

Agenda

OCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MID-YEAR MEETING

VIA ZOOM

SATURDAY, February 27, 2021

10 AM CST; 9 AM MST & 8 AM PST **CALL TO ORDER**

ADOPT AGENDA

[MINUTES](#) APPROVAL – Annual Board Meeting (ZOOM)

[PRESIDENT'S](#) REPORT

[ASSOCIATION MANAGER'S](#) REPORT

[HEADQUARTERS](#) REPORT

[WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE](#)

[TREASURER'S](#) REPORT

[INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE](#)

[PRESERVATION](#)

[PARTNERSHIP](#)

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[TRIBAL LIAISON](#)

FUTURE [CONVENTIONS](#)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

[PUBLICATIONS](#)*

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

OVERLAND JOURNAL

[CHAPTER](#) REPORTS

[ARCHAEOLOGY](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

FUNDRAISING

[MAPPING/MARKING](#)

[GRAVES AND SITES](#)

AWARDS

COLLECTIONS

[HALL OF FAME](#)

[NOMINATION AND LEADERSHIP](#)

[COMMITTEE A](#)

[COMMITTEE B](#)

COMMITTEE C

[GOVERNANCE](#), POLICIES, STRATEGIC PLAN (BY-LAWS)

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Organization Chart

NEW BUSINESS

Archaeology Proposal (see Archaeology Section)

Strategic Plan (Format)

Bozeman Historic Trail Project Update

MOTIONS

Membership – Duane Iles

Strategic Plan – John Briggs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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LEE BLACK

SANDRA WIECHERT

LEE BLACK

TRAVIS BOLEY

KATHY CONWAY

ISOBEL LINGENFELTER

MARVIN BURKE

DAVE WELCH

JOHN WINNER

BILL MARTIN

DUANE ILES

DUANE ILES

BOLEY & HANKINS

AARON MAHR & CAROLE WENDLER

BILL HILL

JAY LAWRENCE

BOB CLARK

WRITTEN REPORTS

MARY CONRAD

GINA SIFERS

LEE BLACK

DAVE WELCH

RANDY BROWN

AUDREY ELDER

LEE BLACK

CAMILLE RADFORD

PAT TRAFFAS

J COUPAL-SMITH

JOHN BRIGGS

STEVE KNIGHT

CAMILLE BRADFORD

AUDREY ELDER (ED AWARDS*
*SEE PUB REPORT)

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MINUTES

Oregon-California Trails Association

Board Meeting on Zoom, Sept 18, 2020

Officers present Lee Black, President; Dick Waugh, Vice President/President-Elect; Pat Traffas, Past President; Marvin Burke, Treasurer; John Winner, Preservation Officer; Sandra Wiechert, Secretary.

Directors present Cecilia Bell, John Briggs, Jean Coupal-Smith, Helen Hankins, Duane Iles, Steve Knight, Bill Martin, Chuck Milliken.

Directors absent Matt Mallinson

Staff present Travis Boley, Association Manager; Sharon Brown, Western Region Representative; Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager; Robert Clark, Editor, *Overland Journal*; Jay Lawrence, Editor, *News from the Plains*.

Chapter chairs, committee chairs, representatives, and other guests

Colorado-Cherokee—Camille Bradford; *Gateway*—Jackie Lewin; *Kanza*—Duane Iles;

Northwest—Dick Waugh; *Southern Trails*—Mark Howe; *Trails Head*—Lila Aamodt.

Archeology—Mary Conrad; *Collections, Nominations, Committee C*—Cecilia Bell; *Committee A*—Jean Coupal-Smith; *Committee B*—John Briggs; *Governance, Policies, Strategic Plan; Hall of Fame; Investment Advisory*—Camille Bradford; *Marketing/Public Relations; Partnership*—Bill Martin; *Membership; Nomination and Leadership; Tribal Liaison*—Duane Iles; *Partnership (PTNS), Publications*—Bill Hill.

National Park Service—Carole Wendler, *Bella Media*—Gina Sifers; and some 20 others.

Call to Order--President Lee Black called the annual meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association to order via ZOOM at 10:30 am, CST.

Agenda Marvin Burke moved, Jean Coupal-Smith seconded that the prepared Agenda be adopted. The motion passed.

Minutes Cecilia Bell moved, Bill Martin seconded that the Minutes of the Mid-Year Board Meeting held in Yuma AZ, February 21, 2020, be accepted. The motion passed.

President's Report President Black welcomed all attending OCTA's first board meeting on Zoom, deemed necessary due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He explained a few technological procedures about muting, asking questions, making comments, and the need for all attending to identify themselves when speaking.

---He introduced long-time member Mary Conrad as the new chair of the long-dormant Archeology Committee. Mary has extensive skills and knowledge of professional archeological practices. Lee then announced that Dick Waugh will leave his officer position to become the Co-Chairman of Chapter Oversight who, among other OCTA projects, will be available to work with the western chapters: CA-NV, Northwest, Utah, ID, Wyoming and Southern Trails. Lee is still seeking another

co-chair to provide oversight for the eastern chapters: Gateway, Trails Head, Kanza, Nebraska, and Colorado-Cherokee, and to assist with other actions as needed.

--Lee thanked everyone for adapting to the coronavirus-caused shut-downs and quarantines endured since early March. There has been new interaction, new dialogue, new media uses, all resulting in OCTA's becoming a global presence with new followers and members. Fundraising is up, finances are more stable, chapter websites are being completed with the latest one being Trails Head's website, which now has set a high new standard.

--The new 5-year Strategic Plan is in place and functioning. Lee praised everyone who had worked on it, and also Association Manager Travis Boley, Western Region Representative Sharon Brown, and Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway, known as the tireless "The Face of OCTA".

Association Manager's Report Travis Boley reiterated Lee's report, stating fundraising had been the best in many years. Last year's \$10,000 donor has repeated his donation, and will help support the 2022 convention in Wyoming.

Sam Sullivan, a graduate of William Jewell College who is highly skilled in digital technology, is the new intern.

--With Gina Sifers of Bella Media and now our webmaster, Sam and Gina are preparing Google ads, Paper Trail ads, ads for all OCTA books and publications, and grants. Statistics now are easy to come by, and results are quite interesting. The 18-35 year-olds are heavy ad users. Those 55 and older use Paper Trail (relaunched last year). We have 80 new members (but have lost 90), and 3000 Facebook users. Twitter has few users; Instagram far more. The Mail Chimp is being introduced. Our YouTube channel needs 1000 users before OCTA receives ad revenue. Several YouTube videos have been completed, including two shown to attendees: the **Bidwell-Bartleson gathering at Sapling Grove**, narrated by Ross Marshall, and another on **Hiram Young**, a former slave who became a wealthy wagonmaker in Independence MO. More films are being produced. Since Hollywood is still shut down, YouTube is especially effective right now.

--The Speakers Bureau is rather dormant at present, due to COVID-19, but we are all encouraged to seek out and respond to speaking opportunities as the nation opens up again.

--Lots of spring 2021 planning is going on. Eastern Oregon's B2H's opposition group is growing, and hopefully planning a symposium. There may be a Butterfield 60-mile bike ride on a gravel road in the Missouri Ozarks. The plans for the Mormon Battalion reenactment are ongoing. California's Johnson Ranch trails are being developed. OCTA websites will need to become more ADA compliant.

Partnership for the National Trails System Lee turned the meeting over to Bill Martin. He introduced Valerie Rupp, the new assistant head of the Partnership (PNTS). Valerie has a background in advocacy and management of parks, projects, and people. She stated she is familiar with OCTA and admires its work. Her office has recently moved to Washington DC and is on N Street. Valerie encouraged member contact and invited us to this year's "Hike the Hill" event, possibly a virtual tone his year. Bill

reported Sen. Boozman of Arkansas has introduced Bill-4404 designating the Butterfield Trail as a National Historic Trail. *The Great America Outdoors Act* became law on Aug. 4, and includes permanent funding for Land & Water Conservation and billions for deferred maintenance, including OCTA-administered trails. Strategies for implementing the *Four Trails* feasibility study are starting. PNTS and OCTA are planning a virtual symposium October 21-29. Members are welcome.

Western Region Representative Sharon Brown had retired from the National Park Service after serving 37 years. She has spent the last 3½ years serving OCTA as liaison with the western chapters, assisting John Winner with his preservation work, doing special tasks with Headquarters and with Travis Boley. She is largely responsible for getting the new Strategic Action Plan started and in place. Her other comments are in her report. She will leave this position September 30, but plans to continue her OCTA interests. The membership expressed gratitude to her for all her work. Her report has been submitted.

Treasurer's Report Marvin Burke referred to his submitted report. The reduction of OCTA income for 2021 is largely due to the reduction of budgeted income from this year's canceled convention. The National Park Service funding for next year is higher by \$10,500. Sales brought in more profits, and fundraising was higher than before. For the first time in years, the OCTA year-end report may finish in the black.

Preservation John Winner referred everyone to his written report. As always, **Boardman to Hemingway (B2H)**, the proposed 300-mile 500 KV 500 transmission line for eastern Oregon that would cross the Oregon Trail 7 times, is a continuing saga. Gail Carbenier, NW chapter Preservation Officer and B2H guru has included his petition to achieve consulting party status on this project.

John also reported on the **R-Project**, a 225-mile, 345 KV transmission line proposed by the Nebraska Public Power District that would cross the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails. Linda Tracy, a Nebraska historian, has written and included an extensive report on the possible damage to wildlife habitat and cultural historic sites this project could destroy.

John also reported on the **Long Canyon Mine** project, including the Hastings Cutoff, Gravelly Ford, the newly-formed Nevada Gold Mine Co., and BLM's attitude about mitigation. He is fairly optimistic about protecting the trail.

Every week, he works on and/or investigates about 50 projects. There are the **Lander** water conservation projects around Elko NV, the **Johnson Ranch**, the **Truckee Trail**, and the visual effects of the wind motion project of Capital Power Corporation, Boston MA with Nolin Hills Energy. The attempt will be to preserve, not mitigate.

John applauded all chapter preservation officers and their vigilant work.

Dick Waugh, also the NW chapter president, reported on the extensive and destructive damage of the current West Coast fires, including that of the historic 1850 Mountain House on the Beckwourth Trail, forests and homes destroyed, trails severely damaged, trail markers burned and melted, graves and other historic sites, burned beyond recognition.

Break 11:55-12:10 pm

Investment Advisory Committee Camille Bradford and John Briggs reported that when Brighton Jones became OCTA's financial advisor 9/30/2017, OCTA's investments were valued at \$1,450,078. Today, 9/18/2020, these investments total \$1,595,037, a change of \$144,959. Withdrawals during that time had been \$98,406.

In 2018 our ratio of fixed income to equities had been 40% to 60%, regarded as conservative. By now we have achieved the new goal of 25% fixed income and 75%

equities. We are in a volatile market with inflationary rates and questions about what should be the distributions.

Membership Duane Iles referred to his submitted report. Membership stands at 1273, a new low. He shared his concerns and asked attendees to help and evaluate.

Future Conventions Helen Hankins reported the canceled and rescheduled Elko NV Convention remains on track for September 13-16, 2021. Virtually all hotels, speakers, tours, meals etc are reconfirmed to be the same as originally planned for this September. Newly added will be a trip to Fort Ruby. The Casper WY convention, originally scheduled for next year, has now been rescheduled for 2022.

National Park Service --Carole Wendler attended and reported instead of Aaron Mahr, Superintendent, who is still away on special assignment. He will return soon. NPS is way up in digital engagement, perhaps by 47%. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered everything. She thanked Travis and Sharon for their ceaseless work and offered NPS assistance to Helen Hankins and Bill Holmes for the future conventions.

--Carole is excited about OCTA's Strategic Plan. She reviewed compliance, mitigation, and environmental issues. The latest NPS digital newsletter was shared introducing Meg Frisbie who will work with Lee Kreutzer, Ashley Wheeler who will be working with the Santa Fe Trail for 18 months, and Dr. Lillis Urban, the new Chief Planner. Other projects have included an Oregon Auto Guide, an Overlander Guide through the Columbia River Gorge, and materials on the City of Rocks in Idaho and on emigrants' First Year in Oregon. Signing updates are ongoing in Nebraska, California, and other areas. Trail inventories are being done by phone. This is now on the OCTA website.

--President Lee expressed appreciation for NPS investment and support of OCTA.

Tribal Liaison Duane Iles's submitted report indicated there is no update.

Publications Bill Hill referred to his submitted report, and said both publications are in excellent condition with writing, production, and finances being on track.

The pandemic has actually helped with getting *News from the Plains* articles in on time. *The Overland Journal* now has enough articles ready for the next three issues.

Chapter Reports All received chapter reports submitted had been attached to the "convention book" previously emailed to all involved.

Marketing and Public Relations Bill Martin congratulated Trails Head on its new website. Its layout and new graphic logo look tremendous. His full report had been submitted.

Fundraising As reported elsewhere, Lee reminded everyone that fundraising this year has been tremendous..

Mapping and Marking David Welch's report had been submitted.

John Winner announced a mapping workshop is scheduled for May 25-27, 2021 in Salt Lake City. The National Park Service is supporting this with \$20,000.

Graves and Sites There had been no reported activity.

Awards There was no report.

Collections --Travis will send a video soon about the OCTA library collections. The Frontier Trails Museum in the same building as OCTA Headquarters currently is closed due to COVID-19, but hopefully can be funded and reopened next spring. Current upgrades include elevator installation. Next will be work on the third floor. The library's collections are being digitized, and are being used across the country. Independence MO's transient tax receipts are way down during the quarantine.

--Bill Martin, Lee, and Travis hope to elevate the collections, particularly anything concerning family histories and genealogy, to the next level. Perhaps charges for usage might be appropriate, as is done with memberships in Ancestry.com and Family Search.

--Cecilia Bell, Chair, submitted in her report a brief history of the collections and a suggestion that members may want to consider donating collectible materials they happen to own. She also included Lethene Parks' OCTA's approved *Trails Collection Policy of 2015*.

Hall of Fame Camille Bradford, Chair, reported the committee had selected three people for the 2020 induction into OCTA's Hall of Fame: John C. Fremont, Francis Parkman, and Brigham Young. She encouraged all members to suggest new names for the 2021 induction. Rules and guidelines are on the OCTA website.

Nomination and Leadership In place of Pat Traffas, Past President and Chair, Duane Iles announced the proposed slate of officers.

Lee Black, President

John Briggs, Vice President/President-Elect

Marvin Burke, Treasurer

John Winner, Preservation Officer

Sandra Wiechert, Secretary

Pat Traffas, Past President

Elections by the membership for the Board of Directors had created a first-ever situation: three members had been nominated for two openings. Chuck Milliken clearly had won one position; Pat Fletcher and Jerry Mogg had tied for the second. Without clear direction on how to handle this, the Nominating Committee (Pat Traffas, Ch., Duane Iles, Cecilia Bell) agreed to have the current Directors polled by phone after the board meeting concluded today. Duane will make the phone calls, and then declare the winner after tomorrow's Members Meeting.

Committee A Jean Coupal-Smith, chair, had submitted a report.

Committee B John Briggs, Chair, had submitted a report.

Committee C Cecilia Bell, Chair, said there was nothing to report at this time.

Governance, Policies, Strategic Plan Camille Bradford said there was nothing to add to her submitted report.

Education Outreach No report at this time.

Education Awards This was included in the Publications Report.

Marvin Burke moved, Steve Knight seconded that all reports, both submitted and presented, be accepted.

Unfinished Business There was none.

New Business The new 5-year Strategic Plan was discussed. It is meant as a guide only, not a rule. We do not need to get caught up in wordsmithing here. The Plan should be brought up for review at each future meeting, knowing that not all can be accomplished. There was praise for Dick Waugh and the committee for bringing the Plan to completion. The Plan has proved flexible and was adapted to work well during the unexpected COVID-19 quarantine.

Helen Hankins moved, Steve Knight seconded that the Strategic Plan for 2020-2025, initially discussed by attending members Feb. 20,2020, in Yuma AZ and developed since by committee Dick Waugh, Chair, be adopted. The motion passed.

Marvin Burke moved, John Briggs seconded to make three changes to the 2020-2021 budget: reduce the Heritage Fund withdrawal down to \$20,000; restore the Hall of Fame committee's request for \$250; and increase the Publications committee's request by \$1175. The motion passed.

Lee Black speculated, and Marvin agreed that OCTA would finish this year "in the black", a most welcome feeling. Approximately \$23,000 will be carried forward, allowing for (rounded) 3% raises for both Kathy Conway and Travis Boley. Members expressed great happiness with this. Marvin will make the adjustments and email the revised budget to everyone soon.

John Winner moved, John Briggs seconded to change the annual approved withdrawals from the Heritage Fund to a quarterly withdrawal basis. The motion passed.

In explaining his following motion, Duane Iles pointed that in April 2022, Mary Merica, granddaughter of *OCTA Hall of Fame* honoree John G. Ellenbecker, had given his papers to OCTA. Living in Marysville in Marshall County KS, he had worked tirelessly to preserve the nearby historic trails, and to help gain recognition and preservation for Alcove Spring. Thus Duane felt the Ellenbecker papers should stay in Marshall Co.

Duane Iles moved, Marvin Burke seconded that the Oregon California Trails Association (OCTA) designate the Alcove Spring Historical Trust (The Trust) as the permanent custodian of the John G. Ellenbecker Collection. OCTA will retain ownership with the rights of inspection of the collection. The Trust will protect, preserve, and make available to qualified researchers the collection at no cost to OCTA. The Trust has agreed to accept the collection. The motion passed.

John Briggs moved, Jean Coupal-Smith seconded to approve fund documents that have been corrected to remove the reference to Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and replace with Brighton Jones. The motion passed.

Holding the planned Board and Members meetings in Elko NV could not happen this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting requirements of no large gatherings and individual social distancing. Thus these meetings by Zoom had to be planned. To give clarity to our Bylaws concerning meetings such as these, Camille, as chair of the Governance Committee, proposed the following amendments. Discussion followed, mostly concerning clarity of wording to which all agreed.

Duane Iles moved, Cecilia Bell seconded that Camille Bradford's proposed amendments to the Bylaws be made:

Article III, Section 1 will read as follows: (Current wording is in *italics*; proposed amendments are in **bold**).

*The annual meeting of members shall be held on the day following the meeting of the Board of Directors at the annual convention, for the transaction of business that may properly come before the meeting. **The meeting may be conducted by videoconferencing and/or teleconferencing services in years in which it is not possible to hold a convention.***

Article IV, Section 4 of the Bylaws shall be amended to read as follows:

*The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held, without other notice than this bylaw on the day prior to the annual general membership meeting in order to seat newly elected members of the board, to elect officers, and to conduct other business as deemed necessary. **The seating of newly elected members shall take place after the conclusion of all other business of the meeting.***

The mid-year meeting shall take place at a time, date, and location determined by the President. Written notice of the mid-year meeting shall be provided to members of the board not less than thirty days before the date of the meeting.

Annual and mid-year board meetings may be conducted via videoconferencing and/or teleconferencing services. When annual and mid-year meetings are held at a physical location, board members may participate by using these services. The motion passed.

Prior to this mid-year board meeting, Duane Iles had moved, and Marvin Burke had seconded to authorize President Lee Black to sign a letter to Capital Power Corporation in Boston MA. After an update by John Winner, Preservation Officer, and others, it was decided to withdraw this motion as it is not necessary at the present time.

Jean Coupal-Smith moved, Bill Martin seconded that the mid-year OCTA Board Meeting be adjourned. The motion passed at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Wiechert, Secretary

[To Agenda](#)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Reflecting on the past year, I am amazed and especially grateful that OCTA membership was able to accomplish many new milestones. Additionally, our membership was able to remain relatively safe and free of the ravages of the COVID pandemic. However, due to other circumstances, we have been informed of many OCTA Charter and Life members who passed away. To those who lost loved ones, we know this has been a painful time. OCTA leadership and Chapter members have reflected, with sadness, on the passing of so many dedicated, long-time members that helped to build this organization (see E-News December 30, 2020 and Jan. 13, 2021). With gratitude we express appreciation for the many contributions to OCTA's success they have made.

OCTA leadership marvel at and express appreciation for the outpouring of financial support from members and Chapters enabling the organization to see its way through a difficult year. We especially thank our National Park Service and PNTS partners for the resources they provided. Despite a virtual lockdown we were able to complete the assignment of generating new videos telling the little-known history of those who made the arduous trek west. A wonderful series can now be found on the OCTA YouTube channel and our website. Combined with those videos are many hours of fascinating stories found on the Trails Head Chapter website that will keep all entertained and educated. Thank you to all who made these rich resources possible. Many are now taking advantage of the opportunity to learn more about Colorado/Cherokee Trail history by attending on-line Zoom presentations offered by the Chapter.

Looking forward to 2021 and a brighter future we hope to see you back out on the trail. Several Chapters reported safe social distancing get-togethers for tours and work projects during the past quarter. The rest of us are eager to get out of confinement and return to trail events. All eyes are now on the Elko Convention slated to begin September 13.

Pressing on, OCTA is in need of volunteers for three committees. A Committee Chair is needed for the following committees: Audit, Collections/Library and Public Relations/Marketing. Discussions are underway with several members who may wish to serve on various committees. For anyone unfamiliar with the 29 OCTA Standing Committees please refer to the OCTA website under the Members tab. Scrolling down the tab you will see listed [OCTA Leadership Manual, Strategic Plan & Organization Chart](#). The Leadership Manual lists the duties and responsibilities of the various Committees. Please consider using your knowledge and experience to advance the Mission of OCTA. A review of the Strategic Plan was recently undertaken by your President and a number of Chapter Presidents. The lull in trail activities has afforded Chapters an opportunity to plan activities that will help achieve Plan objectives. The Fundraising Committee conducted meetings preparing to address portions of Goal 4 of the Plan. A recommendation is being formulated for presentation to the Board.

Accolades are in order for the many accomplishments made by our departing Western Regional Representative, Sharon Brown. She has been an asset to the many who called upon her for help these past three and a half years. We wish her many years of enjoyable retirement and know she will be an asset to her Chapter (NW). We also welcome Ms. Isobel Lingenfelter as our new Western Regional Representative (WRR). You may learn of her many experiences and qualifications in the January 13, 2021 E-News. To our Association Manager, Travis Boley, thank you! Your leadership is tireless, knowledge is endless and we are grateful for your commitment to OCTA. Lastly, a much-deserved expression of appreciation to Kathy Conway for 30 years of devoted service to OCTA as an organization and to us as members. You have served us admirably.

[To Agenda](#)

Association Manager Report

February 2021

Independence, Missouri

Fundraising (Goal 4, D of the strategic plan)

In the past 40 months, this office has raised and/or accepted over \$275,000 for various projects, events, and initiatives.

Some highlights:

- \$59,660 (2020 summer appeal)
- \$21,600 (2019-20 year-end appeal so far)
- \$81,260 (2019-20 year-end and summer appeal)
- \$43,550 (2018-19 year-end and summer appeal)
- \$33,000 (2017-18 year-end and summer appeal)
- \$65,200 (2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 Partnership for the National Trails System and City of St. Joseph for intern)
- \$4,970 (Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area for Gateway Chapter website)
- \$22,000 (various projects, including the B2H project, website, trail brochures, the Western Regional Representative, and others)

In September 2019, I was able to secure a \$10,000 donation from a new donor in Jackson, Wyoming. I got him to repeat that \$10,000 give again this July. That donation is reflected in the totals above.

I've also worked with our intern Sam and our web coordinator Gina on the Google Grants. We have up to \$10,000/month to "spend" on free advertising. This is in perpetuity. I'll have more on this in the marketing/PR section.

Marketing/PR (Goal 4, Objectives C & D of the strategic plan)

Initially we created ads for membership, donations, and Yuma. We shortly thereafter created an ad for preservation. With the addition of Sam as intern, we started focusing more on our goods and services. Sam created ads for Paper Trail and the products we created (Graves & Sites, Historic Inscriptions, etc.). After a summer of watching those ads and then assessing how they did, we decided to create ads for nearly all of our bookstore offerings.

Though Bill Martin's report goes into this a bit, allow me to add a bit more detail. After the summer, we looked at how the ads were doing. The figures were pretty astonishing. We had 81,000 ad views, with 68% of those views being for products like books, maps, and DVDs, 31% being for Paper Trail, and only 0.79% being for membership, donations, and preservation. The ads work based on keywords that people enter into Google. It is clear that the vast majority of people using Google are searching either for books or genealogy. This is why we decided to add the entire bookstore to Google Ads.

It was surprising that the primary age group searching for books was those in the 18-35 age range. This corresponds with the younger social media followers and new members we are seeing (more on those later). The main age group clicking on the Paper Trail ad was age 55 and up, which wasn't surprising. The typical ad gets about a 1-2% view. In order to keep our free ads, we need to stay above 5%. We're regularly hitting in the 8-10% range.

The ads have helped secure \$3,032 in online sales, March through August. This has almost offset the lost sales of \$3,286 we had at the National Frontier Trails Museum from March through September 2019. This underscores the importance of the online ads in replacing that lost income. We've similarly seen an increase in Paper Trail use. From January to December 2019, we had total sales of \$1,335. From January 2020 to August 2020, we have total sales of \$1,597. As our presence on Google Ads continues to grow, I believe we will continue to see increased revenue, especially as our other bookstore items continue to be added.

2) When COVID led to shutdowns, we added a "This Day in History" post to our Facebook page. This has proven to be EXTREMELY popular, with some posts receiving up to 10,000 views due to other people or groups sharing our post. When possible, we try to add an item for sale. We generally see sales as a result. **Digital Media (Goal 2, Objective B, action item v and Goal 4, Objective C)** has become of increased importance in an era when our core audience isn't really traveling all that much, as we know it's reaching much younger audiences as well. We have seen tremendous growth across all platforms. The repeated messaging will, we believe, pay great dividends once we are able to start holding events again.

As an example, when I reported at the 2014 board meeting, OCTA's Facebook page had 440 followers. It then grew steadily but slowly. It took us until mid-July of 2014 to reach 500 followers. By mid-January 2015, we hit 600, and in late February of that year we hit 700 followers. We had grown to 840 followers by the Summer 2015 board meeting and 1,166 followers by the board meeting in the Summer of 2016. By March of 2017 we'd climbed to 1,267 and in August 2018 we reached 1,328. We grew to 1,481 by the March 2018 board meeting, 1,580 by the Ogden convention, and 1,703 followers at the March 2019 board meeting. In the summer of 2019 we finally surpassed 2,000 followers and stood at 2,046 by the time of the Santa Fe convention. When we got to Yuma, we were at 2,132. We'd added almost 1,700 followers in those six years. **In the last six months we've added 816 followers** and we now stand at 2,948. This is an astounding growth rate of 38%. Many of these new followers are in the coveted 20-something through 40-something age groups, the same age group that is engaged with our book listings on Google Ads. We also know that we've added nearly 80 new members during this same time period, the vast majority of which came via social media. (Unfortunately, we've also had about 90 existing members not renew during this time period.) These followers are important as we can market our events, products, and membership to them. Please continue to share our posts so that we continue to grow. With the additional of a digital media communications intern, we believe we can really build on these numbers in a huge way and even add Instagram and Twitter feeds to reach new audiences of potential supporters.

Sam also created both an Instagram page and Twitter feed for us this summer. They are growing slowly but are helping us reach new audiences as well. Our Instagram page stands at 104 followers, whereas Twitter has grown a bit more slowly and only has 25 followers at the moment. However, both are used a bit differently than Facebook and we are working to add items that should increase our following in the near future. We believe they are all part of our marketing mix, especially since they are free platforms.

We recently switched platforms from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp for our E-News. Constant Contact had changed their appearance and caused the marketing committee to want to go in a new direction. Sam researched several platforms based on the needs we gave to him and Mail Chimp was his recommendation. We're much happier with its appearance, ease of use, and even slightly lower cost (going from about \$540/year to about \$360/year). We have nearly 2,500 subscribers, including everyone in OCTA who has supplied an email address. We regularly approach a 50% open rate with a regular E-News, and *News from the Plains* comes closer to a 60% open rate, well above the industry standards of about 20%.

We also launched a new YouTube Channel on New Year's Day. You can find our channel by entering our name on YouTube. At our Yuma board meeting we had 90 subscribers and have now doubled to 184 subscribers. We have added many new videos this summer and have about eight others filmed and in various states of edit. Our videos include:

- B2H
- John Bidwell and the First Wagon Train to California
- William Gilpin: Lawyer, Geopolitician, and Colorado Governor
- Pitcher Cemetery and the Cholera Epidemic of 1849 in Independence
- Campground Cemetery and the Cholera Epidemic of 1849 in Independence
- The Butterfield Overland Mail: The First 60 Miles in Missouri

We've also created videos on Hiram and Matilda Young; Russell, Majors, and Waddell and the Role of Lexington, Missouri in Westward Expansion, The 1827 Log Courthouse in Independence, Emily Fisher, and Lone Elm Campground. We've also talked to our Southern Trails Chapter about filming along those sections when it gets cooler, and we're looking to possibly do some short videos in our western chapters. I've also reached out to some tribes and other locales in the mid-west to hopefully do something while we still have Sam. We believe this new tool can help us reach many more new audiences as well, and we close each video out with a call for membership and a related product.

Once we 1,000 followers, we can start monetizing our channel. What that means is that every time anyone visits our channel we will receive a piece of the advertising revenue. It also means that, as a non-profit, we can use YouTube studios anywhere in the world for free to create and edit content. We have a proposal from a company to help us quickly achieve those numbers at a cost of \$500. With even a modest marketing budget, we can increase our reach exponentially. If you haven't already subscribed, please do so now!

3) Bill Martin will have much more on the J. Greg Smith, Inc. website and brochure program, so details on that program can be found in his report. The Missouri/Kansas brochures were out when I reported at Yuma. As a reminder, the online version can be found at <https://www.octa-trails.org/the-missouri-and-kansas-trails/>. J. Greg Smith secured funding from 22 convention and visitor bureaus from Arkansas to California and the Southern Trails brochure that was promised in Yuma is now available. See the online version at <https://octa-trails.org/southern-trails/>. Once again, Bill will have a more comprehensive report, but these new sections are attracting loads of new visitors to our website.

4) I've had to unfortunately temporarily suspend our "Speaker's Bureau" program in the KC area due to COVID (**Goal 2, Objective B, action item ii and iii**). Once groups start meeting again I will begin speaking to service clubs and others again.

Face-to-face is as important as the online initiatives, so I encourage people in other regions to line up speaking engagements when possible. More people will know who we are as a result. Simply creating awareness is half the battle.

5) PBS: (Goal 2, Objective B, Action Items iii and iv) Last February, the board entered into a partnership with an existing PBS program entitled *Southwest Stories with Steve Brown*. Steve is out of Twenty Nine Palms, California and has his broadcast partner KVCN, the PBS station out of San Bernardino. It has aired for two years, garnering over six million views in the greater Los Angeles area. As you know, the country was largely shut down almost immediately following the Yuma Symposium, so the show is basically on hiatus until restrictions begin being lifted.

As a refresher, for season three Steve wanted to focus in part on historic trails of the southwest. KVCR is planning to offer the show nationally across all of PBS in season three, and Steve was actively seeking international broadcast as well. Steve expanded into Roku channels in six foreign countries, including Brazil and Israel (Roku is a kind of on-demand service that comes pre-installed on most new televisions). Once the show resumes, OCTA and its members (especially its marketing/PR committee) will help guide him in terms of site location, local experts, and potential funding sources.

While the show was on hiatus, Steve came to the marketing/PR committee with an idea to create a series on the Butterfield. He already has in hand a broadcast partner in KVCR and is assembling a team of humanities experts that includes a lot of OCTA folks. As the Butterfield is a California Trail and lacks a nationwide supporting organization, and as legislation was just introduced this summer by Senator John Boozman (R-AR) to designate the Butterfield a National Historic Trail, OCTA is well-positioned to take advantage of the increased awareness for this trail. We believe this trail affords us the ability to reach new markets, new prospective members, donors, and supporters, and especially establish a presence in states with increasing population and a demographic that is receptive to learning about and enjoying historic trails. Should the Butterfield gain NHT status, we believe our Southern Trails Chapter is poised to see a huge uptick in interest for their offerings. Bill will also have an update in his legislative report, but with a new Congress in 2021, things are aligning well for a trails bill in the next session combined with increased awareness via PBS. With OCTA out front and with its people involved with the creation of programs, it's probably one of the better marketing opportunities we've seen in some time.

6) Potential partnering with Mormons and their affiliates: In July I was able to travel and meet with lots of people throughout Nebraska and Wyoming. Obviously, the biggest splash was getting another \$10,000 donation from our friend in Jackson Wyoming, but I also met with the Wyoming Chapter in Casper to discuss their upcoming convention and our Nebraska Chapter at Chimney Rock to discuss both projects and potential events. I also was able to stop in and meet the folks who are now running Sun Ranch at Martin's Cove/Devil's Gate.

Much as I think we can benefit from advocating on the Butterfield, I think we can similarly benefit from partnering opportunities along the Mormon Pioneer Trail. I know I've reported on the following part before, but it bears repeating.

As you may recall, Farmland Reserve donated nearly \$5,000 to the Ogden convention. Farmland Reserve is a for-profit arm of the LDS Church that manages and operates extensive ranch and farm holdings in the U.S. and internationally, including multiple holdings that contain excellent trail remnants, especially in Wyoming. This donation really started with a relationship I forged with Bob Abbey when he was Director of the BLM from 2009-12. When he retired, he went into private consulting practice and was hired by the LDS to advise on various projects. One of his projects centers around some Farmland Reserve holdings near the Independence Rock/Devil's Gate/Sun Ranch/Martin's Cove/South Pass area. The Church asked Bob to seek partnerships to better protect, map, mark, and interpret the historic trails that pass through their properties, so Bob reached out to me and a series of conference calls ensued. It culminated with a March 2018 meeting in Independence with Farmland Reserve and an April 2018 meeting in Salt Lake City with the Historic Sites Division of the Church and Farmland Reserve. This led to the Ogden donation and another for the upcoming Elko convention.

One thing we discussed was training the people at Sun Ranch in mapping and marking to MET standards. They have upwards of 60 people who could be trained. In return, all would become OCTA members and would volunteer to help with the Casper convention. The couple who run Sun Ranch now reiterated that support when I visited them in July. Shortly after my visit, they

mailed in their personal membership. I've long advocated that partnerships along these lines could help us as we try to expand our membership base.

I'd also met last February in Omaha with the director of the Winter Quarters Museum, two leaders from the Historical Pioneer Research Group (a non-profit that researches Mormon diaries and other documents), a member from the Iowa Mormon Pioneer Trails Association, the lead planner for the 2021 wagon train that will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Mormon Pioneer Trail, OCTA's Nebraska Chapter president Harlan Seyfer, and another Nebraska Chapter member, Jim Barr. Obviously, much that we discussed was pre-COVID, but assuming things start to return to normal in 2021 and 2022, we have several offers on the table.

We were invited to participate in the late 2021/early 2022 Mormon Battalion re-enactment from Council Bluffs to San Diego. Kevin Henson of the Mormon Battalion Association and Laura Anderson (an OCTA Crossroads Chapter member) approached me in Santa Fe to broach the idea of OCTA having its 2022 symposium and board meeting in San Diego during their final celebratory event in late January. They're expecting about 30,000 people to attend. Laura will be in Yuma and can discuss this directly.

I'd mentioned in my previous report that working with the LDS and Farmland Reserve in areas where our interests might align, such as in Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, or in the Southwest where the Mormon Battalion and Southern Route are in the same corridor makes sense as a membership and partnership strategy. Be sure to reach out to other groups for partnering opportunities. It is one way to expand the umbrella.

7) COVID led to the cancellation of the **American Solar Challenge (ASC)** this July. It was set to begin in Independence and end in Boise following the Oregon Trail. We were partnering with the ASC, NPS, and the city of Independence. This is all now pushed back to 2022. **(Goal 3, Objective A, Action items iii and iv and Goal 3, Objective B, Action items ii-iv)**

8) Membership Initiatives (Goal 4, Objectives A & B)

In my previous report last February, I spoke of reaching out to local service clubs and inviting them to participate in our activities. Much of this is now delayed due to COVID, but we're still poised to proceed once restrictions are lifted and people feel safe hosting and attending events again. **(Goal 3, Objective C, Action items ii and v are some of the basis of this plan.)**

I'd discussed the 3-Trails Corridor in KC as one opportunity, and it's still on the table in the future. But the main thing I've courted this summer is to become the recipient of the Independence Rotary Club's annual fundraiser, held every February. Two years ago they raised nearly \$400,000 for the Truman Library expansion and early this year they raised about \$300,000 for scholarships. In 2021, their target is the Engelwood Arts District. We may be the target in 2022, but they're primarily interested in projects. They've especially shown an interest in trail-related art.

Hiram Young Park provides a great opportunity for us. It's highly visible, on the Independence Square, adjacent to a four-lane thoroughfare, and named for the ex-slave who went on to become one of the most prominent (and wealthiest) citizens in Independence due to his expertise at building wagons and yokes. The Rotary funding may be used to create both a statue of the man and a wagon in bronze, which would give us a great partnering opportunity with artists, historians, and civic leaders from

the African-American community. In addition to being a highly visible project that could garner national attention, it could also be a great recruiting tool in a new market for us. I'll keep the board up-to-date as discussions continue.

I've also proposed the idea of holding symposia and/or conventions in eastern Oregon in an effort to fly our flag in the midst of the B2H issue. The B2H Coalition has about 600 members and I think some might both attend an event and possibly join OCTA as we continue to advocate for construction elsewhere. I would still like to consider this once events can be held safely again.

When we were creating the Missouri Butterfield video, we learned that locals in southern Missouri had already created a bike race along the historic trail called the Butterfield 60. They've tied together 27 communities and nine counties. We were able to interview state representatives, chamber of commerce directors, CVB directors, and business owners. They understand the importance of the trail as part of their tourism offerings in an area that is basically only a big draw from Memorial Day to Labor Day due to the Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Lake. I believe that this is ready-made for us to help create a new chapter with events and especially projects should the Butterfield garner NHT status.

There are also pockets of interest in NW Arkansas (they are largely responsible for getting the bill this far), eastern Oklahoma (where there is a preservation group restoring an old stage station), and Texas (where a group of ranchers are fighting wind towers along the trail and where there are numerous museums and forts along the way).

Similar things can be done in other areas where chapters are developing projects or hosting events. Membership development will always happen best at local levels with personal involvement of our chapter members. We are fortunate that we were able to at least tread water with the online initiatives this summer, but if we can combine that with face-to-face programming, I think we'll see the needle move consistently in a positive direction. We really need both to be successful. I highly encourage chapters to reach out to anyone they can and invite yourself to be a program or speaker with an invitation to join.

9) Infrastructure Projects (Goal 3, Objectives A & B)

3-Trails Corridor in Kansas City: In Summer 2018, the Mid America Regional Council completed a final draft of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California National Historic Trails Concept Strategy Plan. The 216-page planning document can be found at <http://www.marc.org/Environment/MetroGreen-Parks/Current-Projects/Historic-Trail-Retracement.html>. This can serve as a model for other chapters to approach cities in their regions. I mentioned above the Highway 24 and Mill Creek projects that are the major initiatives currently underway. The bridge on Highway 24 is complete but the artwork is still in the works. Potential Rotary funding could add another project. If this comes to fruition, it could serve as an example of projects that other Rotary Clubs along the trails might be interested in funding.

St. Joseph, Missouri: Last September, I informed the board that I'd met in St. Joseph with their CVB director and several local chapter members. Most projects are on hold due to COVID, but MoDOT is still developing the plans for I-229 on the riverfront. The Pony Express Museum had also recently installed their new monument sign that was part of the charette planning process. I now have a more robust update.

On Friday, February 5, a planning call was held with the following participants:

Jackie Lewin, President, OCTA Gateway Chapter

Tabitha Blevins, Principal, Edison Elementary School

Marta Green, St. Joseph community organizer

Nic Hutchison, Executive Director, MO/KAN

Travis Boley, Association Manger, OCTA

The purpose of the call was to discuss carrying forward one aspect of the St. Joseph Charrette planning document ([Charrette — St. Joseph Gateway Chapter \(gateway-octa.org\)](https://gateway-octa.org)), created in partnership between the community, OCTA, and the NPS National Trails Office. The planning document envisions creating both a walking trail between the Pony Express National Museum to the riverfront (which is also now being planned over the winter) as well as "bread crumb" projects that highlight other trail sites and stories in the greater downtown St. Joseph area. Edison Elementary School sits at the eastern edge of that boundary and is in many ways also a community gathering center and park for the local neighborhood, making it an ideal spot for more interpretive opportunities and chances to engage school-aged children of very diverse backgrounds.

Edison largely serves a mix of lower-to-middle income families with a very diverse racial mix, and also includes a higher level of children with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs). The school lacks a playground that is accessible to all children, and what is available is small and very outdated. Using the California Gold Rush-themed handicapped-accessible playground in Independence as the starting point, this committee discussed a vision for what the school, neighborhood, and greater community would like to see at Edison.

Accessibility was deemed very important. As was mentioned above, the school serves a high number of children with IEPs, meaning some of them have developmental disabilities that make it difficult for them to fully enjoy the existing playground equipment. The playground in Independence was built in a way that allows even children in wheelchairs access to the equipment.

Also deemed important was telling a wider story of St. Joseph and the trails beyond just the Oregon and California Trails. This committee would also like to incorporate age-appropriate interactive exhibits and interpretation into the design of the playground, much like what happened in Independence. This would involve including the Pony Express, Lewis & Clark, Mormon Pioneers, and even the story of the Chisholm Trail.

Also high on the list of desired amenities included the telling of stories that speak of the diversity of people who used these trails, starting with the American Indian development of the trails and including usage by African Americans, Hispanics, and others. This would both engage communities who are often excluded and address the needs of a very diverse neighborhood and school population.

The playground area is currently a concrete surface, so resurfacing the area with a safer alternative would also need to be taken into consideration.

The committee would also like to connect this project into the nearby renowned St. Joseph Parkway System and the nearby France Park, an under-utilized green space that is nonetheless highly utilized by the neighborhood, though it lacks basic amenities.

Telling the story of the neighborhood by highlighting both trail-era structures that either still exist or no longer exist to instill a sense of place and pride for local residents was deemed important.

Finally, creating a place that would be welcoming and inviting to tourists with children who are looking for a break from touring the local museums and other historic sites was also deemed a critical part of this project.

The committee then discussed logical partners. Aside from the school district, OCTA, and the NPS, they also discussed involving the local Chamber of Commerce, the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Community Foundation of NW Missouri, Mosaic Health Systems, city government, and city parks in this process.

It was also deemed important to reach out to both the local Congressman, Sam Graves, and Senator Roy Blunt, long an advocate for historic projects in Missouri. Ms. Blevins was formerly employed in Congressman Graves' St. Joseph office, so the committee has a bit of a connection to their elected representative.

The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was highlighted as one potential source of funding for this project. I explained to the committee that I'd already shared with the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) the one project for which OCTA had a price estimate, and that was the bike trail project that would connect the city of Elko, Nevada to the California Trail Center. Projects were due to the PNTS by January 14. However, the PNTS has an upcoming Zoom conference this month, so I also shared this project with our legislative liaison Bill Martin.

When this was first discussed a few years ago, I'd contacted the playground manufacturer about cost estimates. The equipment itself will be several hundred thousand dollars, and depending on the scale, could cost more or less than the project in Independence. That project was also largely funded with LWCF money, and now that more money is available from this fund, the potential to tap it is in place. I will begin the process of reaching out again to my contact with the playground company to look at pricing as of 2021, and I will supply this committee with pictures of the existing playground in Independence to help generate more ideas.

Other funding sources were also discussed. Nic suggested looking into Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), which are often used by the city for initial development costs. We would have to apply through the city, but Nic thought those funds could help us get an initial engineering bid generated to get a handle on actual potential costs.

Mosaic Health Systems has grants of up to \$50,000, and it appears this project would fit within their giving parameters. Marta will be meeting with them ahead of our March Zoom meeting.

Community donors have traditionally been a part of the funding mix for most community-based projects in St. Joseph. This committee will develop a list of potential individual funders who are likely to give to this project.

Also important are local businesses. St. Joseph is home to numerous international corporations, and Nic threw out a few names of such businesses as examples. This committee will also develop a list of those businesses that are likely to give to this campaign.

The Community Foundation of NW Missouri could also help identify other potential funders. We will set a time in the future to meet with them to discuss this project in detail.

Nic is also the former city planner for St. Joseph so will be reaching out to the city and the parks department to get them involved.

I will reach out to Marci Bennett with the local CVB to discuss the project with her from a tourism angle and to see how they might fit into the planning.

It also achieves an important action item in OCTA's recently adopted 5-year strategic plan of engaging youth and families through a variety of projects that would appeal to them.

Finally, the Chamber of Commerce is deemed a critical partner. Their "2040 Plan" highlights both educational and community development projects as critical to ensuring the future success of the community. This project clearly fits both of those parameters. Nic will reach out to them next week to get them on board.

The committee set its next Zoom meeting for 1 PM Central on Friday, March 12.

When combined with the initial steps being taken to start on the walking trail between the Pony Express National Museum and the riverfront, it is exciting to see the community take advantage of the charrette planning document created in partnership with NPS a few years back.

Great American Outdoors Act: As most of you know, the Great American Outdoors Act was recently signed into law. It permanently re-authorizes the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the level of \$900 million per year. These funds are typically used either for land acquisition or planning and development. I attended Zoom meetings with both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management where the new funds were discussed. BLM has already selected its priority projects for the year but USFS is asking for priority projects. BLM has a brand new lead on trail projects and I've been asked to compile and send priority projects to her for the following year. There have already been a lot of internal discussions about "shovel-ready" projects. Johnson Ranch in California, the bike path from Elko to the trail center, Fernley Swales, and the Lassen Ranch are the primary ones discussed thus far, but LWCF money can be used anywhere along the trail. I highly recommend that chapters start thinking about projects they'd like to fund in the coming years so we can get requests into the queue. An example of Forest Service projects is attached in the board packet.

10) Websites (Goal 2, Objective A, action items i-vi)

OCTA Websites: Last summer, OCTA's website was updated with a new look and easier navigation. Many more changes were made over the past year. The new volunteer reporting feature led to a huge upsurge in reporting, and after Yuma we added an activity reporting feature that allows chapters or anyone else to send their events to us so we can share via E-News and social media. It is on the upper righthand side of the page and says "Event Form."

We also worked with the Gateway Chapter (**Goal 2 Objective A, Action item i especially**) and the Crossroads Chapter to help them launch new websites over the last two years. Right now, the Trails Head Chapter is undertaking the same and will likely have their new website launched in September. It was a massive undertaking and may well be the most comprehensive chapter website yet. It was a true chapter effort with nearly everyone involved in its creation. We were also able to digitize more of the Merrill Mattes collection, including his research, correspondence, and publications. A new section on the Journals website will appear soon.

It is important to note that in past years our National Park Service cooperative agreement helped fund chapter websites. Going forward, that will no longer be the case. We do have \$6,000 in our cooperative agreement for website projects in the next fiscal year, but it will likely be used to upgrade our existing websites so that they have improved search functions. We will also be reviewing our websites to ensure they meet the standards for those with sight impairments and make upgrades where necessary.

Finally, I would remind you that the Paper Trail website relaunched last year with a new look, design, and security features. Each user can now create their own username and password. The COED committee kept \$4,500 in a reserve account for many years, as they anticipated the need to eventually pay for these upgrades. Over the past many years, Looking Glass did not ask us to pay maintenance fees. Beginning next year, we will need to budget \$500 per year for this purpose. (**Goal 2, Objective A, Action item vi especially**)

11) Future Convention/Symposia (Goal 4, Objective F)

Elko Convention 2021

As everyone knows, the Elko, Nevada convention was postponed until September 13-16, 2021. We voided our room contracts for 2020 and entered into new ones for 2021. They are made with three different hotels that have modest rates of \$79/\$69/\$59 per night. We are going to assess the national COVID situation in early April and make a final decision then on holding the convention and/or modifying some of the tours, speakers, and events to ensure the safety of all attendees. All details are available on our website at [38th Annual OCTA Convention, Elko, Nevada - September 13-16, 2021 - OCTA \(octa-trails.org\)](https://octa-trails.org/38th-Annual-OCTA-Convention-Elko-Nevada-September-13-16-2021).

2022 and beyond

The Ramkota Hotel in Casper will host us in 2022. We had a chapter conference call in the spring and they agreed to push their convention back a year in the wake of COVID postponements. It will be during the week of August 30, 2022. I had a follow-up meeting with Tom Rea, Randy Brown, and several BLM trail center staff in July. The BLM is going to be exceedingly helpful, and I'm hopeful that we'll also have plenty of volunteers coming over from Sun Ranch to assist.

My immediate thought for 2023 would be a site like Baker City or Hermiston in Oregon. With the B2H project looming large, we can make advertising for a 2023 convention there part of our pitch to move this project elsewhere. Coupled with the fact that we have \$10,000 worth of Google advertising at our disposal every month, we can drive most traffic to the websites of our choosing when people seek out information on B2H or the trail in eastern Oregon.

We need to start thinking about next year's spring meeting and conventions for 2023 and beyond. Returning to Independence next spring is likely a viable option.

We'd also explored holding smaller regional symposia in the Midwest this spring. I'd looked into a spot along the Butterfield in Missouri, Council Bluffs (to coincide with plans along the Mormon Pioneer and Mormon Battalion Trails in summer 2021), and Ogallala, Nebraska. Due to continued COVID restrictions, we decided against hosting events in the first half of 2021.

12) Library Collections (Goal 2, Objective A)

Jean Coupal-Smith has a written report covering this. I was asked to create a video to show the board. Sam and I have filmed the video and are in the process of editing it now. It will be ready ahead of the board meeting and I will send out the link once it is complete. We filmed it in the fashion of a "How to Use Our Library" video so that it can also go on our YouTube Channel. You will see that the collections are well-maintained in a secure environment with proper HVAC and humidity levels maintained.

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HEADQUARTERS REPORT TO THE OCTA BOARD

February 20, 2021

Since the last board meeting held via Zoom, September 18, 2020, your HQ staff has:

- Handled the preparation of two editions of the *News from the Plains* for mailing (both paper and electronic). We mail paper copies to 80 members; 1,100 members receive their issues by email delivery and 25 do not receive a copy at all as they don't have email and/or have not advised us how they would like their copies delivered. We bill 22 of those that receive paper copies because they have indicated that they wish to receive it that way whether they have email or not.
- Worked with Marvin and Turner in preparing both the 2020 FY report and the 1st Qu 2020-21 financial report
- Assisted in the production, assembling, and mailing of the Annual Fund Drive letter in November. To date have recorded close to \$20,000 and acknowledged same. In recent days, assisted in the production, assembling and mailing of the second Annual Fund Drive letter last week. No results as of this writing.
- Processed and booked close to \$3,000 in book and merchandise store sales (includes \$1,260 in online and \$1,690 in HQ phone and mail order requests) This is \$500 more than in the first Quarter of last FY. Also, due to the temporary shut-down of the National Frontier Trail Museum, no sales have taken place since March of 2020. However, due to Travis Boley's dedicated efforts in promoting OCTA's books and merchandise through post to Facebook and YouTube trail programs, our sales have been greatly supplemented!
- Processed and booked 502 memberships totaling \$31,700 in revenue. Of these 56 are new members (26 are from our online web; 4 through PayPal; 6 from mail-in brochures and HQ assisted memberships; 20 from an RV group that will be traveling the trail this spring). Additionally, we have collected \$5,750 in chapter dues representing 493 chapter dues payments. Also, noteworthy three of our longtime members have become EZRA MEEKER LIFE Members.
- Assisted in the preparation of mailing the fall issue of the Overland Journal.
- Quick Books data entry of revenue, sales, bill payment and reports for months October 2020 through February 2021

And, as always, we greatly appreciate the assistance we receive from our officers; Turner Rivenbark, our loyal CPA volunteer and most recently Jerry Mogg, also a CPA, who is assisting the national office in the financial realm of our organization.

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WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

OCTA National Board Report: Isobel Lingenfelter

As the new Western Regional Representative, I am excited to apply my experience and skills to supporting the western chapters and OCTA national leadership in promoting and preserving the Oregon and California trails. Projects I have begun working on include:

Goal 1, Objective B, Action i

- Creating a viewshed analysis and testifying that the B2H transmission line has a significant impact on the Oregon Visitor Center's viewshed for the Northwest Chapter

Goal 2, Objective A, Action i and Goal 6, Objective B, Action ii

- Facilitating a Southern Trails online zoom speaker event
 - o Promoting through social media

Goal 2. Objective B, Actions iii and iv

- Contributing to social media posting, and assisting the Association Manager with OCTA's social media plan

Goal 3, Objective B, Action i

- Planning a public historical park site design around wagon swales for the Crossroads Chapter in Lake Point, Utah in partnership with the developer, HOA, and NPS.

Goal 5, Objective B, Action i

- Checking in with western chapters
 - o Attending western chapters online meetings
 - o Phone calls with chapter presidents

Goal 5, Objective B, Objective iii

- Updating octa-trails.org, octa-journals.org, and utahcrossroadsocta.org
 - o Overland Journal
 - o News From the Plains
 - o Organizational Chart
 - o Events calendar
 - o And any other content requests

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Period Ended December 31, 2020

PRELUDE

The net income is \$5,326 for the Period Ended December 31, 2020 compared to a net profit of \$21,568 for the Period Ended December 31, 2020. This is a decrease of \$16,242.

SUMMARY

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Details of operating revenues and expenses for the three-month period ended March 31, 2021, are shown on the spreadsheet.

The total operating revenue for the current period was \$71,139 compared to \$73,305 for the same period last year. The total operating expenses for the current period were \$65,993 compared to \$70,558 for the same period last year.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Unrestricted contributions for the current period are up by \$235 compared to the same period the previous year (17.2%).
2. National Park Service revenue is down by \$2,759 (-7.7%).
3. Dues are down by \$2,215 (-10.7%).
4. Net income from the OCTA store is up by \$1,620 (413.3%).
5. There was no revenue or expenses for a symposium and annual convention for this period.
6. Administrative expenses are down by \$3,497 (-32.4%)
7. Publication revenue (OJ and NFP) is up by \$100 (55.6%). Publication expenses are 60.6% of Dues for the current period and 54.2% for the same period last year. In this period the expenses for the two publications were \$11,199; whereas the expenses were \$11,318 for the same period last year.
8. There were no Education expenses for this period.
9. Restricted contributions for this period were \$1,060 compared to \$3,549 for the same period last year.
10. Items not specifically noted seem reasonable compared to the prior period.

11. Net income is down by 75.3% for the current period compared to net for the same period last year. There was a Heritage Fund distribution of \$18,651 in the prior period which creates this unusual difference.
12. The total expenses were down by 6.5% for the current period.

BALANCE SHEET

Significant items are mentioned on the spreadsheet.

POSTLUDE

Good news! There were no distributions from any of the endowment funds for this period.

Marvin W. Burke
Treasurer

"A burden which is done well becomes light."

Leve fit, quod bene fertur, onus

"To be loved, be lovable."

Publius Ovidius Naso

Aka Ovid 43BC – circa 17 AD

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT 1st Quarter

EVENUES AND EXPENSES /THREE MONTH PERIOD 10/1/20-12/31/20

	WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR PRIOR PERIOD						% of
	OCTA	NPS	2020 TOTALS	PRIOR PERIOD	INCREASE (DECREASE)	% CHANGE	Income 2020
Revenues							
National Park Service	-	32,951	32,951	35,710	(2,759)	-7.7%	46.2%
Dues	18,480	-	18,480	20,695	(2,215)	-10.7%	25.9%
Unrestricted Contributions	12,300	-	12,300	12,065	235	1.9%	17.2%
Restricted Contributions and Grants	1,060	-	1,060	3,549	(2,489)	-70.1%	1.5%
Deferred Revenue Earned - Restricted	3,482	-	3,482	-	3,482		4.9%
Endowment Fund Contributions (including memorial gifts)	2,200	-	2,200	380	1,820	478.9%	3.1%
Life Memberships	1,000	-	1,000	2,000	(1,000)	-50.0%	1.4%
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	2,012	-	2,012	392	1,620	413.3%	2.8%
Overland Journal Subscriptions	280	-	280	180	100	55.6%	0.4%
Advertising	250	-	250	885	(635)	-71.8%	0.4%
Other Income	504	-	504	929	(425)	-45.7%	0.7%
Gross Revenues	41,568	32,951	74,519	76,785	(2,266)	-3.0%	104.5%
Portion of Restricted Contributions and Grants That Will be					-		0.0%
Spent After December 31st	-	-	-	(1,100)	1,100	-100.0%	0.0%
Endowment Fund Contributions and Life Memberships	(3,200)	-	(3,200)	(2,380)	(820)	34.5%	-4.5%
					-		0.0%
Operating Revenues	38,368	32,951	71,319	73,305	(1,986)	-2.7%	100.0%

					-	
Expenses	33,042	32,951	65,993	70,588	(4,595)	-6.5%
					-	
Net Income Before Endowment Fund Distributions	5,326	-	5,326	2,717	2,609	96.0%
					-	
Income Distributions from Endowment Fund - Heritage	-	-	-	18,851	(18,851)	-100.0%
					-	
Net Income	5,326	-	5,326	21,568	(16,242)	-75.3%

DETAIL EXPENSES - THREE MONTH PERIOD 10/1/20-12/31/20
WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR THE PRIOR PERIOD

	OCTA	NPS	2020 TOTALS	PRIOR PERIOD	INCREASE (DECREASE)	% Change
Expenses Paid From Restricted Contributions and Grants	4,482	-	4,482	2,449	2,033	83.0%
Administration and Management					-	
Association Manager - Salary, P/R Taxes and Benefits	547	21,196	21,743	20,974	769	3.7%
Association Manager - Travel and Other Expenses	(363)	2,897	2,534	2,928	(394)	-13.5%

Headquarters Salaries, P/R Taxes and Benefits	10,553	7,400	17,953	17,291	662	3.8%
Administration Expenses	5,832	1,458	7,290	10,787	(3,497)	-32.4%
Publication - Overland Journal	9,049	-	9,049	8,919	130	1.5%
Publication - News From The Plains	2,150	-	2,150	2,399	(249)	-10.4%
Preservation - Trail Marking and Mapping; Graves and Sites	-	-	-	173	(173)	-100.0%
Internet	248	-	248	2,052	(1,804)	-87.9%
Education (current expense of 451 is in 4,482 figure above)	-	-	-	2,047	(2,047)	-100.0%
Other	544	-	544	569	(25)	-4.4%
					-	
	33,042	32,951	65,993	70,588	(4,595)	-6.5%

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL POSITION

	12/31/2020	9/30/2020	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Assets:			
Checking and savings accounts			
Operating cash	31,773	27,072	4,701
Restricted cash	26,785	33,688	(6,903)
	58,558	60,760	(2,202)
Accounts Receivable	1,438	1,334	104
Inventory (at cost)	25,788	26,171	(383)
Property and equipment - cost less depreciation	1,185	1,185	-
Endowment funds	1,792,595	1,573,587	219,008
			-
Total Assets	1,879,564	1,663,037	216,527
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	17,553	12,961	4,592
Credit card payable	199	3,317	(3,118)
Deferred revenue	15,034	19,516	(4,482)
Total Liabilities	32,786	35,794	(3,008)
			-
Net Assets	1,846,778	1,627,243	219,535
			-
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,879,564	1,663,037	216,527

Restricted Funds are being held for a stated purpose (invoice or work not billed or performed yet).

Deferred Revenue is considered a part of the organization's liability because it will be used later to pay for the restricted purpose.

ANNUAL REPORT

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT
REVENUES AND EXPENSES - YEAR ENDED 9/30/20 WITH COMPARATIVE
AMOUNTS FOR 9/30/19

					% -ages of Operating Revenues			
	9/30/2020	9/30/2019	INCREASE (DECREASE)	% -age Change	9/30/2020	% -Age	9/30/2019	% -Age
Revenues								
National Park Service	126,468	130,480	(4,012)	-3.1%	126,468	39.2%	130,480	46.2%
Less amount reflected in conv and sympo net income	(165)	(1,866)	1,701	-91.2%	(165)	-0.1%	(1,866)	-0.7%
	126,303	128,614	(2,311)	-1.8%	126,303	39.2%	128,614	45.6%
Dues	72,930	69,820	3,110	4.5%	72,930	22.6%	69,820	24.7%
Contributions	83,897	43,550	40,347	92.6%	83,897	26.0%	43,550	15.4%
Designated Contributions and Grants	14,744	19,485	(4,741)	-24.3%	14,744	4.6%	19,485	6.9%
Designated Contributions and Grants - def revenue earned	8,556	3,085	5,471	177.3%	8,556	2.7%	3,085	1.1%
Paycheck Protection Program	11,000	-	11,000		11,000	3.4%		
Endowment Fund Contributions (including memorial gifts)	645	2,000	(1,355)	-67.8%	645	0.2%	2,000	0.7%
Convention - Net	-	8,905	(8,905)	-100.0%	-	0.0%	8,905	3.2%
Symposium - Net	3,551	3,523	28	0.8%	3,551	1.1%	3,523	1.2%
Life Memberships	5,250	2,000	3,250	162.5%	5,250	1.6%	2,000	0.7%
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	3,375	7,296	(3,921)	-53.7%	3,375	1.0%	7,296	2.6%
Overland Journal Subscriptions	1,680	2,420	(740)	-30.6%	1,680	0.5%	2,420	0.9%
Advertising	1,461	470	991	210.9%	1,461	0.5%	470	0.2%
Paper Trail Income	1,532	1,337	195	14.6%	1,532	0.5%	1,337	0.5%
Other Income	1,761	1,844	(83)	-4.5%	1,761	0.5%	1,844	0.7%
Gross Revenues	336,685	294,349	42,336	14.4%	336,685	104.4%	294,349	104.3%
Portion of Restricted Contributions and Grants That Will be						0.0%		
Spent After September 30	(8,256)	(8,224)	(32)	0.4%	(8,256)	-2.6%	(8,224)	-2.9%
Endowment Fund Contributions and Life Memberships	(5,895)	(4,000)	(1,895)	47.4%	(5,895)	-1.8%	(4,000)	-1.4%
						0.0%		
Operating Revenues	322,534	282,125	40,409	14.3%	322,534	100.0%	282,125	100.0%

Expenses				
Expense Paid from Restricted Contributions and Grants	15,044	14,346	698	4.9%
Board Meetings and Officers Expenses	11,223	6,144	5,079	82.7%
STOPB2H Donation - Funded by Distribution from Martin				
Endowment Fund	-	8,000	(8,000)	-100.0%
Administration and Management	214,662	224,584	(9,922)	-4.4%
Publications -Overland Journal	34,655	39,758	(5,103)	-12.8%
Publication - News From The Plains	9,774	10,429	(655)	-6.3%
Preservation - Trail Marking and Mapping; Graves and Sites	3,319	3,643	(324)	-8.9%
Internet	7,460	6,887	573	8.3%
Education	2,004	3,337	(1,333)	-39.9%
Partnership - National Trails System Organization	3,994	4,749	(755)	-15.9%
OCTA Store/Catalogue	1,041	890	151	17.0%
Committees and Other Expenses	683	664	19	2.9%
Operating Expenses	303,859	323,431	(19,572)	-6.1%
Income (Loss) Before Endowment Fund Income Distributions	18,675	(41,306)	59,981	
Income Distributions from Endowment Funds	18,851	31,790	(12,939)	
Net Income (Loss)	37,526	(9,516)	47,042	
NPS Revenues				
Unrestricted Contributions are basically used for general expenses.				
Restricted Contributions and Funds represents primarily donor				
contributions to the three endowment funds or a special				
category				
2019 - Annual Convention - Santa Fe				
2019 - Symposium - Independence				
2020 - Annual Convention - None, Covid -19				
2020 - Symposium - Yuma				
See Sheet 2 for details				

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES AND EXPENSES - YEAR ENDED 9/30/20

Expense Paid from Restricted Contributions and Grants

8,667	National Trails System - intern
1,543	Individual contributions for education
1,224	Freedom National Frontier Heritage - chapter websites
1,413	Individual donations for Western Rep
1,047	California Trails Heritage Allowance - education trunks
600	Video - Santa Fe convention Speakers
550	Individual contributions for HB2
15,044	

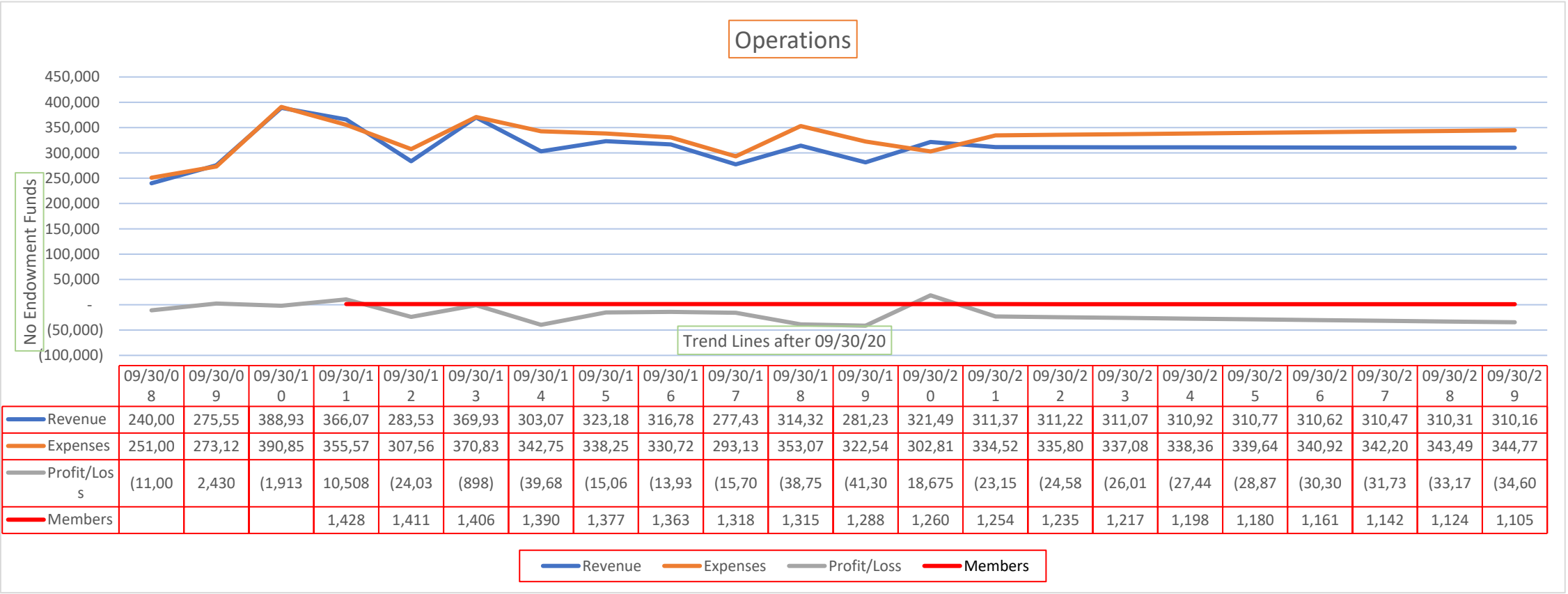
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Source: year end numbers

Year	Trend				
	Operating Revenue	Operating		Gross	
	Revenue	Expenses	Profit/Loss	Members	Revenue
09/30/08	240,000	251,000	(11,000)		246,000
09/30/09	275,554	273,124	2,430		279,554
09/30/10	388,938	390,851	(1,913)		397,938
09/30/11	366,079	355,571	10,508	1,428	372,904
09/30/12	283,536	307,567	(24,031)	1,411	291,130
09/30/13	369,937	370,835	(898)	1,406	382,262
09/30/14	303,075	342,756	(39,681)	1,390	318,577
09/30/15	323,187	338,250	(15,063)	1,377	329,632
09/30/16	316,787	330,725	(13,938)	1,363	323,577
09/30/17	277,434	293,134	(15,700)	1,318	281,354
09/30/18	314,324	353,076	(38,752)	1,315	335,786
09/30/19	281,235	322,541	(41,306)	1,288	293,459
09/30/20	321,493	302,818	18,675	1,260	335,644
09/30/21	311,374	334,524	(23,150)	1,254	325,841
09/30/22	311,223	335,804	(24,580)	1,235	326,370
09/30/23	311,073	337,084	(26,011)	1,217	326,898
09/30/24	310,922	338,367	(27,446)	1,198	327,428
09/30/25	310,771	339,647	(28,876)	1,180	327,956
09/30/26	310,621	340,927	(30,307)	1,161	328,485
09/30/27	310,470	342,207	(31,737)	1,142	329,013
09/30/28	310,319	343,491	(33,172)	1,124	329,543
09/30/29	310,168	344,771	(34,603)	1,105	330,072
TREND(B10:B21,A10:A21,A22:A31)					

This line is the start of the formula for trends

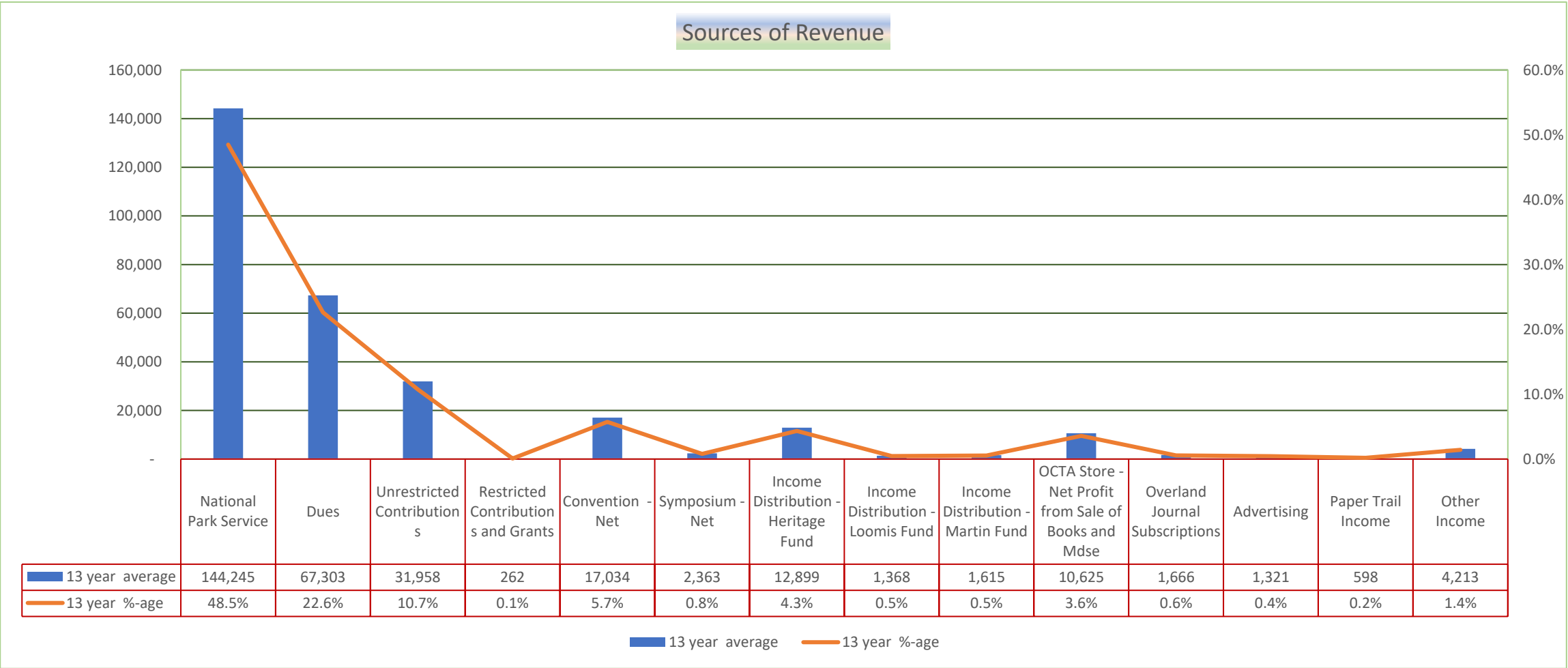


I'm not a physician.

I'm told that a straight line on the heart monitor is not a good sign for the patient.

Please write your sugested cures here and return to me.

	13 year average	%-age
National Park Service	144,245	48.5%
Dues	67,303	22.6%
Unrestricted Contributions	31,958	10.7%
Restricted Contributions and Grants	262	0.1%
Convention - Net	17,034	5.7%
Symposium - Net	2,363	0.8%
Income Distribution - Heritage Fund	12,899	4.3%
Income Distribution - Loomis Fund	1,368	0.5%
Income Distribution - Martin Fund	1,615	0.5%
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	10,625	3.6%
Overland Journal Subscriptions	1,666	0.6%
Advertising	1,321	0.4%
Paper Trail Income	598	0.2%
Other Income	4,213	1.4%
Net Revenue	297,470	100.0%



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT
REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 9/30/20

	<u>OCTA</u>	<u>NPS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>(UNDER)</u>
Revenues					
National Park Service		126,303	126,303	135,400	(9,097)
Dues	72,930		72,930	70,000	2,930
General Contributions	83,897		83,897	31,500	52,397
Designated Contributions and Grants	14,744		14,744	2,500	12,244
Designated Contributions and Grants def rev earned	8,556		8,556	-	8,556
Paycheck Protection Program	11,000		11,000	-	11,000
Convention	-		-	30,000	(30,000)
Symposium	3,551		3,551	6,000	(2,449)
Endowment Fund Contributions (including memorial gifts)	645		645	1,500	(855)
Life Memberships	5,250		5,250	3,000	2,250
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	3,375		3,375	6,000	(2,625)
Overland Journal Subscriptions	1,680		1,680	1,500	180
Advertising	1,461		1,461	4,000	(2,539)
Paper Trail	1,532		1,532	1,100	432
Other Income	<u>1,761</u>		<u>1,761</u>	<u>6,950</u>	<u>(5,189)</u>
Gross Revenues	210,382	126,303	336,685	299,450	37,235
Portion of designated Contributions and Grants That Will be					
Spent After September 30	(8,256)		(8,256)	-	(8,256)
Endowment Fund Contributions and Life Memberships	<u>(5,895)</u>		<u>(5,895)</u>	<u>(4,500)</u>	<u>(1,395)</u>
Operating Revenues	196,231	126,303	322,534	294,950	27,584
Expenses	<u>177,556</u>	<u>126,303</u>	<u>303,859</u>	<u>320,751</u>	<u>(16,892)</u>
Net Income (Loss) Before Endowment Fund Distributions	18,675	-	18,675	(25,801)	44,476
Income Distributions from Endowment Funds					
Heritage	18,851		18,851	18,801	(50)
Loomis			-	7,000	(7,000)
Net Income (Loss)	<u>37,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,426</u>
See Sympos Tab for details					

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

DETAIL EXPENSES - YEAR ENDED 9/30/20

	OCTA	NPS	TOTALS	BUDGET	OVER UNDER
Expenses Paid From Designated Contributions and Grants	15,044		15,044	-	15,044
Administration and Management					
Association Manager - Salary, P/R Taxes and Benefits	796	83,000	83,796	83,000	796
Association Manager - Travel and Other Expenses	1,850	# 11,825	13,675	15,000	(1,325)
Headquarters Salaries, P/R Taxes and Benefits	62,655	6,000	68,655	63,000	5,655
Administration Expenses	37,854	10,682	48,536	38,622	9,914
Western Representative	-		-	24,800	(24,800)
Board Meetings and Officers' Expenses	3,034	8,189	11,223	15,000	(3,777)
Publication - Overland Journal	34,655		34,655	40,000	(5,345)
Publication - News From The Plains	9,168	606	9,774	10,000	(226)
Preservation - Trail Marking and Mapping; Graves and Sites	3,319		3,319	8,276	(4,957)
National Trails System	3,994		3,994	4,700	(706)
Internet/Website	3,463	3,997	7,460	9,900	(2,440)
Education	-	2,004	2,004	3,275	(1,271)
OCTA Store/catalogue	1,041		1,041	2,000	(959)
Donations	-		-	1,000	(1,000)
Awards	-		-	1,000	(1,000)
Other	683		683	1,178	(495)
	177,556	126,303	303,859	320,751	(16,892)

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

2020 SYMPOSIUM - DETAIL REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Yuma, AZ

A/C #		AMOUNT
4215	Tour Income	3,819
4200	Revenue	10,094
4202	Contributions	27
4212	Meals	36
	NPS	165
	Total Revenue	<u>14,141</u>
6200	Expense	980
6215	Tour Buses	1,951
6203	Speakers	800
6206	Admin	91
6212	Meals	6,768
	Total Expense	<u>10,590</u>
	Net Income	<u><u>3,551</u></u>
	Net Profit Margin	25.1%
	Profit Percentage	33.5%

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET)

	<u>9/30/2020</u>	<u>9/30/2019</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% - age Change</u>
Assets:				
Checking and savings accounts				
Operating cash	27,072	28,351	(1,279)	-4.5%
Restricted cash	<u>33,688</u>	<u>33,590</u>	<u>98</u>	0.3%
	60,760	61,941	(1,181)	-1.9%
Accounts Receivable	1,334	2,786	(1,452)	-52.1%
Inventory (at cost)	26,171	26,831	(660)	-2.5%
Intangible asset -film (In Pursuit of a Dream)	1,000	35,754	(34,754)	-97.2%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment - cost less depreciation	185	185	-	0.0%
Endowment funds	<u>1,573,587</u>	<u>1,539,259</u>	<u>34,328</u>	2.2%
Total Assets	<u><u>1,663,037</u></u>	<u><u>1,666,756</u></u>	<u><u>(3,719)</u></u>	-0.2%

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

RESTRICTED CASH

9/30/2020

Preservation		11,562
Deferred Revenue		19,516
Chapter Dues		2,580
Unremitted contributions due to Heritage endowment fund		
Total received a/c 4403 and 4405	645	
Total remitted	<u>615</u>	<u>30</u>
Restricted Cash		<u><u>33,688</u></u>

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

DEFERRED REVENUE

9/30/2020

Unexpended restricted contributions and grants	
COED/Paper Trail	495
California Trails Heritage Allowance - education trunks	4,173
Freedom Frontier National Heritage	1,462
Franzwa Bench	2,500
National Trails System Partnership - Intern	6,886
	<u>15,516</u>
Contribution from LDS Historical Dept for 2021 convention	3,000
Life Membership	<u>1,000</u>
Deferred Revenue	<u><u>19,516</u></u>

The individual who paid the life membership specified that it be counted as revenue in YE 9/30/21

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET)

FYE 9/30/20 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS AT FYE 9/30/19

	<u>9/30/2020</u>	<u>9/30/2019</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Assets:			
Checking and savings accounts			
Operating cash	27,072	28,351	(1,279)
Restricted cash	<u>33,688</u>	<u>33,590</u>	<u>98</u>
	60,760	61,941	(1,181)
Accounts Receivable	1,334	2,786	(1,452)
Inventory (at cost)	26,171	26,831	(660)
Intangible asset -film (In Pursuit of a Dream)	1,000	35,754	(34,754)
Furniture, fixtures and equipment - cost			
less depreciation	185	185	-
Endowment funds	<u>1,573,587</u>	<u>1,539,259</u>	<u>34,328</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>1,663,037</u></u>	<u><u>1,666,756</u></u>	<u><u>(3,719)</u></u>
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	12,961	55,409	(42,448)
Credit card payable	3,317	617	2,700
Deferred revenue	<u>19,516</u>	<u>17,516</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>35,794</u>	<u>73,542</u>	<u>(37,748)</u>
Net Assets			
Without Donor Restrictions	707,081	696,121	10,960
With Donor restrictions	<u>920,162</u>	<u>897,093</u>	<u>23,069</u>
Total Net assets	<u>1,627,243</u>	<u>1,593,214</u>	<u>34,029</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>1,663,037</u></u>	<u><u>1,666,756</u></u>	<u><u>(3,719)</u></u>

OREGON CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

To: Officers and Board of Directors

From: Marvin Burke, Treasurer

Subject: Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020

PRELUDE

This report contains the following statements: Comparative Financial Position (09/30/20 and 09/30/19), Comparative Revenue and Expenses Statement (09/30/20 and 09/30/19), and a Report of Revenue and Expenses Comparing the 09/30/20 Actual Numbers with the Related Budget. Lastly, there is a chart (Attachment A) showing a brief financial history with emphasis on distributions and net operating income and losses.

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL POSITION – FYE 09/30/2020 COMPARED WITH FYE 09/30/2019:

The Credit Card balance (\$3,317 as of 09/30/20) was paid off in October 2020.

OCTA's liquidity at 09/30/20 increased when compared to 9/30/19.

Liquidity = cash minus liabilities (\$60,760 – 35,794) was positive for 09/30/20 (\$24,966) compared to a negative \$11,601 at 09/30/19 (\$61,941 – 73,542).

There are two tabs to the right of the Balance Sheet tab with additional details.

COMPARATIVE REVENUES AND EXPENSES STATEMENT:

Operating Revenues (increased by \$40,409 (14.3%)). Revenue was increased by the Paycheck Protection Program (\$11,000); however, this was spent within the allowed time, which is then offset in operating expenses. Operating expenses decreased by \$19,572 (-6.1%). The net profit from operations increased by \$59,981 (145.2%). The distributions from the endowment funds decreased by \$12,939 (40.7%). As a result, the overall net profit increased by \$47,042 (494.3%). Part of this is due to the “special” drive for additional contributions.

OTHER ANALYSES (Comparative Revenues & Expenses Statement):

Recall that starting with the year (09/30/13), the financial statements show the results from operations before and after distributions from the endowment funds.

National Parks Service funding was 39.2% of operating income compared to 45.6% in the previous year.

Dues were 22.6% of operating revenues compared to 24.7% for the previous year.

The Convention and Symposium were 1.1% of operating revenues compared to 4.4% for the previous year. Recall there was no annual convention for FYE 09/30/2020.

The expense of the two publications is 60.9% of dues compared to 71.9% for the previous year.

Contributions were up by \$40,347. Part of this can be attributed to the “special” drive for contributions.

Designated contributions had a slight increase of \$730.

Administrative expenses were down compared to the preceding FYE by 4.4%.

OREGON CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Other differences seen in this statement seem reasonable based on percentages or seem insignificant based on numbers.

ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES COMPARED WITH THE BUDGET – FYE 09/30/2020:

Gross revenues were over budget by \$37,235. Recall the comments about the “special” drive and PPI. Total expenses were under budget by \$16,892. An operating loss of \$25,801 was budgeted for FYE 09/30/20; whereas, the actual is a profit was \$18,675, about \$44,476 better than what was budgeted.

Dues were \$2,930 over budget.

The Symposium was \$2,449 under budget. There was no annual convention due to Covid-19

LIMITATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTIONS

There are limitations on the amount of a distribution (provided by the IAC) for the three endowment funds. Typically, 3% is the guideline provided by Brighton Jones for distributions. The suggested maximums for FYE 09/30/2020 were Heritage Fund - \$22,000, Loomis Fund - \$10,000 and Martin Fund - \$13,000. Remember that the Loomis and Martin Funds are restricted funds.

SUMMARY OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS AS OF 09/30/2020

FUND	09/30/19 Balance	NET INCOME	DISTRIBUTION	09/30/20 Balance
Heritage	763,578.65	28,625.69	18,851.00	773,353.34
Loomis	336,336.57	10,343.67		346,680.24
Martin	439,344.51	14,209.24		453,553.75
TOTAL	1,539,259.73	53,178.60	18,851.00	1,573,587.33

The recommendations for FYE 09/30/2021 (the next fiscal year) are as follows: Heritage Fund - \$20,000, Loomis Fund - \$10,000 and Martin Fund – nothing scheduled.

See Attachment A: A brief financial history.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Previous statements, including this report, show a definite reliance on distributions from the endowment funds, primarily the Heritage Fund.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Marvin W. Burke, Treasurer

Date: December 7, 2020

Spreadsheets include:

Act v Bud 093020

Act v Bud -1 and 2

Symposium

Balance Sheet

Restricted Cash and Deferred Revenue

Act 19 v Act 20

Profit – Loss and Expenses Paid, Graphs

OREGON CALIFORNIA TRAILS

ATTACHMENT A

BUDGETED DISTRIBUTIONS

FYE	Heritage Fund	Loomis Fund	Martin Fund	Total
9/30/16	\$3,610.00	\$10,745.00	\$500.00	\$14,855.00
9/30/17	\$2,430.00	\$10,850.00	\$1,500.00	\$14,780.00
9/30/18	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$10,500.00
9/30/19	\$18,790.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$31,790.00
9/30/20	\$18,851.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.0	\$25,851.00
Total	\$43,681.00	\$42,595.00	\$11,500.00	\$97,776.00

ACTUAL WITHDRAWALS

FYE	Heritage Fund	Loomis Fund	Martin Fund	Total
9/30/16	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
9/30/17	\$58,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,000.00
9/30/18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
9/30/19	\$18,790.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$31,790.00
9/30/20	\$18,851.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,851.00
Total	\$115,641.00	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$140,641.00

SUMMARY

FYE	Operating Income/(Loss)	Distribution	Net
09/30/16	\$(13,938.00)	\$20,000.00	\$6,062.00
09/30/17	\$(15,700.00)	\$58,000.00	\$42,300.00
09/30/18	\$(38,752.00)	\$12,000.00	\$(26,752.00)
09/30/19	\$(41,306.00)	\$31,790.00	\$(9,516.00)
09/30/20	\$18,675.00	\$18,851.00	\$37,526.00

POSTLUDE

“Be silent or let thy words be worth more than silence.”

“Above the cloud with its shadow is the star with its light.”

Pythagoras 570 BC to 495 BC

“Pactum serva”

Horace 65 BC to 8 BC

The House of Burke

OCTA Statistical Analysis

Using 13 Years of Data

To: The Board of Directors

From: Marvin Burke,
Treasurer – OCTA

Subject: OCTA Finances and Future Possibilities

The purpose of this project is to analyze the finances of the OCTA organization over the last 13 years with the desire to find a means to ensure long-term financial stability for OCTA.

General Observations

- The NPS has always been there with a contribution even though the amounts do fluctuate. The year 2008 started with a contribution of \$80,000 to a high of \$226,000 in 2013 and finally to \$130,500 in 2020. NPS is needed in the OCTA financial program.
- The main expenses are always Administration and Management, and most of this is underwritten by NPS. A review of the thirteen (13) years of expenses do not reveal anything unusual
- There continues to be a need for at least one of the Endowment Funds to be used to aid in reducing the operating loss, the Heritage Fund being the most frequently used Fund.

Over that last few years, seven (7) suggestions to increase revenue have been suggested. Over this same period, there has been a reasonable attempt to reduce expenses to a more reasonable amount. Seven (7) other suggestions were offered. Refer to the **Appendix** for details of this in this paragraph.

The only common factor that seems to fit the above facts is that “business as usual” continues to be the methodology that prevails. As the membership continues slowly to decline something needs to be done; otherwise, more withdrawals will be needed. Realizing this is a non-profit organization, the concept of making a profit (revenue greater than expenses) need not be the primary goal; nevertheless, OCTA should at least break even every year.

The OCTA president recently suggested, that there would be a possibility of a profit for FYE 09/30/2020, and in fact, there was a profit from operations, which can be attributed to the “special” request for additional contributions. This, obviously, was quite effective, but this format cannot be depended upon annually. Admittedly, a portion of this request was to take the place of the lost revenue from the Annual Convention.

COMPARATIVE METHODS

REFER TO EXCEL SPREADSHEET

Year End: This tab shows financial data for 13 years taken Year End Financial Reports.

Operations: This tab shows five (5) graphs including current operations, operating revenue, operating expenses, membership, and projected operations. Except for the first graph, these graphs show trends/forecasts for ten (10) years.

Funds vs. Operations: This tab has only one graph, which shows that the membership is steady, but there is as definite need to use endowment funds.

Sources of Revenue: This tab has only one graph, which shows all sources of revenue. NPS is a major source of funding OCTA.

Unless something is done in the way of revenue enhancement, I do not see a significant change in the next ten (10) years. There is hardly anything left in the expenses to be adjusted. To avoid the continued used of the endowment funds, especially the Heritage Fund, new, additional revenue enhancements should be considered.

CONCLUSION

The data under OPERATIONS show that everything is basically a straight line. If these numbers represented patients hooked up to a heart monitor, the results would not be encouraging unless dramatic steps are taken. I believe that OCTA is at that point – dramatic steps need to be taken. The Heritage Fund continues to be the primary source of resuscitation. The continuing use of the endowment funds will assure the future of OCTA.

APPENDIX

PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED CURES

In my report for [09/30/2017](#), I summarized seven (7) sources of revenues and seven (7) ways to reduce expenses.

SEVEN SUGGESTIONS TO ENHANCE REVENUES AND FUNDS

1. Increase dues; however, this was raised a few years ago. (Now is not the time)
2. Increase convention fees. (Folks will not attend)
3. Assess local chapters a fee for processing chapter dues. (Not acceptable)
4. Reduce expenses for the two journals by charging more for advertising. (Not acceptable)
5. Increase the number of members. (Outlook is not good)
6. Use a fund raiser for special purposes. (Not good for an annual basis)
7. More emphasis on bequests, wills, charitable gift annuities. (Pending ???)

SEVEN SUGGESTIONS TO REDUCE EXPENSES

1. Analyze and reduce operating expenses. (Done)
2. Eliminate Mid-Winter Meeting. Use Zoom. (No responses)
3. Reduce OJ and NFP to three issues per year. (Not acceptable)
4. Eliminate Western Regional Representative. (Position just filled)
5. Eliminate Educational Publications. (Not acceptable)
6. Eliminate Publications Committee. (Not acceptable)
7. Expand the definition of PRESERVATION, (i.e., archeology, graves, sites, NPS signs, NTPO Compensation, NTPO travel, postage, electronic communications, trail mapping, and marking).

In the report for [09/30/2018](#), there is a suggestion that a professional (retired would be ideal) fund raiser be considered. If this mythical person were conversant with estates, wills, charitable annuities, etc., that would be a bonus.

<http://charitylawyerblog.com/2013/11/12/compensating-nonprofit-fundraisers/>



[Compensating Nonprofit Fundraisers | CharityLawyer](#)

charitylawyerblog.com

Clients often ask us whether they can pay an outside fundraiser on a percentage basis. While the practice is not illegal, there are several concerns that are raised by paying fundraisers on a percentage basis.

Nothing has been done in this area. However, there is a process in place for OCTA to receive a percentage from the sale of Oregon – California Trails Coffee (“good to the last drop”).

FUTURE FOR OCTA

The future of OCTA is assured due to the use NPS grants and the endowments funds.

Another form of revenue enhancement could be more emphasis on estate planning (e. g., bequests, charitable trusts, gift annuities, wills, etc.).

One or two paragraphs could be placed in the OCTA newsletter periodically, and if space were available, in the two magazines.

The OCTA website has a brochure covering this subject. (DONATE TO OCTA menu, click, TRAILS LEGACY SOCIETY.) The brochure explains how the donation can be designated, and how the donor will be recognized. How many folks know this? There is a sample to follow for preparing a bequest. Also, a professional gift planner from Brighton Jones is available. This firm manages the OCTA endowment funds.

Many environmental magazines and charitable organizations offer these opportunities.

This could be a sensitive subject considering that OCTA has many retired folks; however, providing information on this subject on a periodic basis seems reasonable. A review of the yearend spreadsheet tab indicates little, if any, activity from bequests, etc.

THE END

Pactum serva

Horace, 65 B.C. – 5 B.C.

ADDENDUM

The new WRR is to receive compensation in the amount of \$24,800.00. The sources for this payment are as follows (based on the prior WRR):

\$18,600.00 – NPS
3,000.00 – OCTA – general fund
3,200.00 – Mid-year fund raiser

If the WRR would provide a quarterly report, and there were some preservation work or legal work done, perhaps the Loomis and Martin Fund will reimburse. Reimbursement requested only after the report is reviewed.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Source: year end numbers - 13 years

Revenues	9/30/2008	9/30/2009	9/30/2010	9/30/2011	9/30/2012	9/30/2013	9/30/2014	9/30/2015	9/30/2016	9/30/2017	9/30/2018	9/30/2019	9/30/2020
National Park Service	80,000	109,000	207,000	202,780	154,236	226,212	166,799	167,746	162,032	125,896	133,000	130,480	126,468
Less amount reflected in conv and sympo net income						(14,590)	(12,981)	(12,962)	(11,054)	(10,056)		(1,866)	(165)
	80,000	109,000	207,000	202,780	154,236	211,622	153,818	154,784	150,978	115,840	133,000	128,614	126,303
Dues	82,000	76,000	71,000	71,168	70,920	71,276	73,548	73,803	73,679	70,663	71,058	69,820	72,930
Unrestricted Contributions	25,000	25,000	25,000	41,364	29,068	37,454	32,584	48,318	37,335	45,018	32,991	43,550	83,897
Restricted Contributions and Grants							3,400				44,620	22,570	23,300
Paycheck Protection Program													11,000
Endowment Fund Contributions (including memorial gifts)	3,000	2,000	2,000		2,844	10,222	9,802	2,445	2,790	920	2,230	2,000	645
Convention - Net	32,000	24,000	38,000	19,896	18,387	18,537	22,283	32,681	33,279	23,203	23,785	8,905	
Symposium - Net		7,000		2,624	(3,625)	4,368			4,135	6,266	6,424	3,523	3,551
Income Distribution - Heritage Fund		10,000	25,000	10,000		10,000							
Life Memberships	3,000	2,000	7,000	3,595	4,750	1,700	5,700	4,000	4,000	3,000	8,000	2,000	5,250
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	11,000	15,554	10,938	12,459	5,852	9,647	9,810	7,157	8,665	8,944	8,822	6,406	2,334
Overland Journal Subscriptions		2,000	2,000	2,340	1,890	2,160	2,070	1,765	1,760	1,754	1,495	2,420	1,680
Advertising			2,000	2,480	1,491	95	1,350	1,886	3,684	2,597	1,120	470	1,461
Paper Trail Income							1,516	929	1,306	1,445	1,240	1,337	1,532
Other Income	10,000	7,000	8,000	4,198	5,317	5,181	2,696	1,864	1,966	1,704	1,001	1,844	1,761
Gross Revenues	246,000	279,554	397,938	372,904	291,130	382,262	318,577	329,632	323,577	281,354	335,786	293,459	335,644
Portion of Restricted Contributions and Grants That Will be													
Spent After Year End											(11,232)	(8,224)	(8,256)
Endowment Fund Contributions and Life Memberships	(6,000)	(4,000)	(9,000)	(6,825)	(7,594)	(12,325)	(15,502)	(6,445)	(6,790)	(3,920)	(10,230)	(4,000)	(5,895)

Operating Revenues	240,000	275,554	388,938	366,079	283,536	369,937	303,075	323,187	316,787	277,434	314,324	281,235	321,493
Expenses													
Expense Paid from Restricted Contributions and Grants		7,483	58,619	82,062	29,154	52,093	49,549	20,247	15,891	1,957	33,388	14,346	15,044
Board Meetings and Officers Expenses	8,000	10,374	10,352	10,396	17,983	20,458	8,139	12,056	10,159	8,216	10,500	6,144	11,223
STOPB2H Donation - Funded by Distribution from Martin													
Endowment Fund											12,000	8,000	
Administration and Management	169,000	166,403	218,268	175,236	183,270	186,207	197,586	208,303	218,164	202,794	219,983	224,584	214,662
Publications -Overland Journal	56,000	36,793	37,882	27,784	34,117	34,024	39,619	38,795	38,778	40,103	38,289	39,758	34,655
Publication - News From The Plains		18,555	17,357	15,170	15,702	13,771	14,720	14,356	15,338	15,918	15,463	10,429	9,774
Preservation - Trail Marking and Mapping; Graves and Sites	4,000	11,750	10,000	11,575	2,555	30,999	3,720	18,663	15,410	5,365	3,313	3,643	3,319
Internet		2,742	2,750	14,339	10,375	10,275	11,000	5,875	3,865	3,799	7,671	6,887	7,460
Public Relations, Advertising, Marketing, etc.			504	23,715		733	1,888	6,149	5,435	1,823		475	141
Fundraising		2,837	2,725	2,260	2,234	2,208	2,128	2,678	2,853	2,847			
Education Publications and Awarded							3,400		3,956	6,507	6,895	3,337	2,004
Partnership - National Trails System Organization		2,500	2,900	2,920	3,632	3,404			4,340	2,787	3,597	4,749	3,994
Committees and Other Expenses	14,000	13,183	6,283	13,096	6,657	11,247	7,460	15,454	1,496	2,700	1,977	664	683
Operating Expenses	251,000	273,124	390,851	355,571	307,567	370,835	342,756	338,250	330,725	293,134	353,076	322,541	302,818
Loss Before Endowment Fund Income Distributions	(11,000)	2,430	(1,913)	10,508	(24,031)	(898)	(39,681)	(15,063)	(13,938)	(15,700)	(38,752)	(41,306)	18,675
Income Distributions from Endowment Funds	6,000		(8,000)	(5,289)	(4,990)		22,000	7,690	20,000	58,000	12,000	31,790	18,851
Net Loss	(5,000)	2,430	(9,913)	5,219	(29,021)	(898)	(17,681)	(7,373)	6,062	42,300	(26,752)	(9,516)	37,526
Membership				1,428	1,411	1,406	1,390	1,377	1,363	1,318	1,315	1,288	1,260

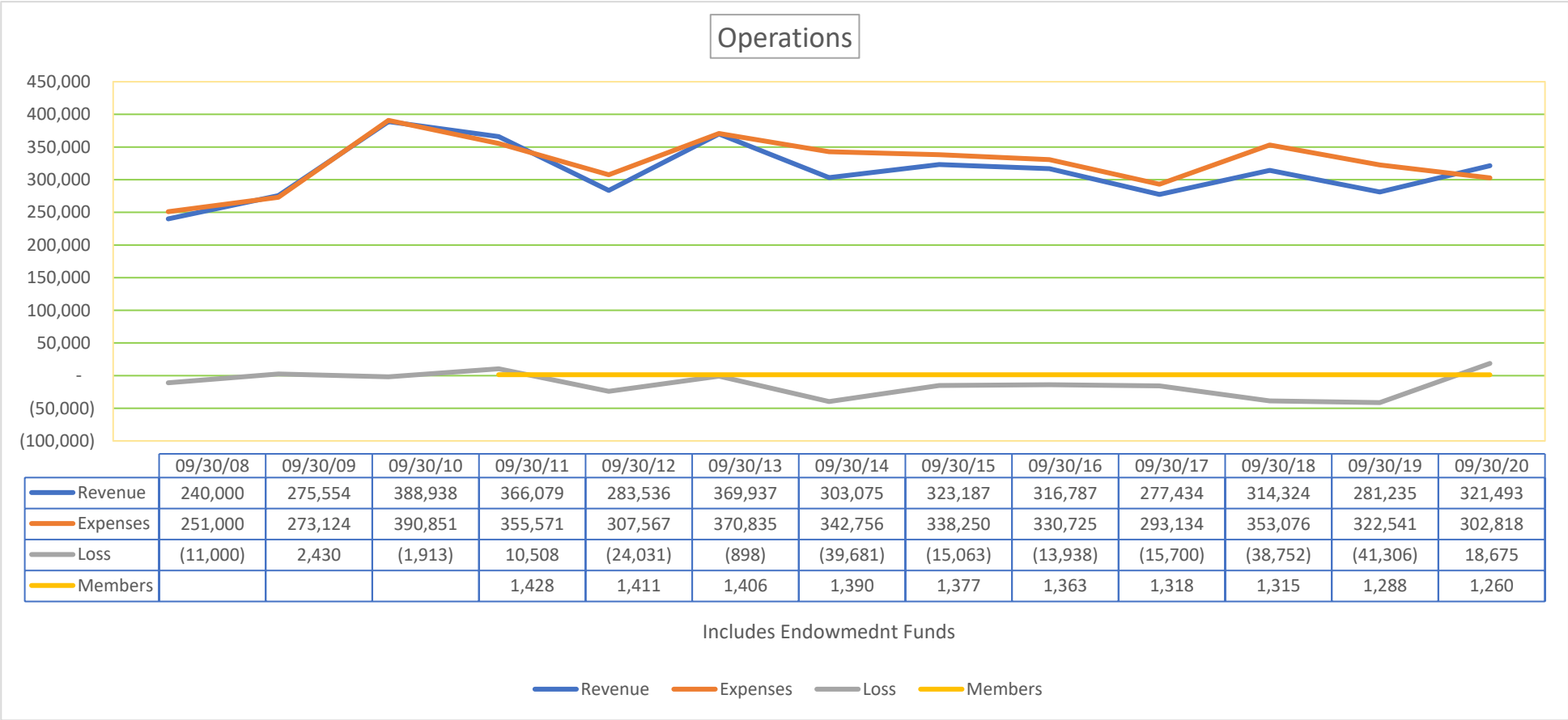
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

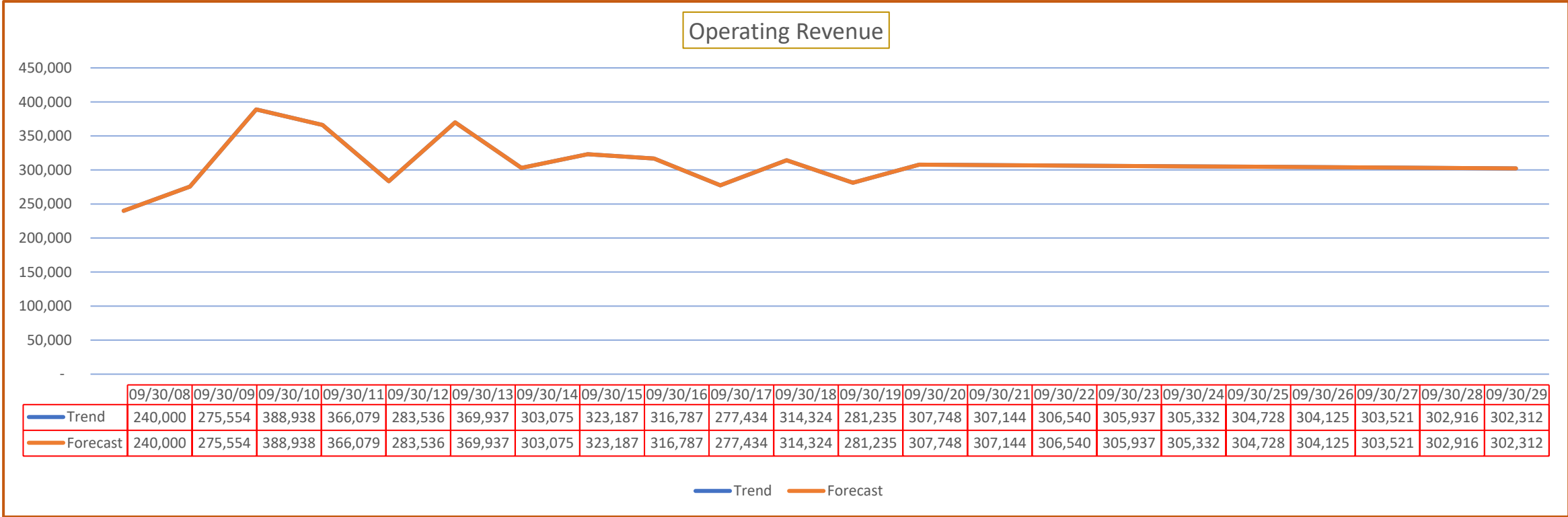
Source: year end numbers 5 graphs
Operations and trend line

CONCLUSION: Revenue and Expenses remain steady even
as Memberssship slowly declines.

Year	Revenue	Operating Expenses	Loss	Members	Gross Revenue
09/30/08	240,000	251,000	(11,000)		246,000
09/30/09	275,554	273,124	2,430		279,554
09/30/10	388,938	390,851	(1,913)		397,938
09/30/11	366,079	355,571	10,508	1,428	372,904
09/30/12	283,536	307,567	(24,031)	1,411	291,130
09/30/13	369,937	370,835	(898)	1,406	382,262
09/30/14	303,075	342,756	(39,681)	1,390	318,577
09/30/15	323,187	338,250	(15,063)	1,377	329,632
09/30/16	316,787	330,725	(13,938)	1,363	323,577
09/30/17	277,434	293,134	(15,700)	1,318	281,354
09/30/18	314,324	353,076	(38,752)	1,315	335,786
09/30/19	281,235	322,541	(41,306)	1,288	293,459
09/30/20	321,493	302,818	18,675	1,260	355,634

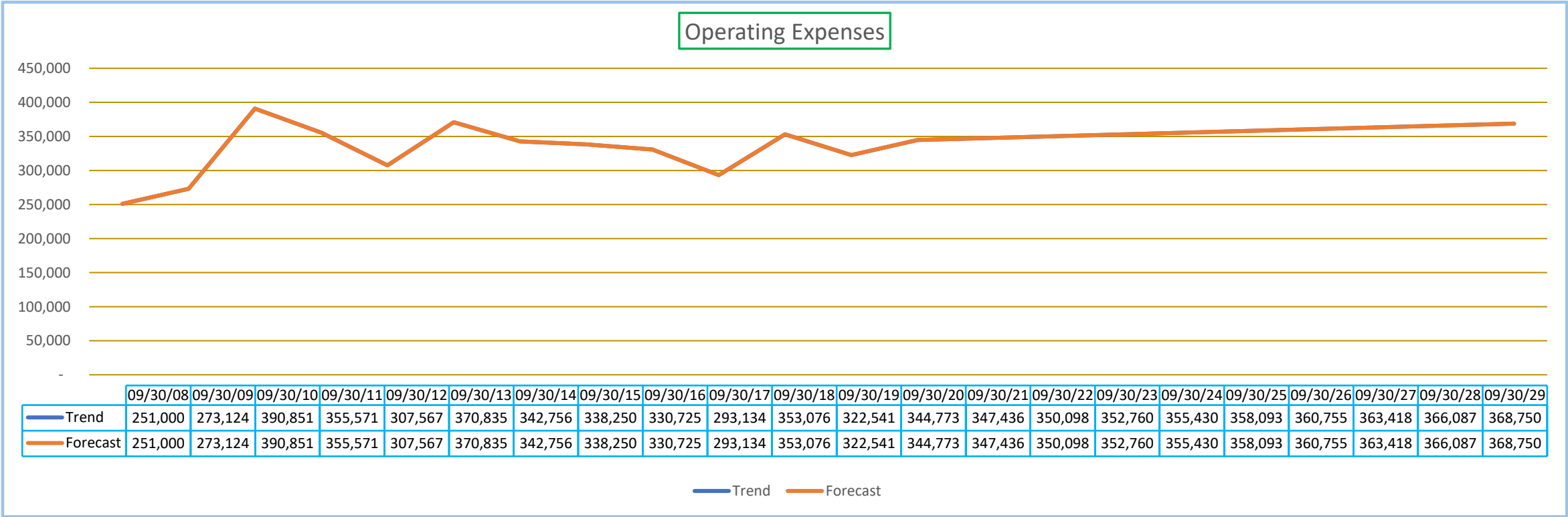


Year	Operating Revenue	
	Trend	Forecast
09/30/08	240,000	240,000
09/30/09	275,554	275,554
09/30/10	388,938	388,938
09/30/11	366,079	366,079
09/30/12	283,536	283,536
09/30/13	369,937	369,937
09/30/14	303,075	303,075
09/30/15	323,187	323,187
09/30/16	316,787	316,787
09/30/17	277,434	277,434
09/30/18	314,324	314,324
09/30/19	281,235	281,235
09/30/20	307,748	307,748
09/30/21	307,144	307,144
09/30/22	306,540	306,540
09/30/23	305,937	305,937
09/30/24	305,332	305,332
09/30/25	304,728	304,728



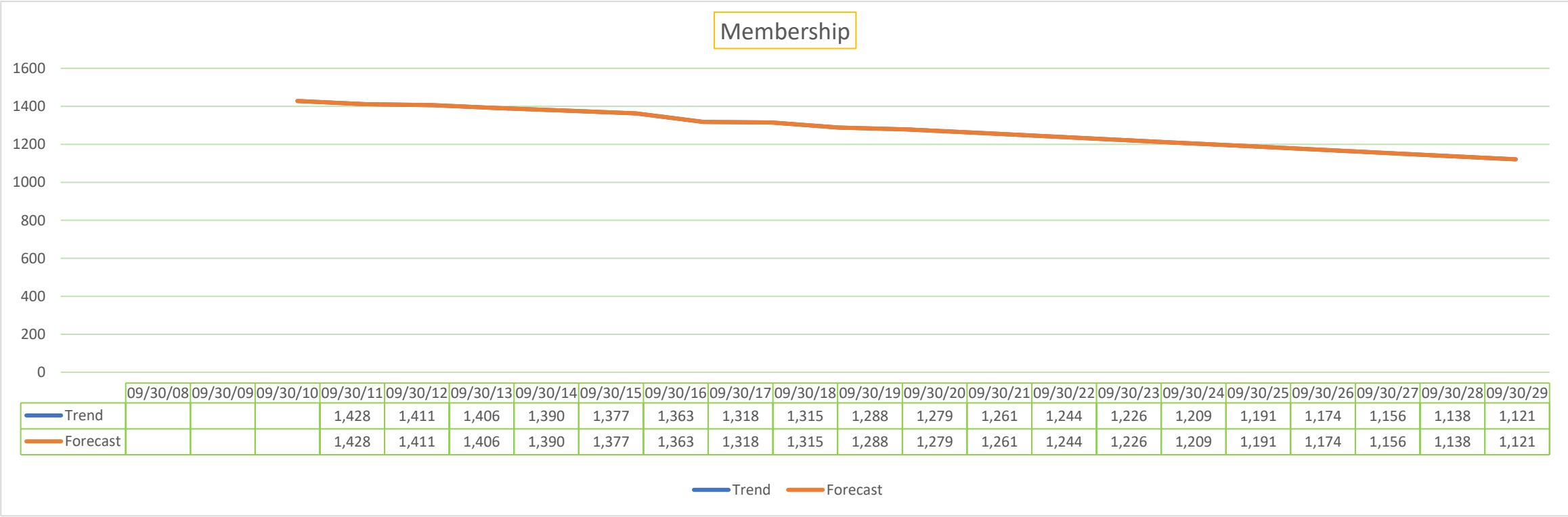
09/30/26	304,125	304,125
09/30/27	303,521	303,521
09/30/28	302,916	302,916
09/30/29	302,312	302,312

Year	Operating Expenses	
	Trend	Forecast
09/30/08	251,000	251,000
09/30/09	273,124	273,124
09/30/10	390,851	390,851
09/30/11	355,571	355,571
09/30/12	307,567	307,567
09/30/13	370,835	370,835
09/30/14	342,756	342,756
09/30/15	338,250	338,250
09/30/16	330,725	330,725
09/30/17	293,134	293,134
09/30/18	353,076	353,076
09/30/19	322,541	322,541
09/30/20	344,773	344,773
09/30/21	347,436	347,436



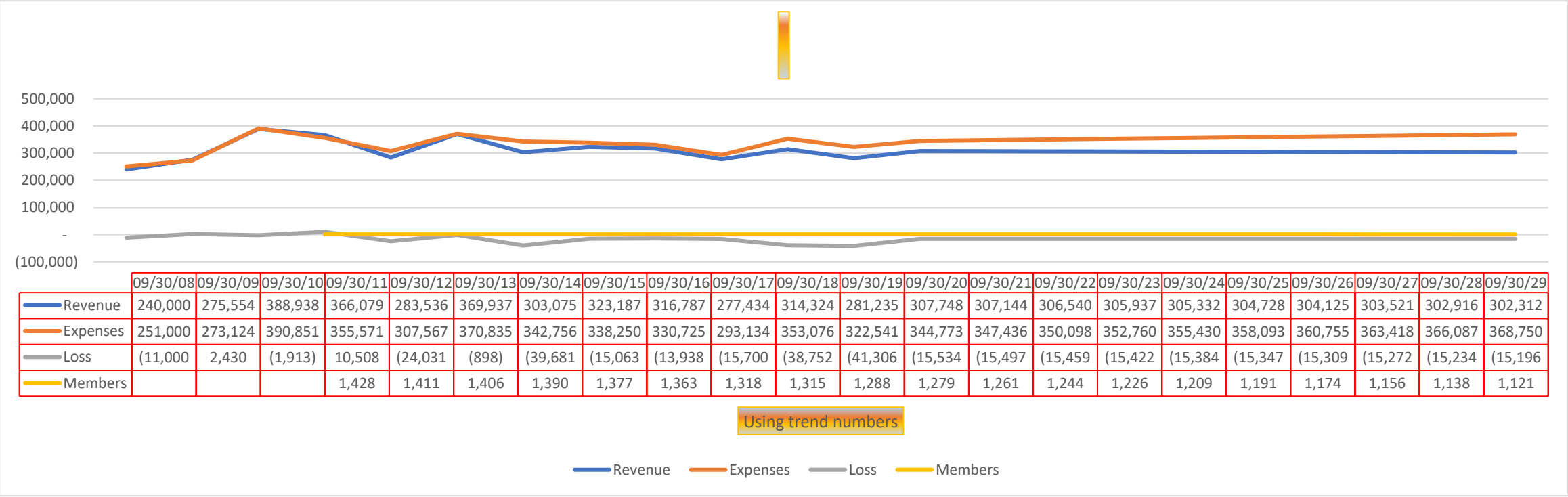
09/30/22	350,098	350,098
09/30/23	352,760	352,760
09/30/24	355,430	355,430
09/30/25	358,093	358,093
09/30/26	360,755	360,755
09/30/27	363,418	363,418
09/30/28	366,087	366,087
09/30/29	368,750	368,750

Year	Members	
	Trend	Forecast
09/30/08		
09/30/09		
09/30/10		
09/30/11	1,428	1,428
09/30/12	1,411	1,411
09/30/13	1,406	1,406
09/30/14	1,390	1,390
09/30/15	1,377	1,377
09/30/16	1,363	1,363
09/30/17	1,318	1,318
09/30/18	1,315	1,315
09/30/19	1,288	1,288
09/30/20	1,279	1,279
09/30/21	1,261	1,261
09/30/22	1,244	1,244
09/30/23	1,226	1,226
09/30/24	1,209	1,209
09/30/25	1,191	1,191
09/30/26	1,174	1,174



09/30/27	1,156	1,156
09/30/28	1,138	1,138
09/30/29	1,121	1,121

Year	Trend		Members	Gross Revenue
	Operating Revenue	Operating Loss		
09/30/08	240,000	(11,000)		246,000
09/30/09	275,554	2,430		279,554
09/30/10	388,938	(1,913)		397,938
09/30/11	366,079	10,508	1,428	372,904
09/30/12	283,536	(24,031)	1,411	291,130
09/30/13	369,937	(898)	1,406	382,262
09/30/14	303,075	(39,681)	1,390	318,577
09/30/15	323,187	(15,063)	1,377	329,632
09/30/16	316,787	(13,938)	1,363	323,577
09/30/17	277,434	(15,700)	1,318	281,354



09/30/18	314,324	353,076	(38,752)	1,315	335,786
09/30/19	281,235	322,541	(41,306)	1,288	293,459
09/30/20	307,748	344,773	(15,534)	1,279	321,398
09/30/21	307,144	347,436	(15,497)	1,261	321,457
09/30/22	306,540	350,098	(15,459)	1,244	321,516
09/30/23	305,937	352,760	(15,422)	1,226	321,575
09/30/24	305,332	355,430	(15,384)	1,209	321,634
09/30/25	304,728	358,093	(15,347)	1,191	321,693
09/30/26	304,125	360,755	(15,309)	1,174	321,752
09/30/27	303,521	363,418	(15,272)	1,156	321,811
09/30/28	302,916	366,087	(15,234)	1,138	321,871
09/30/29	302,312	368,750	(15,196)	1,121	321,930

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

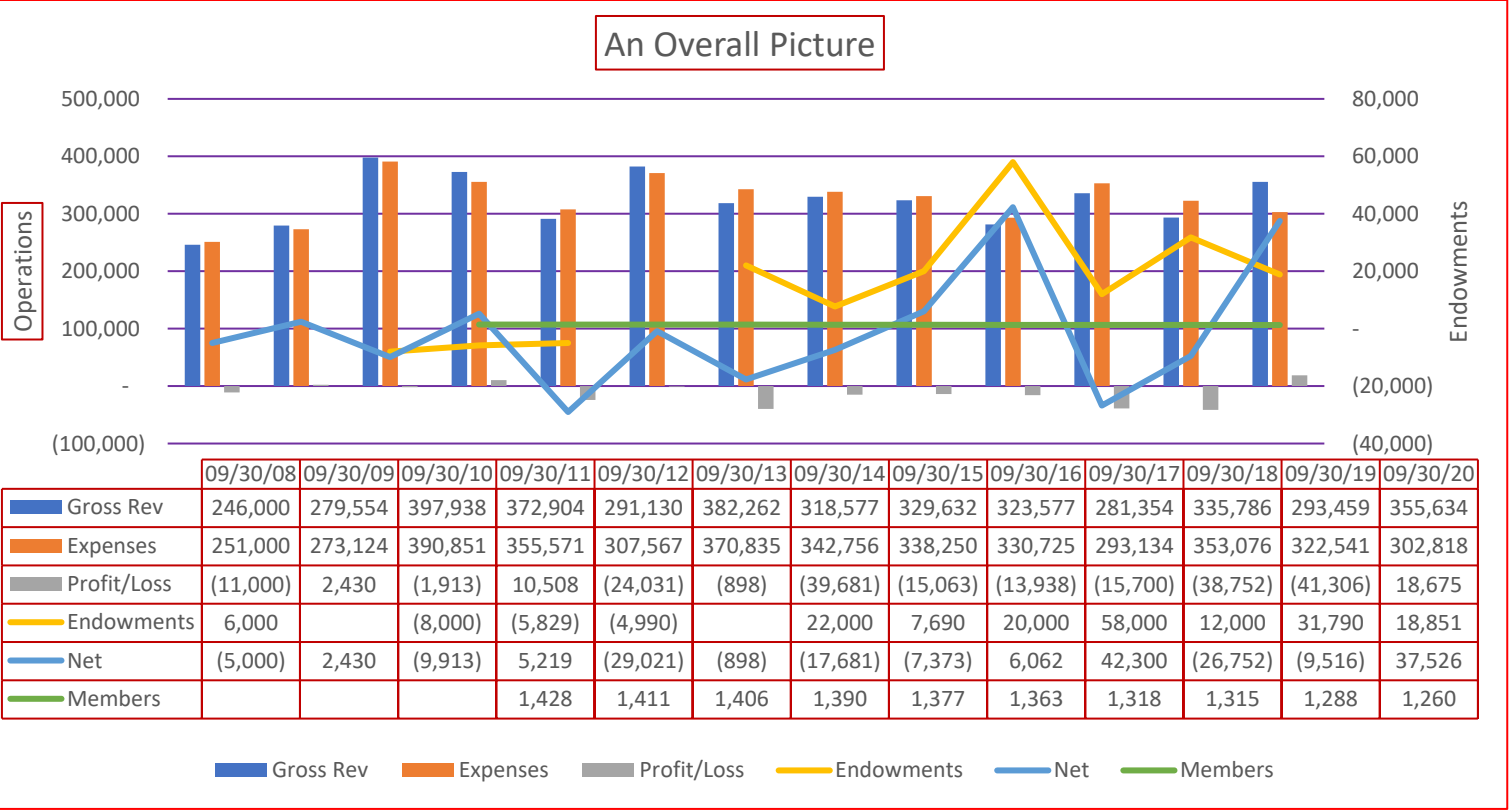
Use of Endowment Funds1 graph

CONCLUSION: Endowments are needed even though the membership remains fairly constant.

Gross revenue and expenses vary from year to year.

Losses from operations are common.

Year	Gross Rev	Expenses	Profit/Loss	Endowments	Net	Members
09/30/08	246,000	251,000	(11,000)	6,000	(5,000)	
09/30/09	279,554	273,124	2,430		2,430	
09/30/10	397,938	390,851	(1,913)	(8,000)	(9,913)	
09/30/11	372,904	355,571	10,508	(5,829)	5,219	1,428
09/30/12	291,130	307,567	(24,031)	(4,990)	(29,021)	1,411
09/30/13	382,262	370,835	(898)		(898)	1,406
09/30/14	318,577	342,756	(39,681)	22,000	(17,681)	1,390
09/30/15	329,632	338,250	(15,063)	7,690	(7,373)	1,377
09/30/16	323,577	330,725	(13,938)	20,000	6,062	1,363
09/30/17	281,354	293,134	(15,700)	58,000	42,300	1,318
09/30/18	335,786	353,076	(38,752)	12,000	(26,752)	1,315
09/30/19	293,459	322,541	(41,306)	31,790	(9,516)	1,288
09/30/20	355,634	302,818	18,675	18,851	37,526	1,260



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Sources of Revenue

1 graph

Endowments included for this purpose

Using 13 years for the average

CONCLUSION: NPS is a very important source of revenue.

	9/30/2008	9/30/2009	9/30/2010	9/30/2011	9/30/2012	9/30/2013	9/30/2014	9/30/2015	9/30/2016	9/30/2017	9/30/2018	9/30/2019	9/30/2020
National Park Service	80,000	109,000	207,000	202,780	154,236	226,212	166,799	167,746	162,032	125,896	133,000	130,480	126,468
Less amount reflected in conv and sympo net income						(14,590)	(12,981)	(12,962)	(11,054)	(10,056)		(1,866)	(165)
	80,000	109,000	207,000	202,780	154,236	211,622	153,818	154,784	150,978	115,840	133,000	128,614	126,303
Dues	82,000	76,000	71,000	71,168	70,920	71,276	73,548	73,803	73,679	70,663	71,058	69,820	72,930
Unrestricted Contributions	25,000	25,000	25,000	41,364	29,068	37,454	32,584	48,318	37,335	45,018	32,991	43,550	83,897
Restricted Contributions and Grants							3,400				44,620	22,570	23,300
Paycheck Protection Program													11,000
Endowment Fund Contributions (including memorial gifts)	3,000	2,000	2,000		2,844	10,222	9,802	2,445	2,790	920	2,230	2,000	645
Convention - Net	32,000	24,000	38,000	19,896	18,387	18,537	22,283	32,681	33,279	23,203	23,785	8,905	
Symposium - Net		7,000		2,624	(3,625)	4,368			4,135	6,266	6,424	3,523	3,551
Income Distribution - Heritage Fund			15,000			10,000							
Income Distribution - Loomis Fund		10,000	10,000	10,000									
Income Distribution - Martin Fund													
Life Memberships	3,000	2,000	7,000	3,595	4,750	1,700	5,700	4,000	4,000	3,000	8,000	2,000	5,250
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	16,000	20,000	13,000	15,501	13,281	9,647	9,810	7,157	8,665	8,944	8,822	7,296	3,375
Overland Journal Subscriptions		2,000	2,000	2,340	1,890	2,160	2,070	1,765	1,760	1,754	1,495	2,420	1,680
Advertising			2,000	2,480	1,491	95	1,350	1,886	3,684	2,597	1,120	470	1,461
Paper Trail Income							1,516	929	1,306	1,445	1,240	1,337	1,532
Other Income	10,000	7,000	8,000	4,198	5,317	5,181	2,696	1,864	1,966	1,704	1,001	1,844	1,761
Operating Revenues	251,000	284,000	400,000	375,946	298,559	382,262	318,577	329,632	323,577	281,354	335,786	294,349	336,685

	9/30/2008	9/30/2009	9/30/2010	9/30/2011	9/30/2012	9/30/2013	9/30/2014	9/30/2015	9/30/2016	9/30/2017	9/30/2018	9/30/2019	9/30/2020	Average	%-ages
National Park Service	80,000	109,000	217,000	202,780	154,236	226,212	166,799	167,746	162,032	125,896	133,000	130,480	126,468	144,245	48.5%
Dues	82,000	76,000	71,000	71,168	70,920	71,276	73,548	73,803	73,679	70,663	71,058	69,820	72,930	67,303	22.6%
Unrestricted Contributions	25,000	25,000	25,000	34,134	29,068	37,454	32,584	48,318	37,335	45,018	32,991	43,550	83,897	31,958	10.7%

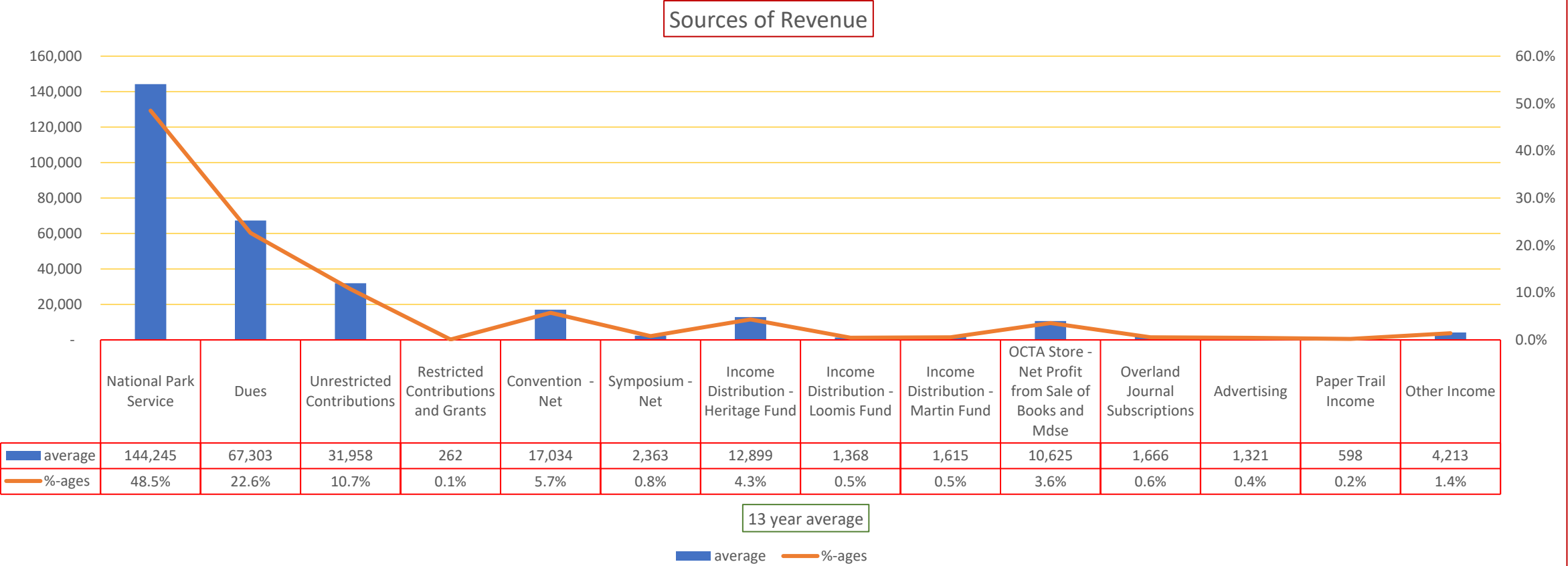
Restricted Contributions and Grants							3,400						262	0.1%	
Convention - Net	32,000	24,000	28,000	19,896	18,387	3,947	9,302	19,719	22,225	13,147	23,785	7,039	17,034	5.7%	
Symposium - Net		7,000		2,624	(3,625)	4,368			4,135	6,266	6,424	3,523	3,386	2,363	0.8%
Income Distribution - Heritage Fund			25,000	10,000		10,000	22,000	3,900	20,000	58,000		18,790	18,851	12,899	4.3%
Income Distribution - Loomis Fund		10,000						2,790				5,000		1,368	0.5%
Income Distribution - Martin Fund								1,000			12,000	8,000		1,615	0.5%
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	16,000	20,000	13,000	15,501	13,281	9,647	9,810	7,157	8,665	8,944	8,822	7,296	3,375	10,625	3.6%
Overland Journal Subscriptions		2,000	2,000	2,340	1,890	2,160	2,070	1,765	1,760	1,754	1,495	2,420	1,680	1,666	0.6%
Advertising			2,000	2,480	1,491	95	1,350	1,886	3,684	2,597	1,120	470	1,461	1,321	0.4%
Paper Trail Income							1,516	929	1,306	1,445	1,240	1,337	1,532	598	0.2%
Other Income	10,000	7,000	8,000	8,198	5,317	5,181	2,696	1,864	1,966	1,704	1,001	1,844	1,761	4,213	1.4%
Net Revenue	245,000	280,000	391,000	369,121	290,965	370,340	325,075	330,877	336,787	335,434	292,936	299,569	315,341	297,470	100.0%

Restricted Contributions and Grants											44,620	22,570	23,300	
Paycheck Protection Program													11,000	
Endowment Fund Contributions (including memorial gifts)	3,000	2,000	2,000	3,230	2,844	10,222	9,802	2,445	2,790	920	2,230	2,000	645	
Life Memberships	3,000	2,000	7,000	3,595	4,750	1,700	5,700	4,000	4,000	3,000	8,000	2,000	5,250	
Endowment Funds							(22,000)	(7,690)	(20,000)	(58,000)	(12,000)	(31,790)	(18,851)	
Non-Revenue	6,000	4,000	9,000	6,825	7,594	11,922	(6,498)	(1,245)	(13,210)	(54,080)	42,850	(5,220)	21,344	
	251,000	284,000	400,000	375,946	298,559	382,262	318,577	329,632	323,577	281,354	335,786	294,349	336,685	

Fund not recorded as revenue, offsets expenses

Convention And Sumposia Revenues are Combined

	13 year average	%-ages
National Park Service	144,245	48.5%
Dues	67,303	22.6%
Unrestricted Contributions	31,958	10.7%
Restricted Contributions and Grants	262	0.1%
Convention - Net	17,034	5.7%
Symposium - Net	2,363	0.8%
Income Distribution - Heritage Fund	12,899	4.3%
Income Distribution - Loomis Fund	1,368	0.5%
Income Distribution - Martin Fund	1,615	0.5%
OCTA Store - Net Profit from Sale of Books and Mdse	10,625	3.6%
Overland Journal Subscriptions	1,666	0.6%
Advertising	1,321	0.4%
Paper Trail Income	598	0.2%
Other Income	4,213	1.4%
Net Revenue	297,470	100.0%



[To Agenda](#)

Investment Advisory Committee

January 29, 2019

To: OCTA Board

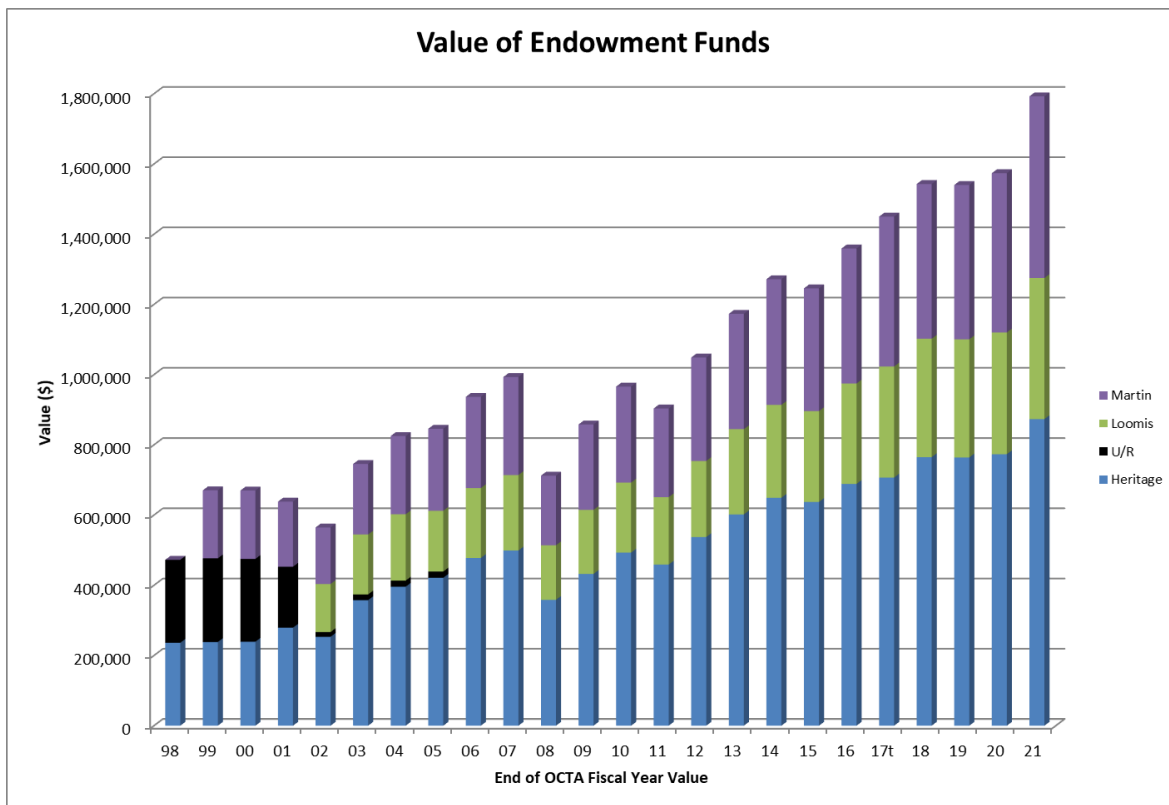
From: Investment Advisory Committee

David Welch, Chair; Camille Bradford, John Briggs, Marvin Burke, Gary Dissette, Jerry Mogg

Subject: Report of the Investment Advisory Committee

1.0 Summary

The total value of the endowment funds each year from 1998 to 12/31/2020 is shown in Figure 1. Apart from 2021, the data are shown as of September 30 (the end of the OCTA fiscal year) for each year. For 2021 the data are as of the end of the first quarter, 12/31/2020. The values are net of contributions, withdrawals, and fees. The value on 12/31/2020 was \$1,792,597.



Since the data are shown by fiscal year, the severe dip in March 2020 is not visible. We have recovered fully and have gone on to an all-time high in each separate fund.

The top table below shows the value from 2017 at the end of each OCTA fiscal year and the first quarter of OCTA FY2021 (12/31/2020). This is the time frame in which Brighton Jones has managed our investments.

End FY	9/30/2017	9/30/2018	9/30/2019	9/30/2020	12/31/2020		
Heritage	706,827	765,068	764,089	773,353	873,219		
Loomis	316,366	337,194	336,472	346,880	402,007		
Martin	426,885	440,660	439,585	453,554	517,371		
Total	1,450,078	1,542,922	1,540,146	1,573,787	1,792,597		
						Change	
						9/30/2017	
						12/31/2020	Per Year
Heritage		8.24%	-0.13%	1.21%	12.91%	23.54%	7.24%
Loomis		6.58%	-0.21%	3.09%	15.89%	27.07%	8.33%
Martin		3.23%	-0.24%	3.18%	14.07%	21.20%	6.52%
Total		6.40%	-0.18%	2.18%	13.90%	23.62%	7.27%

The bottom half of the chart shows the year-to-year percent changes. The next to last column shows the gain from 9/30/2017. Overall, it is a gain of slightly less than 24%, or slightly more than 7% per year. This is consistent with our long-term goal.

2.0 Comparison to Benchmarks

Brighton Jones provides comparisons of how our funds performed relative to benchmarks. The contribution of each fund is weighted by the amount invested in that fund. We have very diverse holdings spread over 11 mutual funds and ETFs. The funds themselves often do not have a benchmark for exact comparison because our funds are structured in unique ways. With that caveat, a comparison as provided by Brighton Jones is shown below.

Market Performance Summary			
	One-year 12/31/2020	Two-year 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2020	From Inception 8/2017
Change in Endowment Fund Values	10.96%	14.91%	7.96%
Allocated Weighted Benchmark (BJ)	13.71%	16.70%	9.22%
Difference	-2.75%	-1.79%	-1.26%

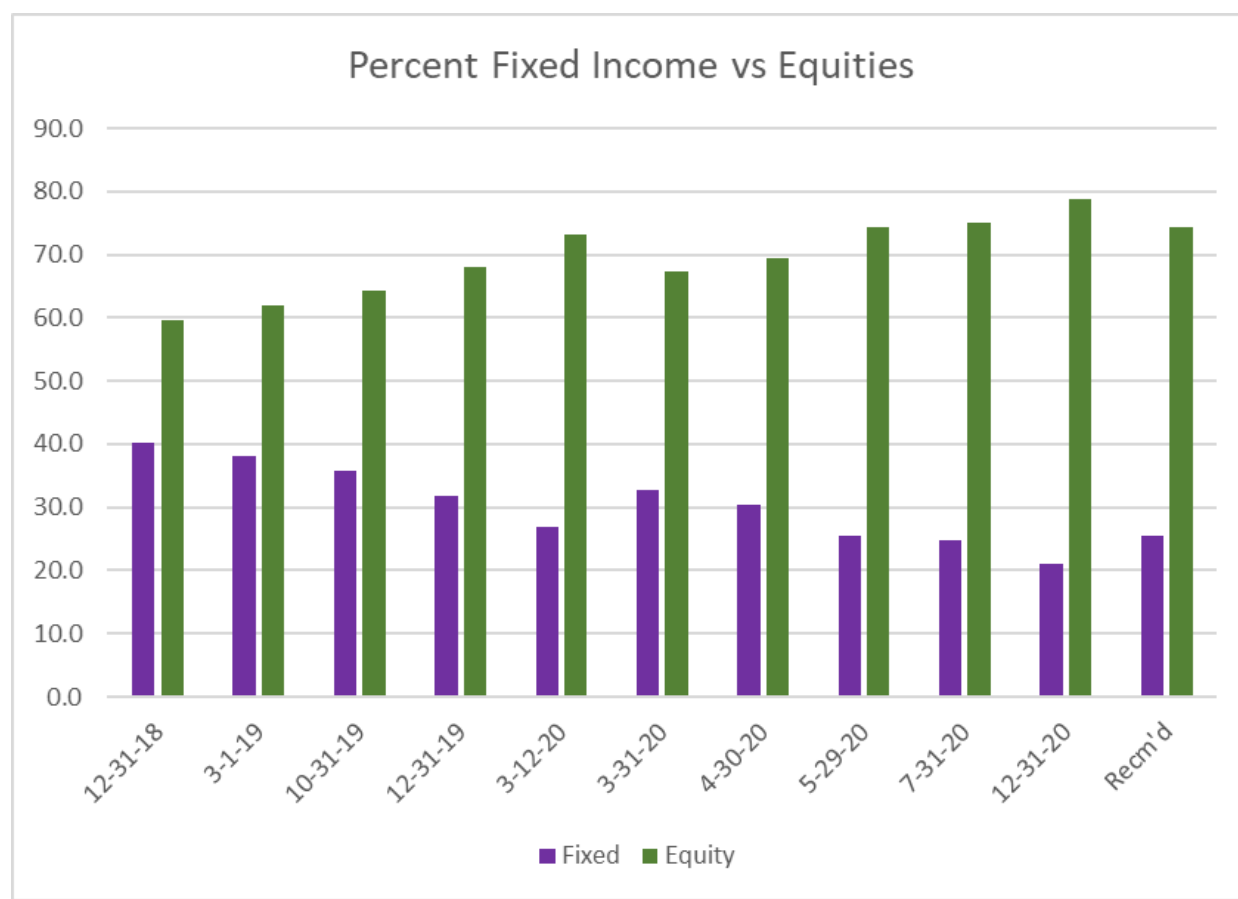
Note that the period covered in this data is not OCTA's fiscal year and thus the differences from the returns reported above. Contributions, withdrawals, and management fees are also not included in the comparison above to give a pure measure of investment performance.

Despite all the caveats, the performance comparison is informative. The fact that we are below the benchmarks in each case is of concern. The actual performance (dollar gain) is very good, but why are we consistently below the benchmark? The answer from Brighton Jones is that they utilize a slightly more conservative investment approach than that used in the benchmarks to provide downside

protection. They feel that these are the best benchmarks available, but they are not quite providing an apples-to-apples comparison.

3.0 Fund Allocations

Our eleven investments can be grouped into two major categories, fixed income (bonds and similar instruments) and equities (stocks). At the end of 2018 we were invested 40% fixed income and 60% equities. This is a conservative allocation that reduces risk. We felt an increase over a period of time to 25% fixed income and 75% equities was consistent with our growth goals. We have exceeded that goal and now stand at a 79%/21% allocation. Most recently the equity allocation has grown because of rapid growth in the equity funds relative to fixed income.



4.0 Recommended Withdrawal for FY2021

Withdrawals from the Heritage, Loomis, and Martin funds since 1998 total \$317,165. Some members have expressed concern that endowment funds “just sit in the bank.” This has not been the case as shown by this figure. During the same period, contributions have totaled \$211,687 for a net draw of \$105,498.

In 2020 we defined our annual cash needs as \$20,000 from the Heritage Fund, \$7,000 from the Loomis Fund and “as needed” from the Martin Fund. Investments are structured to provide this cash flow. The “cash need” is inflated by 3.5% each year. We have the equivalent of \$27,000 adjusted for inflation available each year to 2039. In 2039 the available withdrawal will be \$51,908. Withdrawals below these limits do not affect investment allocations.

The Martin Fund is “as needed” since withdrawals have been limited. If regular withdrawals are needed, then we will need to adjust investments accordingly to provide this income. Each fund has limits of how the funds may be used (as noted). Apart from the Heritage Fund, funds may not be transferred to other expense categories.

Available Funds from Brighton Jones		Inflation	3.50%
OCTA fiscal year begins October 1 of the previous calendar year			
OCTA FY	Heritage	Loomis	Martin
2020	20,000	7,000	-
2021	20,700	7,245	-
2022	21,425	7,499	-
2023	22,174	7,761	-
2024	22,950	8,033	-
2025	23,754	8,314	-
2026	24,585	8,605	-
2027	25,446	8,906	-
2028	26,336	9,218	-
2029	27,258	9,540	-
2030	28,212	9,874	-
2031	29,199	10,220	-
2032	30,221	10,577	-
2033	31,279	10,948	-
2034	32,374	11,331	-
2035	33,507	11,727	-
2036	34,680	12,138	-
2037	35,894	12,563	-
2038	37,150	13,002	-
2039	38,450	13,458	-

5.0 On-going Activities

During the next six months the committee will conduct a review of the existing policy statement for the IAC to ensure that it reflects how we are currently operating, and vice versa. We will bring a revised document to the board in September if there are changes.

We will also continue an analysis of the performance of our investments relative to the benchmarks to gain a better understanding of comparisons. This analysis will also inform us as to the appropriateness of our current holdings both by type and allocation. [To Agenda](#)

PRESERVATION

Report to Board of Directors “Zoom” Mid-Year Board Meeting February 27, 2021

*By John Winner
National Preservation Officer*

Chapter Preservation Officers:

CA-NV- John Winner
COL. CHEROKEE- Bruce Watson
CROSSROADS- Steve Allison
GATEWAY- (vacant)
IDAHO- Don Wind (East); Virgel Clark & Dave Price (West)
KANZA- Arleta Martin
NEBRASKA- Linda Tacey
NORTHWEST- Gail Carbiener
SO. TRAILS- Mark Howe
TRAILS HEAD- Pat Traffas
WYOMING- Fern Linton, Randy Brown, Julia Stuble

Mapping Workshop: The on again off again mapping and conservation easement workshops originally scheduled for June 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19, rescheduled for May 2021, cancelled after polling attendees suggesting “that may be too soon” because of the continued threat of COVID-19 is now being planned to be in conjunction with the OCTA National Convention still scheduled for September 11-16, 2021 in Elko, Nevada. The mapping workshop would be September 17 and 18. The conservation easement workshop would be on September 19th. Preliminary plans for facilities have been made however still lots to do to make this happen.

B2H: A 300-mile 500kv transmission line in Eastern Oregon crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail 7 times. Gail Carbiener continues his *tireless?* effort to shepherd OCTA interest in this project that at time seems to be in perpetuity. At this date the time line is as follows: Discovery goes until 3/26/2021; then responses are due 4/16/2021; Then direct testimony material on 9/17/2021 with rebuttal due on 10/29/2021 followed by In-Person hearing 1/10/2022, with arguments and responses. The Judge is scheduled to issue her Case Order on 5/22/2022. Will it ever end???

The R-Project: 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 Trail . When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) authorizing this project to move forward, a Petition for Review of Agency Action was filed in the United States District Court by the law firm of Eubanks and Associates. The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) was one of the plaintiffs. The case argues that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's choice to issue the ITP violates portions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

On Wednesday June 17th, 2020, US District Court Judge William J Martinez vacated the ITP issued to NPPD and remanded the matter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for further review.

Linda Tacey, Nebraska Chapter Preservation prepared a declaration of impact to the trail system. I included a copy in the September 18, 2020 Board Report. A copy of the declaration has been sent to the Nebraska SHPO and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To date we have not received any action from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Long Canyon Mine Project: An open pit mine project in Northeast Nevada mostly on public land administered by BLM. The project impacts the Hastings Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail. Mitigation discussions began in 2013 with Newmont Mining Corporation, BLM and the consulting parties, including: OCTA, The NPS and The California Trail Heritage Alliance (CTHA). Part of what was thought to be agreed upon mitigation included, mapping of the Hastings Cutoff, protection of the Settlers Cabin at Big Springs and the establishment of the Gravelly Ford Conservation Area to include protection of the California National Historic Trail leading to and including the Gravelly Ford Site. The protection would be through a conservation easement or similar legal instrument. **What changed!!** In July 2019 Newmont Mining Corporation, 38.5% and Barrick Gold Corporation, 61.5% entered into a Joint Venture forming a new company Nevada Gold Mine (NGM). On October 28th, 2019 in a meeting with BLM we were informed that BLM no longer intends to seek any mitigation for indirect effects resulting from the Long Canyon Project. Furthermore, BLM is now precluded from negotiating any mitigation for offsite improvements. Therefore, BLM has indicated the proposed conservation easement for the protection of the California National Historic Trail at Gravelly Ford is off the table.

Since then, OCTA and the CTHA have been working with NGM and Nevada Land Trust to continue negotiations to create a conservation easement for Gravelly Ford. What Newmont Mining Co. originally agreed to was a CE to protect the CNHT, 50 meters on each side and 100 meters around the Gravelly Ford site. NGM seems to conceptually favor this proposal.

On October 16 & 17, 2020 OCTA MET mapped the CNHT on 5 Sections of land owned by NGM. There were 12 participants for the 2-day outing. A report along with the MET maps were sent to NGM for review. Further discussions are now underway.

Fernley Swales: In 2001 a “Historic Preservation and Access Easement” for the Fernley Swales was created with the intent to preserve and protect a segment of the California NHT and a segment of the original roadbed of the 1868-1903 Central Pacific Railroad. The property owner entered into the Easement with the Department of Interior (BLM). The Easement is located just North of Fernley, Nevada. The Fernley Swales are pristine “Class 1” trail swales at the west end of the infamous 40 Mile Desert. The Central Pacific Railroad roadbed runs parallel to the trail swales.

Each year since the creation of the easement OCTA has been active in trying to maintain the integrity of the Fernley Swales. Over the years different OCTA members have taken on a leadership role in working with the property owner, BLM, the City of Fernley, NV and many volunteer organizations to “clean up” dumped trash. Additionally, OCTA conducts an annual photo monitoring program.

The frustration is that neither the “Grantor nor Grantee” wants any responsibility. Jon Nowlin, long time OCTA member, who oversees OCTA’s interest in the Fernley Swales questioned what options were available to require responsibly and enforcement of the easement.

On January 7th, 2021, Don Owen, Trail Protection Specialist, Partnership for the National Trail System, participated in a “Zoom” meeting to explore options that OCTA might have for compliance of the Preservation Easement. John Briggs, summarized the content of the meeting as follows:

Re Fernley Swales video-conference Jan 7 2021

Don Owen, Jon Nowlin, John Winner, Lee Black, Travis Boley, John Briggs

My thanks to everyone for their patience as I improve my understanding of the issue at the Fernley Swales. Happy to have this corrected, added to and fleshed out.

The actions proposed were

1. Jon to contact the State Historical Society to describe the issue and once COVID-19 restrictions are no longer needed, to offer them a tour of the site.
2. ? John Winner? With Jon to develop a plan for a 20 year celebration of the granting of the easement. This could take place the day after clean-up, usually on National Public Lands Day, which this year is on Saturday September 25th. The Celebration would be both to show off the resource and to demonstrate the damage being done.
3. Jon to speak with Rachel Crews, BLM archaeologist, and let her know we are thinking of such a celebration.
4. Similarly, Jon to talk to the mayor of Fernley and advise him of our thoughts.
5. John Winner to contact Lee Kreuzer and determine what Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act allows BLM to do in light of the strength of the easement.
6. Travis to arrange for Bill Martin to talk to Jon Nowlin about the issues at Fernley, prior to the forthcoming (February) virtual Hike the Hill. Travis has already included the Fernley Swales on the list of projects submitted to PNTS.

7. John Winner (perhaps through Helen Hankins) determine who in BLM (Carson City office or Reno?) has ultimate responsibility for National Trails in Nevada.
8. Jon to explore with BLM Carson City the opportunity to place a camera on the road leading to the easement on the property of the owner of the Silverado Casino north of I 80. (Presumably on Truck Inn Way. I may have misunderstood the property ownership since I see the Casino is south of I 80). The property owner is favorable, but this would need to be fleshed out).
9. Jon mentioned the Desert Pigs, <https://www.desertpigs.com/saturday-fernley-cleanup/> and I note that the Fernley Chapter have posted an 'upcoming' event for a Jan 9th clean-up, meeting at Fernley Out of Town Park. Do we have a good contact with the Fernley Chapter? They do have local, though limited, resource.
10. It was also suggested that the property owner be contacted to see what his plans are to develop the area around the easement.

At the outset Don supports the fact that CA-NV OCTA has done everything correctly. The language of the easement is proper and comprehensive. It allows BLM to do what needs to be done to protect the Trail.

Given the, hitherto, recalcitrance of the BLM office in Carson City, what options for action do we have bearing in mind that we have good working relationship both locally with Rachel Crews, with other BLM offices in Nevada and with other BLM offices nationally? It was noted that the recalcitrance is in some ways understood. The Carson City office does not have the resource to be able to give full attention to this historic site. Their solution is to wait until the 'plans' to develop the surrounding areas are implemented, for the City to annex those developments (with their higher tax rates) and for improper access to the property to be squeezed. Our problem is that in the meantime damage to the Trail and the CPRR roadbed continues unabated.

1. Administrative Remedy. He suggested a couple of options
 - a. Moving up the chain of command within BLM in Nevada
 - b. Enlisting the help of NPS through Aaron Mahr or Lee Kreuzer.
2. Political remedy.
 - a. The mayor of the City of Fernley is sympathetic, but the property is north, though adjoining, of the current City boundary. It has little tax value.
 - b. Through Lyon Co, noting though that the County seat is almost 50 miles away – further than either Reno or Fallon.
 - c. Through State legislators.
 - d. As a State Park?
3. A PR event (the 20 year anniversary of the easement was brought up) involving a descendant of an emigrant who had used the Trail highlighting the historic value of the Trail and the damage being done to it. Involving the press could help to create leverage on BLM if such an action was thought to be desirable.
4. Is there any value in BLM transferring the easement to a Land Trust or to OCTA. Discussion centered on who would have the resource to manage the easement.
5. Would the property owner be willing to convey title to BLM? Would BLM be at all willing to take title? Discussion suggested they would not – again it is a resource issue.

Noted – there is no police enforcement here. There is no Fernley City police department, but a service provided by the County in the form of a Deputy Sheriff with limited resources.

Johnson Ranch: For several years OCTA member Bill Holmes has taken on the preservation of the Johnson Ranch Project. Recently OCTA has included this project for Land and Water Conservation Funds. The following is a summary that Bill prepared that provides a brief background of the project and funding request.

“The Johnson Ranch project includes nationally significant historic sites such as the last two miles of the Truckee Route of the California Emigrant Trail with river crossing swale, the Burtis Hotel, Camp Far West (CFW) military site and the CFW cemetery.

All the sites are on one landowner’s (Angelo Tsakopoulos), a major developer in the Sacramento region. The property is in the city of Wheatland CA. The land will someday be subdivided into residential housing. The property owner has expressed interest in preserving the trail and historic sites. To that end, we have located the trail and historic sites and continue to do research work on them. Mr. Tsakopoulos has asked our OCTA representative, and his working group from the Wheatland Historical Society, to design and estimate the cost of a public access road and parking lot. The estimate is **\$711,000**. In addition, we have a plan, with no cost estimate, for a hiking trail between the sites.

We are at the point now to start working on interpretive panels (signs) for each site and trail. We estimate we will need six interpretive panels. The estimated cost, based on costs of other OCTA panels, is roughly **\$21,000**. We are working with CA State University Sacramento (CSUS) and have a Master’s Degree student assigned to us for the project.

Why are these sites so significant? The Johnson Ranch was the first sign of civilization that emigrants moving west in 1844 would have found since they left Fort Hall. Indeed, the Donner Party survivors were given rest and nourishment here as they waited for the rest of their families to come out from Donner Lake. To this day, descendants of the Donner Party survivors honor this site. All the relief parties prepared for their journey while at the Johnson Ranch. John C. Fremont and Kit Caron passed through Johnson’s Ranch several times as they explored California. General Stephen Watts Kearny and the Army of the West passed through Johnson’s Ranch, staying several days in 1846, on their way east to Fort Leavenworth Kansas. Fremont was with Kearny, under arrest for insubordination. In 1849 Lt. Derby, who was at CFW, estimated that 100 wagons a day passed by CFW in 1849. CFW was one of the first federal military sites on the west coast and was located near the Johnson Ranch and emigrant trail to keep the peace between the indigenous people and the gold seekers. The CFW cemetery was first used to bury early pioneers starting in 1844, was used by the military between 1849 and 52. Four soldiers of the 2nd Infantry, companies E and F are buried in the cemetery along with twelve other souls. The Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West erected obelisk in 1911 to honor the dead. And in 1950 built a rock wall around the cemetery and erected a flagpole.”

Recently Johnson Ranch was in the national spotlight when four veteran ultra-distance trail runners reenacted the Forlorn Hope Expedition.

On December 16, 1846 – 17 members of the ill-fated Donner Party set out on snowshoes from Donner Lake in an attempt to cross the Sierras to reach Johnson Ranch, 90 miles away, to get a rescue party for the remaining survivors camped a Donner Lake. Only 7 of the 17 survived. The group became known as Forlorn Hope.

On December 16, 2020, exactly 174 years later, the four veteran ultra-distance runners retraced the route. 5 days later they were met by Bill at the Johnson Ranch site.

Bill continues to spend countless hours to work with others to see that the legacy of this historic site is preserved.

Reservoir Forest Health Project: 16,649 acres of Eldorado National Forest land located between Placerville and South Lake Tahoe is scheduled to undergo a variety of methods to improve forest health and fire resiliency. The project will include forest thinning, prescribed burning, mastication, pruning, herbicide application, and conifer reforestation. The project area includes the Johnson Cutoff and Georgetown Pack Trail. The Johnson Cutoff has been MET mapped. Trail maps have been sent to Forest Service with the assurance by the archaeologist that the trails will be flagged to avoid damage.

Gerlach Geothermal Development Project: Impact to the Nobles Trail. This project proposed by Ormat Technologies Inc. include leased and unleased BLM lands and privately leased land. The project includes building two new power plants that would each produce 2.4 megawatts of electricity, an electrical substation, up to 23 total geothermal production and injection wells, approximately 4.6 miles of above ground pipelines, access roads, an approximately 26-mile long 120 kilovolt overhead power line.

OCTA has requested Consulting Party Status to review the environmental effect, including direct and indirect effects to the Nobles Trail.

Nolin Hills Wind Energy Project: This Capital Power Project is a 350 MW wind project currently under development in Umatilla County Oregon. The project is sited on approximately 45,000 acres located west of Pendleton, Oregon and under a long-term lease from a single landowner. OCTA raised concerns about the potential visual impacts from the Project infrastructure. Through the efforts of Sallie Riehl, Northwest Chapter President and Gail Carbiener, Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer and Past President Dave Welch an agreement was reached between OCTA and Capital Power to mitigate any Direct and/or Indirect Effects by providing a financial sum for environmental protection, conservation and general maintenance efforts.

Converse County Oil and Gas Project: This project affects 1.5 million acres in Converse County, Wyoming. The impact would be to the Bozeman Trail and possibly the Childes Cutoff. Randy Brown provided me with the following update:

“We’ve been aware of this planned development for some time, but it’s impact to the Bozeman Trail is the main concern. Not much can be done up there since it is mostly

private property. Already a big installation was put up near the trail crossing of Dry Fork of the Cheyenne over land where there are supposed to be graves of victims of Indian attacks.

As far as the Oregon Trail, please see my notes below. Between old and current tank farms and the railroad a lot of that trail was obliterated long ago. Now wind farms are the main threat, one already having been built right on top of the trail.

T 34, R 74 - The trail does not go through T34, R74, but stays south of it in T33. Much of it has been obliterated by an early 20th century tank farm long since demolished. Then on the western portions in Sec. 6 a wind farm was built right on top of what were some long stretches of ruts. I was told the construction company was warned to take care and minimize impact to the trail through there, but I have not been back since to check on it. I never marked that stretch. (Cranky landowner but will give it another shot in 2021.) I doubt the oil and gas projects will have any impact through there.

T 34, R 75 - Near the section line between Sec. 35, T 34, R 75, and Sec. 2, T33, R 75 there are deep swales where the trail turns to descend to the river bottom east of Glenrock. Then in Sec. 34, T 34, R 75 there are some trail fragments heavily impacted by later activities of various sorts. The last two sections in R 75 are either long gone or in fragments nearly impossible to access since they run parallel and nearly adjacent to the railroad. The same can be said for the trail through . . .

T 34, R 76 - . . . the first two sections of R 76, Sections 36 and 35. The trail is south of the railroad, between it and the river, but no trace remains. In Sec. 34 my notes say "Deep Ruts" where the trail has moved north of the railroad. These ruts are cut into a side hill of the slope above the railroad and river and were pictured in an old OJ article about Child's Cutoff, circa 1988. I've not marked them. Beyond these swales the trail drops down into Secs. 4 & 5, T 33, R 75 where an old ranch road overlays the trail. The trail has stayed very close to the railroad all through this area with the trail above the tracks (north) at times which seems to have been a factor in its partial preservation. The rest of the way through R 76 in both T 33 and T34, the trail and railroad nearly overlay one another with the trail cutting back and forth over it, but no traces remain.

in that area because it is so near the river and has the railroad closely paralleling it much of the way. When I moved out here in 1978, I thought that the north side trail would be better preserved than the south side trail since the major roads and towns are all south of the river. But such is not the case due to the impacts mentioned above plus long-since defunct farming activities west of Orpha."

Other Preservation Projects:

UTAH: The BLM is analyzing the development of trails to facilitate outdoor recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands.

The projects would increase or improve recreational opportunities near growing communities and access to BLM managed lands. The environmental assessment analyses the designation of trails, trail heads, staging areas, restrooms, road improvements, and increased signage.

Lake Mountains, Utah County. Approximately 17,250 acres.

North Oquirrh Management Area, Tooele County. Approximately 5,285 acres.

Rose and Yellow Fork Canyons, Salt Lake County. Approximately 1,520 acres

UTAH: Lake Point Development: A subdivision that has remnants of a historic trail running through, which the Crossroads Chapter has memorialized with a T- Rail marker. The subdivision landowner has set aside three acres around a grove of cottonwood trees on the trail for a park within subdivision.

NEVADA: Pershing County Water Conservation District: Letter to the District regarding the decommission of Hydropower project at Rye Patch Dam.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1019

INDEPENDENCE, MO 64051-0519

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

PERSHING COUNTY
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 218
Lovelock, NV 89419

RE: License Surrender & Project Decommission
FERC Project No. 14327 Nevada Humboldt River Hydro. Project
Pershing County Water Conservation District, Nevada

Ryan Collins, Manager

Dear Mr. Collins,

Thank you for contacting the Oregon-California Trails Association regarding the above referenced project.

Based on the information provided, the decommission of the hydropower project at Rye Patch Dam should not have a direct impact on the California National Historic Trail. The project is exclusive to Section 18, T30N R33E.

There are segments of the California NHT near the project site. There were two routes of the California NHT, the North route in Section 13, T30N R32E is approximately 1 mile north of the project and the South route in Section 17, T30N R33E is approximately ¾ of a mile south of the project. As long as the project is exclusive to Section 18 and access to the project is limited to the existing road there should not be any direct affect to the remnants of the California NHT.

Again, on behalf of OCTA I want to thank you for alerting us to this project.

Sincerely,

John Winner, National Preservation Officer
Oregon-California Trails Association
3541 Sundance Trail
Placerville, CA 95667
swinner@dataentree.com

cc: Nevada SHPO
901 S. Stewart St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Wyoming: Lander Road Amended Programmatic Agreement: The Wyoming SHPO and BLM have determined that a new iteration of the Lander Road PA is not necessary as the mitigation has been completed for the life of the project. BLM will ensure the APA will be reevaluated every four years by all signatories or until all the wells within the APE have been reclaimed and rehabilitated.

Idaho: Lava Ridge Wind Project: The wind farm will be on a vast area of BLM land managed land in parts of Jerome, Lincoln in Minidoka counties. OCTA has requested Consulting Party Statue. Don Wind, Idaho Chapter Preservation Officer is monitoring the project.

End of Report.

[To Agenda](#)

February 3, 2021

TO: OCTA Board of Directors

FROM: Bill Martin

RE: Legislative/Partnership Report

Hike the Hill

There is still time to register for the 24th annual Hike the Hill event sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System and the American Hiking Society. Because of CPVID restrictions, this year's activities are being held virtually on various dates March 8 through March 26.

To register, visit pnts.org/new/our-work/hike-the-hill. The cost is \$75 person. A link to a detailed schedule will be provided upon registering.

The overall schedule is: Week 1 (March 8-12): Issue Briefings and Training for Virtual Meetings; Week 2 (March 15-19): Group Meetings with Agency Leaders and Partners and Individual Congressional Meetings; Week 3 (March 22-26): Group Congressional Committee Meetings and Individual Congressional Meetings

All group sessions will be held over Zoom between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (EST). Meetings and programming will not be held every day. Meeting dates and times will be reflected in the detailed schedule that will be updated as meetings are confirmed.

Butterfield Legislation

As this is written, the staff of lead sponsor Senator John Boozman of Arkansas is preparing to reintroduce legislation to designate the Butterfield Overland Stage Route as a National Historic Trails. You will remember that bill was introduced in the last session of Congress but did not go anywhere. Once we have a new bill number, we will update previously prepared written materials and we can renew contacts with Congressional staff.

Four-Trails Legislation

Last year's release of the 4-Trails Feasibility Study by the National Park Service opened the door to legislation that would add 26 routes totaling 7,589 miles to existing National Historic Trails. Supporting materials are now being prepared and OCTA members will be asked to help identify federal legislators who will champion the legislation in Congress. In addition, we will be asking that the legislation 1) amend the 1978 Oregon Trail designation act to expand the "period of significance" for the trail from an to at least 1860 (several important routes and segments were not recommended in the feasibility study because they fell outside the current 1841-1848 statutory range) and 2) authorize a new feasibility study of Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer routes that were used after 1848.

Administration Outreach

Attached to this report is the text of a letter sent by the Partnership to President Biden's transition staff outlining system-wide concerns and issues the Partnership hopes to address in the new administration. If you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

Partnership

Presently your PNTS Liaison serves on several Partnership committees, including the Trail Leaders Council, a New Trails Policy committee, a special subcommittee studying National Trail designation for Route 66, the Advocacy & Policy Committee, and the Workshops & Conferences Committee. Our participation gives OCTA a seat at the table for important policy discussions and the ability to network with other trails on issues of mutual interest. For example, last year PNTS passed a resolution fully supporting the Butterfield bill.

Transition Recommendations for Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture

Partnership for the National Trails System

January 13, 2021

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is pleased for the opportunity to share information and recommendations to the Biden/Harris transition team.

About Partnership for the National Trails System: As the only nonprofit organization focused on National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails, PNTS connects and convenes federal land management agencies and 32 trail organizations that work with agencies to complete, promote, activate and protect National Trails. For nearly three decades, PNTS has been a collective voice, a resource provider and a central forum for information, trainings, and action for the National Trails System (NTS).

About the National Scenic & Historic Trails: Authorized through the 1968 National Trails System Act, the NTS includes 30 Congressionally-designated National Scenic Trails (NST) and National Historic Trails (NHT) that will eventually preserve 55,000 miles of public trails, traversing all 50 states and connecting 84 national parks, 89 national forests, 70 national wildlife refuges, over 100 public land areas and 179 national wilderness areas. The NTS continues to grow with new trails in the pipeline to be considered by Congress in 2021 and beyond. They represent a broad spectrum of our nation's iconic landscapes and its natural and cultural heritage. From the Southern Appalachian mountains to the wildest reaches of Alaska, the San Francisco Bay and the beautiful coast of the "Big Island" of Hawaii, they feature diverse ecosystems while shining a light on the stories of our nation such as our fight for independence, the trails blazed by indigenous peoples and pioneers, the forced relocation of Native Americans, our struggle for civil rights, and much more. By law, NHT and NST are collaboratively managed with volunteer based, private nonprofit partners and federal land administrators. In 2019 alone, federal funds invested in the trails leveraged over \$13 million in private funding and volunteer hours valued at almost \$26 million.

With the recent passing of the Great American Outdoors Act, the Biden/Harris administration is well-situated to do what other administrations have not done – fully recognize the potential of the NTS and advance aggressive goals for trails that support the following Biden/Harris administration priorities:

Climate Resiliency: National Trails are uniquely positioned to significantly enhance the administration's 30X30 goals. Approximately 1/3 of Congressionally-designated trail miles have yet to be protected and side trails could expand beyond primary trails to protect vast landscapes as viewsheds, i.e. adjacent vistas visible on trails that are home to high-level biodiversity of plants and animals and significant old growth forests that operate as a carbon bank. For decades, trail organizations have worked with agencies and land trusts to preserve lands that help mitigate the impacts of climate change. For example, the Appalachian Trail comprises 300,000 acres of lands managed by federal and state government agencies and more than 1 million acres of privately conserved lands. Trail organizations have significant land acquisition goals that would enhance and preserve climate and wildlife corridors while completing the National Trails System and expanding access to public lands for Americans.

Economic recovery: National Trails are destinations for tens of millions of people annually, attracting overnight tourists and day-visitors to local businesses, hotels and restaurants in cities and trail adjacent towns. Several trail organizations have created partnerships with communities to augment social and economic benefits of trails such as the North Country Trail Town and the Ice Age Trail Community programs. Notably, 88% of the 200 rural, small business owners participating in the Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community program reported growth in business in the last five years due to the Trail. The Oregon-California Trails Association recently developed a concept plan for building a hiking/biking trail to connect three National Historic Trails in the Kansas City Metro area while the Chesapeake Conservancy is working with urban parks departments to introduce new recreation and heritage tourism assets along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NST water trail. In addition to the great potential for expanding trail programs that promote recreational and heritage tourism and local business, the recent passing of the Great American Outdoors Act ensures funding for land acquisition and deferred maintenance projects, presenting great potential for the involvement of service corps to develop, enhance and preserve trails.

Equitable Access: Trails connect landscapes across the U.S., bringing the outdoors to over 200 million Americans living within an hour of a trail. While National Trails capture the stories of indigenous communities, Hispanic migrations and settlements and the civil rights movement, amongst others, many of these stories have yet to be interpreted. Further, great opportunity and interest exists for nonprofit trail organization and federal agency

partners to greatly expand efforts to include all of the voices affected by National Historic Trails and to make trails more accessible and welcoming to all Americans. Some examples of efforts underway or proposed include:

- The nonprofit that supports the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT, a trail that runs through nine states and major cities including Washington DC, Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, is pursuing creative local partnerships to identify the trail and increase pathways to connect low-income, diverse neighborhoods to the Trail's history and nearby natural areas.
- The Arizona Trail Association, U.S. Forest Service and several Native American tribes recently added tribal names of the local peaks on trailhead signs along the Arizona NST.
- The Florida Trail Association partners with many youth and affinity groups to maintain the Florida NST, including Outdoor Afro, Latinx, and Girls Who Hike Florida.
- The renowned Santa Fe NHT features multi-cultural and ethnically diverse interpretive programs at the Cimarron National Grasslands in Kansas.
- Selma To Montgomery NHT Superintendent Dr. Joy Kinard has proposed acquiring lands along the route to preserve historic campsites the marchers used.

COVID-19 relief: Following shutdowns, an unprecedented amount of people turned to National Trails as safe and affordable recreational spaces that provide needed physical and mental health benefits during a pandemic. Evidence of this enthusiasm for trails is reflected in visitor surveys across the country as well as by the fact that trailhead parking areas are often filled early in the day. As one example, Shenandoah National Park, which is traversed by the Appalachian NST, reported a 74% increase in October 2020 over October 2019! Public land managers and the outdoor recreation industry believe this trend will continue.

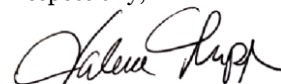
The most extensive trails system in the world, our NTS provides great ecological, social, economic and social value and presents significant potential for increasing U.S. climate resiliency, public health, equitable access to outdoor recreation and other benefits. Yet, the NTS remains incomplete and perennially suffers from underinvestment and understaffing, preventing the NTS from realizing its potential as a premier cultural and recreational asset.

Recommendations: PNTS recommends the following immediate actions by the Biden/Harris administration:

- Provide at least \$25 million annually from the Land & Water Conservation Fund to expand the NTS.
- Direct the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to survey all National Trails for deferred maintenance backlogs to be addressed through the Great American Outdoors Act Deferred Maintenance program.
- Direct agencies administering trails to prepare lists of potential National Historic Trails that represent America's indigenous populations and cultural diversity; recommendations should be inclusive of input garnered through diverse engagement with local and tribal communities.
- Ensure that the land management agencies, particularly those within the Department of Interior, review and streamline their land acquisition procedures.
- Increase NPS, FS and BLM staffing, including filling vacant positions, to ensure adequate personnel to manage land acquisition using the Land & Water Conservation Fund and to respond to climate-related natural disasters such as forest fires without reducing or borrowing resources for other agency functions.
- Require the NPS to assess the feasibility of and subsequently develop an action plan to make all 23 of the National Trails it administers units of the National Park System. the Ice Age, New England and North Country National Scenic Trails should be immediately given unit status by NPS.
- Support landscape level protection for the Appalachian NST and other National Scenic Trails to protect biodiversity, reduce carbon and better realize their potential as places that enhance climate resiliency.

Thank you for your consideration of these timely opportunities to protect and improve an invaluable American treasure, its National Trails System. Please direct questions or request for additional information to me at valerie@pnts.org or 202.963.2910.

Respectfully,



Valerie Rupp

Executive Director

[To Agenda](#)

Report to the Board of Directors

Membership Committee

February 8, 2021

The most recent report of national membership indicates a continuation of the disappointing downward trend that began in 1997. We have gone from a high of 2,665 memberships to our current level; a drop of over 50%. Despite the various initiatives to promote national membership, the number of new members has not offset the ongoing decline.

Accordingly, it is appropriate to reconsider the organization's policy of requiring national membership in order to join a chapter. Chapters need members in order to support their projects and events, and to hold leadership positions, but can only look to the declining pool of national members to fulfill this need. Although the chapters are part of the national organization, they also serve a function as local historical societies. As such they compete with groups whose members are interested primarily in local history and whose dues are not inflated by the cost of membership in a national organization.

One of the concerns expressed in opposition to a dues increase is that even a \$10 increase might cause a drop in membership as even that small an amount could be significant to those on limited incomes. Accepting that line of reasoning to reject a dues increase also supports a conclusion that the difference between \$10 and \$50 is enough to prevent someone on limited income who is only interested in a chapter from paying \$40 extra in order to do so.

Limited income or interest in national events also precludes some individuals from traveling to conventions, while still interested in participating in local groups and events near their homes. It is relevant to note that attendance at OCTA's national conventions is typically in the range of 300 individuals. The roughly 1200 "memberships" includes many spouses. Accordingly, the percentage of members who attend is even smaller than 25%.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

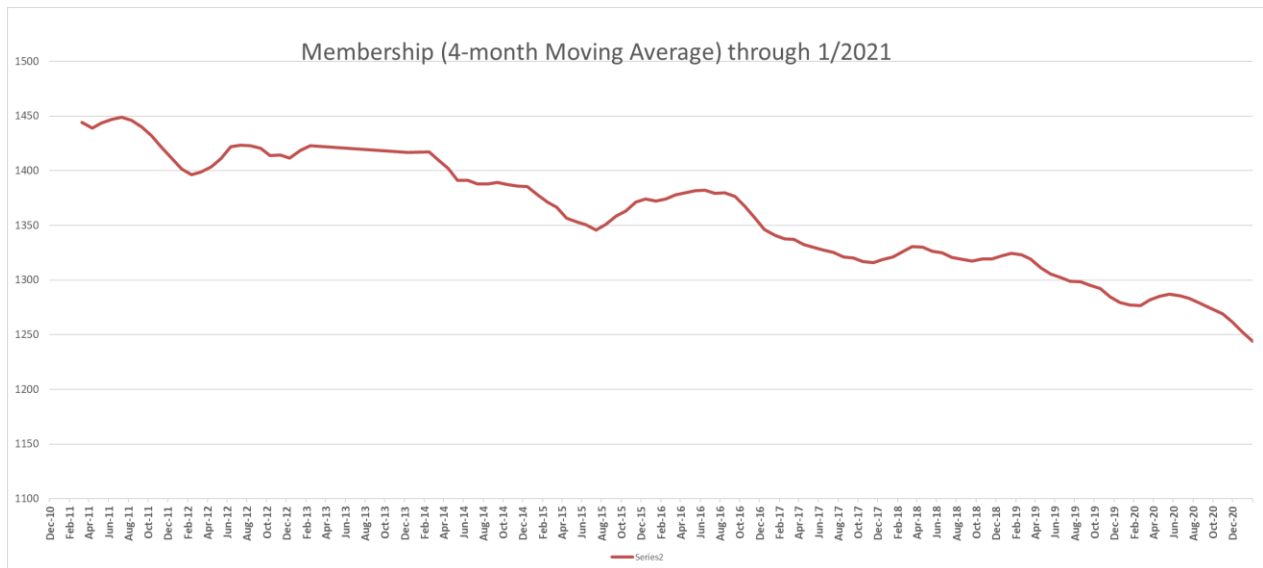
I move: THAT Paragraph 2, Article XIV - Chapters
be changed from "Only a dues paying member of the
association in good standing shall be eligible to belong
to a chapter" to:

"Chapter members that are not members of the national
organization in good standing would not be entitled to
the national membership benefits nor to hold chapter
offices.

Motion by: Duane A. Iles

Date: February 27, 2021

Seconded by: Marvin W. Burke



[To Agenda](#)

Report to the Board of Directors

Tribal Liaison Committee

February 27, 2021

The Tribal Liaison Committee was created at the Mid-Year Board Meeting in 2013. At this time, Otis Halfmoon of the NPS was making a serious effort to involve the Tribal Nations along the trail to become more involved in telling the story and preserving sites. Listening sessions were held in many regions including Lawrence, KS, Rancherias of California, and Fort Hall, Idaho. Members of OCTA attended these sessions. Following a very successful session at Fort Hall, OCTA created this committee to ensure an active effort to relate with the American Indian.

Goals included trying to get Indian participation with OCTA. One goal was to create series of articles in our publications about the Indian experience during the trail activity told by them about their experience. When Otis left, the effort was never replicated by the NPS. At this time it is not likely for a national OCTA committee to have any success. Perhaps at some point the NPS will give it greater attention. Chapter level events have had some success, therefore, I encourage this chapter level effort to continue.

There are some great benefits from these activities:

1. Telling the complete trail history. What we do now is derived primarily from European American journals. It is incomplete without the stories of the American Indians told by them. Since they did not create written records, only they could tell the story.
2. Creation of programs via Zoom or some such medium could be extremely successful. The programs created by Camille Bradford, president of the Colorado/Cherokee Trail Chapter held a series of programs over the past year that many linked in on. This provided one of the only efforts to connect with our membership. This could be an excellent way to present Indian programs of stories, sites, culture, etc.
3. Encourage a Tribal member to write articles for our publications.
4. Many more.

In conclusion, I feel the committee deserves a chair that is in a position to facilitate some of these actions. Without the American Indian side of the story, what we tell of the trail experience is incomplete.

In ending, I am tendering my resignation herewith as chairman of the Tribal Liaison Committee. I sincerely hope a suitable replacement will rapidly be found.

Duane A. Iles

Chairman

[To Agenda](#)

To: OCTA Board of Directors

Subject: 2021 OCTA 2021 **Convention**

Based on current information, the planning team for the OCTA 2021 Convention slated for Sept 13-16, 2021 in Elko NV is still on track.

All speakers have confirmed their intent to be present. Major bus tours are on track. Private vehicle tours along the California Trail from Burley Idaho to Wells NV (Paul Dinwiddie and Don Wind, IOCTA) and the Roger Gash tour of the Secret Pass area are on track.

Food vendors were contacted in November. At that time all things were on track. Duane Jones the Food Chair will be re-contacting them in the near future

The venue at the Elko Convention Center and the local hotels have been confirmed.

The BLM is waiting for further guidance from NV Governor before making final commitments about gatherings at the Trail Center. We do not anticipate that this will be a problem.

Immediate next actions include initial contacts with those hosting activity stations and finalizing the information for the Registration Booklet. Current plans are to send that out in late April but this could be adjusted if needed.

A copy of the "landing Page" with Convention details is attached. It is also on the OCTA website. A list of speakers is also attached.

For further information, contact Helen Hankins, Convention Chairperson



39th Annual Oregon-California Trails Convention
Elko, NV * September 12 – 16, 2021

“Through the Lens of History – Preserving the Past – Focusing on the Future”

KEY DATES

Saturday, September 11	<u>Pre-Convention Tours</u> “California Trail Highlights” (Burley ID to Elko NV – 2 days) “Lamoille Canyon Photography, Geology and Natural History Tour” Greenhorn Cutoff Hike with Dick Waugh
Sunday, September 12	<u>OCTA National Board Meeting</u> – California Trail Interpretive Center Welcome Reception – California Trail Interpretive Center
Monday, September 13	Welcome and Opening Session Speakers
Tuesday – September 14	<u>Bus Tours</u> - Fort Ruby and Ruby Valley - Guns and Ruts - Long Canyon Mine Project - Gravelly Ford <u>Private Vehicle Tour</u> “The Humboldt is North of Us...So Let’s Go South” “Ancient Pronghorn Antelope Van Tour” (ONLY on Tuesday)
Wednesday, September 15	Speakers Activity Stations at Convention Center
Thursday, September 16	Repeat of Tuesday tours

Private vehicle tours

- "The Humboldt River is north of us...so let's go south" – led by Roger Gash
- "California Trail Highlights – City of Rocks to Goose Creek" – led by Paul Dinwiddie (2 day tour)
- "Ancient Pronghorn Antelope Tour"

Make Your Room Reservations Now for the Best Value!

- High Desert Inn - \$59 - 775.738.8425
- Gold Country Inn - \$69 - 775.738.8421
- Red Lion Hotel & Casino - \$79 - 775.738. 2111

OCTA DISCOUNT NAME - OCTA Oregon California Trail Convention 2020

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. James Armstead, Keynote Speaker	"The Socio-Political Origins of the Western Migration"
Dr. Sue Fawn Chung, Keynote Speaker	"The Chinese Railroad Workers on the Central"

NEW ATTRACTIONS AT 2021 CONVENTION

Fort Ruby, Ruby Valley, Nevada



In Ruby Valley, just east of Overland Pass, are the remains of Fort Ruby. The Fort (1862-9) was built by the U.S. Army in the "wilderness of eastern Nevada." to protect the overland mail coaches, Pony Express and emigrant trail. Excavated jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after 2002, the site now boasts about ½ mile of interpretive trail with eleven interpretive panels and a reconstructed spring house.

The Williams Family Gun Museum, Blacksmith Shop and Gunsmith Shop

More than 1200 firearms – many that were guns that were used to settle the American West – make up the extraordinary collection of Jeff Williams and his family. The museum boasts examples of almost every type of fire arm from the Revolutionary War to the present. There are many other historical artifacts in the museum in addition to the amazing array of weapons. Immediately adjacent to the gun museum, Jeff has constructed a period-correct 19th century blacksmith shop, with an antique trip hammer, and gunsmith shop.



California Trail Days at the California Trail Interpretive Center



During Trail Days on Saturday September 19, 2020, you can refresh your recollections or learn the stories of the pioneers who endured the 2,000-mile trek to California.

Between 1841 and 1869 over 250,000 people sold their belongings, packed up wagons and set out over-land for California.

Some were seeking land. Others were searching for gold. Still others sought adventure. Some went for reasons we may never know.

Enjoy Native American programs, visit with fur trappers and watch black powder demonstrations. Our young visitors will enjoy Jr. Ranger activities throughout the camp. California Trail Days is a pioneer reenactment event for the whole family.



Lamoille Canyon Tour



Learn about the natural history, geology, and tips on photography in the beautiful Ruby Mountains located southeast of Elko, NV. Regionally known photographer and geologist Susan Elliott and naturalist Larry Hyslop will lead a never-to-be-forgotten bus tour of the Canyon with stops for a short nature walk and photography. The glaciated and geologically varied “Rubies” are a true treasure in Northern Nevada’s desert environment.

Ancient Pronghorn (Antelope) Trap Tour

Native Americans were experts when it came to knowing the habits of wild game and how to best hunt, track and trap them. Some animals such as pronghorn were successfully taken during communal hunts where herds of animals were driven into corrals measuring as much as half a mile in diameter. The walls of the corrals were typically made of juniper limbs and trunks. Elko County has among the largest number of existing aboriginal pronghorn traps in the western United States. Evidence suggests that communal hunting in our area began as early as 3500 to 5000 years ago. The tour will be to one of the best preserved traps in northeast Nevada.

OCTA 2021 Convention - September 13-16, 2021

Proposed Speaker Schedule – May 8, 2020

Day/Time	Speaker	Title
MONDAY Sept. 13, 2021		
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Reader's Theater	OCTA 2020 Planning Team
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Lee Black	Opening Session
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 11:45	Dr. James Armstead, Keynote Speaker	"The Socio-Political Origins of the Western Migration"
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch	
12:45 – 1:15	Leah Brady	"The First Encounter"
1:15 – 2:15	Norm Cavanaugh	"Shoshone Sites – Northeastern Nevada"
2:15 – 2:25	Break	
2:25 – 3:15	Panel – Long Canyon	John Winner, BLM? NV Gold Mine?
3:15 – 3:30	Break	
3:30 – 4:00	Louann Speulda-Drews and Chimalis Kuehn	"Fort Ruby at the Crossroads"
4:00 – 4:45	Pat Fletcher	"Cherokees travel T.H. Jefferson's Valley of the Fountains in 1849 and 1850"
WEDNESDAY Sept. 15, 2021		
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Dr. Chung	"The Chinese Railroad Workers on the Centra
9:00 – 9:45	Andrew Beckman	"The Studebaker Wagon: Hoosier Made, World Famed"
9:45 – 10:00	Break	
10:00 – 10:45	Dr. Sarah Keyes	"Sarah Winnemucca's Temporary Grave on the California Trail"
10:45 – 11:30	Frank Tortorich	"The Mormons on the California Trail"
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
12:30 – 1:15	Peter Meyerhof	"The Hastings – Semple Overland Party of 1845, and the Genesis of the Hastings Cut-off"
1:15 – 2:15	Dave Vixie and Students	"Dave Vixie Teaching Students on the Trail"
2:15 – 2:30	Break	
2:30 – 5:00	Activity Stations	

[To Agenda](#)

To: OCTA Board

Fr: Bill Hill, Chair

Ref: **Mid-Year Publications Committee Report** – February '21

As we all know getting back to normal may take a little longer this year than hoped for. However, the job that our editors, Bob and Jay, have done with our publications makes it seem like a normal year, and I commend them for doing so. Both are now into their second year and things are running smoothly. Both editors appreciate feedback on their respective publication – the good, the bad, & any related suggestions, as do I. We want to be sure we are doing the best in showcasing OCTA to our members and the public.

Budgetary - Our present year expenditures appear to be typical, on schedule and within our budget. We are looking for new advertisers and any suggestions will be looked into. (See also OJ report.)

News From The Plains –Jay reports that he is happy (and so am I) to report that he has received a number of complimentary “atta-boys” and other nice comments about the NFTP. He also noted that sometimes there are some “stragglers” in sending in reports, but usually not too many to cause any major problems.

Please take note of this, and if a chair foresees a possible problem, let Jay know before the deadline.

Overland Journal – Bob’s mid-year report:

Overland Journal. Report of the editor, January 2021

Overland Journal editing and publishing remains on schedule, and the next year is in good shape. By the time this report is presented to the board, three new issues will have arrived since the August 2020 board meeting: Summer, Fall, and Winter 2020.

The Spring 2021 issue is in final development and will include a promotional piece on our Elko convention, as well as new articles announced in the “Notes from the Trail” column on the inside front cover of the Winter 2020 issue.

All credit to designer Ariane Smith for the outstanding appearance of the issues. In addition, Ariane proofreads each issue when initially typesetting, saving your editor from numerous embarrassments.

A detailed schedule of production and distribution has been developed for 2021 and has been shared with headquarters.

I will be contacting businesses in Elko regarding possible advertising in the Spring and Summer issues.

We currently have fourteen completed in hand, including those in the forthcoming Spring issue. This backlog will carry us through 2021 and into 2022. A number of additional articles are either in review, revision, or development.

Several members of our editorial board have been of considerable help to me in the past few months. Their work is much appreciated.

With respect and in service,

Bob Clark

Circulating/Showcasing the OJ – At the present time, while some of the parks are beginning to open, most of the visitor centers' stores or shops in the parks and museums are not yet open, nor are the public libraries. Much still depends on the virus situation. Hopefully they will open by the summer, and if they do, we will again contact them offering copies of the OJ. One of the Nebraska libraries that we previously sponsored a free subscription decided to carry it.

On account of the virus and cancellations, last year there was no Western Writers of America convention and, therefore, we were not able to have our OCTA display. Presently the convention is tentatively scheduled for June. We are pursuing this and hope to make similar arrangements to allow us to push membership, display the *OJ*, and show/sell some of our publications at its convention in Loveland, CO, June 16-19.

As of the writing of this report, headquarters has not yet received the **WSUP sales report** from Washington State University Press covering the period July 1, 2020-Dec. 31, 2020. We hope to receive its report by the time of the meeting, but it may not come until March.

Our next yearly project will be the **Merrill Mattes Award**. Work on that will start later this spring and be completed by mid-year.

Other related Publications & Education items:

***OCTA is in need of a person to take over the primary responsibility for the promotion and selection of the Education awards and to assist with the raffle and calendar contest. Please contact HQ if you are interested in assisting.**

As of the writing of this report, headquarters has not received any entries for the **activity book raffle**. The deadline was just passed, but time is allowed for the lateness of the mail. An update will be available at the meeting.

The deadline for submissions for the **elementary student calendar**, "Emigrant and Indian Foods" is April 15th. A review of the submissions will begin by the end of April, with selections and layout done in May. Notifications of the students whose artwork was selected and their schools will be made by June, and production during July so it will be available for our members and the students by the start of school and our convention in September. There is still some

time left before the deadline to encourage your school's participation if it hasn't been done already. Specific information is on the website.

Topics/themes for future calendars are requested. Please contact Headquarters or Bill Hill.

Applications and nominations for the **Outstanding Educator Awards** are due March 31, 2021. Information can be found on the website.

I again wish to thank the members of the Publication Committee, the Advisory Board, and the Editors for their cooperation and work in producing our publications, and, for making my job easier!

[To Agenda](#)



CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Chapter Report Feb. 2021

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 active membership has remained stable with 290 memberships, and our financial standing is good.

With the Covid-19 concerns continuing, we had to cancel our Spring Symposium and also the National OCTA Convention scheduled last year. The National Convention is currently being rescheduled for September 13-16 in Elko. All the speakers we had contracted with last year have agreed to reschedule for this year, and we have several tours and workshops planned that will allow social distancing with masks. However, our Spring Symposium will be postponed again until April of 2022, as we don't believe it will be safe this April.

On September 26, Jon & Janet Nowlin organized the Annual Fernley Swales clean-up. A group of CA/NV members, plus some locals and a group known as the Desert Pigs came to help. We plan to hold our annual Spring Survey this year June 10-13 at the Fernley Swales and hope to metal detect and confirm a newly discovered trail variant to the Truckee River. We are also planning to hold several trail trips that take advantage of open space for distancing and also provide interest and experience on the ruts and swales coming to California. Fun times for members.

After the national convention, Roger and Karen Gash will lead a fun campout-trip on the Hastings Cutoff, and we are planning a Nobles Trail and some other trips, dates and places to be announced.

Peace and Happy Trails,
Ken Johnston
CA/NV OCTA President
Phone 541-883-7671

The Oregon-California Trail Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization EIN #84-0962140

CA-NV OCTA Chapter - Post Office Box 1521 – Yreka, California 96097 – Email:
canvocta@gmail.com

MEMORANDUM

To: OCTA Board of Directors

From: Camille Bradford

Date: February 8, 2021

Re: Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter report

We began a series of chapter events on Zoom in the Fall and have been pleased with the level of participation and interest. We are particularly pleased to have a means of holding events in which OCTA members and friends from throughout the country can participate.

We have two upcoming Zoom events scheduled as of today: Lee Black's "Fireside Chat" on February 20 and a presentation by members of the Zane Grey's West Society on March 20 and will be announcing further events in the near future.

Bruce Watson and the Mapping Committee continue to be active in their projects. Bruce was recently invited to give a presentation on the Cherokee Trail to the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners. His article, "In Pursuit of Colorado Trails," appeared in the January 2021 issue of that group's newsletter.

We hope to be able to resume outdoor events in the summer.

Utah Crossroads Chapter 2020 Report

Feb. 8, 2021

We embarked on a series of 5 Tours following the Hastings Cutoff from Echo Canyon to Skull Valley, Utah. (In 2021 we will offer two more tours on the Hastings. One across Skull Valley to the Greyback Mountains on the edge of the Salt Flats and another from the Greybacks to Donner Spring.) Connie Bauer, our chapter Vice President, planned and conducted the tours. She got many historians and experts to give reports along the way. We completed three of the planned tours.

June 27, 2020.

Our first tour went from Henefer, Utah to Echo Town where the docent gave us a tour of the Echo Church. We then went east up Echo Canyon to Castle Dale, stopping at a dozen sites along the way. We turned back west and stopped at the I-80 rest stop for lunch and various reports on the Utah War, the Pony Express and so on. We ended in Coleville, Utah. Thirty-two people joined us on that tour.

On **August 22, 2020** We met at the Weber River upper crossing and headed toward Salt Lake City through East Canyon, to Mormon Flat, up Big Mountain to Little Dell Reservoir. The road through Emigration Canyon was under construction so we took I-80 into Salt Lake to Donner Hill, where an Emigration Canyon historian gave a great report on that area. From there we followed the trail through neighborhoods to the First Encampment Park at 1700 South and 500 East. We toured the park and an original pioneer home once owned by Wilford W. Woodruff. We had about 40 people on this tour.

On **October 10, 2020** we met at the Jordan River Crossing in Salt Lake City and proceeded to Salt Aire, and Lakepoint, Utah. We followed the Hastings Trail through Tooele to Grantsville where we toured the Donner Museum. Then we traveled to Tempie Point, on the east side, walked along the trail locating iron wagon wheel rust marks on rocks. There were hundreds of the marks. We then continued on to Tempie Point, Big Spring, and Isopea stopping at various points of interest along the way. There were 36 people on this tour.

There was so much interest in that tour that we repeated it two weeks later. On that tour we had a guided tour through Benson Mill, a large pioneer-era grist mill. There were 32 people on this tour.

We participated in the Utah State History Day in March where we awarded \$300.00 to students whose projects addressed the Rails and Trails Themes.

Gar Elison and Terry Welch donated hundreds of research files the Utah State History Archives. A grant allowed the Archives Department to hire an archivist who spent a month cataloging the files. When the Archives opens again they will be available for library research. We removed the Jedediah Smith Marker along I-80 and had it re-planted near Salt Aire on the south east shore of the Great Salt Lake.

While we were preparing for the third tour, we went to Lakepoint, Utah and found the swale site under construction. We were alarmed. We contacted the land developer and are in the process of planning to preserve this great treasure. The landowner is excited about preserving the swales too. Because of COVID, we did not hold any face-to-face meetings.

Current Officers:

Steven J. Allison, President; Terry Welch, Past President; Connie Bauer, Vice President; Drew Wanosik, Treasurer

Submitted – Steven Allison – Crossroads President

Gateway Chapter Annual Report to the OCTA Board of Directors
February 4, 2021

Gateway had just planned an aggressive year about a week before the shut-downs began. Our board was cautious and preferred to not hold indoor meetings. Therefore, 2020 was disappointing. We did continue on. Following are the activities for the year.

February-March: Three Gateway members took part in the Pony Express Museum's annual Tuesday Night Talks. This year the event will be virtual and again 3 OCTA member presentations from the past will be shown. It can be accessed on the Pony Express National Museum's website under events and Tuesday Night Talks.

July: Gateway held an in person meeting at Wyeth Hill Park with a program on Pottawatomie Removal presented by Mary Conrad.

August: Gateway was a co-sponsor with the St. Joseph Museums of a panel discussion about the history and future of the Iowa Tribe. Panelists were Lance Foster and Greg Olson.

The September program co-sponsored with the Remington Nature Center was moved to June 2021.

November: The annual membership meeting was held via Zoom.

A major project scheduled for the summer of 2020 with the Robidoux Row Museum was moved to 2021. This project included the design and creation of a western movement exhibit. Members did not feel comfortable working in close proximity for the construction.

Our members are older and rely on bus tours or carpools when we go out on the trail. Social distancing made this difficult. In addition, there are some of those who attend in person, who are not able to navigate the Zoom aspect and a couple of our board members are not on the internet.

Looking forward to a more active and successful 2021.

Jackie Lewin
Gateway Chapter President

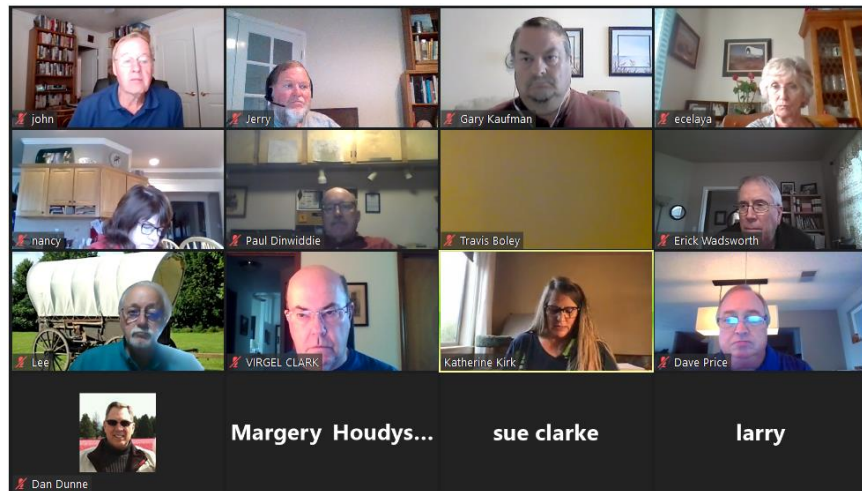
Idaho Chapter Report

Spring 2021

By Jerry Eichhorst

The Idaho chapter continues to remain dormant in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our primary activity has been to produce a great chapter newsletter.

Twenty people attended the fall chapter meeting which was a digital Zoom meeting held on October 10. After a brief business meeting, we shuffled some of the chapter leadership positions due to John Briggs being absconded by National to be the OCTA Vice-President and President in waiting.



Travis Boley, OCTA Manager, and OCTA President, Lee Black, gave short talks about the state of the national organization. We were then treated to an excellent presentation by Katherine Kirk, Executive Director of the Idaho Heritage Trust (IHT), about the many projects around the state that IHT has been involved with preserving. The Idaho chapter partnered with IHT to start the preservation process of the Canyon Creek stage station.

A hastily organized small group went to the Fort Boise site in mid-October which ended up being the only chapter outing of the year.

We are starting projects to install directional and interpretive signs for Lane's Grave on the Lander Road in eastern Idaho, and at the location of Fort Boise in western Idaho. The Ada County sign plan which we are working with NPS on was basically dormant for the past year due to COVID-19.

The spring chapter meeting is scheduled to be on Saturday, May 8, starting at 10 am. I suspect that it will be another Zoom meeting as I do not think that COVID-19 herd immunity will have taken effect by then. COVID has already caused the cancellation of the annual Boise Community Education classes and likely will cause the cancellation of all in-person activities until summer or later. We will be back out on the trails when it is safe to do so.

Report to the Board of Directors

KANZA Chapter

February 27, 2021

This has been a lost year for KANZA Chapter. Due to the concerns of the pandemic, basically all chapter projects, events, and meetings were cancelled. Arleta has kept up all the great newsletters she produces with a little help from contributors.

We are looking forward to emerging safely from the viral invasion. We have ordered a fresh supply of carsonite markers so we can replace missing markers and perhaps find new sites to locate them. As part of this project, we hope to do a driving tour in the spring to see the sites in our primary areas of focus. Hopefully we can bring some new members into the organization in the process.

We are hoping to celebrate National Trails Day this year. We had planned to host an event at Alcove Spring last year, but like all else, it had to be cancelled. We hope to share the day at the park with other trail organizations. Being at the beautiful, historic park we should be able to host a safe event where “social distancing” can be easily maintained.

We hope to have a great new year.

Duane A. Iles

President

KANZA Chapter

NORTHWEST OCTA

Semi-Annual Report 2020-21

We had our Fall Leadership Meeting on 10-24-2020 by Zoom. Discussions were held about Spring 2021 outings and how they could be conducted to be safe against the COVID virus. Dick Waugh mentioned that his chapter members had been able to hold several outings by observing the mask and distancing rules by traveling in separate vehicles and planning carefully. Our Vice President, Rich Herman will be planning a trip to the Umatilla Bombing Range and Wells Spring in March or April. Other members are planning an outing to Emigrant Springs after the snow is gone. We do have hope that we will be able to be more active this next year.

Gail Carbiener applied for a matching grant from the Oregon Community Fund for \$1200 to purchase 10 more T Rails to mark areas along the trail in Eastern and Northern Oregon. His application was accepted, and he has also contacted the person who engraved the plates for us for this year's markers. The person is willing to do more plates for us. I talked with our new Western Regional Representative, Isobel Lingenfelter, just this week. And we are pleased to have someone young in this position. We will miss Sharon Brown and her help that she has given to us.

We are also pleased to announce that the Chapter now has 233 members. Chuck Hornbuckle (Membership Chair) has been sending letters to people from our area who have joined OCTA but not a chapter.

Several of our members assisted in a project about the history of the emigrants' travel along the Columbia River. Our members agreed to read the project's document for accuracy. The Columbia River Story is now accessible through the National Park Service. Its title is "Overlanders in the Columbia Gorge 1840-1870; a Narrative history." You can reach it on line <https://www.nps.gov/oreg/learn/historyculture/research.htm>. We are sending this out to our membership.

There is a new project in the works through NPS that will gather information about the first winter and year of the overlanders in Oregon and Washington territory. Researchers will be investigating reactions and activities of Overlanders upon arrival ...and how and where they dispersed to settle after reaching the Willamette Valley in the years 1841-1869. I am sure that NPS will keep us informed about this project.

Sallie Riehl, Chapter President

Southern Trails Chapter (STC) 2020/21 Mid-Year Report: September 2020 to February 2021

Hello,

The Southern Trails Chapter was busy this last year until the start of the Pandemic, but continuing to do what we can and more. The first part of the report is from the last few months of 2020 and the second is for 2021 to now. This is from our report to *News from the Plains*, and meeting minutes. All meeting minutes are available on request from STC Secretary Sue Loucks.

September to December 2020

The Southern Trails Chapter (STC) has been busy, even when not getting out in the field to explore, document and preserve. As of now, many conferences have been canceled of which STC would have had an information and membership table at, but we are looking forward to 2021 to get information to all. Unfortunately, we will NOT be having our annual Spring STC Membership meeting as decided in November. We did not have a STC officers meeting in December.

Our Facebook page has been extremely active with daily announcements on Today in History posts, by our Facebook Manager, Jan Iwashita. The Facebook link is at "Southern Trails Chapter of OCTA." Our webpage is also a good source of information, which can be found on the OCTA main website and at our website, <http://southern-trails.org/>.

The STC leadership has a monthly meeting the first week of each month and many emails in between to keep us abreast of activities and our sanity during the pandemic. Please feel free to contact us for any information which can be found at our website.

September was a good month with our STC Annual Report submitted to National. Our bank account is doing well, but still need more members to join so we can continue to print two issues of *Desert Tracks*. We also need people to contribute for our journal. Please contact Dan Judkins or Dr. Dave Miller (Editors) for articles to submit for our next issue later this fall in 2021 or later issues. As part of the licensing costs for this program we had to allocate funds for it. If you would like to contribute for this or a computer fund, also contact our Treasurer Melissa Shaw. This helps in not using membership funds so we can contribute to have more pages and two issues a year for *Desert Tracks*.

The Silver City, New Mexico "Army of the West" sign is complete and installed. We are still hoping for a dedication ceremony, that may occur this Spring. We are hoping to join with the Continental Divide Trail group's spring opening celebration in Silver City. This will be a "Real" dedication of the "Army of the West" sign. A photo of this was in the last *News from the Plains*. No dedication date is set, as of now. Cecilia Bell has been receiving positive comments from the community and tourists visiting and seeing the sign. It has our logo and hopefully will be a recruiting tool for memberships. We also discussed smaller signs where Kearney and Mormon Battalions intersect the Continental Divide Trail.

By the beginning of October, we started to look forward to more activities in the future. Our monthly conference call had special guests OCTA National President Lee Black and Preservation Chair John Winner. Our membership is about 125 and growing. One of the most important points is getting new members, and we continue to post on Facebook or tell friends to join OCTA and STC. We have received many positive comments for the stories and editorial skills.

Recently, STC Vice-President Cecilia Bell has made several presentations to local Silver City groups on the Silver City sign, OCTA and STC. Cecilia is also handling our Membership with emails, letters, phone calls and visits, if possible. STC voted to contribute to National OCTA for Kathy Conway's 30 years of service with a donation from our general fund. President Lee Black discussed the Annual Meeting and how we came out positive in budget due to the generous donations of the membership. Discussion on our Western Regional Representative (WRR) position that will soon be open and how STC will help in cost sharing for this. We also were informed of upcoming filming of stories in the STC and emigrant stories. Unfortunately, National BOD lost Cecilia Bell due to the maximum number of times on OCTA BOD, but she is now serving as Collections Committee manager for OCTA and also continuing as VP for STC.

John Winner, National Preservation Committee Chair discussed how STC does not have a Preservation Officer or two due to our area we cover. STC President Mark Howe will help on this but we ask our membership to help step in on this for local areas or states in the STC. In unfinished business, the Arizona Marker and the fence for it is still in the works for installation. This is the Arizona marker commemorating the establishment of the Arizona territorial government at this location. The fence is stored in the Prescott Valley and this needs to be coordinated with the landowner and the Navajo Group for installation.

By November's meeting, we found that field activities in November had Dan Judkins (*Desert Tracks* co-editor) report that he spent 12 ½ hours with Travis Boley and a videographer as they were filming places along the Southern Trails for a YouTube program on the trail(s). They worked at Picacho, Tucson Presidio, "A" Mountain (site of an original Native American site), Tubac, the Santa Cruz Valley and Yuma. They covered sites from the de Anza Expedition, the 49ers, and the Mormon Battalion.

We also decided that the Southern Trails will not have a Spring Symposium due to the pandemic, so we need to make plans for the next election by email. It was decided that Dan Judkins would help put together a short newsletter, with information on the election and asking for any nominations, and other requests to include short articles submitted by members. Any nominations would be sent to Sue Loucks. We would ask Travis to put it out in an eblast, with votes coming back to be tallied by Doug Hocking.

There was a brief discussion on the question of whether to have a dividing line in California, as to what OCTA Chapter to reference new members to join, especially in regard to the Butterfield Trail. Even a question as to whether there would be a separate chapter for Butterfield. Cecilia Bell agreed to help set up a conference call with representatives from CA-NV, STC and OCTA officials to discuss this. The Butterfield trail goes up to San Francisco, but CA-NV officials said they had never looked into this trail.

As for meetings in 2021, we hope to be back to in person meetings by the time National rolls around. We are checking dates for something in the Temecula, CA area in the fall or spring of 2022 for the STC Annual meeting. Also, the Santa Fe Trail Society 200-year celebration is in La Junta, Colorado this September 23-26, 2021. National OCTA is Elko, Nevada from September 13-16, 2021.

January and February 2021

Our first meeting of 2021 was pretty much the same as the last several months. Discussions on books for review and reading was brought up as we are working from home. In November, STC voted to contribute \$1000.00 to the cost of the WRR position but was tabled until January. This was again

brought up and passed. STC is happy to help contribute to the WRR position. We also had a Zoom practice session for our next February meeting to make sure the bugs are worked out. This would be helpful for upcoming STC Zoom presentations on the STC trails. In March we will be hosting STC members Dr. Harry Hewitt who will be speaking on the Boundary Commission and border of the U.S. and Mexico. Dan Judkins will round out the second half with the work he did on videography of sites in Arizona and what was discovered.

Other information was about the upcoming elections by email / mail and exploring the Butterfield Trail and STC support of this. *Desert Tracks* is being finalized by the editors and should be mailed out in February.

In our meeting for February, we met our new WRR, Isobel Lingenfelter. I had talked to her before and arranged for her to host the Zoom meeting and show us all it can offer. STC members introduced themselves and what we do and Isobel gave us a brief on her work, what she does and what she will help us with.

Cecilia Bell talked about the future dedication of the Silver City Army of the West Historical sign. Due to pandemic restrictions, there is still no date at this time for the dedication, but several groups are poised to attend: The Continental Divide group, Mormon Battalion, Army of the West, and Southern Trails chapter of OCTA.

Melissa Shaw reports that our checking account balance is \$8209.75 with no outstanding checks.

We will have a March Zoom presentation with Dan Judkins and Harry Hewitt as speakers. This will be on March 18 (Thursday) at 5 pm (Pacific), 6 pm (Mountain) and 7 pm (Central) and Isobel will facilitate the presentation. Presentation will be a total of 1 hour to include 25-minute presentations by each speaker with about 5-minute Q&A following each talk. There will be a short break with discussion on membership in Southern Trails chapter and OCTA. The discussion of benefits will highlight *Desert Tracks*, *News from the Plains*, and *Overland Journal*. The talks will be recorded to allow for future listening and membership forms will be available. We will make available our STC t-shirts as an incentive for joining our chapter. At the end, hopefully there will be time for additional announcement with a possible update by Bill Martin on progress of a Congressional Bill to add the Butterfield Trail to Historic Trails. Isobel (WRR) will issue a call for articles by May 15 for the next *Desert Tracks* issue. We plan on having a Zoom meeting in May with STC elections and a speaker. It will be scheduled for an hour but may go longer. Our new Western Regional Representative will be hosting this meeting.

We are looking at many different locations for the next Spring Symposium in 2022. Some suggestions are Temecula, CA and Alpine, Texas.

Mark Howe

Southern Trails Chapter President

TRAILS HEAD CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT -- February 2021

President: Lila Aamodt
Vice President: Jean Coupal-Smith
Secretary: Mary Conrad
Treasurer: Kelly Breen

Our membership totals about 82

It was a beautiful day when our chapter held an outdoor July picnic at Sapling Grove, a trail-related historical site featured with commentary by our **Ross Marshall** in OCTA's video gallery "This Day in History, May 12: John Bidwell, Sapling Grove, and the First Wagon Train to California." Ross talked about the site history; I shared a GLO map locating this site and talked about how such GLO maps were used to identify local trails on contemporary maps; and Mary Conrad shared remarks about current Kansas archeology activities.

In September we launched the trailshead.org website that has received compliments for its extensive chapter history gathered by **Ross Marshall** and for **Mary Conrad's** contribution of diary quotes that are specific for the area. Webmaster **Gina Sifers**, who designed the website and is a chapter member, walked us through use of the site during a presentation at our annual meeting in November. She received a chapter award for that work; Ross and Mary received awards for their contributions. In addition, we gave a Meritorious Achievement Award to **Jean Coupal-Smith** for her many years of personal leadership, and a Distinguished Partner Award to Trailside Center, where we were meeting, in recognition of their years of partnering with area trail groups to host meetings and for being a museum of displays about historic trails and community interests.

In recognition of **Kathy Conway's** 30 years of service at OCTA Headquarters in Independence, MO, Ross Marshall presented a special award provided by OCTA National. Many OCTA members had contributed cards and money. These were presented along with a tribute signed by **OCTA President Lee Black** and his wife. Kathy thanked everyone and said she was touched to be acknowledged for her OCTA work.

In the spirit of OCTA's new Strategic Plan, we honored 26 current chapter members who had been members for more than 20 years. Six of them were in attendance.

Trails Head Chapter is again sponsoring OCTA's calendar contest for first through fourth grade classes at the John Paul II school, though it will be virtual instead of in-person. The theme this year is "Wild Creatures Encountered by Indians & Emigrants."

I am periodically emailing *Notes* to our members about topics of interest. After a long series last summer on issues related to surveying and trail marking, I have begun a series to draw attention to Butterfield's Southern Overland Trail which is being considered for designation as a National Historic Trail. The southern routes were off my radar until the March 2018 Symposium at Gila Bend when we took a trip that touched the Southern Overland Trail. Hopefully these *Notes* will broaden members' horizons about trails to the west and encourage them to attend Symposia and Conventions.

Lila Aamodt

[To Agenda](#)

OCTA ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Archaeology Committee

Mary Conrad, Chair

Proposal:

To add an archaeological section to the OCTA website;

Such a web section would include articles about archaeology at trail sites and about archaeological trail methods. An abstract would introduce each article, so the viewer immediately would know the scope of the web article to be viewed.

Rationale:

Web development and maintenance means the expenditure of money, so a rationale certainly is needed for OCTA to pursue money that would cover this web cost.

Twenty-five or more years ago the OCTA Archaeology Committee was active for a few years. Committee members regularly heard from OCTA members that historic trail archaeology was nonexistent, which was and is far from the truth. In those days before the internet became such an everyday tool, Archaeology Committee members tried to eliminate misconceptions about trail archaeology by writing articles for *News from the Plains*. This did not solve the issue because an article might appear before this or that member had an interest. Now with a vibrant OCTA website, a continuously growing collection of archaeological trail articles could be available in one digital place and organized so that those interested in trail archaeology could access the articles when particular interests dictate perusal.

[To Agenda](#)

Website

BELLA MEDIA SERVICES, LLC

For OCTA Archaeological Segment Addition

OVERVIEW

Bella Media Services is pleased to submit this proposal for services to support OCTA in achieving its objectives to create a new Archaeological Segment addition to the octa-trails.org website. The archaeological segment of new pages will be linked as a new sub-menu item (TBD) under Preservation or Discover OCTA menus on octa-trails.org website. New extensive content on the current site will also increase octa-trails.org search engine optimization performance.

The Objective

Website Design and Development

- Design and develop a new segment of pages for octa-trails.org.
- See supporting documents attached regarding the requirements for the site sent by Mary Conrad. This section will serve as a summary of objectives and projections.
- The site will be constructed in segments with a focus to add archaeological information for Kansas and Missouri first.
- Section 1 - Archaeology at Trail sites: according to the requirements document we project substantial PDF documents and general information snippets to be added to numerous pages covering approximately 25 states with 10 major counties in each state and a projection of approximately 250 pages needed over the life of the project with room for expansion with the content provided. This site section will be categorized by states and then organized by counties in alphabetical order - each of these will list documents/articles from each perspective county. Our research found 7 main counties in Kansas and Missouri but there are many more.
- Section 2 - Historic Trail Archaeology: general Information provided will be added to the site with a projection of approximately 25 pages.
- Document Scanning and PDF file creation by the Bella Media team is required for this project.

OUR PROPOSAL

OCTA needs a new responsive website with specific objectives stated above. We are proposing to make these objectives efficiently and effectively. We will take every precaution to make sure the stated objectives and more is achieved with a reasonable cost and in a timely manner. The execution strategy, timeline, and pricing are discussed later in this proposal with detailed breakdown and clarity.

Rationale

We have experience and team to quickly achieve the outlined objectives within an economical budget with very short turnaround time.

Execution Strategy

Our execution strategy incorporates proven methodologies, extremely qualified personnel, and a highly responsive approach to managing deliverables. Following is a description of our project methods, including how the project will be developed, a proposed timeline of events, and reasons for why we suggest developing the project as described.

Timeline for Execution

As soon as the project is awarded, the objectives will be achieved in segments over the next 12-36 months and ongoing until OCTA is satisfied with the information on the site. The website content will be provided by Mary Conrad and other members that will help with the project. This is provided that the required content, including, photos and verbiage for the site will be supplied in a timely manner so that each segment can be completed efficiently and effectively.

Supplied Material

The required and agreed upon materials are to be supplied by Mary Conrad for this project. For Bella Media Services to meet project milestones, this material must be supplied on schedule. The material and information required include, but not limited to photos, verbiage, affiliation logos, certifications information, and other content that Mary Conrad expects on the website.

**We cannot be responsible for cost overruns caused by client's failure to deliver materials by agreed-upon due dates.*

PRICING

The following table details the pricing for delivery of the services outlined in this proposal.

One-time Setup Cost – Initial Discovery	Price
* Business Process discovery	Complimentary
Website Design and Development	
* Achieve stated objectives in this proposal and any minor updates mutually agreed upon by both parties.	
* Archaeology on Trail Sites Design & Build- Segment 1 (\$6,000 – one-time fee)	\$6,000.00
* Historical Trail Archaeology Design & Build Segment 2 (\$2,000 – one-time fee)	\$2,000.00
* Document Scanning/PDF's Creation (\$25 per hour with # of Documents TBD)	
* Total One-time Development Investment:	\$8,000.00
Payments can be split up in segments as content is ready with \$1,500 down upon awarding this project.	

Disclaimers: The prices listed in the preceding table are an estimate for the services discussed. This summary is not a warranty of final price. Estimates are subject to change if project specifications are changed or costs for outsourced services change before a contract is executed. Any work outside the scope of this proposal will require a new proposal for additional segments and pages to be developed.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Upon approval of this agreement Bella Media Services expects that the project will commence immediately or

mutually agreed upon start date. The complete discovery process will start as soon as payment is received.

By signing this proposal, you are agreeing that any communal information is confidential and will not be shared with any third parties without Bella Media Services permission.

Approvals:

Travis Boley, Association Manager

OCTA

Date

Gina Sifers, Owner

Bella Media Services, LLC

Date

CONCLUSION

We look forward to working with OCTA and supporting your efforts to develop a successful relationship and accomplish the business goals as set forth by the stakeholders in this proposal. We are confident that we can meet the challenges ahead and stand ready to partner with you in delivering effective solutions.

If you have questions about this proposal contact Gina Sifers. Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Sifers, President/CEO
816.456.7086

Email: gina@bellamediaservices.com

WEBSITE INFORMATION FOR 2021

Octa-journals.org and Octa-trails.org Website Updates and Hosting for 2021

- Update plug-ins and any other updates on the back-end of Wordpress on octa-trails.org - Quarterly (\$350 quarterly) \$1,050.00
- Update plugins and any other updates on the back-end of Wordpress for octa-journals.org (twice yearly) \$300.00
- Octa-trails.org yearly website hosting through Dreamhost.com - due May 2021: \$194.00
- SEO Program for octa-trails.org: \$75 mt./\$900 yearly

Total: \$,2500.00 yearly

- **Optional Program Offer in 2021**

Google My Business/Maps set-up for each Chapter: \$300 bundle rate per chapter set-up.

This program helps online searchers find local chapters information/websites through Google – it literally puts the chapters on the Map where over 90% of people go to search for everything online.



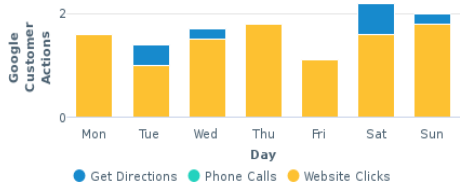
Oregon-California Trails Association

524 S Osage St.

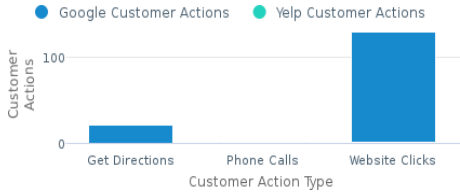
Nov 09, 2020-Jan 31, 2021

OCTA Report

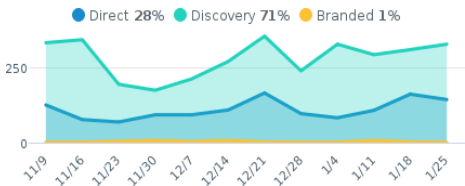
Average Google Customer Actions by Day of Week



Customer Actions

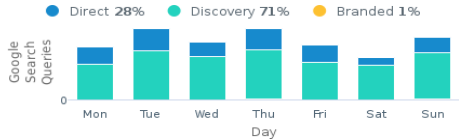


Google Search Queries

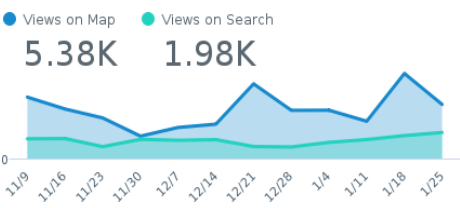


Google Search Queries by Weekday

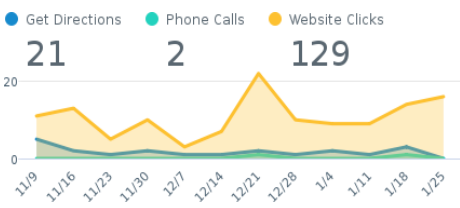
The number of search queries that lead to Discovery result (list of locations) and the number of search queries that resulted in a Direct result (a single location) broken down by day of the week. In organic search a Discovery result displays as a Local Pack and a Direct result displays as a Knowledge Card.



Google Views on Search and Maps

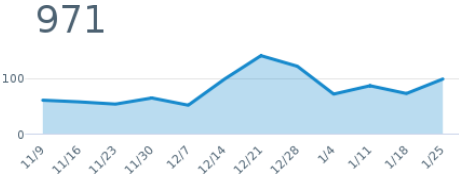


Google Customer Actions



Listing Profile Views

The number of times consumers viewed your full listings profile on any of our network sites. Does not include Google, Bing, or Yelp.

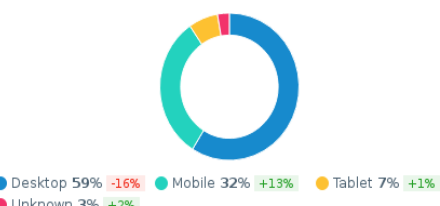


Listing Searches

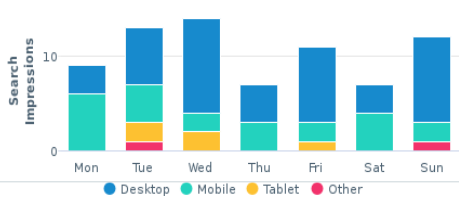
The number of times your listing appeared in search results on our network sites. Does not include searches on Google, Bing, Yelp or Facebook.



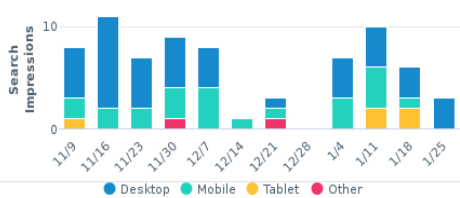
Listings Device Usage



Listings Device Usage by Weekday



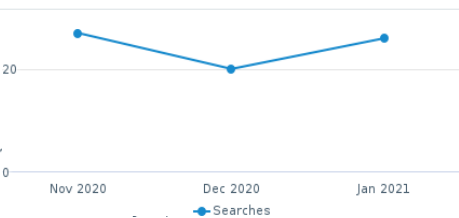
Listings Device Usage Over Time



Listings Overview

Metrics	Current	Δ Prev Period
Entities	1	+0%
Total Listings Live	68	-5.56%
Listings Updated	0	-100%
Duplicates Suppressed	1	n/a
Publisher Suggestions	0	-100%

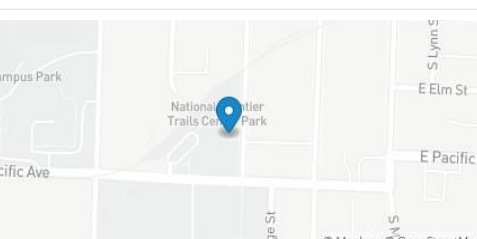
Searches by Month



Location Listings Overview

Location	Current	Δ Prev Period
Listings Impressions	1,077	+4.4%
Google Search Views	1,077	+4.4%
Google Map Views	1,077	+4.4%
Bing Search Impressions	1,077	+4.4%
Facebook Page Impressions	1,077	+4.4%
Network Search Impressions	1,077	+4.4%
Total	60,106	+4.4%
Listings Clicks	1,077	+4.4%
Desktop CTA Clicks	1,077	+4.4%
Click Directions	1,077	+4.4%
Phone Call Clicks	1,077	+4.4%
Clicks to Website	1,077	+4.4%
Featured Message Clicks	1,077	+4.4%
Profile Views	1,077	+4.4%
Total	1,077	+4.4%

Location Map



PURCHASE ORDER

Thank you for your business! If you have any questions contact
Bella Media Services, LLC

gina@bellamediaservices.com
Phone 816.456.7086

DATE: 02/20/21
FOR: octa-journals.org
ADA Compliance

TO:
Travis Boley -- OCTA
524 South Osage St
Independence, MO 64051

DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT	
Octa-journals.org ADA compliance site updates include:			
Audit the website for ADA compliance and figure out the changes required			
Modify the website contents wherever required. Some of the modifications are listed below.			
- Adding text instead of image for verbiage			
- Adding alt tag descriptions to all the graphics used on pages.			
- Changing the color of the text and links if required.			
- Adding labels to form fields.			
- Option to increase the text size of verbiage and many more aspects that will be found on further discovery.			
- Test the website for ADA compliance after modifications.			
Hours to complete the work: Approximately 40 to 50 hours			
(50% discount on OCTA services)		ONE-TIME TOTAL	\$ 850.00 850.00

[To Agenda](#)

Oregon-California Trails Association

Memorandum

Mapping & Marking Committee

January 31, 2021

To: OCTA Board

From: Dave Welch

Subject: Report of the Mapping and Marking Committee (MMC)

The mapping and marking committee currently has about 60 members. See chapter reports for summaries of chapter mapping and marking activities not reported herein. Thanks to all members for their continued work to locate, mark and document the trails.

1. Preservation and Mapping Training

NPS funds to support mapping and preservation training originally planned for June 2020, then September 2020, have been carried over to 2021. John Winner is the point of contact for OCTA. See his preservation officer report for additional details.

2. Trail Marking

Chapters are encouraged to review the status of previously placed markers and replace, as necessary. Many markers have been in place twenty years or more. Contact Randy Brown (randybrown_20@yahoo.com) to obtain markers and labels.

3. Living Trail

Recently, *Smithsonian Magazine* published an article entitled "*Nine Places Where You Can Still See Wheel Tracks From the Oregon Trail.*" I have asked members to expand this list to include sites from the California and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails, as well as sites along the Southern Route to California, Cherokee Trail, and other western emigration trails of the 19th century.

Clearly, there are more than nine places on the Oregon Trail where it is visible, and many others if the four trails rather than just the ONHT are considered. It occurred to me that this project would be a good "COVID times" exercise. If information is sent to me, I will collate it into a database for use by all. We want to keep it simple and have fun. The basic information to be included is:

- Trail Name (Oregon, California, etc.)
- Sub-trail Name (Barlow, Applegate, etc.)
- Site Name (if appropriate)
- State

- Location (township, range and section preferred, but street or highway references also okay. There might be multiple entries for longer visible segments)
- Property Ownership (Private, US Government Agency, Other Public)
- Trail Class (Should be Class 1 [near pristine, not traveled by vehicles] or Class 2 [two track road overlays original trail]).
- Descriptive Material (brief and optional)
- Pictures (optional, limit to three each segment)
- Submitter:
- Date:

The project is called "Living Trail." Please send a separate email for each site or segment with the above information. I hope this provides a little entertainment during our continuing house arrest, but it will also provide an up-to-date database of important trail locations.

4. OCTA Mapping Archive

Over the years a digital archive of trail mapping materials has been compiled by the mapping and marking committee. An index has been prepared of the almost 50,000 files in the archive. The index itself is 1,600 pages and is a searchable PDF file. Most files are organized by state. Included are trail location data on scanned maps and in GPS-related formats such as TNP projects and GPX data. Queries can be directed to Dave Welch at welchdj@comcast.net.

5. Mapping Zoom Meetings

Several chapters have been holding Zoom meetings to discuss trail history, mapping and marking. These have been very productive. If you plan to hold a meeting, please let me know so I can extend the invitation to others. welchdj@comcast.net

6. Chapter Mapping Activities

Obviously, field work has been restricted for the last ~~six~~ twelve (and counting) months, but some projects have proceeded.

From Dee Owen (California/Nevada Chapter):

I just finished geo referencing the Truckee Trail from the Graydon (1994) book. I've made shapefiles, kml files, and gpx files for the route track, notes on the maps, and the Trails West Markers. I also made geopdf files for the trail at 1:37,000 that can be used in Avenza. I've also been working on geo-referencing Don Buck's Carson and California Trail maps, but other projects (like the Truckee) pop up and the California Trail gets put aside. I plan to put the Truckee work on the Chapter Google Drive. Don Buck has Truckee maps, but he wants to work on them before he shares them.

From David Fullerton (California/Nevada Chapter)

My most interesting mapping in 2020 involved what I call the Egan's Cutoff. This is a relatively obscure trail pioneered in 1853 by Howard Egan during a cattle drive from Salt Lake City to California. Howard Egan reached Humboldt Wells at the beginning of June when the bottomland was still so wet that the standard California Trail from modern Wells to Gravelly Ford would have been very difficult. Instead, Egan led his group south of the Humboldt River along the base of the Humboldt Range. The trail ran some 40 miles to Lamoille Creek just as it emerged from Lamoille Canyon. From there the trail descended 15 miles southeast to the South Fork Humboldt River, passing over the Hastings Cutoff. Then the trail continued ESE across Dixie Flats and over the Pinon Range. It jogged northwest into Ferdleford Creek and continued down that canyon into Pine Valley. It then jogged north for a few miles and then turned west over the Cortez Mountains, passed down Safford Creek and through Rocky Canyon, and finally reached Gravelly Ford where it joined the southside California Trail. The entire bypass is approximately 100 miles long.

The earliest account of this route is given by Cornelia Ferris, who accompanied Egan on his original trip (she named it Egan's Cutoff). However, the road was also used extensively in 1859 and 1862 and we have several outstanding diaries from these years -- Isiah Bryant 1853, J R Bradway 1853, Bill Zilhart 1853, Albert Wakefield 1862, and Daniel Bushnell 1862. There are other diaries as well. I was originally just interested in understanding the general route of the cutoff. But as I analyzed these diaries, I became aware that they were detailed enough that I could trace the trail with great accuracy. My next step was to analyze these diaries collectively in concert with topo maps and the aerial photos in Google Earth. I was able to find a logical route and approximately 30 miles of prospective Class 1 and Class 2 trail roughly where the diaries predicted they would be. I then began hiking and biking these trails (some of them are pristine Class 1 trails and more are very old Class 2 trails) and am now convinced that I have found the route from Lamoille Creek to Gravelly Ford. Unfortunately, other than the first few miles of the road from Wells, I cannot find any traces of trail through Lamoille Creek. Obviously, it wasn't that simple -- I marked possible trails that weren't trails and had to redraw my maps quite a few times -- but fundamentally that was the process.

Many diarists of 1862 mention a massacre that occurred in Safford Canyon on approximately August 22, 1862. Indeed, some of the diarists participated in burying about 12 bodies. From the detailed descriptions in the diaries, I believe I can locate the massacre and burial site within perhaps 200 yards. I had arranged with John Grebencamper to investigate the site last fall, but we could not start the search due to the pandemic. We hope to initiate the search in 2021.

Finally, I should add that I believe that the portion of Egans Cutoff from Pine Valley through Gravelly Ford was also part of the route taken by Chorpening's Overland Mail during 1859. This was the short-lived precursor to the Central Overland Trail and the Pony Express. It was in this section that I found some of the most beautiful Class 1 trail. This would make sense if the trail was improved in order to carry stagecoaches. Thus, I believe that Horace Greeley passed this way on his stagecoach ride to California in 1859.

I hope to write all this up in time for the Elko Convention this year, though I find that conducting research is much easier for me than to writing up that research. This is a storied trail that deserves much more attention than it has received in the past.

[To Agenda](#)

Graves and Sites

Feb. 3, 2021

Randy Brown

One grave will be marked as soon as weather allows. This is the grave of Mormon emigrant Ann Smith Palmer. A native of Worcestershire, England, she died in 1855. Her grave is in the Fort Laramie cemetery.

ANN SMITH PALMER

Ann Smith was born in Cheltenham, England, on April 22, 1824, to Elisha and Mary (Bishop) Smith. Ann was the fourth-born of ten children in the family. Nothing is known of her early life, but on May 24, 1844, age twenty, she married Thomas Palmer, a 24-year-old native of Windsor, Berkshire. The marriage probably took place in Cheltenham near where the couple settled down for a time, with Thomas working as a farmer. They seemed to have moved often, however, for it is recorded that their only child Eliza Ann was born in or near Exeter on April 10, 1845.

On April 29, 1848, both Thomas and Ann were baptized and confirmed as members of the LDS church by Ann's brother, Elder Thomas Smith. They were then living in Leamington Priors, Worcestershire. They are found there in the 1851 census where Thomas is listed as a "Rail Lab," a railroad laborer. Thomas is said to be head of the household, and living with them and described as "lodgers" are an older couple and child, and a single young man. The two men are also said to be railroad laborers.

In 1855, Thomas took out a loan from the LDS Perpetual Emigrating Fund for \$218 to help finance the family's emigration to the United States. They sailed from Liverpool on January 17, 1855, aboard the ship *Charles Buck* with 403 other English and Danish converts under Elder Richard Ballantyne. They reached New Orleans on March 14 and from there traveled via riverboat to St. Louis and then on to Atchison. From there they moved out to the newly established outfitting camp "Mormon Grove," five miles from town to prepare for the overland journey. The ensuing wagon train left Mormon Grove on July 2. The company consisted of 402 persons and 46 wagons. They were known as the "P. E. Fund Company" and were led by Capt. Ballantyne. The wagons and stock were owned by the P. E. F. Company, not by the individual emigrant families, who were considered "passengers."

They reached Fort Laramie on August 16 where bands of the Cheyenne tribe had gathered to receive their treaty annuities. With the Sioux being hostile due to the Grattan Massacre of the previous year, the company members were nervous seeing hundreds of Indians pass by on their way to the fort. The company went on about 2 miles west of the fort where Ballantyne ordered "all the spare men who were not driving and had Gun[s] to take them and walk before the Camp." After stopping, all the armed men stood guard around the wagons with guns loaded. Ballantyne recorded what happened next: "Josiah Knowlden, was standing Beside Bro Palmer's Waggon But I would here Remark that at Se[le]ing the Indians he half Cock'd his Gun, but afterwards Trying to Put down the Hammer his thumb being Wet at the time the Hammer Slip'd and the Gun Went off shooting Sister Palmer in the knee" Emigrant Charles Bailey later wrote:

This Caused A Great Excitement both with our People And with the Indians they[got] on their horses and Prepared for Battle in a Moment but when they got to understand what was the Matter they Came in to Camp And Seemed to feel verey Sorry At the Accedent & the Poor woman was taken back to Lareme And She Suffered terrible they Cut her leg off[above the knee] but they had to Cut above again And again And She finealey died this Caused a Sad feeling in the Company as She was a beautiful Singer And the life of the Camp

The company went on the next day. Thomas stayed behind at the fort while the army surgeon tried to save Ann's life, but she died a few days later. After burying Ann in the fort's cemetery, he went on to Salt Lake with another Mormon company. Thomas Palmer settled in Enterprise, Utah, remarried several times and had eighteen more children. He died in 1900.

Oregon-California Trails Association

P. O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519

2020

This is a part of your American heritage. Honor it. Protect it. Preserve it for your children.

[To Agenda](#)

MEMORANDUM

To: OCTA Board

From: Camille Bradford

Date: February 8, 2021

Re: Hall of Fame Committee Report

Cc: Roger Blair, Robert Clark, Glenn Harrison, Bill Martin, David Welch

The committee has voted to induct the following new members in 2021:

- George Bush (1779-1863): Trail pioneer who led party of emigrants from Missouri to the Pacific Northwest in 1844. Bush, an African-American, chose to settle north of the Columbia River, where black exclusion laws were not enforced and established the Bush Prairie settlement in what is now Tumwater, Washington.
- LeRoy Hafen (1893-1985) and Ann Hafen (1893-1970): Historians, authors and editors. LeRoy was the Colorado State Historian for 30 years and later became a professor of History at Brigham Young University. The Hafens collaborated on numerous books, journal articles on the history of the West.
- Irene Dakin Paden (1888-1974): Author of *The Wake of the Prairie Schooner* and two other books on trail history, written after many summers of travel during the 1930s and 1940s following the 19th century emigrant trails that led to California.
- Levi Scott (1797-1890): Trail pioneer who emigrated from Iowa to the Oregon Country in 1844. In 1846 Scott joined the group with Jesse Applegate seeking a southern alternative to the westernmost segment of the Oregon Trail. Scott later became a prominent political figure in Oregon.
- Robert Stuart (1785-1848): Fur trader. Member of the party from John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company that first crossed South Pass in Wyoming on a journey from Astoria, Oregon to St. Louis in 1812. His detailed account of the journey was presented to Astor and President James Madison.

The inductees will be announced for the first time at the 2021 convention. In the interim, the committee requests that no announcement appear in *News from the Plains* until after the convention. The biographies of the inductees will appear in the Fall issue of *Overland Journal*.

[To Agenda](#)

Nominations and Leadership Committee

The committee has been actively engaged in securing qualified and interested candidates for three positions on the Board of Directors, as well as for candidates for OCTA Officers. The recently adopted Strategic Plan initiative requires persons in positions who possess the vision and ability to function at a high level to strengthen and grow the Oregon-California Trails Association. Additionally, the effort has been made to include persons from as many different chapters as possible.

The three candidates for Board of Directors are: (three positions available)

Helen Hankins (seeking re-election) from California-Nevada Chapter,

Jerry Mogg from Gateway Chapter,

Mark Howe from Southern Trails Chapter.

The candidate's biographies and photos will appear in the Spring issue of News From The Plains. A mail-in ballot will be printed there. Ballots must be postmarked by June 15, 2021.

The committee is also pleased to announce the following candidates who have agreed to be nominated to the following OCTA offices:

President: John Briggs from Idaho Chapter

Vice President: Steve Allison from Utah Crossroads Chapter

Secretary: Sandra Wiechert from Trails Head Chapter

Treasurer: Marvin Burke from Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter

Immediate Past President: Lee Black from Southern Trails Chapter

The election of officers will be made by the Board of Directors following the Annual Membership in September 2021.

Respectfully submitted: Duane Iles, Cecilia Bell, and Pat Traffas (Chair)

[To Agenda](#)

BOARD COMMITTEES A, B, C

COMMITTEE A REPORT TO BOARD of DIRECTORS

HQ staff is experienced and manages the business of the Association in a fine and efficient manner.

Continued efforts to restrict COVID-19 are still in place as the pandemic is not over yet. We must all remain diligent in our efforts to keep our staff and members safe.

At this time nothing has been scheduled for Head Quarters.

I believe periodic visits from a couple of our local members continue to help keep the recycling done, this has been an ongoing help to keep the office in order.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jean Coupal-Smith

Chairman Committee A

Jan 2021

Committee B

Report to the Board of Directors

February 1st, 2021.

Committee B oversees Governance, Finance, Grants, and Long-Range Planning for the Oregon California Trails Association. Committee members are John Briggs, Matt Mallinson, and Chuck Milliken.

The Committee was not convened. The only action was to follow up on 'Reconciliation of Board Report and IRS filing' for FYE September 30th, 2019, received August 17th, 2020.

- a. The Board is required to sign off on the IRS 990 filing each year. This document reports the financial position, revenues, and expenses of the Association to the IRS but reports numbers very differently from those in the Treasurers Report to the Board. It would be beneficial to have a reconciliation of these two reports so that the Board can sign off on the IRS report with confidence.
- b. For example, the Board Report uses Net figures for the Convention and Symposium whereas the 990 Form uses gross figures (i.e., Income and Expenses are reported separately). The Form 990 also includes Investment Income and Expense. Reporting Net Figures makes the report easier to understand but understates total Revenue and total Costs. Example for the year ending 9 30 2019, the most recent one to have been filed.

- i. Total Revenue per form 990, part VIII is \$455,110. Revenue less Expenses was -\$21,584.
- ii. Operating Revenues as reported to the Board for FYE 9 30 2019 were \$281,235 and Operating expenses \$322,541. Additional Revenue (distribution) from Endowment Funds was \$31,790. Revenue less Expenses was -\$9,516.
- iii. If we adjust the Board Report Revenue to enter Gross Revenue from Conventions, Symposiums, and the Store, enter the Investment income (corrected to GAAP standards), life memberships and contributions we reach an adjusted Gross Revenue of \$417,521 leaving a difference of \$37,229 still to be reconciled. Five items remain to be examined.
- iv. Expenses are still to be reconciled.
- c. I do not expect there to be any misreporting merely a difference in the way things are accounted. This is continuing work.

John Briggs
Chairman

[To Agenda](#)

MEMORANDUM

To: OCTA Board

From: Camille Bradford

Date: February 8, 2021

Re: **Governance Committee report**

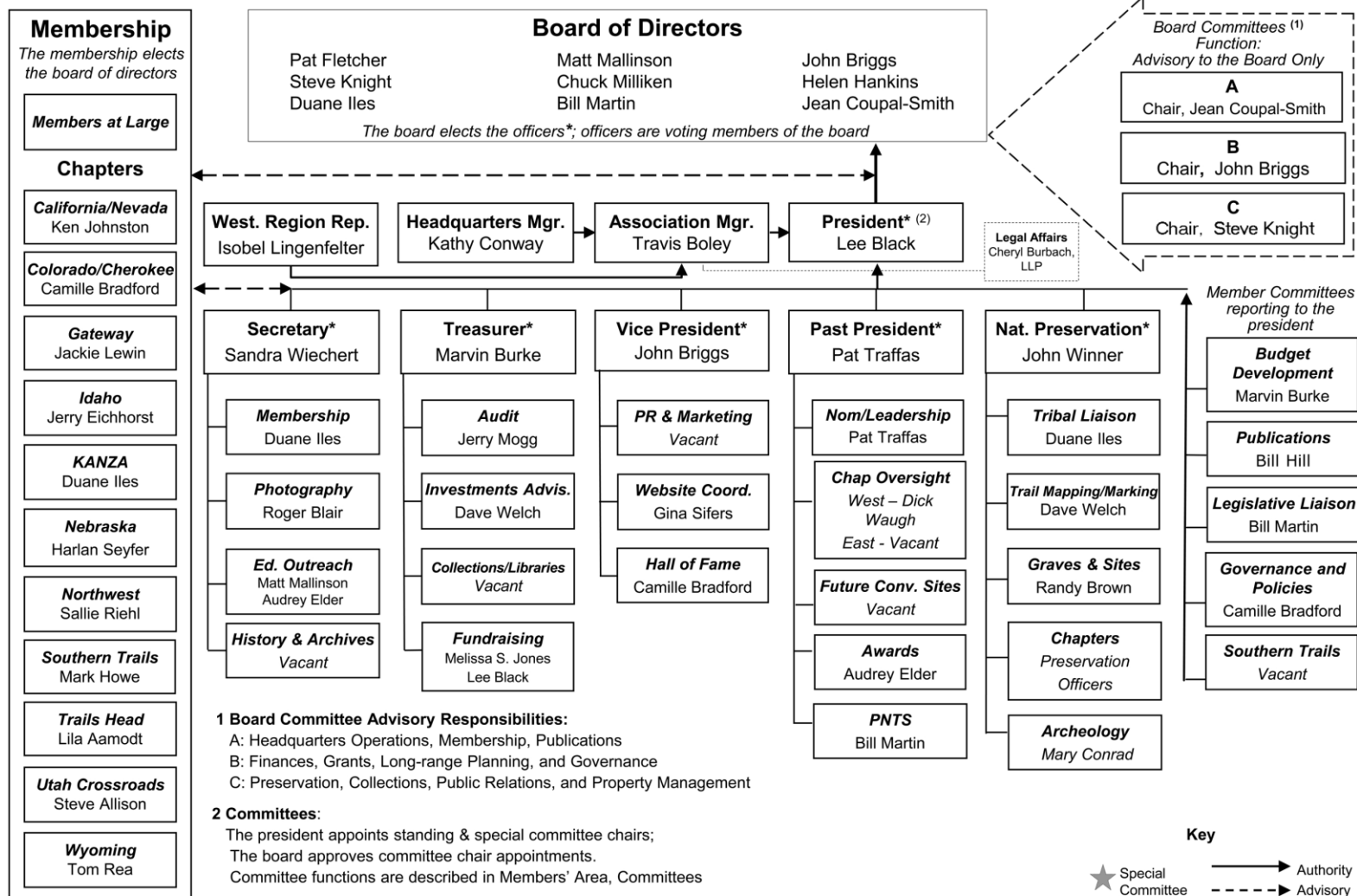
Since the September board meeting I have continued to work with Lee and Duane to provide input and advice on various issues of organization governance as they arise.

[To Agenda](#)



OCTA Organization

02-18-2021



NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to reformat the Strategic Plan.

To: OCTA Board

From: John Briggs

Date: February 1st, 2021

Subject: Proposal to reformat the Strategic plan

This is a proposal **only** to reformat the Strategic Plan. The objectives and content would not be changed. In essence the modification is to move from a portrait to a landscape layout. Several advantages result.

1. Progress and Comments can be more easily and more fully inserted in an expanded column enabling more comprehensive review. This is particularly important where actions are required from multiple entities.
2. It also allows for the incorporation of a 'traffic lights' column showing progress or lack of progress at a glance.
3. Landscape orientation is better suited to computer screens and to the reading of such documents electronically. It can still be printed on 10 by 8 paper, though the orientation will be different.
4. The landscape orientation also allows the goals and objectives to be laid out initially in a horizontal format meeting the Board objective of keeping them all of equal priority.

(Only goals 1 and 4 illustrated in the OCTA Strategic Plan below)

Oregon-California Trails Association

Strategic Plan

2020-2025



Adopted September 18, 2020

P.O. Box 1019 Independence, MO 64051-0519

Oregon-California Trails Association

Strategic Plan

Introduction

OCTA's strategic plan describes its future direction. The OCTA mission, vision, and goals for future achievement provide the foundation for a strategy of specific objectives and actions to be implemented. These actions are considered critical, and therefore of the highest priority, for realizing the OCTA mission.

This strategic plan is expected to have a five-year time frame and will be reviewed semi-annually at Board meetings to guide work plans and track accomplishments. Chapters are encouraged to review chapter goals and activities for compliance with the national association plan.

Vision

The Oregon-California Trails Association will continue to be the pre-eminent guardian and promoter of the inspirational story of America's 19th century westward migration, which is unique in world history.

Mission

Our mission is to protect the **historic emigrant trails** legacy by promoting public awareness of the trails through research, education and preservation activities; by achieving organizational sustainability; and by partnering with others.

Mission Goals

Six broad goals describe how OCTA will achieve its mission. Each goal is supported by objectives, implemental actions, responsible entities, and desired conditions or deliverables. These are presented in random order (not prioritized).

Goal 1. Preserve the historic emigrant trails

Goal 2. Present the stories of the emigrant experience in a manner that is inclusive of other perspectives

Goal 3. Be an effective historic trails organization through appropriate partnerships

Goal 4. Improve organizational effectiveness and sustainability

Goal 5. Keep OCTA's membership energized and informed

Goal 6. Promote membership growth





GOALS



Preserve the Historic Emigrant Trails	Present the Stories of the Emigrant Experience in a manner that is Inclusive of Other Perspectives	Be an Effective Historic Trails Organization through Appropriate Partnerships	Improve Organizational Effectiveness and Sustainability	Keep OCTA's Membership Energized and Informed	Promote Membership Growth
---------------------------------------	--	---	---	---	---------------------------

Objectives





Identify, class, map and mark historic emigrant trails	Improve and expand data collection	Leverage OCTA's resources through partnerships	Ensure financial stability	Develop new activities to maintain an engaged membership	Develop an outreach program that attracts the next generation
Assist stakeholders in the protection and preservation of trails resources	Raise Public Awareness	Partner with local and regional entities to provide and promote trails related heritage activities and tourism	Develop leadership abilities of OCTA members	Improve internal communications to maintain an informed, active membership	Increase OCTA's membership to grow funding and expand the volunteer base
Support expansion of OCTA related national historic trails within the National Trails system		Cooperate with educational entities and with others to participate in trails-related curriculum-based activities.	Simplify administrative handling of funds		Increase member retention
Anticipate, identify and respond to trail and trail marker threats					Assure that OCTA chapters are active and growing


Goal 1. Preserve the historic emigrant trails

Objective	Action	Lead*	Outcome/Deliverable	Status	Comments
A. Identify, class, map, and mark historic emigrant trails.	i. Provide appropriate training in preservation, mapping, marking, and monitoring and use of the MET Manual.	Preservation Committee Chair*, Mapping & Marking Committee Chair, Chapters	OCTA-wide training is provided with participation by each chapter.		Training planned in 2020 and in 2021 postponed because of Coronavirus COVID 19 concerns.
	ii. Establish chapter mapping teams.	Chapters*	Emigrant trails located in chapter regions are mapped to MET standards with primary emphasis on condition and location.		Mapping teams not established in some Chapters -
B. Assist stakeholders in the protection and preservation of trail resources.	i. Assist with monitoring trail resources and funding needs.	Preservation Committee Chair*, Chapters	OCTA members volunteer with monitoring projects as needed. Funds are available and/or applied to a trail resource threat.		OCTA is commonly a lead organization for most agencies
C. Support expansion of OCTA-related national historic trails within the National Trails System.	i. Advocate for congressional legislation to add the "Additional Routes" as NHTs.	Legislative Liaison*, Chapters	Congress authorizes the NPS recommended "Additional Routes" as NHTs.		In Process. NPS have forwarded their recommendations, reviewed by OCTA leadership, to Congress.

	ii. Advocate for congressional sponsorship of feasibility studies for a Southern Trails to California NHT.	Southern Trails Chapter*, Legislative Liaison	Congressional legislation is passed authorizing a Southern Trails to California NHT feasibility study by 2025.		In process
D. Anticipate, identify, and respond to trail and trail marker threats.	i. Establish preservation officers/contact in each chapter.	Chapters*	Each chapter has an active preservation officer by 2021.		CHAPTERS with Preservation officers : CANV, ID, WY, NW, Trails Head, Southern Trails, Crossroads,
	ii. Develop list of Chapter or OCTA members with appropriate abilities to work with education and preservation activities or groups (lead field trips.)	Education Outreach Committee Chair*, Chapters	OCTA members with appropriate abilities are encouraged to work with education and outreach partners.		
	iii. Compile online reading guides and summer reading lists for young people.	Education Outreach Committee Chair*	An online reading guide and summer reading list is compiled and posted on the OCTA website and published in the News From The Plains.		

Goal 4. Improve organizational effectiveness and sustainability

Objective	Action	Lead*	Outcome/Deliverable	Status	Comments
A. Ensure financial stability.	i. Hire a Director of Development.	Board*, Fund Raising Committee, Staff	Funding is secured and a director is hired before 2025.		Not for action in 2020
	ii. Conduct Major Gifts Campaign and increase Annual Giving.	Board*, Fund Raising Committee, Staff, Chapter Leadership, PR Committee, Membership Committee	Twenty five donors at \$1,000 and 40 donors at \$500 are secured annually before 2025.		Work is underway to identify Fundraising consultancy companies that can provide the services needed to facilitate this action and to develop a case to the Board for hiring such a company.
	iii. Conduct Capital Campaign.	Board*, Fund Raising Committee, Staff	\$300,000 is raised incrementally by 2025.		See 4.a.ii
	iv. Secure Corporate Memberships	Board*, Fund Raising, and PR Committees, Staff, Chapters	Twenty corporate members at \$1,200 year are secured by 2025.		See 4.a.ii
	v. Secure Grants for specific projects.	Board*, Fund Raising Committee, Staff	Funds are obtained as needed.		See 4.a.ii

	vi. Increase Trails Legacy Society membership	Board*, Fund Raising and PR Committees, Staff	Twenty new Trails Legacy Society members are added annually.		See 4.a.ii
	vii. Hold annual conventions that generate revenue.	Association Manager*, Chapters	Convention expenses are within budget and revenue-generating activities are promoted.		
B. Develop leadership abilities of OCTA members.	i. Provide training and orientation for officers, board members, and committees to develop leaders within OCTA.	President*, Staff , Governance Committee, Board	Members have guidance, support, and range of training opportunities available to them.		
C. Simplify administrative handling of funds.	i. Review processes and software programs available to address dues collection and distribution of funds.	Staff*, Chapters	There is better communication between members, Chapters and Headquarters.		

Bozeman National Historic Trail Project

February, 2021 Update

**Mike Penfold: Our Montana
Dave McKee and JoAnne Puckett: FPK/BTA**

Our committee continues to make good progress in conducting outreach and garnering support for the National Historic Trail Proposal. Here are some accomplishments for January.

We have updated our NHT webpage <https://www.fortphilkearny.com/bozeman-nht> with a “How Can I Help?” section which includes sample support letters, congressional mailing addresses and other helpful suggestions to support the project. Please check the webpage for updates.

We made a presentation to the Sheridan, Wy. County Historic Preservation Commission. They will be writing letters of support. Additional organizations and individuals have contacted us, voicing encouragement, and indicating their intention to write letters of support. We have been asked to produce a list of supporters.

We reached out to County Commissioners with a second mailing forwarded through the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WYCCA). We had a positive conference call with the WYCCA on our project. We touched base with congressional field representatives and governors’ staff with a progress report, and are reaching out to state and local travel and tourism offices, and to the Wyoming Petroleum and Mining Associations.

Our Montana has applied for a grant to develop a free tourist phone app to assist visitors to find important Bozeman Trail historic sites in both Wyoming and Montana. We believe this will help develop the Trail as a major destination for tourists.

Our email and contact lists continue to expand with individuals and groups that are excited about designating the Bozeman Trail as a National Historic Trail. We have been extremely pleased with the positive response we are receiving. We will be sending folks on this list our progress report. This report will be available on our website.

Nice articles on our project were published recently in the Montana and Wyoming newspapers:

Sheridan Press - https://www.thesheridanpress.com/news/local/preserving-history-wyoming-montana-residents-pursue-national-historic-designation-for-bozeman-trail/article_686d76b6-567d-11eb-8a4b-f35b9a953b7d.html

Billings Gazette - https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/groups-seek-historic-designation-for-bozeman-trail/article_3d23e727-0193-5344-b0a6-45bc40b52ea5.html

Bozeman Dailey Chronical – https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/groups-seek-national-historic-trail-designation-for-bozeman-trail/article_843990a0-6862-523c-9af4-8776af236fdc.html

Programs about the Bozeman Trail history have been developed posted on social media and Community 7 TV in Billings.

<https://comm7tv.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=788ec4a1-9f96-4a7e-8608-138f95013f51&nav=programs%2FOur%20Montana>

<https://comm7tv.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=af57df50-77e9-4f9d-a928-5c6ebfd1b23&nav=programs%2FOur%20Montana>

<https://comm7tv.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=9e358138-d09a-4d30-8687-e3ab2d0ffd4b&nav=programs%2FOur%20Montana>

Coming Up.

We are preparing a hard copy mailing with our project information to landowners of over 160 acres in Wyoming who have the historic trail route on, along or near their property. Sheridan and Johnson Counties' were mailed last week.

Our Montana and FPK/BTA will continue outreach efforts and are scheduled to make presentations to interested organizations in February.

Advisory Committee Member Mary Ellen McWilliams wrote an excellent article on the Life of John Bozeman for FPK/BTA's LOOKOUT and for Our Montana. Release date is March.

We have initiated contacts with tribal representatives and will look to continue dialogue on the project.

Mike will be presenting our project to the Beartooth RC&D on February 19th.

Dave will be submitting a short article to the Big Horn Historical Society for their newsletter.

Dave will be presenting a program on the NHT Project to the Wyoming Archaeological Society, via Zoom on March 4th.

We will be watching our project email for questions, comments, and requests for dialogue or meeting presentations. bozemannht@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest!

The Bozeman National Historic Trail Project Committee,
Dave McKee, Mike Penfold and JoAnne Puckett

[To Agenda](#)