

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Winter 2022

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Pulling Together and Pitching In

By Helen Hankins

“A good time was had by all” is the phrase Jan Petersen uses to describe the 2021 Elko OCTA national convention. Anecdotal information and evaluations received to date confirm this conclusion.

The local convention team and the many members of the CA-NV Chapter who supported us, were the hidden heroes behind the convention’s success.

So, too, was the advice of previous convention chairs.

Many things changed during the four years that we worked on the convention. The initial bus tour company, Coach USA, pulled out in June 2021 due to a change in company policy. The BLM was unable to support three events planned at the California Trail Interpretive Center due to the pandemic and other issues. Relatively late in the game, the OCTA national board voted to require vaccinations and proof thereof. Nearly forty people registered for the convention withdrew their registrations due to poor air quality from wild fires or concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic and the high transmissivity of the virus during the convention or because of the proof of vaccination requirement. Local vendors refused to determine and/or reveal if employees who would be involved with the conventioners, were tested or vaccinated. One entertainer claimed his constitutional rights were violated and subsequently doubled his fee (which we declined to pay). Degraded back road conditions near Gravelly Ford required revision of that bus tour at a late date. Gallagher Ford, the local Ford dealer, could not deliver on the use of vans due to destruction of the semi-conductor plant in China.

Vans were not available even in adjoining states.

All of these trials and tribulations have happened at previous conventions – but perhaps not in this number.

The local team and other members of the CA-NV Chapter pulled together to make the convention happen. The local team met almost weekly to problem solve and to address issues. Co-Chairman Duane Jones was instrumental in engaging a new bus tour company (Salt Lake Express) and ensuring that the bus drivers were vaccinated or tested. Duane also bore the brunt of working with food vendors and entertainers to find work-arounds to ensure safe delivery of food and meals to attendees. Jan Petersen did a dry run of the Gravelly Ford tour and then a second trip to revise the tour with Duane Jones as the clock was ticking down. Another person decided late in the game to get the J & J vaccine just so we would have enough vaccinated people to help serve the food. OCTA HQ helped tremendously with acquisition of vaccination cards and several convention purchases in Salt Lake and locally.

Despite national restrictions, the BLM was able to host convention folk on two successive evenings at the Trail Center – a real highlight for many. Many from the local group and the chapter stepped up to help serve food at the lunches and banquets. These are only some of the highlights of the work done to make the convention a success. All efforts were undertaken willingly and handled because they needed to be. I could not have had a better, more dedicated group of people to work with than the convention team!

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Winter is upon us and even here at my hometown of Boise in Idaho's banana belt there is snow. The local ski area was able to open early but those same winter conditions mean we have finished our outdoor Trail activities until the Spring. For those of you in more

temperate climates the photo below shows what it can be like following the Trail, in this case Jeffrey's-Goodale Cutoff, at this time of year.

The Fall Issue covered the Convention in Elko which was a remarkable success and even generated a modest surplus. This contributed to a robust performance under difficult circumstances last year, and a healthy start to the new fiscal year. Thanks to those of you who helped us through the worrisome days of COVID infected 2020 and 2021.

Looking forward, we are eagerly anticipating the symposium to be held in San Diego from January 27th to 30th, to coincide with the 175th Anniversary of the arrival there of the Mormon Battalion. OCTA V.P. Steve Allison will kick start the Convention on Thursday 27th evening as he speaks about 'The San Diego We Know and Love'.

On Friday, we will have presentations on a broad range of subjects, including the Kumeyaay Nation, the Mormon Battalion and those who served them, the early land routes into California and the Pacific Trade, the Gold Rush, the US invasion of California, and many other topics.

On Sunday there will be a van tour through the Yuha Desert, the Vallecito Stage Station in Anza Borrego State Park, San Pasqual battlefield site and Mission San Luis Rey. This follows the trail corridor

used by the Mormon Battalion, the Butterfield Overland Stage, Juan Bautista de Anza, and the 49ers on the southern route.

We will practice the same precautions as at Elko including proof of vaccination, wearing of masks and social distancing. In that way we will be able to enjoy the presentations, the tour, and the fellowship that we missed between Yuma in February 2020 and Elko in 2021. Details on how you can register for the symposium will be found in this issue.

Reserve the dates August 28th to September 3rd, as well, to join us in Casper, Wyoming, for the Annual Convention.

My wife, Nancy, and I live in southeast Boise where we can easily walk onto the Oregon Trail or the Kelton



Road. It is that experience of being able to follow in the footsteps of the Pioneers that captured my interest. I have seen that same fervor in many others provided with the opportunity to hike the Historic Trails, especially when they are in good condition and in unspoiled surroundings. Preserving the Trail is our mission, but I was struck by something Past President Pat Traffas wrote in 2019. "For years

we have used the mantra 'Save The Trails' but perhaps we should emphasize the appreciation and enjoyment of the trails as well." By linking the history and stories of the Trails we help create a better experience to attract and retain our members.

In that vein, the strategy that the Board approved under the leadership of Immediate Past President Lee Black is also aimed at attracting and retaining members by expanding our capability.

- Identifying what Collections of Papers, Diaries, Media, Maps and Books we own, then cataloging and digitizing them.
- Improving our education outreach to schools and with speakers' programs.
- Creating an archive and data base dedicated to Trail Archaeology and work conducted at trail sites.

- Developing new communication tools to reach a younger audience.
- Increasing support for the Preservation Office as electrical transmission lines, solar panel arrays, wind farms are built on, and mining, housing and industrial developments submerge Trail remnants.

These all need funding, and you will be hearing

more about that as our 'Journey of a Lifetime' fund raising project gathers momentum.

A New Year will shortly be upon us, and it is my hope that 2022 will continue the return to a more normal state of affairs.

May you have a prosperous and healthy 2022!

John Briggs, President

Oregon-California Trails Association

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



What a great time to be a member of OCTA! The COVID shutdowns of a year and a half ago allowed us to really focus on things like membership, fundraising, social media, YouTube, and a Google Ads grant that pays more and more dividends every single day. We recently closed out our fiscal year

on September 30 and, even in the most difficult circumstances of the past two years, we finished in the black. This would not be possible without your dedication and devotion to our nation's historic trails.

OCTA's membership is a bit higher today than it was a year ago (from 1,236 at the beginning of 2021 to 1,256 members as of this writing), and most of those new memberships are coming primarily from three sources: our social media campaigns, our Google Ads, and recruitment by chapters and individuals at the local level. In year's past, OCTA relied mostly on the latter to find new members.

But with the shutdown of events at both the chapter and national level, we focused on the one area where we could focus: online. We launched a new Instagram page and Twitter feed at the beginning of the pandemic and doubled down on Facebook posts that highlighted trail history and sites that could be easily visited without fear of big crowds. We also launched a YouTube Channel in 2020 and quickly started populating it with short videos from trail sites. And finally, we won a massive Google Ads grant that allows us to place up to \$10,000 worth of ads on Google every single month. We advertise our books, events, membership, and donations, and it's quite effective. The best part is that we have this grant in perpetuity, so anytime someone enters trail-related search terms into their Google search bar, there's a good chance one of our ads will be staring them in the face.

We've now moved on to our next phases to help the organization continue to grow and thrive. With no events to plan, we were able to focus on grants to help us create longer form (and much more professional) videos that will reach much wider audiences. We partnered with the Amargosa Conservancy outside of Death Valley to win a grant from California Humanities to fund a 25-minute-long documentary about the section of nearby trail that was used as a branch of the Old Spanish Trail, the Mormon wagon road, and one of the routes used by 49ers to get to California. OCTA's own Leo Lyman from Utah appears in the documentary, and he richly describes the history and importance of this lesser-known route. The video made its debut on KVCR, the PBS station in San Bernardino, the day after Christmas, and will air repeatedly over the next five years. With a reach of 18 million viewers in both the Los Angeles and San Diego markets, our name will reach new ears repeatedly over the next half-decade. (We will continue to send out the online link in our E-News so those of you who don't live in southern California will also be able to view it.)

We also won grants from both Missouri Humanities and South Dakota Humanities Councils this year and will likely be finished editing the final products by the time you are reading this. Last June, we filmed along the Butterfield Overland Stage Line at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Republic, Missouri back in June, focusing on the role the trail played in the second major battle of the Civil War. In October, we filmed at Hansel Wagon & Wheel in South Dakota to create another documentary about both the history of wagons and stagecoaches and the man who keeps alive the craft of restoring and building new animal-drawn vehicles.

Back in February 2020, just before COVID shutdowns set in, OCTA's board voted to partner with the PBS show Southwest Stories on season three, which was to focus on trails of the American

Southwest. When the shutdowns began, we quickly realized that season three was going to be delayed awhile, but we continued to work with Steve Brown (host of the show) to create content that could eventually be used as part of the show. However, with the work we've done this year, we now see the potential for a stand-alone series on historic trails.

This ties in perfectly with the final thing we've busied ourselves with over the past calendar year. The OCTA board voted to hire a professional fundraising firm to help us seek major donations to greatly expand upon our myriad offerings. Education, archaeology, preservation, library and archives – OCTA's leadership is seeking to fund it all at much higher levels to ensure the longevity and relevance of our organization. One of the other areas in the fundraising plan is to have enough money on hand to help each of our chapters create its own video to help tell the story of the trail in your area and to be able to use those videos to help increase awareness, develop membership, find new

advocates, and fundraise for projects.

As I said at the outset, it's an exciting time to be a member of OCTA. We're now back to hosting in-person events. We had a successful convention in Elko last September, and we also filmed all the speakers at the convention, and members will start getting access to those videos over the coming months. We are hoping you'll join us in San Diego at the end of January for what promises to be an incredible symposium. We also hope you have your calendars marked at the end of August for our next convention in Casper. The planning team there has some grand plans! We are also in the beginning stages of planning for a podcast, and we are looking at how to better integrate our projects to create common themes across all our marketing platforms to reach bigger and bigger audiences. Thanks for your continued membership and support, and we hope you will stick around to see what's next! *Travis Boley*

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Publication News



A New Year and New Beginnings

We all hope that everyone will have happy holidays, and that good cheer will continue throughout the rest of the year.

Membership is crucial to any organization. OCTA membership is spread

across a wide area, not just the contiguous forty-eight, but farther and even outside the United States. In the last issue we mentioned that we hoped to start off with something new. As some of you have already noticed as you first glanced through this issue, "News from the Plains" has added a new column – Meet Our Members. Our goal is to introduce a few of our new members in each edition. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to highlight every new member, but we will pick a few, and we hope you will enjoy meeting them. New members are usually listed in every issue. A few of those from each edition will be introduced in a future edition. Look for the column, you may find a new neighbor and a new friend. We don't want them to remain as strangers.

In the last edition we listed the first half of the recipients of the Merrill Mattes Award for the outstanding article in the Overland Journal. The first award was given in 1997. We hope you were able to go back and read some of them.

The second half follows, ending with 2021 award presented in September. Once again all of you should find some "good reads" for a cold evening this winter.

2011 – Rush Spedden, *Landsford Hastings, Orson Pratt, Google Earth, and GPS*, (Winter 2010/11, v. 28:4)

2012 – Jerry Eichhorst, *Pieces of the Puzzle: Rediscovering Idaho's North Alternate Oregon Trail*, (Summer 2011, v. 29:2)

2013 – John Grebenkemper, Kristin Johnson, and Adela Morris, *Locating the Grave of John Snyder: Field Research on a Donner Party Death*, (Fall 2012, v. 30:3)

2014 – Jess Petersen, *Rediscovering Government Springs*, (Spring 2013, v. 31:1)

2015 – Randall Brown, *Nebraska, June 1852: Death and Coincidence on the Trail, The Fate of John Hollman and Charles Stull, Two Accounts*, (Fall 2014, v. 32:3)

2016 – Dixon Ford and Lee Kreutzer, *Oxen: Engines of the Overland Emigrants*, (Spring 2015, v. 33:1)

2017 – Leroy Johnson and Tom Sutak, *Unscrambling the Old Spanish Trail and the Southern Route: Salt Spring to Resting Spring, California*, (Winter 2016/17, v. 34:4)

2018 – Frank Norris and Lee Kreutzer, *Trails and Rails: The Impact of the Railroad on the Overland Trails, 1863-1869*, (Summer 2017, v. 35:2)

2019 – Don Buck, *Development of Emigrant Trail Research in the Post-Weddell Era in the Truckee-Donner Pass Region of California*, (Summer 2018, v. 36:2)

2020 – Richard Rieck, *Trail Deaths, Trail Graves, and Cenotaphs: Here? There? Where?* Spring 2019, v. 37:1)

2021 – Jerry Eichhorst, *The Jeffreys Route Across Idaho and Attacks on Wagon Trains in 1854*, (two parts, Fall & Winter, v. 38: 3 & 4)

Regarding two of our educational publication items, the deadline for the drawing for a class set of one of OCTA's educational activity books is fast approaching. Entries should be postmarked by February 1st. The school or teacher must mail a postcard to OCTA with the name of the school/teacher, address, and the title or subject of the desired activity book. The second item concerns the student calendar. The subject for 2023 calendar is "Mountain Men, Indians, & Emigrants – Trade and Trade Goods." More detailed information about the student calendar contest is available on our website. The deadline for submissions is April 15. *Bill Hill*

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Meet Our Members

While OCTA has many long-time members, new members continue to join the organization. The majority of both our old and new members usually reside in the trail states in the west. The rest are spread out across the country, with a few from beyond our borders. In nearly each edition of the News from the Plains, as space allows the new members from the past three months are listed. While many of them also join local chapters and quickly meet and become acquainted with each other, others live away from our chapters and each other and remain “strangers.” This column will help to quickly introduce some of our members, especially our new members to the OCTA family.

In this first edition two/three members will be highlighted who live outside of the trail states in the east, near the Atlantic coast. Each was asked to reply as they wished to a series of questions about: how they heard about OCTA; why they joined; do they have any special areas of interest or trail, etc.

Now let’s meet them.



One of our newest members, **Geoffrey Blanning** is from across the “Pond.” He resides in the UK in London, England. He is recently retired after a career in finance. Aside from his new trail interest, his time is spent with his family, collecting 78 RPMs,

playing tennis and as a Leeds United soccer fan.

Geoffrey recalls hearing about OCTA from an article in True West magazine. But, the book, Wagons West, by Frank McLynn, first spurred his interest in the American history and the West. Western movies, and the recent movie “Meeks Cutoff,” were real sources of enjoyment for him. In full disclosure, it isn’t only the California and Oregon Trails that interests Geoffrey; he even joined the Santa Fe Trail Association. He hopes to come to the United States next year and to celebrate his birthday by traveling along the trails and really learn about the west. While he is not sure, he can see himself being “hooked” on studying the gold rush and the emigrants.

Geoffrey had spent a year in high school in Connecticut and time in Washington DC as an exchange student and later worked for one year in NYC. He said, “I have always been a fan of America and the ‘American

Dream.’ At university I studied Geography and one of the very best classes I took was on historical exploration; this is how I learned about Lewis and Clark. I have the greatest respect for the emigrants who crossed the Atlantic and the continent for better opportunities; how brave they were. Recently, I discovered that some ancestors of mine emigrated (from Pontypool in Wales) to Iowa in the 1870s, and I have learned that some are buried in Denver while some of their descendants are living in California. Too late for the wagon trains, but fascinating all the same, and I am in the process of researching this properly.” He believes that his membership in OCTA will provide him an opportunity to help expand his knowledge of the history of the west.

I would say Geoffrey has the making of a real “Rut Nut!” Let’s welcome him and look for him on the trail next year.

Our next new member is **Leslie Myrick**. She states her interest in western migration is primarily “academic.” Her earlier career was at the Bancroft Library where she



worked on the Mark Twain Papers. After she retired, she decided to keep studying correspondence, but now she and a colleague are focused on the social networking of the emigrants of 1849 on the Oregon-California trails as revealed in their correspondences. She is currently working on an examination of

ca. 1300 letters written by travelers primarily intended for publication in newspapers and their impact. The title for her project is A Prosopography of the Plains in 1849. It was when she began the project that she heard about OCTA, and since has made extensive use of the Overland Journal articles and especially the Paper Trail in her research. As a result, she decided to join OCTA. She hopes that her work will now be able to contribute to the efforts to preserve the trails and provide opportunities to meet other trail enthusiasts.

Leslie was born in New England but considers herself a “New Yorker.” She has done very little traveling on the actual historic emigrant trails but has traveled west to California many times where she also spent most of her career. While not on the actual trail, she noted that on many of her road trips that she “wouldn’t presume to stack up the dangers and privations of the trips.... to those suffered by the folk who went west in 1849, but at the time I think I experienced a modicum of the

wonder mixed with fatigue and uncertainty that I find in emigrants' letters: jockeying for position on long hills with caravans of big-rigs, wondering where to stop, sometimes camping, at night, or where to stock up on water before hitting the Mojave." When comparing travel then and now emigrant letters are "a speaking monument to timeless aspects of the human condition." I'm sure many of our members have had similar reactions.

Her interests also include the tales of the Old Santa Fe Trail, but her probable favorite trail is the Lassen Cut-off/Feather River Trail. Those diaries were a source of many accounts that were both heart-rending and heroic. One batch of letters included one by John H. Peoples, a newspaperman from New Orleans. He took part in

the government relief and rescue party to bring in the stragglers of 1849 and recounted the suffering and horror faced by the later comers to Lassen's Ranch.

Leslie noted that, "As a New Yorker I feel as though I'm a bit of an outlier, but I hope to travel to the conferences in the coming year." We anxiously look forward to meeting her in person in Casper, along with all the other new members who attend.

We welcome all our new members and the enthusiasm they bring to our organization. We wish them many "Happy Trails!" Our spring "Meet Our Members" will focus on some of our new members from the west coast. They will be asked to respond to the same questions.

Welcome New Members

Elizabeth Bentz
Keizer, OR
Kathleen Clark
Georgetown, TX
John Estell
Bluffton, OH
Lawrence Flournoy
Twin Falls, ID
Jacinta Meredith
Leesburg, VA
Joanne Pellham
St. Helens, OR
Stephen Hofferber
St. Joseph, MO
Morgan Braun
Winters, CA
Erik Wright
Paragould, AR

Kevin Lewis
Boise, ID
Betty Gumm
and Jane Birkholz
Boise, ID
Jackie McGurk
San Diego, CA
Patricia Oberndorf
St. Helens, OR
Scott Alumbaugh
Davis, CA
Peter Wolf
Napavine, WA
Shalene Dickard
City of Rocks
National Reserve
Almo, ID
Jennifer Laycock
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Steven Larsen
Idaho Falls, ID

Monta Harrington
Dover, NJ
Dave Freeman
Willows, CA
Bridget Rogers
Beaverton, OR
Michael Thoma
Placerville, CA
Vasuki Selvan
Blue Jacket Crossing
Vineyard & Winery
Eudora, KS
Bob Crossman
Conway, AR
Debra Hawn
Danville, VA
Lenny Patterson
Billings, MT

Welcome New Ezra Meeker Life Members

Eric Lauha • David and Kay Scott

Thank You!

Thanks to the 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:

Lila Aamodt	Douglas V Duncan	Gerald Lambert	Dick Waugh
Eva Allen	Lawrence Faylor	Dan Lute	David and Wendy Welch
Dr. Bonnie Breen-Wagner	Walt and Margaret Hauter	Catherine MacMillan	Nelson S Weller
Alan Bushbaum	Barbara Hesse	Shirley and Russell Myers	Gary Werner
Thomas Cammack	Dr. Niel M. Johnson	R. Gregory Nokes	Sandra Wiechert
George Carruthers &	Larry and Pat Jones	Ray Schoch	Hank and Lynne
Marilyn Gaddis	Albert and Carol Klem	Nancy Sicotte	Woodward
Jo Anna Dale			Joan Young

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. OCTA has

established a series of goals to achieve its mission.

Goal 1: Preserve the historic emigrant trails.

The first order of business to preserve the historic emigrant trails is to know where they are. As we have said for years "you can't preserve the trail if you don't know where it is". For decades, OCTA has attempted to map emigrant trails using what ever information available including physical traces such as ruts and swales, emigrant diaries, journals, newspapers, historic maps and so on. In 1993 OCTA published the MET Manual, essentially a textbook on how to go about discovering, inventorying and recording historic emigrant trail information. Recording the findings on USGS Topo. Maps. Today, most trail information is computer recorded using various mapping software. The MET Manual is now in its fifth edition, last updated in 2014. Bear in mind that there are thousands of miles of emigrant trails that were created and used during the mid 19th century western expansion. Only a small portion of these trails have been formally mapped. That said, there is still a wealth of information available to assist in the preservation of emigrant trails.

From OCTA's very beginning saving the emigrant trails has been a top priority, especially saving pristine segments where visual history can be shared. Threats come from many sources, land use changes, agriculture, commercial, urban development. Natural disasters, energy development, lack of knowledge of the historic significance and the list goes on.

Probably one of the more difficult preservation threats to work through is energy development, driven by the need for more energy, more electricity for the ever increasing development and population growth. For years it was fossil fuels and hydroelectric, however times are changing. Today it's wind and solar. Thousands of acres of land are now devoted to wind and solar farms. But wait, producing power is just the beginning. It needs to be transported to where power is needed. This requires thousands of

miles of transmission lines. In most instances there is no debate that the need for more energy is valid. The challenge is: How do we try and salvage some of our part of history, to continue to tell the story and see first hand remnants of mid-nineteenth century overland travel?

Congress thought it was important to preserve historic trails when they passed **The National Trails System Act**. In their statement of policy Congress recognized the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of National trails. Additionally, the Act provided two key definitions: High potential historic sites and High potential route segments.

- *High potential historic sites* means those historic sites related to the route, or sites in close proximity thereto, which provide opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail during the period of its major use. Criteria for consideration as high potential sites include historic significance, presence of visible remnants, scenic quality and relative freedom from intrusion" and...
- *High potential route segments* means those segments of the trail which would afford high quality recreation experience in a portion of the route having greater than average scenic values or affording an opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original users of the historic route.

To narrow the scope for this article let me focus on some transmission line projects. Massive transmission line projects covering thousands of miles causing direct effect and indirect effects (visual) to historic emigrant trails. Over the past decade, OCTA, through its members and especially its chapter preservation officers, have devoted thousands of volunteer hours working with private and public agencies to preserve historic sites and routes impacted by transmission line projects. The ultimate goal is to have no effect or limited effect on the trail. Wishful thinking! Regardless, we're always looking for solutions, change the route, a compromise, mitigation.

Over the last several years I have talked about some of these projects. Just to give you a sense of today's energy development and transmission of power here are a few of the projects. Again, in most instances its not to debate the need for additional energy, its to try to find a way to preserve a part of history.

B2H: A 300 mile Idaho Power Company (IPC) 500 kV transmission line crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail seven times. Northwest Chapter preservation officer, Gail Carbiener has devoted thousands of volunteer hours monitoring this project. Currently the focus is on the indirect effects to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Baker City. The transmission line would be in full view NHOTIC. Gail has recruited OCTA President John Briggs and OCTA's Western Region Representative Isobel Lingenfelter to also submit testimony. Isobel submitted a drone project simulating the effects of the transmission towers and power lines. IPC has rebutted OCTA's material. Seems to be a "he said / she said" situation. The matter is before an Administrative Law Judge. The next important date is December 15, 2021 where the ALJ may quiz OCTA's witnesses and determine if cross examination will occur.

R-Project: In addition to B2H this is the second transmission line project where OCTA is in litigation as one of the plaintiffs. The R-Project is a 225 mile, 345 kV transmission line proposed by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in Nebraska that crosses the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails. A lawsuit was filed when U.S. Fish and Wildlife issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) authorizing the project to move forward. A petition for review of agency action was filed in the United States District court by arguing that U.S. Fish and Wildlife violated portions of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. On June 17th., 2020, the US District Judge vacated the ITP issued to NPPD and remanded the matter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife for further review. This is a first step victory for the plaintiffs.

Lava Ridge Wind Project and the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North: Magic Valley Energy has submitted a proposal for a massive wind farm Northeast of Twin Falls, Idaho. The project would have up to 400 wind turbines on mostly public lands administered by BLM. Although the proposed project area is not in direct contact with the trail, indirect effects could be visible as the wind turbines generally reach Heights of 750 feet or more. An integral part of Lava Ridge is SWIP (North).

SWIP (North) is a 275-mile 500 kV transmission line in Idaho and Nevada. The line would run from the Midpoint substation, north of Twin Falls, Idaho, to Robinson Summit substation west of Ely, Nevada. This is the third phase of the SWIP project that continues on to southern Nevada. The SWIP (North) project will

cross the Central Overland Trail, the Pony Express route, the Hastings Cutoff and the California Trail.

OCTA has been granted "Consulting Party" status as the process move through its various stages. Idaho chapter Preservation Officers Don Wind and Dave Price along with Kevin Lee from California-Nevada Chapter are monitoring this project.

Greenlink West Transmission Project: Due to the demand for more power for the rapidly growing manufacturing and industrial development in the Reno/Sparks/Fernley, Nevada region, Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company both doing business as Nevada Energy have submitted applications to construct, operate and maintain a 470 mile new electric transmission line(s) and associated facilities from Las Vegas, Nevada to Reno, Nevada. The name of the project is Greenlink West Transmission Project. The project includes 525-kV, 345-kV, 230-kV, and 120-kV transmission facilities plus a series of substations. Most of the transmission line runs parallel to Nevada Highway 95 until it reaches an area north of Yerington, Nevada where the line branches to Route 95 Alternate with multiple smaller transmission lines. The lines will terminate at the Mira Loma Substation, southeast of Reno and Comstock Meadow Substation on Highway 439, the new parkway connecting I-80 and Highway 50.

A new Fort Church Substation will be built. Three new 345kV transmission lines from Fort Churchill: Substation and Line 1, 36 miles to Comstock Meadows; Substation and Line 2, 33 miles to Comstock Meadows; and Substation and Line 3, 44 miles to Mira Loma Substation.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will include crossing the Pony Express NHT and the California NHT, Carson Route, both the Desert and River branches. The proposed Direct APE Includes two segments of the California Trail and one segment of the Pony Express Trail, and the Indirect (visual) APE contains one segment of the Pony Express and three segments of the California.

OCTA is a consulting party to this project. A 90 minute "Zoom" public input workshop was held on November 17, 2021.

Epilogue: There are several other transmission line projects being monitored and no doubt many more to come. In most cases, they are here to stay and will have effects on historic emigrant trails. As we work through the application process on energy projects, sometimes it seems our focus is not on doing the most good, but the least harm... *more to come.*

San Diego Symposium Information and Registration

The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) and the Mormon Battalion Association is very excited to present the “San Diego Historic Trails Symposium,” from Thursday, January 27 to Sunday, January 30. The symposium will focus on the historic trails of San Diego and the surrounding area, and will include looks at the American Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. eras, including local tribes, Spanish missions, Juan Bautista de Anza, the Mormon Battalion, 49ers on the Southern Route, the Butterfield Overland Stage, women, slavery, and military presence, among others.

The Courtyard San Diego Old Town at 2435 Jefferson Street is our host hotel. It is conveniently located near the intersection of I-8 and I-5 and very

close to the airport. OCTA has a room block with single kings and double queens available. Rates are \$139 per night. Reserve your room online at www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1637102685152&key=GRP&app=resvlink or call the hotel at (619) 260-8500 and ask for the OCTA room block. There is free parking on the streets surrounding the hotel, but the hotel also offers a parking garage for an additional \$25/night.

If you go on the tours, bring hats and windbreakers. Though we fully expect sunny skies and 70-degree temperatures, weather in southern California can be unpredictable in late January.

Agenda

Thursday, January 27, 2022

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. OCTA board meeting at the Courtyard by Marriott

All day: A self-guided tour of historic sites between San Diego and Los Angeles will be provided to registrants who want to visit those sites on their own. After registration, you will be supplied with information and directions on how to visit these sites.

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration table open at the Courtyard by Marriott

5:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

7:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker - OCTA Vice President Steve Allison will speak on “The San Diego We Know and Love.” This presentation attempts to give context to our view of San Diego history from his personal experiences and what was known about San Diego before the Mormon Battalion arrived on this day 175 years ago. Presented at the Courtyard by Marriott.

Friday, January 28, 2022

7:30 a.m. Registration table opens at the Temple Beth Israel at 2454 Heritage Park Row, just a few blocks east of the host hotel. All Friday speakers will be at the Temple Beth Israel.

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. The Kumeyaay Nation (Campo Band) and the Effect of European Takeover – Michael Connolly Miskwish of the Kumeyaay Nation

9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Settling the Mission and Presidio - Barry Goldlust, San Diego History Center

10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Early Land Routes into California and the Boston Trade Ships - Frank Tortorich, OCTA member and authority/noted researcher of the Carson River Route, Mormon migration history, and the Mormon Battalion

11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Military Intervention in California, 1846-47: The U.S. Invasion, Occupation, and its Challenge - Lt. Col. Sherman L. Fleek, Command Historian, U.S. Military Academy, West Point

11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch (included in the registration fee)

1:00 PM - 1:50 p.m. Kearny’s Ace in the Hole to Hold California: The Mormon Battalion - Brandon Metcalf, Archivist at the Church History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City

2:00 - 2:50 p.m. The Women’s Stories: The Five Women Who Arrived with and the Locals Who Served the Mormon Battalion in California - Laura Anderson and Mary Ann Kirk

3:00 - 3:50 p.m. Say Their Names: Slavery in California - Kevin Henson (tentative speaker)

4:00 - 4:50 p.m. The Relationship Between the LDS Church and OCTA - Elder D. Todd Christofferson

5:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

Saturday, January 29, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Enjoy the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the Mormon Battalion by taking in the various free activities, entertainment, and interactive booths found all throughout Old Town San Diego, especially in the portion managed as the state's most popular historic park. Attendees are invited to dress in period clothing and march in with the re-enactors. To participate in the re-enactment, contact Terry Wirth at (760) 685-4300 or terrywirth@gmail.com.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Mormon Battalion Parade with the Marine Corp Band. Join 335 re-enactors as they march into Old Town San Diego to recreate the day on January 29, 1847, when the Mormon Battalion marched into town. (Re-enactors will meet at the Cal Trans parking lot at Taylor and Juan Streets at 9 a.m.)

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Tour of the Junípero Serra Museum in Presidio Park (limited to 20 participants). A van will transport participants from the Mormon Battalion Historic Center at 2510 Juan St. to the museum and back again.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tour of the Junípero Serra Museum in Presidio Park (limited to 20 participants).

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Women's Stories: The Five Women Who Arrived with and the Locals Who Served

in the Mormon Battalion in California - Laura Anderson and Mary Ann Kirk (a repeat of the Friday presentation; this presentation will be at the Mormon Battalion Historic Center)

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Co B's Sojourn in San Diego: The Story of the Mormon Battalion in San Diego - Greg Christofferson (this presentation will be at the Mormon Battalion Historic Center)

5:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

Sunday, January 30, 2022

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Van tour of the trail corridor for the 49ers Southern Route to California/Mormon Battalion/Butterfield Overland Stage/Juan Bautista de Anza expedition through San Diego County. Stops include interpretive sites in the barren Yuha Desert near Plaster City and into the beautiful Anza Borrego State Park, where we will visit important trail sites like Palm Spring, Vallecito Stage Station, Box Canyon, and Foot & Walker Pass, and finally into the grasslands surrounding Warner's Ranch, down into the San Pasqual Battlefield site, and wrapping up the day at the gorgeous Mission San Luis Rey. This is a tour you will not want to miss! The tour will depart from and return to the Courtyard Old Town. Lunch, snacks, drinks, and admission fees included.

San Diego Symposium Registration

To register by mail, copy or print out this form and mail to
OCTA Headquarters • PO Box 1019 • Independence, MO 64051

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration _____ 3 Digit Code _____

Registration (Individual – this symposium only has an individual rate) \$80 x _____ = _____

Registration (Educator) \$70 x _____ = _____

Registration (Student) \$60 x _____ = _____

Junípero Serra Museum tour (noon) \$10 x _____ = _____

Junípero Serra Museum (1:30 PM) \$10 x _____ = _____

Sunday Van Tour \$65 x _____ = _____

Total = _____

You may also REGISTER ONLINE at www.octa-trails.org

Proof of COVID Vaccination is required and masks must be worn at all indoor activities.

News from the Chapters

TRAILS HEAD

Because the year 2021 marks the **200th anniversary of the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail** from Old Franklin, MO and because the trail through the Kansas City area is the same as the beginning of the California-Oregon trail, our chapter sponsored a bus trip from Old Franklin to Independence, Missouri, to trace the original route that William Becknell would have followed in 1821. More than half of the attendees were not trail members, so we had a chance to introduce new people to this heritage. Our leaders were **Ross Marshall** and **Craig Crease** who have written much of the text on area waysides. Craig also gave several presentations related to the first trip. The year 2021 saw statehood for Missouri and independence for

Mexico. Becknell may have heard rumors that Mexico might soon declare its independence and welcome traders instead of jailing them. We don't have diaries that record that first trip, so Craig discussed his thoughts about who the five travelers with Becknell might have been.

Our annual meeting in November was a lively gathering highlighted by slide presentations by our five members who had been at the **OCTA Convention in Elko**. Each person had great enthusiasm for his/her perspective. **Jean Coupal-Smith** and **Pat Traffas** included comments about having been part of the mapping workshop. This may be a good format to repeat! *Lila Aamodt*

WYOMING

Lease sales and pipelines along the trails

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management recently proposed leasing early next year for oil and gas development a number of parcels of land along the historic trails west of South Pass, including one group along the main branch of the Oregon/California/Mormon/Pony Express trail, another along the Sublette Cutoff west of the Big Sandy, and a third on the Lander Road a short way west of where it crosses the New Fork River. Fortunately, leasing on all but one of the parcels has been postponed.

The trail segments on the main branch of the trails and the Sublette Cutoff are in the purview of the Rock Springs Field Office of the BLM. The parcels on the Lander Road are in the Pinedale Field Office.

Thanks to Wyoming OCTAn Craig Bromley, a retired BLM archeologist, and his former colleague retired BLM planner Kristin Yanonne, we filed comments with the agency recommending they drop or defer the lease sales for those parcels. Most of the parcels are in the Rock Springs Field Office; we recommended that leases on all of those should be deferred until that office finishes its new Resource Management Plan. To do anything else would constrain the planning alternatives available before the new plan has been completed. The new Rock Springs RMP has been in the works for 10 years now.

For the rest of the parcels, we argued those corridors need protections at least as strong as the ones adopted in 2014 for the Lander Field Office—the trails east from South Pass to Devil's Gate. Those protections provide for no mineral development along

the trails if it's visible for up to five miles in either direction from the center of a trail.

In the first week of November 2021, we learned that the BLM, after hearing protests from OCTA and a number of other Wyoming conservation groups collaborating as the Citizens for the Red Desert, has deferred leasing on 260 of the 459 parcels listed statewide in the original proposal for the sale. Deferment means the leasing has been postponed but by no means scrapped. The deferments came for a variety of reasons, including habitat protection for sage grouse and for mule deer and pronghorn migration routes.

One parcel, which lies directly across the Lander Road between North and South Piney Creeks about west of Big Piney, Wyo., remains on the list for leasing, however. By no means will drilling occur on every parcel leased—millions of acres in Wyoming remain leased but undrilled for years, even decades.

In other preservation news, the BLM is regulating an oil and gas pipeline that will cross a piece of the Lander Road on private land about nine miles west of Big Piney. Western Wyoming Preservation Officer Fern Linton is in close touch with the Pinedale Field Office on this project. So is OCTAn Clint Gilchrist of Pinedale, representing the Sublette County Historic Preservation Committee. The trail in that area is a noncontributing segment, which means it has been altered during its history by roading and other developments. But we are recommending the BLM monitor construction closely in case any artifacts—or even graves—turn up. *Tom Rea*

CROSSROADS

Congratulations to Crossroads President Steve Allison who has been elected National Vice President.

The big news from Crossroads is our successful convention in Elko this year. It was good to see that we can still function; it has been a while. I was glad to see so many of our members there – I saw about 18 at the membership meeting.

I attended the convention with Keith Fessenden from Denver who is a Crossroads/ Cherokee Trail member as well as a Crossroads member. He had two goals – one to attend the Elko convention and the other to trace some history of Sam Gilson. Sam Gilson has much history in Utah mining as the discoverer of Gilsonite (a solid hydrocarbon). He also has some mining and Pony Express history in Nevada. He also operated a stage road from the ghost mining town of Hamilton to the Elko stage line. We did some sleuthing both before and after the convention, mostly from Ely. He plans to do a book on Gilson. Gilsonite is still mined in Utah, mostly in Uintah County (Vernal area). Utah has



many named features for Gilson.

We stayed at the Gold Country Motel, had a bass dinner one night, and enjoyed the meetings, the speakers, and the field trips. The field trips were well planned; the guides were well informed. The meals were great. The book room was great. All in all, we thought it went quite well. Thanks to all who worked hard to make it come together. Saw lots of old friends. CASPER – next year?

In closing, I also want to make mention of the passing of Kathy Franzwa (wife and widow of Greg Franzwa, who was the creator of OCTA way back when) this last year. She was a great person and a great contributor to OCTA as well as the Lincoln Highway Association. She will be missed by all who knew her. Her contributions continued long after Greg's passing.

We have not had any local activity at Crossroads except for plans to set some T-Rails this fall. Victor Heath is still working on the welding and fabrication of the project.

Stay tuned till next time. – A. Oscar Olson

SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails chapter is working hard across five or six states to unite our chapter members with the sections of trail running through their state. We have learned to ZOOM our Board Meetings and were even able to get our By-Laws updated and adopted. We had our annual chapter meeting at the Elko Convention with those members that were able to attend.

We're fortunate to have Doug Hocking help with our monthly ZOOM chapter meetings as he has worked to set up several educational and interesting talks from our chapter members and other local professionals. We are making these events the third Thursday of each month around the 6 o'clock hour so that members can plan ahead. Stay informed at www.Southern-Trails.org

Our chapter president Mark Howe attended the September Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium along with our other members Cecilia and John Bell, held at La Junta, CO near Bents Old Fort. In November, Cecilia and John Bell, Doug and Debbie Hocking and Pamela Najdowski attended "The Arrival – La Llegada" of William Becknell arriving in Santa Fe with a reenactment

of Governor Melagares greeting William Becknell at the dinner party complete with braised buffalo short ribs! History is still fun!

We look forward to more chapter events and are exploring the opportunity for a chapter symposium in Temecula, CA in April of 2022. We're looking at dates of April 25, 26 and 27 of 2022 with the hopes for www.VailHQ.org the Vail Ranch Headquarters and their Red Barn as part of the experience. We're looking into other Field Trips and resources in the area to share the Butterfield Trail story as well as all the other trails that passed through this area. We'll keep you posted as we discover more!

We hope to have another event in Alpine, TX when they have the Big Bend conference in November of 2022.

We continue to publish our Desert Tracks with our editors Dan Judkins and David Miller. They seek out qualified and quality writers and accept contributions where appropriate. We enjoy their efforts and are proud of our fine publication that comes with membership dues. *Melissa Shaw*

GATEWAY

During the fall, Gateway activities began to recover from the effects of Covid. On October 2, a bus tour in commemoration of the Santa Fe Trail drew a nearly full bus. All were vaccinated. Ross Marshall graciously offered his expertise in leading the tour which started at Independence Landing and traveled through the urban Kansas City areas to New Santa Fe. Imagination of 1800s landscape was encouraged by Ross. The return north was along parts of the Westport Road and back to the Town of Kansas on the Missouri River. A thunderstorm rolled in as the tour concluded. It was a delightful day with trail friends.

On November 9, Gateway had its annual membership dinner with approximately 30 members in attendance. Retiring board members Carole McClellan and Shirley Myers were recognized for their years of service. New Gateway officers and board for 2022 are: Dave Berger, president; Jackie Lewin, vice-president; Sandy Smith, secretary; Fred Sawin, treasurer; Corky Smith, preservation chair; Bill Leppert, program chair; Diane Waddell, nomination chair; Jerry Mogg, liaison to OCTA board; Karen McClellan, Mary Conrad, Sarah Elder, and Kim Schutte. The board will meet in January to plan for 2022. *Jackie Lewin*



2021 President Jackie Lewin presents Certificates of Appreciation to Carole McClellan and Shirley Myers for their years of service to the Gateway Board.



Photo 2 - 2022 Gateway Board. L to R, Front Row: Dave Berger, Diane Waddell, Sandy Smith, Karen McClellan, Corky Smith, Jackie Lewin, Bill Leppert. Back Row: Saran Elder, Fred Sawin, Jerry Mogg. (Not in attendance were Mary Conrad and Kim Schutte)



Carole McClellan presents a door prize to new member Steve Hofferber.



Ross Marshall to right greets a bus full to the tour of the Santa Fe Trail.



The last stop on the tour was the site of the old Town of Kansas on the Missouri River. It was beginning to rain but participants could not resist the walk to the scenic overlook of the river.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

This year we have made significant strides in overcoming the Covid doldrums we experienced last year. In spite of having to again postpone our Spring Symposium in Anderson on the Nobles Trail until the spring of 2022, we have been able to accomplish some significant achievements. In September, we held the National OCTA Convention in Elko, Nevada. Helen Hankins was the convention chair and Duane Jones was the co-chair. We had a good turnout of OCTA members, and the speaker presentations were outstanding as well as were the workshops, tours, and other activities.

In June, we held a joint education/fun trip with Trails West and followed the Nobles Trail from the Black Rock Desert through Susanville to the old ghost town of Shasta City at Shasta State Park west of Redding, California. We visited the sites of emigrant and freight stations along the way; recounted some of the historic battles and massacres that occurred in the trail's heyday; visited Charlie's ranch, where Bear and Bull Fights were held until they were outlawed in 1859; and we camped along the way.

In September, after the convention, Roger and Karen Gash led an education/fun trip on the Hastings Cutoff across Nevada following the route of the unfortunate Donner Party of 1846. Later in September, Ken and Jo Johnston led another education/fun trip on the Applegate/Lassen Trail. It went from Rye Patch Reservoir (previously known as Lassen Meadows), where approximately a third of the 1849 Gold Rush argonauts (8,000-9,000 emigrants) turned off the main California Trail to follow the Lassen Route. Then it went through the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon to Goose Lake, where the Lassen Trail branched off from the Applegate route and continued to Lassen's Rancho in the Sacramento Valley.

We camped along the way; visited emigrant graves and the Lassen Murder Site; crossed the Black Rock Playa where we saw a mirage. (Was it the same mirage J. Goldsborough Bruff wrote about seeing, when he crossed the playa in 1849? or was it fossil water remaining from the Pleistocene Lake Lahontan that at one time was 500 feet deep above the playa?) High Rock Canyon was spectacular with its towering canyon walls, emigrant inscriptions, caves, and interesting formations that were described in emigrant journals recorded in 1849. Overall, the desert, the canyon, and the whole tour were, as

always, an exciting adventure.

Bill Holmes is continuing to work on Johnson Ranch and Camp Far West and will be doing more metal detecting and surveys next spring. Johnson Ranch was the terminus of the California Trail, where thousands of emigrants arrived in the Sacramento Valley. It is a major historic site deserving national recognition.

Dave Freeman is likewise working on Rancho Bosquejo, another major historic site, which was Peter Lassen's ranch and was the terminus of the Lassen Trail. Dave is using journals and old maps to determine locations of buildings, trails, river fords, and irrigation canals that Peter Lassen had built. Dave is also working with Bill Holmes locating a possible canal that was built on the Johnson Ranch.

CA/NV OCTA is again planning our 2022 Spring Symposium to be held beside the Nobles Trail at the Gaia Hotel and Spa in Anderson, California, which is near where people on the trail ferried across the Sacramento River. We will have The Voices of The Golden Ghosts do historical reenactments and historical presentations about the African American influence and contributions during the Gold Rush in Northern California. Much of the history of their involvement in the Gold Rush has been lost, and this group is doing an excellent job in reviving it.

The California/Nevada Chapter of OCTA continues to be actively involved in OCTA's mission 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. Our chapter remains strong with 385 members and financial security.

Peace and Happy Trails, *Ken Johnston*



NORTHWEST

We were able to hold an in-person meeting on October 9th at Borst Park in Centralia, Washington. It was our annual Fall Meeting and we didn't have as many participants as we hoped for. However, we did see some of our Washington members for the first time in a couple of years. Thanks to Dave Welch and Polly Jackson we were able to offer the meeting on Zoom as well as in person. Christopher Chapman gave his program on bicycling the Oregon Trail, and he mentioned that his favorite part of the trip was along the route between Vale, OR and Farewell Bend. He said that the route gave him a better experience of what the trail might have been like in the 1800's.

Several of our members attended the Elko

Convention in September. We all really appreciated the speakers and tours put on by the Convention Committee. Some of us were able to take the pre-tour on the California Trail from the City of Rocks to Wells, NV and we really understood how difficult it must have been for wagons and people.

The National Park Service now lists another Oregon Trail Resource in the National Register of Historic Places. The La Grande to Hilgard segment is a well-preserved trace of emigrant wagon ruts, crossing a high plateau and composed of three segments 3.66 miles long. The area is located between the cities of La Grande and Hilgard and includes one of the steepest climbs on the Trail in Oregon. *Sallie K. Riehl, President*

IDAHO

The fall chapter meeting was held on Saturday, October 23, at Idaho Pizza Company in Boise. It was great to be able to see the members in person again. My thanks to Gar Elison for stepping up to be a chapter Director. After a short business meeting John Briggs talked about being the new OCTA President and fundraising plans. Paul Dinwiddie then talked about the pre-convention tour he and Don Wind led. Paul also shared a quilt made by his great-great grandmother. The backing of the quilt was made from the wagon cover used when the family traveled from Illinois to Oregon in 1852. After lunch several members of the group traveled to southeast Boise to view the ruts discovered a couple years ago. It is hoped that these ruts can be developed by Ada County into a walking park for school children.

I am looking forward to teaching my Boise Schools Community Education classes on the Oregon Trail in Idaho again in March. The classes are scheduled as follows:

- **Oregon Trail: Wyoming to Fort Hall**
(22W-HIS-003)

March 1, 2022 (Tue), West Junior High, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

- **Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway**
(22W-HIS-004)

March 9, 2022 (Wed), West Junior High, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

- **North Alternate Oregon Trail** (22W-HIS-005)
March 16, 2022 (Wed), West Junior High, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

You can get more information about the classes and register for them later in December at boiselearns.org.

I am planning to have the annual byway tour in mid-April and working with City of Rocks personnel to plan an outing there in mid-May. Please watch the chapter website calendar page (idahoocta.org/calendar) for chapter activities in the spring.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jerry Eichhorst

Thanks to Our Business Sponsors

For \$50 a year, OCTA Business Sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website and in *News From the Plains*, 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 (541) 276-2431

Jim Blau Insurance Agency

2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO (816) 833-1595

Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd.

PO Box 96, Big Piney, WY (307) 276-3347

Lew Printing

227-B East College St. Independence, MO (816) 836-0219

Bite Me Barbecue

1405 Center St., Marysville KS 66508 785-619-6110

Board of Director Nominations are Open

Nominations are being accepted through **February 15, 2022** for election to OCTA's National Board of Directors. Directors serve for three-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Members of the Board are responsible for setting policies and priorities for the organization and electing officers. They also serve as important liaisons with OCTA chapters. The terms of Board members Bill Martin, Jean Coupal-Smith, Steve Knight will expire in 2022. This is their first term and all are eligible to run again. **Bill Martin has elected to not seek a second three-year term**, thus one Board position will be open.

Directors are expected to attend two board meetings annually, one of which is held in conjunction with the OCTA Annual Convention. The second, Mid-Year meeting, usually

in late winter or early spring, is held in rotating locations.

In order to be a candidate for the Board of Directors all that is required is being an OCTA member in good standing, a short statement of qualifications and experience, a photograph and the endorsement of three members of OCTA. Candidacy papers should be sent to the Nominating and Leadership Committee Chair Lee Black at nobletr1857@gmail.com or mailed to Lee Black, PO Box 92225, Albuquerque, NM 87199. For more information about the elections process or the job you may also contact other members of the Nomination and Leadership Committee. Pat Traffas at traffasp@gmail.com or Roger Blair at rblair@oregontrail.net. Additional information may also be found in the Members area of the OCTA website.

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, 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 and recently deceased Life Members include:

Lila Aamodt	Phillip L. Foremaster	Raymond Kanter	M. Lethene Parks
Ivan Baker	Mrs. Kay Forsythe	M. F. Kiber	Betty J. Pfaff
Dr Thomas R. Bales	Kathy Colyer Franzwa (Deceased)	James King	Mrs. E. W. Puckett
Jacqueline Ball	Amanda Gibbs	Ormie Lamson	Carlyle Jones Raine
Wayne G. Basler	Mrs. Billie Gray	Brian Larson	Donald & Dee Reinhold
Nick F. Behrens	Jay Greene	Eric Lauha	Jack Root
Lee & Sandi Black	Randell & Mary Jane Guyer	Ross M. Leibold	Bill Rupp
Andrea Blair	Chris Hammond	William & Cynthia Leutzinger	Fred Sawin
Roger P. Blair, M.D.	Helen Hankins	Brenda Lozier	Ben S. Scherbel
Camille Q. Bradford	Koichiro Harada	Al Lustig	Warren Schmidgall
John & Nancy Briggs	Glenn & Carol Harrison	Lute Family Foundation	David & Kay Scott
James (Deceased) & Judy Budde	Mark Headley	Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz	Randolph W. Seed
Marvin Burke (Deceased)	Warren R. Higgins	Ross & Shirley Marshall	Donald L. Siebert
Dr. & Mrs. B. R. Cahill	William & Jan Hill	Bill & Diana Martin	Calli Smith
Cheryl Cardoza	Elaine & Eugene Hill	Helen Martin	Judith Space
Thomas Cardoza	Cheryl & Gilbert Hoffman	Carolyn & Gordon McGregor	Leslie Joan Steuben
Lisa Carle	Chuck Hornbuckle	Kendall McNabney (Deceased)	Michael Strodman
Kay, Milt & Rylene Coffman	Mark Howe	John & Jacque McVey	William (Billy) Symms (Deceased)
Laura Luack Cole	Thomas Hunt	Dan Miller	Kathryn Tanner
Mary Conrad	Idaho State Archives	Phil Miller	David & Sharon Taylor
James & Kathy Conway	Duane & Carolyn Iles	Margaret Morkowski	Kay Threlkeld
Dr. Vincent Correll	J. C. Isble	Candy & Steve Moulton	Frank & Mary Ann Tortorich
Laurie Davis	George H. Isted	Mary Mueller	Patricia & Levi Traffas
Douglas Co. Libraries:	Robert A. Iverson	Paul Murphy	William L. Trogdon
Shaun Boyd	Jan & Sets Iwashita	Joe Nardone (Deceased)	Dave & Karen Vixie
Susan B Doyle	Neal Johns (Deceased)	Dick & Ruby Nelson	Pennie Lynn Von Achen
Brian L Dukleth	Rollie & Paula Johnson	Dave & Donna Newberry	Wanosik Family
Keith Fessenden	Beatrice Kabler	James Nici	Sandra Wiechert
Jack & Pat K. A. Fletcher	Janet Kanter	Bob Noll	John & Susie Winner
		Stanley W. Paher	

What Is Your Greatest Talent?

Each of us has at least one skill that we truly enjoy exercising. OCTA Leadership is seeking to identify those with skills that would benefit the furtherance of the OCTA mission.

We have 26 Standing Committees. If you are not currently serving on the national level this is your opportunity. There will be a place for you. Please consider where you could best help.

For a listing of Committees go to the OCTA website, octa-trails.org. Under the Members tab select **OCTA Leadership**

Manual, Strategic Plan & Organization Chart, then select **Leadership Manual March 2018**. You will find Committee

descriptions beginning on page 60.

Special needs currently include Audit, Collections/Libraries, Education Outreach, Fundraising, History & Archives, Marketing and Membership Committees.

Please contact Lee Black at

leeblack1@hotmail.com

with questions or to share you interest in helping OCTA further our mission. Thank you for sharing your talent. We need you!

Important Dates and Deadlines

Award Nominations – June 1

Budget Development – Budget Request – May 23 (Per OCTA Procedural Manual)

News from the Plains material – Spring issue: February 25, Summer issue: May 25, Fall issue: August 25, Winter issue: November 25

Nominating and Leadership – Announcement of election and number of vacancies on the Board of Directors: November 25 News from the Plains Deadline; Bio and ballot: April 1

Outstanding Educator Award Application – March 31

Calendar Art for Western Calendar – April 15

National Park Service Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) – October 1

Volunteer data (Hours, Expenses, Mileage) to Partnership – Report hours on the website at <https://www.octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer>. They can be reported as they are accumulated. If you track your hours on the paper form (available at <https://www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms/>), please report them to HQ by December 31.

Overland Journal – Spring issue to membership: approximately May 20, Summer issue to membership: approximately August 20, Fall issue to membership: approximately November 20, Winter issue to membership: approximately February 20

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

OCTA-Journals.org

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

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.

A Reminder for Ezra Meeker Life Members

If you are an Ezra Meeker Life Member of OCTA and a member of one or more regional chapters, your chapter dues renew on January 1 each year.

For your convenience, you can renew your chapter memberships online by visiting octa-trails.org/why-join-octa/ and following the appropriate links for regional chapters.

You can also call headquarters at (816) 252-2276 for more information.

If you are not an Ezra Meeker Life Member, you can join at that level at any time.

The cost is \$1,000, which can be spread over several regular payments.

Remember, funds from Meeker Life memberships go directly to OCTA Endowments, helping create a legacy of support for trails preservation and education.

Call headquarters to learn more.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

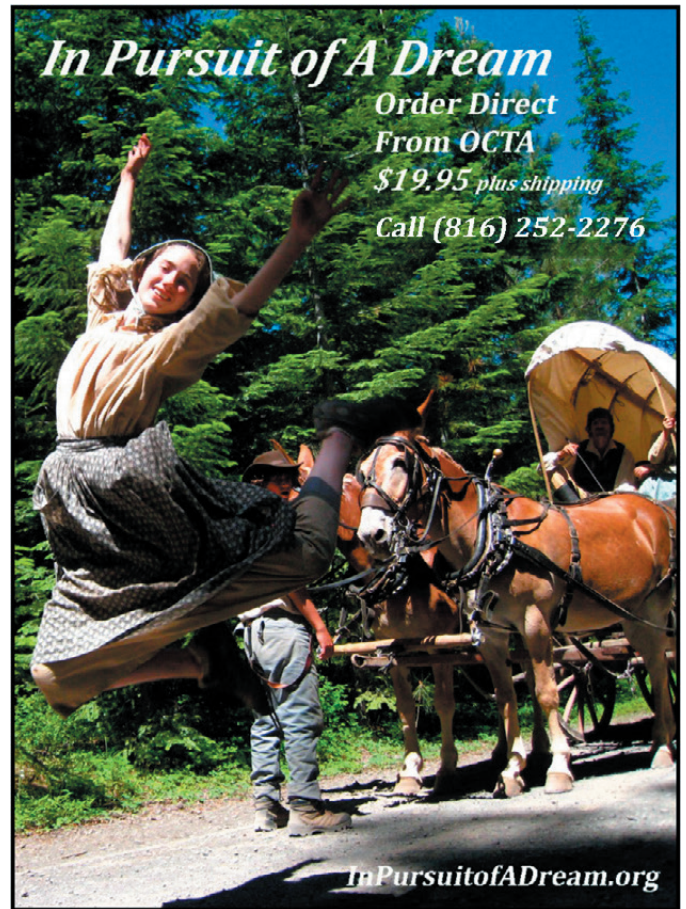
In this issue:

Elko – Pulling Together and Pitching In

Meet Our Members

San Diego Symposium Registration

News from the Chapters



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

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