.

Where Will Your Footprints Lead?

They don't have to disappear.

You can leave a legacy that will ensure that your footprints are never erased, while helping to protect emigrant trails from disappearing forever.

**Consider joining
OCTA's Trails Legacy Society.**



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

Visit octa-trails.org/trails-legacy-society

You can make sure that ours are not the last footprints left on the trail.

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

OCTA-journals.org

Report OCTA Volunteer Hours at

octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer

REMEMBRANCES



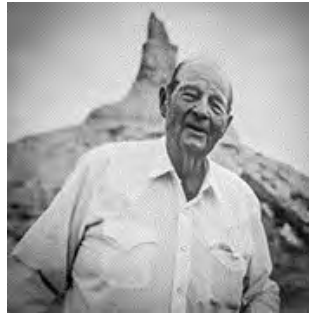
Russ Genung

Former Nebraska Chapter President Russ Genung of Deshler, NE, was called home in January at the age of 80. He worked as a pharmaceutical representative for Blue Cross Serum from 1971 to 1980 and for Fort Dodge Laboratories until his retirement.

After retirement, Russ did volunteer work at Mary Lanning Hospital, Children's Advocacy Center, Kansas State School for the Blind, National Wildlife Refuges in Santa Ana and Anahuac, TX, Hidalgo County, TX.

He also volunteered at the Nuckolls County Historical Society and was a member of OCTA, the Nebraska Historical Society, Audubon Nebraska and the Izaak Walton League. He was also active in marking the Pony Express, Mormon and various other historical trails in Nebraska and Kansas.

He is survived by his wife Donna of Deshler, four sons, three daughters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Gordon Howard

Gordon Howard, a man almost as well-known and loved in his hometown of Scottsbluff, NE as Chimney Rock, has died at the age of 85.

Born to a ranching family near McGrew, he lived most of

his life in the shadow of Chimney Rock. He created the Oregon Trail Wagon Train that would entertain thousands of visitors over the years and which he and his wife operated for nearly 30 years.

In addition to many other achievements, he was instrumental in having Chimney Rock pictured on the official Nebraska quarter and donated land for the Chimney Rock Visitor Center. The property at the base of Chimney Rock where he lived was recently purchased by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. (See story on page 15.)

Former OCTA President Dave Welch recalled: "On the Meeker Expedition in 2006, on the way east we stopped to admire Chimney Rock. There by the side of the road was Gordon Howard waiting to informally greet tourists. He gave each of us a commemorative quarter featuring Chimney Rock. We were headed for the convention in St. Joe, but made arrangements to meet with him on our return journey to get closer to the Rock. When we returned we got a tour of his hay-bale house and access to all the land at the base of the rock. We searched and found the exact location where Ezra Meeker posed his wagon with the Rock in the background. Gordon and his wife could not have been more gracious hosts. Our visit was a highlight of the trip for all of us."

He is survived by his wife, Patty, three children, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Memorials in his honor may be made to Community Christian School, Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy or the donor's choice.



Ernest White

OCTA member **Ernest Edward White** of Westmoreland KS passed away in February at the age of 80. Born in Riley County, he was married to his wife Della for 56 years until her passing in 2017.

A farmer in his early years and an Army veteran, he was an accomplished welder, working on agriculture equipment and making sculptures of area parks. In addition to his OCTA membership, he was a member of the Flint Hills Woodturners Association and enjoyed photography.

He is survived by seven daughters, 14 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Memorials have been established for the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society and Sedalia Community Church.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

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

To learn more, visit

<https://www.octa-trails.org/donate-to-octa/>

Long Range Planning Committee Begins Work

The OCTA Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has identified three categories of resources that are necessary for the organization to sustain its overall mission and operations: Financial Stability, Membership, and Leadership.

The committee, reactivated by the Board at its 2018 annual meeting, has been meeting regularly via conference call. A preliminary report was presented at the 2019 Mid-Year Board meeting and initial recommendations will be finalized for the Board meeting to be held at Santa Fe in September.

Members of the committee include Glenn Harrison, Duane Iles, Bill Martin, Pat Traffas (ex-officio), Dick Waugh and Camille Bradford (Chair). Lee Black participates in the work of the committee in his role as President-Elect.

The timeliness of the committee's efforts are noted in the fact that OCTA's five-year Strategic Plan will be reviewed and revised in 2020. The preliminary report noted that the Long Range Plan is the goal while the Strategic Plan is the roadmap for getting there.

To assure OCTA's sustainability, the LRPC has identified special challenges within each of the three needed resources:

Financial Stability – Long range, the Committee believes OCTA's endowment funds should total as least \$5 million, compared to today's \$1.4 million level. The LRPC is studying options for major fundraising efforts.

Membership – With membership levels declining over the past 10 years, the LRPC conducted a membership survey (see page 1) to identify what prompts people to join, what benefits they enjoy most, among other topics. The committee will use the survey to identify member recruitment opportunities.

Leadership Development – The committee recognizes the need for more active efforts at both the national and chapter levels to identify individuals who have skills and experience relevant to service on a nonprofit board and encourage them to run.

For questions or suggestions concerning the committee's work, contact Camille Bradford at bradford@usa.net.

Special Thanks to OCTA's Life Members

OCTA is grateful for the support of many Life Members whose contributions mean so much to the organization. Life memberships are available for \$1,000 and credit card payments can be made in installments. Life Members receive an Ezra Meeker Life Member pin, two free OCTA publications from selected stock, and a 15 percent discount in the OCTA Bookstore. Plus, all revenues from Life Memberships go directly to OCTA's Heritage Endowments, so your purchase will have a long-term impact on trails preservation. For more information about becoming a Life member, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276. Current Life Members include:

Ivan Baker
Dr Thomas R Bales
Jacqueline Ball
Wayne G Basler
Nick F Behrens
Lee & Sandi Black
Roger P Blair MD
Camille Q Bradford
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Save the Trail

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AND 2017

	2018	2017
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 22,836	\$ 43,120
Accounts Receivable	3,358	3,036
Prepaid Expenses	384	1,200
Inventory (at cost)	29,900	30,906
Investments (Endowment Funds)	1,541,501	1,452,145
Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization	71,507	107,260
Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation	185	185
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,669,671</u>	<u>\$ 1,637,852</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 17,582	\$ 15,348
Note Payable - Bank	-	8,400
Deferred Revenue	12,377	1,145
Total Liabilities	<u>29,959</u>	<u>24,893</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	677,954	685,938
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	961,758	927,021
Total Net assets	<u>1,639,712</u>	<u>1,612,959</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>1,669,671</u>	<u>1,637,852</u>

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 and 2017

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Operating Revenues		
National Park Service	\$ 133,000	\$ 125,896
Membership Dues	71,058	70,663
Convention and Symposium	87,695	82,972
Contributions and Grants	66,379	45,018
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	8,822	8,944
Other	4,856	7,500
Total Operating Revenues	<u>371,810</u>	<u>340,993</u>
Operating Expenses		
Expenses Paid from Specific Contributions and Grants	33,388	-
Board and Officers	10,500	8,216
Committees	25,972	24,146
Administration and Management	217,464	202,794
Publications	53,752	56,021
Convention and Symposium	57,486	63,559
STOPB2H - Preservation	12,000	1,957
Total Operating Expenses	<u>410,562</u>	<u>356,693</u>
Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	<u>(38,752)</u>	<u>(15,700)</u>
Non Operating Income (Deductions)		
Endowment Fund Investment Income	91,026	146,946
Film Amortization	(35,753)	(35,753)
Endowment Fund and Memorial Contributions	2,230	920
Life Memberships	8,000	3,000
Non Operating Income - Net	<u>65,503</u>	<u>115,113</u>
Increase in Net Assets	<u>\$ 26,751</u>	<u>\$ 99,413</u>

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**A Blending of the Trails
OCTA National Convention
Santa Fe, New Mexico
September 2019**



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- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
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Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

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