

**AGENDA**  
**OCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Casper, WY**  
**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

<b>9:00 (AM) Call to order</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>ADOPT AGENDA</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>MINUTES APPROVAL – San Diego &amp; Special Mtgs</b>	<b>Jo Johnston</b>
<b>PRESIDENT’S REPORT</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>ASSOCIATION MANAGER’S REPORT</b>	<b>Travis Boley</b>
<b>HEADQUARTERS REPORT</b>	<b>Kathy Conway</b>
<b>WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>TREASURER’S REPORT</b>	<b>Jerry Mogg</b>
<b>INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Dave Welch</b>
<b>PRESERVATION</b>	<b>John Winner</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>Lee Black</b>
<b>MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>	<b>Travis Boley</b>
<b>WEBSITE(S)</b>	<b>Gina Sifers</b>
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>Michael J Smith</b>
<b>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</b>	<b>C. Wendler</b>
<b>PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS</b>	<b>Bill Martin</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>FUTURE CONVENTIONS</b>	<b>Travis Boley</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>Bill Hill</b>
<b>NEWS FROM THE PLAINS</b>	<b>Jay Lawrence</b>
<b>OVERLAND JOURNAL</b>	<b>Bob Clark</b>
<b>MAPPING/MARKING/ARCHIVE</b>	<b>Dave Welch</b>
<b>AWARDS</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>HALL OF FAME</b>	<b>Camille Bradford</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE, POLICIES</b>	<b>Camille Bradford</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Steve Allison</b>
<b>NOMINATION AND LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>Lee Black</b>
<b>CHAPTER REPORTS</b>	<b>Chapter Representatives</b>
<b>COMMITTEE A</b>	<b>Jean Coupal-Smith</b>
<b>COMMITTEE B</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>COMMITTEE C</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>MOTIONS</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<b>John Briggs</b>

## MINUTES

### Oregon-California Trails Association

#### Annual board Meeting, San Diego, California

January 27, 2022

**Officers present:** John Briggs, President; Steve Allison, Vice President; Lee Black, Past President; Jerry Mogg, Treasurer; John Winner\*, Preservation; Jo Johnston, Secretary **Absent:** None \*indicates attendance via Zoom

**Directors present:** Pat Fletcher\*, Helen Hankins, Mark Howe\*, Steve Knight\*, Bill Martin, Jean Coupal-Smith\*, Pat Traffas\* **Absent:** Chuck Milliken

**Staff present:** Travis Boley, Association Manager; Isobel Lingenfelter, Western Regional Representative\*; Charlie (Charlotte) Dodge, Intern; Robert Clark, *Overland Journal* Editor\*; Jay Lawrence, *New from the Plain* Editor\*; Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager\*

**Chapter Presidents:** Ken Johnston, California/Nevada; Camille Bradford, Colorado/Cherokee\*; Duane Iles, KANZA\*; Mark Howe, Southern Trails\*; Lila Aamodt, Trails Head; Steve Allison, Utah Crossroads; Tom Rea, Wyoming\* **Absent:** Jerry Eichhorst, Idaho; Jackie Lewin, Gateway; Sallie Riehl, Northwest

**Other representation:** Dave Welch, Investment Advisory committee\*, Mapping; Bill Hill, Publications\*; Aaron Mahr\*, Carole Wendler\*, Brian Deaton\* and Lee Kreutzer\* from National Park Service; Steve Brown and Kevin Marcus, Presenters

**Others attending in person:** Laura Anderson, Cecilia Bell, Phyllis Smith, Sandi Black

**Others attending via Zoom:** Dave Berger\*, Nancy Briggs\*, Brian Deaton\*, John Krizek\*, Turner Rivenbark\*, Marlene Smith-Baranzini\*, Gina Sifers\*

**Call to Order:** President John Briggs called the meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Hotel in Old Town San Diego, California. The secretary called the roll for attending officers, directors, and staff, including those attending via Zoom.

**Agenda:** Helen Hankins moved, and Pat Fletcher seconded that the Agenda be accepted as written. The motion passed.

- **Minutes:**

- Annual Board meeting of September 12, 2021.  
Pat Fletcher offered two corrections, re: Farmland Reserve: needed to be changed to Not-for-profit arm of LDS, that National Historic Trails needed to be capitalized. Bill Martin had two corrections under Partnership section, changing the word "theme" to "emphasis," and to delete one sentence beginning "But the Partnership...in the Obama administration." **Lee Black made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bill Martin seconded. Motioned passed.**
- Emergency Board Meeting minutes of November 15, 2021  
**Bill Martin moved to ratify the minutes as written. Helen Hankins seconded. Motion passed.**
- Special Board Meeting December 6, 2021.  
After a name spelling correction, **Pat Fletcher moved that the minutes be ratified. Jean Coupal-Smith seconded. Motion passed.**

- **President's Report:**

President John Briggs thanked members for their resilience during the difficult year, due to Covid. He reported that membership had grown by twenty-three, the financial position is strong, and the fundraising project is in process. He thanked Gail Carbiener, Isobel Lingenfelter, John Winner, and Chapter Preservation Officers for their work of protecting and preserving the trails. The Leadership Manual including By-Laws, Organization Chart and Tables, the Strategic Plan, and the Committees section have been updated and are on the website. The Endowment Funds stands strong, due to good decisions made by the Investment Advisory Committee.

Three committees need volunteers: Membership, Marketing/PR, and Future Convention Sites Committees.

The Elko Convention in September was a great success in spite of vaccination and masking requirements. We look forward to the Casper Convention. There were no questions or discussion from attending members.

- **Association Manager's Report:**

Travis Boley gave his report, which covered the following.

### **1) Fundraising**

OCTA has received approximately \$380,000, over the past four years, for various projects, events, and initiatives. Approximately \$272,000 came from numerous appeals; a \$7,000 South Dakota Humanities grant to create a PBS documentary about Doug Hansen and his wheelwright business that creates wagons and stagecoaches; \$2,275 Missouri Humanities Grant to create a short video about the Butterfield Overland through Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield; \$2,000 Truman Heartland Foundation Grant to cover music licensing for the Wilson's Creek piece; \$2,500 California Humanities Grant to create a PBS documentary about the trail through Death Valley; \$64,400 Partnership for the National Trails System and City of St. Joseph for interns; and \$27,000 (various projects, including the B2H project, websites, trail brochures, the Western Regional Representative, and others); \$15,000 donation from a new donor in Jackson, Wyoming. Grants: The Google Ads Grants program give us up to \$10,000/month to "spend" on free advertising. Intern Charlie Dodge is managing those ads. We have also applied for other grants, including: a \$50,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to fund a PBS series about the impact of the Oregon and California Trail migrations had on the Pawnee and Iowa tribes and a \$40,000 grant through the Oregon Community Foundation to create a documentary about African American Civil War soldiers who took the Oregon Trail to Oregon.

### **2) Marketing/PR**

--With our Google Ads Grant, we have created Google ads for membership, donations, preservation, *Paper Trail*, and the San Diego Symposium.

--We added a "This Day in History" post to our Facebook page, which has proven to be extremely popular, with up to 10,000 views.

--We've also created both an Instagram page and Twitter. Our Instagram page is now at 413 followers. Twitter is growing a bit more slowly with up to 71 followers.

--Our E-News goes out to 3,023 subscribers, consistently at about a 45% open rate, while *News from the Plains* is usually at about a 60% open rate.

--We a new YouTube Channel as of New Year's Day 2020. We currently have 404 subscribers. Once we hit 1,000 followers, we can start monetizing our channel, meaning that every time anyone visits our channel, we will receive a piece of the advertising revenue and, as a non-profit, we can use YouTube studios anywhere in the world for free to create and edit content.

--A grant from the Missouri Humanities Council with Steve Brown of Southwest Stories and Kevin Marcus with Knowledge Tree Films produced a piece at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield, Missouri, highlighting the Butterfield Overland that runs through the battlefield. An additional \$2,000 grant from the

Truman Heartland Foundation paid for the rights to use the music of Dana Mengel, composer of both “The Oregon Trail Suite” and the music for the PBS documentary about the Missouri by artist George Caleb Bingham.

--We won a grant from South Dakota Humanities to film wheelwright Doug Hansen and his operation making wagons and stagecoaches, which will soon air on PBS.

--We partnered with the Amargosa Conservancy to film a documentary about the trail through the Death Valley area, made possible via grant from the California Humanities Council.

3) The “Speaker’s Bureau” program in the KC is now rolling again. Travis recently spoke to a Rotary club, which led to an article in the local Independence paper and an invitation to speak to a local Kiwanis Club. He encourages people in other regions to line up speaking engagements, using resources at <https://octa-trails.org/speakers-bureau/>.

4) PBS: In February 2020, the board entered a partnership with a PBS program entitled

*Southwest Stories with Steve Brown*. Steve is from Twenty-Nine Palms, California, and partners with KVCR, the PBS station out of San Bernardino. Steve and KVCR plans to offer the show on historic trails of the Southwest across all of PBS in the US, with possibility of expanding into Roku channels in six foreign countries. OCTA will help guide him in site location, local experts, and potential funding sources. We have worked with Steve and Kevin Marcus at Knowledge Tree Films to create grant-funded short videos that may be used in the upcoming season to create wider exposure for us. Both Steve and Kevin were on hand at the board meeting to talk about these projects.

5) Travis extended thanks to our friends with the Mormon Battalion Association, the LDS Church, Farmland Reserve, and the Mormon Battalion Visitors Center for partnering with us to host the winter symposium in San Diego. Farmland Reserve has donated nearly \$5,000 to the Ogden convention, \$3,000 for the Elko Convention, and \$1,500 for the San Diego Symposium. They will likely donate to the Casper Convention.

6) The American Solar Challenge (ASC) following the Oregon Trail from Independence to Boise, scheduled in July 2020 was cancelled. We were partnering with the ASC, NPS, and the city of Independence. This is all now pushed back to 2022. As of now, the ASC will be held from July 9-16, 2022, starting in Independence, Missouri and concluding in Twin Falls, Idaho.

7) Membership Initiatives: We continue to partner with and benefit from other smaller trail groups, such as Butterfield, Mormon Pioneer, and Mormon Battalion, where there is some overlap of trails. New young members may be gained by developing road races in historic trail corridors. Our main growth has come through social media, Google Ads, YouTube Channel, and in media (newspapers and PBS).

8) Infrastructure Projects:

--Trails Corridor in Kansas City: The Mid America Regional Council completed a final draft of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails Concept Strategy Plan, which can serve as a model for other chapters. The bridge on Highway 24 in front of the Truman Library is complete and new Three Trails artwork was installed on the Independence Square over Labor Day. Independence also completed their project of building more recreational trail and a footbridge and trailhead at Mill Creek Park.

--Travis has been working with our Gateway Chapter on a playground project in St. Joseph. There is a Zoom call scheduled for February to see where things are now. It achieved 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. Another project in St. Joseph is the realignment of I-229 that will greatly impact the riverfront and important trail sites.

- **Websites**

Gina Sifers reported on the website. She proposes to do articles on the archeological segment on the website, to be broken into states and counties, starting with Jackson County in Missouri. Gina will do some research with help from

others, Mark Howe, and Travis Boley. Pat Fletcher suggested Arkansas be added. Journey of a Lifetime is supposed to help fund. Several members contributed suggestions of people/entities that may be of use. She also reported the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance on the Journals website should be completed by the second week of February. Travis said we are also in the process of migrating *Paper Trail* to a new server, hosted on Azure, free to non-profits, which will save us considerable money. Charlie Dodge gave a report on the demographics of website users. Gina said that every chapter should be on Google My Business maps. She would be willing to do a training session with the chapter presidents. Travis reminded everyone about the recently added “Event Form” submission page and the existing volunteer hours reporting tool on the website.

- **Future Convention/Symposia**

2022 - The Ramkota Hotel in Casper will host us for August 28 to September 3, 2022. Tom Rea is functioning as convention chair.

2023 - The Gering, Nebraska CVB has offered to host us. We will need a board motion to accept this offer. If the board accepts the offer, we will need help in putting it together, possibly from the CVBs, staff at the Monument, the staff at the Legacy of the Plains Museum, and the few members in that general area.

2024 - Roger Blair has been working on sites for 2024. He is investigated Walla Walla, Washington and a few sites in Oregon. Roger has a full report in this board packet.

2025 - Pat Fletcher suggested it be Fort Smith, Arkansas, the week of September 15.

- **Library Collections**

Travis has created a video about OCTA’s Independence Library.

It can view at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUBpch5TB2k&t=10s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUBpch5TB2k&t=10s). Michael Smith has a written report covering this.

- **Summary**

Our *News from the Plains* (NFP) editor has started a new column to introduce new members. We have had sustained membership growth for the past year and sustained financial growth for two years, which reflects our Google Ads, social media posts, and the launch of our YouTube Channel. Travis's report analyzed where new memberships are acquired: expanded online offerings, a combination of new initiatives, the in-person Elko convention, a few from our work in partnering with Mormon history groups and Butterfield enthusiasts. As an example, the Butterfield Overland bill was re-introduced to Congress this week. It has a sponsor in the Senate and a likely sponsor in the House. We also have the recommended trails from the 4-Trails Study Bill. Recommended for inclusion in the National historic Trails status are: the Cherokee, with a start in Fayetteville, Arkansas; Fancher Party who met their fate at Mountain Meadows in Utah; Southern Route from Ft. Smith to California. These still need Congressional sponsors. We are hopeful that the Arkansas delegation will lead the way in sponsoring all three of these bills. In addition to membership growth, we are financially well into the black.

- **Western Region Representative Report**

Isobel Lingenfelter gave a verbal report about streamlining processes for updating the OCTA website. E-news now takes less than five minutes. She has been updating the webpages, working with Gina on updating the user interface to make it easier. She is working with Gail Carbiener on B2H case. She expressed thanks to Gail and asked everyone send him a thank you for his hard work. She has been working with Crossroads chapter on Lake Point Historic Park. Now NPS can work with OCTA and local historians on the interpretation. Isobel is also working with Southern Trails chapter on their Third Thursday zoom calls.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Jerry Mogg submitted financial statements and reports, which show OCTA's finances to be in strong position. His report gave an update on recent financial changes.

- **Headquarters Report**

Kathy Conway submitted a concise report listing recent accomplishments. No questions or discussion.

- **Investment Advisory Committee**

Dave Welch's report shows value at year end 2021 was a bit over \$2,000,000, reflecting changes in the market. He had a meeting with Brighton-Jones. They recommended minor adjustments be made given the 80/20 mix. In answer to Tom Rea, Dave answered that Brighton Jones charges 0.5 percent, where most other charge in the range of 1%.

- **Preservation**

John Winner's detailed report is in the Board book. He listed several updates: He complimented Gail and Isobel on their cross-exam on the B2H project.

On the R-Project, attorney Eubanks & Associates filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act with Fish & Wildlife where OCTA is lead agency/plaintiff. Fish & Wild has granted the FOIA request and fee waiver. John recommended everyone read Mr. Eubanks words contained in his report in the board packet.

Regarding the Dixie and Caldor fires on the west coast, Cal-Fire and the state archeologist asked us to provide mapping info and Richard Silva sent files. On January 14, FEMA held a zoom meeting with the archeologist for Cal Fire, a GIS specialist, Richard Silva, and John Winner. They learned there is money available through Federal Emergency Act that may provide funding for damages.

Dave Welch suggested we should have a policy statement that encourages undergrounding of power lines.

At the conclusion of the successful mapping workshop in Elko a goal was set to try to do inventory in each chapter region. John had sent an email, including a spreadsheet, to all chapter presidents asking them to help. He received some info back and compliments Dave Welch for his. He ended his remarks by thanking everyone who helps him in his efforts at preservation.

- **Partnership for the National Trails System:**

Bill Martin gave the primary update the introduction of new Butterfield legislation in the senate, Senate bill 3519. Senator Boozeman's office said they plan to ask for a hearing on this bill ASAP.

He hopes to find a sponsor willing to carry the 4-Trails bill, which would expand the Oregon, California, and Mormon Pioneer Trails. This would add several thousand miles of protection to national trails.

A bill needs to be developed that would include a suggestion that another feasibility study be done on those trails that were disqualified because they fell outside the "period of significance," which for the Oregon Trail, ended in 1848. There is a need to find someone willing to introduce the bill. He asked that members try to contact local legislators who are on the committee. Bill has a fact sheet and documents that others can use when talking with their legislators. Bill will send it in an e-blast.

**Break for 10 minutes: 9:40 - 9:50**

- **Membership:**

John Briggs thanked Dave Welch for producing the graph included in his report showing the average over the last four months, which reveals a slight uptick. He said we need a membership committee chairperson. Pat Fletcher emphasized the importance of making some personal contact with new members to continue successful growth.

- **Future Conventions:**

Tom Rea gave a report on the Casper Convention, August 28 - September 2. They have lined up ten speakers, pre-convention trips on Sunday, keynote and other talks on Monday, bus tours Tuesday, more talks and activities on Wednesday, tours again on Thursday, and post-convention treks on Friday. The Ramkota in Casper has given us a good rate. An article will be in an upcoming issue of the *Overland Journal*.

- **Publications:**

Bill Hill said the "Meet Our Members" column has been a good addition to the *News from the Plains*. He reiterated the importance of personal contact between chapter representative and the new member is important. He is working with Randy Brown on compilation of additional graves and site signage for *Graves and Sites*. Bill is working with Bob Clark to find where the rights are held for Greg Franzwa's books. They hope to have something more concrete by next meeting. On the education publications, Bill suggested that someone in Casper area look for students to submit entries to calendar artwork. He will be working on the Merrill Mattis award next. Jay Lawrence would appreciate any articles, photos, stories from this convention that he can include in *News from the Plains*.

- **National Park Service:**

Aaron Mahr, Carol Wendler, Lee Kreutzer, and Brian Deaton all joined via Zoom. Aaron replied to Bill Martin's earlier report, that if OCTA does advocate for additional routes, it is important to develop a messaging system that looks at the results of the feasibility study that identifies those routes as being eligible. He recommends that any additional routes, not already included, be separate pieces of advocacy, not attached for the original. Bill said that is the approach we are taking. Later, Aaron announced that the NPS has a new director, Chuck Sams who is a member of the Umatilla Tribe.

Their office is completing a feasibility study on the Zebulon Pike route, which overlays many other national historic trails. Details can be seen on the NPS outreach page. Another trail they are in data-gathering stage is the Emancipation Trails that follows the trail taken by then recently released slaves between 1865-1880 from Galveston to Houston, which is about fifty-five miles long. They expect that by the end of February they will have public report. There will be two public meetings that anyone can join. He will share the information about links to join with OCTA as soon as he has it.

Carol Wendler will be working with Travis to establish next year's budget agreement. Any project ideas should be submitted to Travis so he can share them with NPS. She mentioned two small projects on which they are working. One is the one Isobel mentioned, the Lake Point site in Utah, where two people planning to visit the site in March. They are continuing to engage with youth working in office and contracting some out. Two interns are working now and another, who will be working with Black history, will be coming on board this summer.

Lee Kreutzer reported on external review projects. One is the viewshed on Greenbelt transmission line. It has been in the process for a long time. Some is on private land, so there is no federal money involved. Another is a transmission line by NextEra Energy project in east Kansas about a mile south of Alcove Springs. If it crosses the Big Blue River, it will require Army Corp of Engineers permit, which would be the federal nexus for NPS, by triggering section 106. The NPS is cooperating agency status on a geothermal exploration project outside Gerlach, Nevada on BLM ground near Black Rock Desert. For now, as a cooperator, the NPS can be included in the internal meetings. NPS is also a cooperator on Lava Ridge Wind project in southern Idaho a big energy project on BLM land. She listed several other projects that the NPS is involved in. They are keeping OCTA informed on their activities. Their office completed a contract in October with Historical Research Associates that prepared a study of emigrants' experience after their first year of arrival in Oregon. The study is with another contractor for compiling. When it is ready it will be posted on NHT website. Her report ended with info that an OCTA team, with some NPS support, did a field examination in the Blue Mountains in Oregon, which rekindled an interest in that segment of the Oregon Trail.

Brian Deaton is a GIS specialist. He introduced Chad Ennis, who will be new GIS specialist in Salt Lake office. Brian thanked the twenty participants in the mapping workshop in Elko, especially John Winner and Travis Boley. His update on wayside sign inventory said there are 299 Oregon and California signs that are now recorded.

Pat Fletcher and John Briggs thanked the NPS for their work

- **Chapter Reports:**

All chapters filed reports for inclusion in the board book. Comments in addition are included below.

- **California/Nevada** Ken Johnston said in addition to those things listed in his report, the chapter is planning a symposium in Anderson, California this spring along the Nobles Trail, which goes right by the Gaia Hotel where it will be held. It will feature a presentation by the Voices of the Golden Ghosts about the Black history of settlement in California. The dates are May 5-7.
- **Colorado-Cherokee** Camille Bradford did not have anything to add to her report.
- **Gateway** Dave Berger introduced himself as the new chapter president. He thanked OCTA for holding the meeting where he could learn by listening. His report is in the book.
- **Idaho** Jerry Eichhorst was not at the meeting, but had submitted a report.
- **KANZA** Duane Iles had nothing to add to his report.
- **Northwest** Sallie Riehl was absent. Her report is included in the book.
- **Southern Trails** Mark Howes submitted a detailed report. Nothing was added.
- **Trails Head** Lila Aamodt added nothing to her submitted report.
- **Utah Crossroads** Steve Allison reported that Matt Ivory is the new chapter president. The report is in the book.
- **Wyoming** Tom Rea sent a report. Nothing added.

- **Fundraising Committee**

Lee Black opened his remarks by thanking those in attendance who participated in the recent study by Hartsook for the "Journey of a Lifetime" campaign. He expanded upon his report about the results. He, along with John Brigg, Helen Hankins, Bill Martin, Dave Welch, Steve Allison, Travis, and other staff, had met with a consultant for review and a classified report. They interviewed about forty-five people in total. They were provided with good constructive feedback, including eighteen or more recommendations.

Michael Smith has formed subcommittees for meeting the objectives of collecting, placing, and digitizing important documents in the hand of our membership with the appropriate repositories. This is one of the projects to be funded (see below).

OCTA has already received one very generous donation. There are other gifts that will be coming in. The next step is the structure, which is being prepared by Dave Welch.

- **Mapping/Marking**

Dave Welch had no additions to his submitted a report.

- **Awards**

Marlene Smith-Baranzini had to leave the meeting but asked Travis to report that the annual award activities will begin in early spring. Bill Hill added to the report that there are no nominees for outstanding educators award. The deadline is not up for activity book drawing, so there is time.

- **Library collections**

Mike Smith was absent. Pat Fletcher expressed her concern about the importance of knowing who to contact for preserving information in book collections, tablets, maps, etc. and posed several questions. A number of members on the committee who were present enlarged upon the goals. Pat Traffas reported the way the committee is structured, it is active and vital, and the more often they meet the more they realize how much there is to do.. There are many questions such as: what is there? is it digitized? how will it be made available to everyone? how are they to be catalogued? There is a lot of interest.

Duane Iles is part of the committee, and he feels humbled by the professionalism of the people serving. Michael Smith, who comes from the Nebraska State Historical Society, is a wonderful leader. Bob Clark said this is in the beginning stages, and the work is immense. There is so much that needs to be digitized. He encourages members to send any suggestions to one of the committee members. Their names can be found in the report.

- **Hall of Fame**

Camille Bradford had nothing to add to her written report.

- **Nomination and Leadership**

Lee Black said there a need for a board member who will replace Bill Martin when his seat is vacated in September. Submit suggestions to Pat Traffas or Roger Blair.

- **Committee A** Jean Coupal-Smith had no additions to her written report.

- **Committee B** Steve Allison had nothing to add to his report.

- **Committee C** Position is vacant

- **Governance, Policies, Strategic Plan** Camille Bradford had nothing further.

**Lunch break 12:00 - 12:50 pm.**

- **Marketing/Public Relations**

Travis Boley introduced Kevin Marcus and Steve Brown who are associated with Knowledge Tree Films. They presented a short video called "OCTA Call to Arms." They made a presentation of what they can offer OCTA, possibly doing three documentaries, which would serve as an OCTA brand refresher and get social media started. After many questions about potential costs and much discussion it was concluded that there was enough interest to warrant review. It will be taken under advisement and will become a part of the Marketing Committee. Bill Martin said the committee would look at it in detail and will come to the Casper Convention with recommendations and to get approval for the expenditure.

- **Unfinished Business**

Pat Fletcher raised the issue of working to get the Southern Trail designated as a National Historic Trail. The Southwest Trail, Cal/Nevada, and Utah chapters had worked on it in 1994. Another proposal had been brought again in 2009, but there have been no results. She would like to see it accomplished. Bill Martin said the website and PowerPoint have were done, and he has some of the written material that support the Southern Trail Initiative but much has been lost. The momentum from years ago needs to be recaptured. There is a two-step process: a feasibility study by NPS to see if it meets the criteria, and then a bill needs to be introduced to Congress for them to authorize it. It could take 8-9 years. Pat will work on developing the case anew.

- **New Business:**

Lee Black presented a recommendation that the cost of Life Membership be increased from the current \$1,000 to \$2,000 to be increased incrementally at the rate of \$250 per year until to \$2,000 goal is achieved. A discussion followed about the pros and cons of such a change, with several members expressing concerns about such a change, including the need for more recognition to the life members for their contribution, and that it may counter the attempts to attract younger members, who may be less inclined to pay that much. No motion was made.

- **Motions** There were no new motions.

- **Announcements:**

Travis Boley gave an overview of the activities for the convention: Tonight (Thursday) Steve Allison will give an address at 7:30, after which the director's cut on Doug Hansen will be shown in the meeting room. Tomorrow (Friday) at 8:00 a.m. speakers will be at the Temple Beth Isrel, with noon lunch across the street. It will finish at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is on your own. There are lots of presentations on Saturday. Tours on Sunday, and the Convention concludes Sunday night.

- **Adjournment:**

At 2:30 p.m. Bill Martin made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Lee Black seconded. All in favor.

## **Emergency Board Actions to be recorded in the Minutes of the August 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

### **March 28<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Motion : To hold the 2023 Convention in Gering/Scottsbluff

Proposed by John Briggs

Seconded by Lee Black

Approved unanimously

### **April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Project – OCTA Brand Bible (Guide) and Marketing Plan. Request to complete the funding using \$2,000 from the existing Marketing budget.

Proposed – Bill Martin

Seconded – Lee Black.

Approved with one abstention

### **July 28<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Motion** : Unless new health Orders are issued we will advise our members and attendees at the OCTA Annual Convention in Casper that **'masks are recommended but not required'** for all indoor sessions and on the coaches. We will communicate this by E-News and by posters at the Convention. We will make masks available at Registration.

Proposed by John Briggs

Seconded by Lee Black.

Approved unanimously

## President's Report to the Board of Directors August 14, 2022

At the National Archives there is a statue of Athena, goddess of wisdom, which bears the inscription ***"The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future"***. The quotation is from Wendell Phillips. Preserving the history of the Trails, the past, is our Ethos! To do that we need volunteers who give generously of their 'time' and 'treasure'! So let me thank all those people who dug deep and donated to our year end and midyear fund drives and to those who gave so generously of their time in the year. Thanks to Jeff Broome and the Colorado Chapter Zoom lectures for this pertinent quotation.

We entered the year in a good financial position. The Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) under Dave Welch's leadership did well to keep the Endowment Fund losses under control, as you can read in the IAC report. As of the end of July the Endowment Funds in total stood at \$1.9m down from a peak of \$2.1m but up from the \$1.77m reported for June 30th, 2022, in your budget documents. Given the good work done by our advisors and the diligence of the IAC we expect to completely recover our position soon.

The operating statement at nine months included in your budget documents also shows a sound position. The importance of our partnership with NPS is evident. Three major projects were unbudgeted and so create variances in both the revenue and expense lines. The mapping and marking workshop in Elko was supported financially by the National Park Service (NPS) but resulted in increased travel and other expenses. The feasibility study expense is associated with the 'Journey of a Lifetime' (Joal) project. Donations to that project, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, are shown in the Restricted Contributions line of your budget report. The Marketing initiative is similarly supported by Restricted Donations. The Treasurer's report covers all this in more detail.

During the year we appointed Turner Rivenbark to the position of Assistant Treasurer recognizing the work he has been doing for many years. Turner and Treasurer Jerry Mogg have, with Kathy Conway, moved our financial reporting and budgeting process to be more robust. Our financial reports now communicate the full position clearly including

- Gross rather than net figures for Conventions, Symposia, and sales
- Chapter holdings
- Changes in our Endowment holdings

As of July 31, 2022, there were 1222 Memberships, a decline of 2% in 12 months. We recognize the need to do a better job of attracting and retaining members. This is especially a focus for the Marketing Committee but is also one of the reasons for 'Journey of a Lifetime' by the Fundraising Committee.

Gina Sifers was appointed to the Chair of the Marketing/PR Committee with support from John Krizek, Bill Martin, and Richard Hunt. That Committee is working on building membership by adapting our approach to appeal to younger age groups. We have seen the growth of our Facebook and You Tube presence and resulting increased sales from the Bookstore. The impact on membership is still unknown. We are seeing new members joining as a result, but it is still too early to know how long they remain or how active they become. The Committee is also working to refresh our Brand, to make it attractive and meaningful to all our members and prospective members.

The Journey of a Lifetime Committee under Lee Black has continued its work in the development phase of the project. Donations as of June 30<sup>th</sup> were \$23,000. Additional donations and substantial pledges have been received since then and are covered in that Committee's report. One thing that has become clear is the need to upgrade our Membership and Donor Relationship Management data bases. Options are now being looked at.

The Collections Committee's role is to accept, describe, manage, maintain, and report on OCTA's trails collections, their records, preservation, and use. Mike Smith leads this Committee which has now updated the definition of the Trails

**(Page 2 – President's report – next page)**

Collection and Libraries Committee and the Trails Collection Policy. The Committee is also working with the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM) to revise the agreements we have with them covering the Merrill Mattes, Paden, Watkins, and French collections owned by OCTA which are on loan to the Museum.

In the Preservation report John Winner covers just some of the many problems requiring attention and action. The states covered include Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Nevada, California, Utah, and Missouri. An increasing number of the construction projects threatening our Trails are Wind Farms, Solar Panels, and transmission lines associated with the drive to produce more clean energy. Preservation is at the heart of the Association, and it is essential that the Chapter Preservation Officers support John Winner in his role as the National Preservation Officer. Thanks go to them for the excellent work being done.

The **Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)** connects historic and scenic trail organizations and Federal agency partners to further the protection, and stewardship of the thirty national scenic and historic trails within the National Trails System. We are grateful to them for the lobbying work they do on behalf of the Trails. While they tend to be focused on the wealthier Scenic Trails, our liaison, Bill Martin, is working to help them see things from the point of view of the more lightly staffed Historic Trails. Bill will be stepping down at the end of the year and a replacement is needed.

Thanks to the Gateway Chapter for all the work they have done designing the Symposium scheduled for next Spring and to Travis and the Nebraska Chapter as they build out the 2023 Convention.

We have many Committees doing excellent work. There isn't room for me to cover all that they do here, but you can find their reports in the Board book.

OCTA is still in need of volunteers to head three committees. The Membership and Awards Committees both need leaders. PNTS will need a new liaison. Contact Travis or me if you have any interest and would like to know more.

Finally – many thanks to Tom Rea and the Wyoming Chapter for putting together the excellent program of talks and tours we will enjoy this week. OCTA provides us with many opportunities: enjoying the outdoors by hiking or marking the Trails, meeting up with like-minded people, reading, viewing videos, or listening to podcasts about the Trails, researching the Trails and preserving their History. This week we will be able to tour Trail sites and learn from the excellent program of lecturers here in Casper. Relish the occasion!

John Briggs

## ASSOCIATION MANAGER'S REPORT

I've listed my activities over the past 6 months under strategic plan goal headings. In many cases, these activities overlap with multiple goals. In those cases, I've added goals, objectives, and action items in parentheses after each activity. You'll note that each category has fewer items listed under it as you move down the list. This is because I generally listed each activity under the first goal met and didn't repeat it under the other goal, instead opting to simply list the other goals and objectives the activity met.

Here are the goals:

**Goal 1 Preserve the Emigrant Trails**

**Goal 2 Present the Stories**

**Goal 3 Effective Through Partnerships**

**Goal 4 Improve Organizational Effectiveness**

**Goal 5 Keep Membership Energized**

**Goal 6 Promote Membership Growth**

### **Goal 1 Preserve the Emigrant Trails**

- On Easter, spoke to the Oasis KC Church about historic trails preservation
- I was interviewed by a board member of the Partnership for the National Trails System to help guide strategic planning for the PNTS. I focused especially on was the need to keep funding intern positions, the need for the PNTS to help historic trail organizations develop more capacity so that they will have equal footing at the table, and the desire to see the Future Trails committee go away, as this is outside the scope of the PNTS mission. (1C, 3A)
- Sat in on the PNTS Trails Leadership Council Zoom meeting, where a wide range of topics were discussed. Of primary importance to OCTA was the discussion of committee structures. Bill Martin has advocated for apportionment based on the 19-11 Historic/Scenic Trail makeup of the PNTS. However, one speaker stated that this likely is not feasible due to the lack of participation by many historic trail partners. Recall that on my call with the PNTS board member that the PNTS should invest in ensuring that Historic Trail partners develop the capacity to be more participatory in the running of PNTS. During my interview with the PNTS board member, I discussed several things I'd like to see PNTS do, including hire a fundraiser. On the Trail Leadership Council call, I learned that PNTS has secured a fundraiser on staff. I'm not sure how that person will be utilized yet, but he now exists. Finally, my main takeaway from that call has to do with membership configurations in PNTS leadership roles and committees. Bill Martin had asked me to pay particular attention to this, and what I basically heard was that "though there are some who would like to see equitability among leadership positions based on the numbers of historic and scenic trails, the reality is that there aren't enough people from the historic trails side of things to serve in these capacities." No action was taken on that statement, but it appeared the speaker was alright with moving forward with the status quo. (1C, 3A)
- Participated in the latest B2H Zoom call. The takeaway is that, after the latest court defeat, Gail Carbiener and Dave Welch seem resigned to filing no more appeals and instead turning the focus to mitigation. Many questions remain as to what mitigation might mean and who might benefit. An intermediary suggested that something north of \$1 million might go towards mitigation, but again, where that money might go and what it might do seems to be an open question at this point. (1Bi, 1D)

- Met with Gardner (KS) Parks and Rec along with Larry Short (President, Santa Fe Trail Association) to discuss upgrading the exhibits at the Gardner Junction Park. They were first installed about 15 years ago and are badly weathered. Gardner Parks & Rec agreed that it was time to not only upgrade the exhibits, but they will also take on painting the multiple exhibit stands, which are otherwise still in good shape. Both SFTA and OCTA added this project to priority project lists submitted to NPS at the end of June. (1Bi, 3Ai, 3B, i, ii, iii)
- Met with three officials from the Hickman Mills School District at Schumacher Park in south Kansas City. Also at the meeting was the Director of the Missouri Humanities Council, one of the Historic Preservation Officers for Kansas City, and Larry Short of the Santa Fe Trail Association. We all agreed to continue moving forward investigating ways we might partner to develop school programs for students in the Hickman Mills District to both build and maintain a 20 to 60-acre tallgrass prairie. Ideas for more parking, an amphitheater, and trails cut through the tallgrass prairie will also discussed. We are now exploring various grant funding options. This project was added to our priority list submitted to NPS, and Superintendent Aaron Mahr is very high on this project as well. (1Bi, 3Ai, 3B, i, ii, iii)
- Met with Isobel and members of the LDS Church History Department to continue developing the Mapping & Marking workshop planned for Sun Ranch in late August. We finalized the plans and determined that we were 100% ready to move forward. (1A, 3Ai, 5A)
- Met with John Winner and Dick Waugh to discuss the things put in place with the LDS and to gather their ideas and needs. I will now be developing registration materials for the workshop, which we will cap at 25 participants. As of this writing, we have 20 people registered for the workshop This will be a basic 101 course with one day in the classroom learning the MET manual and one day spent in the field putting into practice what was learned the previous day. As part of the registration, all participants are now OCTA members. This will add about 15 new members to OCTA, most employed by the LDS Church and living in Utah. Hopefully, these people will get engaged with the Utah Crossroads Chapter and active in mapping and marking activities there and at other points along the trail. (1A, 3Ai, 5A)
- Submitted our NPS shared project priority list after gathering projects from our chapters. We will meet with NPS in the near future to discuss these projects. The list was generated with input from chapter presidents. A copy of it will be distributed during the Board meeting (1Bi, 3A)
- Met via Zoom with members of the CA/NV Chapter to discuss the issue with the Fernley Swales. It was decided to try to push the BLM to actually enforce the easement they're supposed to manage there. Future meetings are being planned now, with the first meeting set to occur on September 14. (Goal 1Bi, 1D)
- Met with Cory Donnelly and other members of the NPS signing team to discuss signing projects around the country. They want to plan a ribbon-cutting event for all of the recently installed signs in Wyoming and are working on statewide plans in Kansas now. (Goal 1A, 1B, 1D)

## **Goal 2 Present the Stories**

- Debuted *Wagon Master: Hansen's Hand-Crafted History* in Mitchell, South Dakota to a packed house in a 250-seat theater and summarized the production of that movie and OCTA's latest other documentaries in an article for *Pathways*, the publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System. The article can be read at <https://pnts.org/new/wagon-master-hansens-handcrafted-history-world-premiere/>.
- Met with Gary Hicks of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association and Ross Marshall of the Trails Head Chapter and visited Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek and Mill Creek Park in Independence to discuss placement of interpretive panels. A new bridge was added across Mill Creek and new trail built to the north with new interpretation added at both sides of the bridge and at the trail head in the parking lot. The owners of the Wayne City Landing site have now stopped responding to inquiries from Santa Fe Trail

Association President Larry Short, from our NPS partners, and from us. We can only assume that they are no longer interested in maintaining the site for visitors. I did discuss with Acting Superintendent Carole Wendler potential options for the site, including moving the interpretation featured at the site to points on publicly-owned land located slightly further south. Larry and I had what we thought was a very productive meeting with the new site manager on March 15, and it was agreed that we would conduct a site cleanup and improvement on May 17. However, upon arrival that day, no one was there and no one from the plant offices have answered repeat attempts at contact.

- Met with Mike Smith to discuss digitization of materials at the National Frontier Trails Museum and assisted him with removing a selection of maps to test scan them at the Kansas State Historical Society----the scans didn't come out very well and the decision was made to go in a different direction (Goal 2Ai-ii)
- Held a Zoom call with Gina and Isobel to discuss new website landing page improvements and other ongoing website work and upgrades. The web site and library/collections work will make our stories more accessible and in part should attract new members as our offer expands. (Goal 2Aii, 5Biii)
- Held weekly check-in calls with Western Regional Representative Isobel Lingenfelter and intern Charlie Dodge where we provide updates on projects (2Bi-iv, 3Ai, 3Bi-iii, 5Ai, 5Bi-ii, 6A, 6Bi-ii, 6Ciii)
- Finalized and filmed the next documentary project, which will cover an archaeology dig at an American Indian bison kill site, delving into the ancient trade and travel routes developed by North America's indigenous populations that became the basis for later Euro-American trade and emigration routes One focus will be on how items from the Pacific Coast wound up in a dig site in the American Midwest, with an emphasis on the use of South Pass for many thousands of years prior to the development of the Oregon-California Trail. The thought now is to continue to build on these projects to develop a series tentatively called "Trail Blazers" to package for a broadcast partner like Netflix, as an example. (Goal 2Bii, 4Av, 5A) (Goal 2Bii, 4Av, 5A)
- Worked with Charlie to finalize and launch the OCTA podcast (Goal 2Bii, 5A)
- Met with Mark Headley to discuss fundraising in Wyoming as well as a potential documentary that would bring the Ebey diary to life. The outcome was that Mark's personal financial holdings have taken a substantial hit in current market conditions and that he's also taking over as president of a large environmental non-profit in January. He is interested in talking more about turning the Ebey diary into a documentary, however. We've exchanged several emails over the course of the summer to continue to move the idea forward, but it is very much still in its infancy. (2Bii, 4Av)
- Joined Steve Allison and members of the Mormon Battalion Association to present on religion on the trails at a conference in Logan, Utah. The outcome was to further cement our very important partnerships between the LDS and OCTA. (2Bi, 3Ai, 3Bi, 6)
- Met with Mike Smith, Chair of the Library/Archives Committee, Brooke Leisinger, Collection Manager of the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM), and Frank Buhro, Director of the NFTM, to discuss the future of the relationship between OCTA and the NFTM. We all agreed that we should revisit and likely revise the existing loan agreements. They are all currently indefinite "permanent" loans, which are no longer an acceptable museum or library practice. The committee will work toward term loans where agreements will be revisited on a more regular basis. We also agreed to work together to share an intern with the NFTM to help them develop an online catalog of holdings. However, Brooke recently left to return to her previous position at the World War I Museum, thus likely putting these reviews on hold until her position can be filled again. (2Ai, ii, 3Ai, 3Bi, ii, iii, 3Ci)
- Held my final weekly call with Isobel in late June before she left for her new job with the Utah Wildlife Federation. She worked with me to develop OCTA's Vimeo page and we launched two of our documentaries,

Wagon Master and Old Spanish Trail. We have them listed on our page for a \$3 rental and \$10 purchase. We are also offering a 50% off code to OCTA members. Isobel also finalized a new octa-trails.org home page layout and sent me the layout page. Visit <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/wagonmaster> and <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/oldspanishtrail/725806028> to see our landing pages. (2Bii, iii, iv)

- Worked with Charlie to get the second and third podcasts launched. She developed a new OCTA Soundcloud page for us as well, which will house future podcasts. She plans to continue developing podcasts for OCTA. She is lining up Russell Wangersky, author of *Same Ground: Chasing Family Down the California Gold Rush Trail* (out Sept 27) for her next podcast. It is a travel memoir detailing the author's wild-goose-chase road trip across middle America. Wangersky's great-great-grandfather, William Castle Dodge, crossed the continent in search of gold in 1849 when he was 22 years old. He wrote a diary of that eventful journey that came into the author's hands 160 years later. Quixotically, Wangersky decided to follow Dodge's westward trail across America, not in search of gold but something even less likely: that elusive thing called family. What ensues is this book, in turns hilarious and profound, about a very long trip (by car, in the author's case, and on mule and foot in Dodge's). Interweaving his experiences on the road with Dodge's diary, Wangersky contemplates the human need to hunt for roots and meaning as he (and Dodge) encounter emigrants who risk everything to be somewhere else, while only glimpsing those who are there already and who want to hold onto their claim in the stream of human migration. (2Bii)
- Charlie also contacted me regarding the possibility of running for the PNTS board. With PNTS HQ'd in DC and Charlie living in Baltimore, her role could be crucial to ensure OCTA's continued placement at the PNTS table, especially as Bill Martin steps away from his liaison role at the end of the month. However, PNTS leadership felt she was too inexperienced for that position yet and instead asked if she might be interested in serving on the communications committee to gain more experience. She enthusiastically agreed to serve in that role and will join us at the PNTS workshop in Albuquerque next November. You can listen to all three podcasts at <https://soundcloud.com/user-300818201/>. (2Bii)
- I continue to create a weekly E-News that focuses on chapter events and newsletters, the Casper convention, the new podcast, OCTA's documentaries on Vimeo, and other information (Goal 2Bi, ii, 3Bii, iii, 5Ai, 5Bi, ii, iv)
- Met with the Library/Collections Committee to continue fine-tuning policies and procedures and to discuss the meeting that Mike Smith and I had with Brooke Leisinger, Collection Manager of the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM), and Frank Buhro, Director of the NFTM, to discuss the future of the relationship between OCTA and the NFTM. However, Brooke subsequently returned to her previous position at the WWI Museum. Frank and I decided to continue pursuing the shared intern idea, as he has a part-time employee with library and archives experience who could supervise the work. (2Ai, ii, 3Ai, 3Bi, ii, iii, 3Ci)
- Met with Stuart Hinds, Curator of Special Collections at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, to discuss the intern position. He agreed to help find a library sciences student to fill our position once school returns to session in August. He has distributed our job description to the history department. The position will be a hybrid one, with the intern spending half-time at the National Frontier Trails Museum working on the development of an online catalog of OCTA's book holdings, with the other half-time spent on marketing goals, especially those that related to Google Ads and social media. (Goal 2Ai, ii)
- Met with two producers from HBO Max who are working on a new series that will feature the Oregon Trail. The show is called *The Real Wild West* and is produced by the award-winning company Roller Coaster Road Productions for the educational documentary platform Curiosity Stream and HBO Max. The series explores lesser told stories of those who helped build the American West and shape the nation's legacy today. Namely, they're striving to tell stories that highlight the often-overlooked history of minorities in the American

West, with the goal of interviewing a diverse group of experts who could talk about this history within the context of their lived experiences today. (Goal 2B)

- Met with Richard Hunt and Gina to introduce Richard to the marketing/PR committee and get him up to speed on what we've done over the past several years and what are plans are going forward and to get some of his ideas as well. Richard is recently retired and fairly new to OCTA, but will be in Casper helping us to film speakers and tours and conduct interviews in order to continue populating our YouTube and social media channels with more quality content. (Goal 2B)
- Met with a student from Illinois Tech to move forward on our Google Ads campaign. I also granted her admin permissions for our Facebook. Google has given us access to a team of free interns from Illinois Tech to help us create more impactful content for our Google Ads campaigns. (Goal 2Bii)
- Met with Gina to move forward on the archaeology section of the website and to continue the process of migrating the Paper Trail website to a free server with Azure and away from the paid space with Looking Glass Analytics. It is hoped that by the time of the board meeting, the Paper Trail website move will be complete, with a downtime of only a few hours as it switches over. Gina and I will be gathering materials to begin the process of digitization and uploading of material. This project was generously funded by Lee Black, so thank you Lee! (Goal 2Ai)

### **Goal 3 Effective through Partnerships**

- Submitted four NPS reports through GrantSolutions. These annual reports are required as part of our cooperative agreement with our NPS partner. These reports covered our various cooperative agreements, including the main ones for the past two years and the Westminster Woods mapping project in Oregon.
- Spent a Sunday and Monday with Aaron Mahr and Trails Head Chapter to discuss the entire 3-Trails corridor through KC; also met with Aaron and the director of the Missouri Humanities Council to discuss a 60-acre tallgrass prairie restoration at Schumacher Park in south Kansas City
- Met with the Superintendent and Director of Operations of the Hickman Mills School District as well as Larry Short from the Santa Fe Trail Association and the historic preservation officer for the city of Kansas City to discuss myriad ways in which to partner, especially with regard to the tallgrass prairie project at Schumacher Park, but also teacher training, curriculum, etc.
- Met with Frank Buhro (Director of Historic Sites in Independence) and Morris Heide (Independence Parks & Rec Director) to discuss items related to the relationship between OCTA and the National Frontier Trails Museum as well as infrastructure improvements to trails and parks in Independence related to the 3-Trails Corridor
- Finalized paperwork to complete the South Dakota Humanities Grant for the *Wagon Master* documentary
- Attended the California/Nevada Chapter Symposium in Anderson, California, speaking at both the board meeting and the general membership meeting on a variety of topics. Found two volunteers to assist with the National Genealogy Conference in Sacramento. (1Ci-ii, 3Bii, 3Cii, 4Bi, 5Ai, 6A, 6Bi-ii, 6Ciii)
- Attended the National Genealogy Conference in Sacramento for three days. Performed many demonstrations on Paper Trail, sold several memberships, handed out hundreds of flyers related to Paper Trail and our emigrant certificate program, and sold about 15 maps (Goal 3Bi-iii, 6Bii)
- Toured Lee Kreutzer and three new National Park Service staff around the Kansas City, St. Joseph, Leavenworth, and Weston areas over 1.5 days, showing them work completed, work being done, and work still

desired over the next day-and-a-half Met especially with the staff and board of the Pony Express Museum, staff at the Patee House Museum, staff at the Remington Nature Center, and staff at the National Frontier Trails Museum. This helped orient the three new NPS employees as to the things we've been accomplishing in Missouri and Kansas and to prepare them for next steps to be taken together. (Goal 1Bi, 3Ai, 3Bi-ii)

- Joined Roger Blair and Susan Badger Doyle in Walla Walla, Washington to explore the feasibility of conducting a convention there in 2024. We toured two hotels, Fort Walla Walla, the Whitman Mission, and other regional historic sites. Though the first hotel we toured is likely entirely too expensive for us, the second hotel might work. However, we'd need to secure other rooms at some secondary hotels as the basic rate will likely be in the range of about \$129/night. Both hotels come equipped with their own meeting space and catering services, but again, only the latter hotel comes close to being affordable for OCTA's purposes. Walla Walla has emerged as a major wine destination and prices reflect it. We will need to keep exploring options there to make a convention feasible. (3Ai, 3Bi, 4Avii)

- Met with the PNTS conference planning committee on multiple occasions to continue planning the Albuquerque conference in November. I will be involved in the "Historic Trails 101" roundtable and will focus especially on the nature of historic trails and especially our partnerships with American Indian nations. This is to counteract criticisms historic trails receive as only being "promoters of genocide." (3A)

- Met via Zoom with Aaron Mahr and Carole Wendler to discuss the WRR position, moving funding from the WRR position to travel, and a bit about the priority projects list. John Briggs and I are making minor edits to the WRR position and hope to fill it early in the next fiscal year. The funds moved to the travel category helped facilitate the travel for John Winner and Dick Waugh to travel to Sun Ranch to lead the mapping and marking workshop and train the next generation of trail preservationists and new OCTA members. (Goal 3A)

**Goal 4 Improve Organizational Effectiveness**

- Met with the Wyoming Chapter via Zoom to move the Casper convention forward
- Met with Jean Coupal-Smith at OCTA HQ to plan registration for the Casper convention
- Met with Brent Schondelmeyer, board member of the Missouri Historical Society, to discuss the possibility of having the Oregon Trail Suite performed at the Gering convention (and possibly at the St. Joseph Symposium instead)

- Met via Zoom with the Nebraska Chapter to move the 2023 convention planning forward
- Met via Zoom with Ross Pfannenstiel of Hartsook for the final wrap up talks of their contract for the fundraising committee

- Met with Committee A at HQ for half a day on May 20th, where they finalized items to be destroyed via OCTA's records and retention policy. In July, they scheduled a day to have a remote shredding company come to HQ. Mike Smith and Jean Coupal-Smith led the effort, in consultation with Jerry Moog, per the records and retention policy as delineated in the Policy & Procedure manual. This helped to eliminate a lot of clutter in the upstairs storage at the National Frontier Trails Museum and eliminated dozens of boxes of paper from HQ (Goal 4Bi, 5A)

- Met via Zoom with the fundraising committee regarding Journey of Lifetime campaign. My takeaway assignment is to continue to build on a list of potential corporate funders, which I have completed. The committee is currently assessing our online infrastructure needs to track members and donations. That committee will have a full report. (Goal 4Aii)

- Met with the budget committee numerous times to develop the 2022-23 OCTA budget. That proposed budget is included in this packet. (4A)
- Met with the Wyoming Chapter to continue developing the Casper convention. I was asked to submit a fundraising letter of \$10,000 to Wyoming Tourism, which I developed and sent to Tom Rea for approval. Tom approved the letter and sent it to Wyoming Tourism, but it was denied. We are also still awaiting a decision from the LDS Church History Department for a \$5,000 grant. We were, however, awarded \$1,000 from the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, \$2,000 from Wyoming Humanities, and \$10,000 from Visit Casper. These donations helped us pay for buses and speaker fees, among other things. (4Av, vii)
- Met with Jerry Moog to move forward on the St. Joseph Symposium. He will be speaking about it during the general membership meeting. Save the dates of March 30-April 2. (Goal 4Avii)

### **Goal 5 Keep Membership Energized**

- Met weekly with Isobel and Charlie to get up-to-speed on projects
- Progressed the 2022 Convention in Casper, the 2023 Symposium in St Joseph and the 2023 Convention in Gering
- Built the registration website for the Casper convention (Goal 2Bi, Goal 5Biii)
- Created the three-page paper registration form for the Casper convention (Goal 2Bi)
- Developed flyers for the St. Joseph Symposium and Gering Convention (both of which will be handed out at the convention)
- Met via Zoom with the Nebraska Chapter to continue planning for the July 2023 convention in Gering. Save the dates of July 25-29. (Goal 3Bi, 4Avii, 5Ai)
- Visited the St. Joseph CVB and the Stoney Creek Inn to start the process of planning for next spring's board meeting and symposium (Goal 3Bi, 5Ai, 4Avii)

### **Goal 6 Promote Membership Growth**

- Worked with Charlie to finalize and launch the OCTA podcast. Podcast and Video developments aim to attract new, younger members. The Sun Ranch workshop is expected to attract new members. That work will, as well, help map, mark and thus preserve the Trails running through Sun Ranch. We have picked up about 15 new members as a result of the mapping and marking workshop. (Goal 2Bii, 5A, 6)
- Finalized more details for the mapping and marking workshop at Sun Ranch, Wyoming (Goal 1Ai, 1Bi, 3Ai, 3Cii, 6Ciii)
- Spoke at the Mormon Trails Across Nebraska Symposium and invited the attendees to join OCTA since there is no Mormon Pioneer Trail Association. Several people joined then, and in September we are having a Zoom call to better organize and assimilate new members into the Nebraska Chapter, as most of these people live in Omaha and Lincoln and the surrounding areas. Bill Hill, Loren Pospisil, Harlan Seyfer, and Carole Wendler also all spoke at the symposium and encouraged membership in OCTA as a way to partner on protecting and promoting the shared trail corridor. Many attendees in Omaha will be in Casper and plan to attend Gering as well, with some wanting to speak or assist on tours.

- Continued working with the marketing/PR committee on developing a new brand bible. A very full and comprehensive report on this activity will be presented at the board meeting.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT

August 20, 2022

Casper, WY

Since the last board meeting in San Diego, CA in mid-January, Headquarters has:

- Handled the distribution of two editions of the *News from the Plains*.
- Received and processed 140 convention registrations and booked \$47,000 in revenue
- Participated in the 2023 budget planning process in June with Jerry Mogg, John Briggs, Lee Black, Steve Allison, Turner Rivenbark and Travis Boley
- Worked with Jerry Mogg and Turner in preparing both the six-month and nine-month financial reports plus several monthly reports to OCTA officers
- Processed and booked 66 new OCTA National Memberships and 590 renewals (\$39,000 in national dues and \$7,900 in chapter dues)
- Completed the Annual Fund Drive in May and booked \$26,000
- In early July printed the Mid-Year fund raising appeal letter and mailed to the membership with \$11,500 received as of this writing
- Participated in the committee work for Journey of a Lifetime with Lee Black, John Briggs, Steve Allison, Dave Welch, Helen Hankins, Bill Martin, Pat Traffas, and Travis Boley
- Handled the printing of the Casper Convention Book
- Handled the reprinting of the OCTA Membership brochures
- Sold \$10,901 worth of books and merchandise (\$2,694 online sales; \$7,007 HQ phone sales; NFTM sales \$1,200)

Many thanks go to our members of the Trails Head chapter who assist HQ with various projects. We greatly appreciate the completion of a major project began several years ago. With special thanks to Mike Smith and his Trails Head team for rounding up files that were expendable and having the material shredded. About 40 years-worth!

**OCTA Prosed BUDGET 2022-2023**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

	Actual	Budget	Budget		
	9 months	Total	Total	FYE 9/30/23	FYE
	6/30/2022	FYE	FYE	OCTA	9/30/23
		9/30/22	9/30/23		NPS
Administration Fee (Processing Grant Paperwork)	5,550	7,400	7,400		7,400
Association Manager	66,781	88,600	90,192		90,192
Leadership, Vol. Travel Support (Inc. travel of Assn Mgr)	24,302	28,000	24,000		24,000
Web Site/Digital Media	5,100	6,000	6,000		6,000
Trail Mapping	13,561	0			
Western Representative	15,562	18,600	18,975		18,975
<b>Total NPS Grants</b>	<b>130,856</b>	<b>148,600</b>	<b>146,567</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>146,567</b>
Annual Fund Drive-Operations	30,333	23,000	30,000	30,000	
Funds to complete Programs that are to be further advanced for 5 year plan		53,300	-	-	
Mid Year Fund Raiser		19,000	19,000	19,000	
Books and Mdse - Revenue	9,464	13,000	12,000	12,000	
Convention - Revenue					
Mid Year Symposium	9,712	10,000	5,000	5,000	

Annual Convention		80,000	72,000	72,000	
Dues	52,415	70,000	68,000	68,000	
News from the Plains - Ads	120	100	100	100	
Other Income (Amazon, Interest, etc.)	1,223	2,500	1,500	1,500	
Overland Journal - Ads		1,500	100	100	
Overland Journal Subscriptions	1,460	1,200	1,200	1,200	
Paper Trail	1,308	1,200	1,200	1,200	
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>106,035</b>	<b>274,800</b>	<b>210,100</b>	<b>210,100</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Gross Revenues</b>	<b>236,891</b>	<b>423,400</b>	<b>356,667</b>	<b>210,100</b>	<b>146,567</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Board and Officers		30	30	30	
Legal		2,500	2,500	2,500	
Meetings-Paid by OCTA	1,207	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Travel - Paid by NPS Grant (Includes Assoc Mgr Travel)	24,302	28,000	24,000		24,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,509</b>	<b>32,030</b>	<b>28,030</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>24,000</b>
<b>Committees:</b>					
Awards		1,250	750	750	
Books and Mdse - Costs	5,173	5,200	6,000	6,000	
Convention - Costs					

Mid Year Symposium, San Diego	3,436	6,400	3,200	3,200	
Annual Convention, Casper	78	55,000	55,000	55,000	
Collections		7,500			
Donations – NFTM		1,000	1,000	1,000	
Educational Outreach		30,000			
Ed Publications & Awards		3,425	4,150	4,150	
Fund Raising	818	6,000	6,000	6,000	
Hall of Fame	94	250	250	250	
Partnership Natl. Trails Sys. Membership	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
PNTS Trails Liaison (primarily travel)	75	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Public Relations & Marketing	6,762	4,500	2,000	2,000	
Policy/Procedure Manual (GOVERNANCE)		100	100	100	
Website	1,971	4,200	4,200	4,200	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,907</b>	<b>129,325</b>	<b>87,150</b>	<b>87,150</b>	<b>-</b>

### Admin and Management

Assoc. Mgr - Comp and Exp Paid by NPS Grant	66,781	88,600	90,192	90,192	
Assoc. Mgr - Exp Paid by OCTA (not compensation)	510				
Association Operations & Expense OO, 41 and 42	22,160	37,500	33,000	33,000	
Association Operations & Expense NPS	2,100				
Website NPS	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	

Hdq/Payroll/Taxes/Benefits -OCTA	45,782	58,500	58,500	58,500	
Hdq/Payroll/Taxes/Benefits -NPS (grant paperwork)	5,550	7,400	7,400		7,400
Western Representative - NPS	15,562	18,600	18,975		18,975
Western Representative - OCTA	2,733	14,400	6,325	6,325	
Membership Support	415	3,000	2,000	2,000	
Comptroller Review Cost		5,000	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>164,593</b>	<b>239,000</b>	<b>222,392</b>	<b>99,825</b>	<b>122,567</b>
<b>Loomis Fund/Preservation possibilities</b>					
Archaeology		8,000			
Graves and Sites	91	2,550	2,000	2,000	
Preservation Officer	1,932				
Preservation		1,200	1,200	1,200	
Trail Mapping and Marking NPS	13,561				
Trail Mapping and Marking OCTA	109	1,200	3,740	3,740	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,693</b>	<b>12,950</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Publications</b>					
Miscellaneous		650	925	925	
Publication under New initiative		3,800			
News From the Plains	8,028	10,150	11,970	11,970	
Overland Journal	28,505	39,450	40,795	40,795	

<b>Total</b>	<u>36,533</u>	<u>54,050</u>	<u>53,690</u>	<u>53,690</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Other</b>					
Capital Equipment - Inactive		1,000	-	-	
OCTA Store	<u>500</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<u>500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>263,735</u>	<u>469,355</u>	<u>399,202</u>	<u>252,635</u>	<u>146,567</u>
<b>Net loss from regular operations</b>	<u>(26,844)</u>	<u>(45,955)</u>	<u>(42,535)</u>	<u>(42,535)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Non-operating income</b>					
Endowment and Memorial Contributions	1,060	1,500	1,500		
Life Memberships	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<u>5,060</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>		
<b>Net loss before feasibility study expenses</b>	<u>(21,784)</u>	<u>(41,455)</u>	<u>(38,035)</u>		
Feasibility Study Expense	<u>(20,834)</u>				
<b>Net Loss per QB, excluding endowment fund losses</b>	<u>(42,618)</u>				
<b>JoaL Project</b>					
Contributions received through 6/30/22					

Collections	7,500	
Archaeology	8,000	
General	<u>7,500</u>	
subtotal	23,000	
Contribution received in July	<u>5,000</u>	
	<u><u>28,000</u></u>	
Contributions received to date		28,000
Pledges		30,250
Additional revenue needed		<u>15,950</u>
		<u><u>74,200</u></u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Collections	0	9,000
Fund raising	0	6,000
Archaeology	0	8,000
New publication initiative	0	3,000
Education outreach	0	30,000
Marketing 1/3	0	10,000
Preservation	0	<u>8,200</u>
		<u><u>74,200</u></u>

**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

**REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 6/30/22 WITH  
COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR THE PRIOR NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 6/30/21**

	OCTA	NPS	CURRENT PERIOD TOTAL	PRIOR PERIOD	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>Revenues</b>					
National Park Service (excluding symposium)		127,970	127,970	95,117	32,853
Dues	52,415		52,415	56,915	(4,500)
Unrestricted Contributions	30,333		30,333	41,009	(10,676)
Restricted Contributions/Grants (schedule)	35,000		35,000	28,465	6,535
Deferred Revenue Earned - Restricted	22,196		22,196	9,648	12,548
Paycheck Protection Program				11,945	(11,945)
Symposium	9,712	2,886	12,598	-	12,598
OCTA Store - Sale of Books/Mdse	9,464		9,464	6,658	2,806
Overland Journal Subscriptions	1,460		1,460	1,230	230
Advertising	120		120	750	(630)
Paper Trail	1,308		1,308	301	1,007
Other Income	1,223		1,223	2,545	(1,322)
Gross Revenues	163,231	130,856	294,087	254,583	39,504
Portion of restricted contributions and grants above that					

will be spent after June 30 (35,000 minus 3,380)	<u>(31,620)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(31,620)</u>	<u>(16,460)</u>	<u>(15,160)</u>
Operating Revenues	131,611	130,856	262,467	238,123	24,344
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<u>179,289</u>	<u>130,856</u>	<u>310,145</u>	<u>234,428</u>	<u>75,717</u>
Net Operating Income (loss)	<u>(47,678)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(47,678)</u>	<u>3,695</u>	<u>(51,373)</u>
<b>Other Income</b>					
Life Memberships	4,000		4,000	5,750	(1,750)
Endowment and Memorial Contributions	<u>1,060</u>		<u>1,060</u>	<u>2,650</u>	<u>(1,590)</u>
	<u>5,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,060</u>	<u>8,400</u>	<u>(3,340)</u>
<b>Investment Changes - Endowment Funds</b>	<u>(225,679)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(225,679)</u>	<u>437,235</u>	<u>(663,914)</u>
Net Income (loss)	<u>(268,297)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(268,297)</u>	<u>449,330</u>	<u>(718,627)</u>

Although the above shows an operating loss of \$47,678 for the current period, the negative effect on OCTA's financial position was \$27,678 as \$20,000 of expenses were paid for from endowment fund income which was set aside 9/30/21 to pay the expenses.

## OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### DETAIL EXPENSES - NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 6/30/22 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR THE PRIOR NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 6/30/21

	<u>OCTA</u>	<u>NPS</u>	<u>CURRENT PERIOD TOTAL</u>	<u>PRIOR PERIOD</u>	<u>INCREASE (DECREASE)</u>
Administration and Management					
Association Manager - Salary, P/R Taxes and Benefits	-	66,049	66,049	65,947	102
Association Manager - Travel and Other Expenses	510	13,143	13,653	5,170	8,483
Headquarters Salaries, P/R Taxes and Benefits	45,782	5,550	51,332	51,363	(31)
Administration Expenses	22,160	2,100	24,260	27,063	(2,803)
Western Representative (additional 1,000 expense below)	2,733	15,562	18,295	12,109	6,186
Fund Raising	818		818	2,201	(1,383)
Symposium	3,436	2,886	6,322	-	6,322
Board Meetings and Officers' Expenses	1,207	3,159	4,366	32	4,334
National Trails System Organization	2,575		2,575	2,500	75
Publication - Overland Journal	28,505		28,505	26,574	1,931
Publication - News From The Plains	8,028	954	8,982	8,739	243
Store	500		500	307	193
Preservation - Trail Marking and Mapping; Officer Comp	2,132	13,561	15,693	1,531	14,162
Internet/website	1,971	3,000	4,971	3,332	1,639

Marketing	6,762	4,892	11,654	1,306	10,348
Feasibility Study (additional 8,425 expense below)	20,834		20,834	-	20,834
Cost of Books/Mdse Sold	5,173		5,173	2,352	2,821
Awards and Hall of fame	94		94	-	94
Membership Support	415		415	1,806	(1,391)
Other	78		78	503	(425)
Subtotal	153,713	130,856	284,569	212,835	71,734
Expenses paid from restricted contributions and grants :					
Intern	7,851		7,851		
Feasibility Study	8,425		8,425		
Film Project	8,300		8,300		
Western Representative	1,000		1,000		
	25,576		25,576	21,593	3,983
Total Expenses	179,289	130,856	310,145	234,428	75,717

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

**SCHEDULE APPLICABLE TO REVENUES AND EXPENSES**

Details of restricted contributions/grants received in the nine month period ended 6/30/22

	received	amount spent Oct-June
Journey of a Lifetime:		
Library/Collections	7,500	0
Archaeology	8,000	0
General	7,500	0
	<u>23,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Partnership National Trails System (intern)	10,000	2,380
WRR	1,000	1,000
Marketing project	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>35,000</u></u>	<u><u>3,380</u></u>

6/30/22 expenses, excluding expenses paid from restricted contributions/grants, increased by 71,000 compared to 6/30/21. The following is an analysis of most of the increases:

21,000 was spent relating to feasibility study

14,000 increase in preservation expenses was funded by NPS

8,000 increase in assoc manager travel. Less travel in prior period due to pandemic

6,000 increase in payments to western representative. Less than nine months worked in prior period.

6,000 increase for symposium. No symposium in prior period

4,000 increase in board meeting and officers expenses. No on site board meeting in prior period

10,000 increase in marketing expense. New projects in current period of which approx 50% was paid for with NPS funds.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<u>6/30/2022</u>	<u>9/30/2021</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b>Assets:</b>			
Checking and savings accounts - National:			
Unrestricted operating cash	23,301	61,871	(38,570)
Restricted operating cash:			
Contributions and grants (schedule)	37,387	27,963	9,424
Convention receipts	35,789	-	35,789
Endowment fund distribution	-	20,000	(20,000)
Other restricted funds	<u>7,317</u>	<u>5,797</u>	<u>1,520</u>
	103,794	115,631	(11,837)
Checking and savings accounts - chapters	155,551	155,551	-
Accounts Receivable - Trade	3,604	1,771	1,833
Prepaid Expenses	-	350	(350)
Inventory (at cost)	20,400	23,642	(3,242)
Property and equipment - cost less depreciation	1,185	1,185	-
Endowment funds	<u>1,768,254</u>	<u>1,990,214</u>	<u>(221,960)</u>
			-

<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>2,052,788</u>	<u>2,288,344</u>	<u>(235,556)</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	13,033	20,879	(7,846)
Credit card payable	4,360	8,985	(4,625)
Deferred revenue (schedule)	37,387	27,963	9,424
Deferred revenue - convention	35,789	-	35,789
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>90,569</u>	<u>57,827</u>	<u>32,742</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
National:			
Without Donor Restrictions	776,278	928,331	(152,053)
With Donor Restrictions	<u>1,030,389</u>	<u>1,146,635</u>	<u>(116,246)</u>
<b>Total Net assets - National</b>	1,806,667	2,074,966	(268,299)
Chapters	<u>155,551</u>	<u>155,551</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>1,962,218</u>	<u>2,230,517</u>	<u>(268,299)</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u>2,052,787</u>	<u>2,288,344</u>	<u>(235,557)</u>

Net assets with donor restrictions consist of donations (principal) to all three endowment funds plus the accumulated income of the Charles and Mary Martin Fund and the Pat Loomis Fund

Most of the net assets without donor restrictions consist of accumulated income of the Heritage Fund.

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

**SCHEDULE APPLICABLE TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

6/30/2022

DEFERRED REVENUE DETAILS

Journey of a Lifetime

Archaeology	8,000
Library/Collections	7,500
General	7,500
	<u>23,000</u>

National Trails System Partnership - intern 7,620

California Trails Heritage Allowance 3,722

Freedom Frontier National Heritage 1,462

Other 1,583

37,387

Deferred revenue represents restricted contributions and grants money that has been received but not yet spent.

LIQUIDITY	<u>6/30/2022</u>	<u>9/30/2021</u>
Unrestricted Cash	23,301	61,871
Accounts and Credit Card Payable	<u>17,393</u>	<u>29,864</u>

Liquidity	<u>5,908</u>	<u>32,007</u>
Decrease in Liquidity	<u>26,099</u>	

# Oregon-California Trails Association

## Investment Advisory Committee

August 9, 2022

To: OCTA Board and Officers

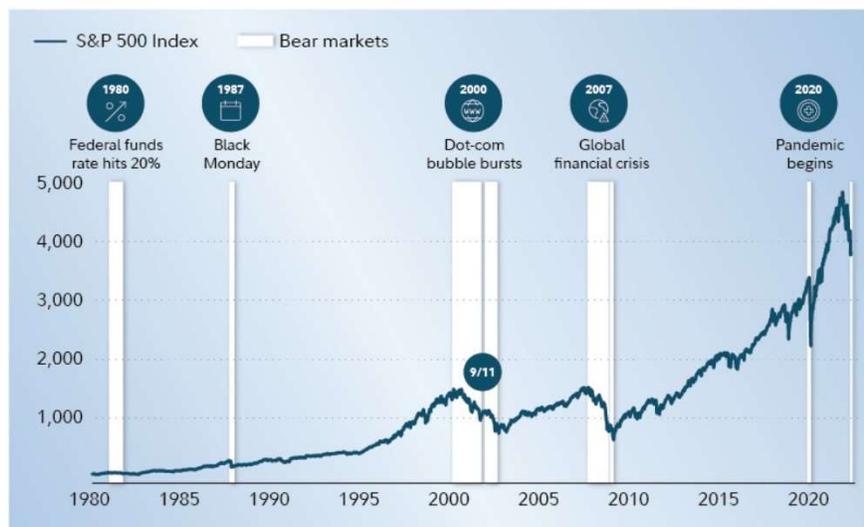
From: Investment Advisory Committee  
David Welch, Chair; Camille Bradford, Gary Dissette, Robert Clark, Bill Martin

Subject: Report of the Investment Advisory Committee

In our last report to the board we were able to report significant growth to a total endowment value of about \$2.1 million. As you know if you follow investments at all, the intervening period has been difficult. The total value of our funds now stands at about \$1.9 million as this article is written. The news is full of conflicting stories concerning inflation, interest rates, recession, etc. The pandemic and war in Ukraine add to concerns. What does this all mean for us? The important thing to remember is that we are long-term investors. We don't (and shouldn't) react to short term market swings.

What does history tell us about the markets? The chart below was prepared by Fidelity Investments. It shows how the S&P 500 Index has performed over the past 40 years. The index covers the 500 largest corporations and is reflective of our investments, but not an exact comparison.

Tracking the bears



Source: Fidelity Investments. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The S&P 500® Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of 500 common stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group representation. S&P and S&P 500 are registered service marks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. The CBOE Dow Jones Volatility Index is a key measure of market expectations of near-term volatility conveyed by S&P 500 stock index option prices. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The chart shows the market reaction to significant negative events in the period covered. In each case there is a sharp downturn, followed by a fairly rapid recovery. The two most recent dips are the pandemic in 2020 and the growth stock bubble in recent months. While it is outside of the range of this chart, there has been a recent recovery from the last decline shown, but it is not complete and may not be sustainable at this time.

The message of the chart is "persistence." History shows an inevitable recovery from bear markets with substantial long-term growth.

### Quarterly Review with Staff at Brighton Jones

On August 1, 2022, a Zoom meeting was held with the staff at Brighton Jones (Katy MacDonald, Thaddeus Allen, and Karen Harris). All members of the IAC also participated (Dave Welch, Camille Bradford, Gary Dissette, Bob Clark, and Bill Martin). From these discussions the following conclusions were drawn:

1. A slight emphasis on value<sup>1</sup> stocks in the Brighton Jones investment portfolio has been beneficial to OCTA in the past year.
2. The current allocation (80 equity/20 fixed income) is appropriate. In any case, now is the not the time to make major changes. Growth valuations are still too high. This allocation is being evaluated continuously; change may be appropriate in one to two years
3. The cash needs calculation uses an assumed long term inflation rate of 3.5%. This remains an appropriate value although current inflation is much higher. The rate is a projected long-term average.
4. Our cash needs can be met with the current allocations for the next ten to fifteen years. Market variations experienced to date do not threaten the ability to meet this need.

### Summary of OCTA Endowment Values and Performance

The total value of the endowment funds each year from 1998 to 6/30/2022 is shown in Figure 1. Apart from 2022, the data are shown as of September 30 (the end of the OCTA fiscal year) for each year. For 2022 the data are as of the end of the third quarter, 6/30/2022. The values are net of contributions, withdrawals, and fees. The value on 6/30/2022 was \$1,780,555. Since that time, the value has increased to about \$1.9 million. An updated current value will be reported at the board meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> A value stock refers to shares of a company that appears to trade at a lower price relative to its fundamentals, such as dividends, earnings, or sales, making it appealing to value investor

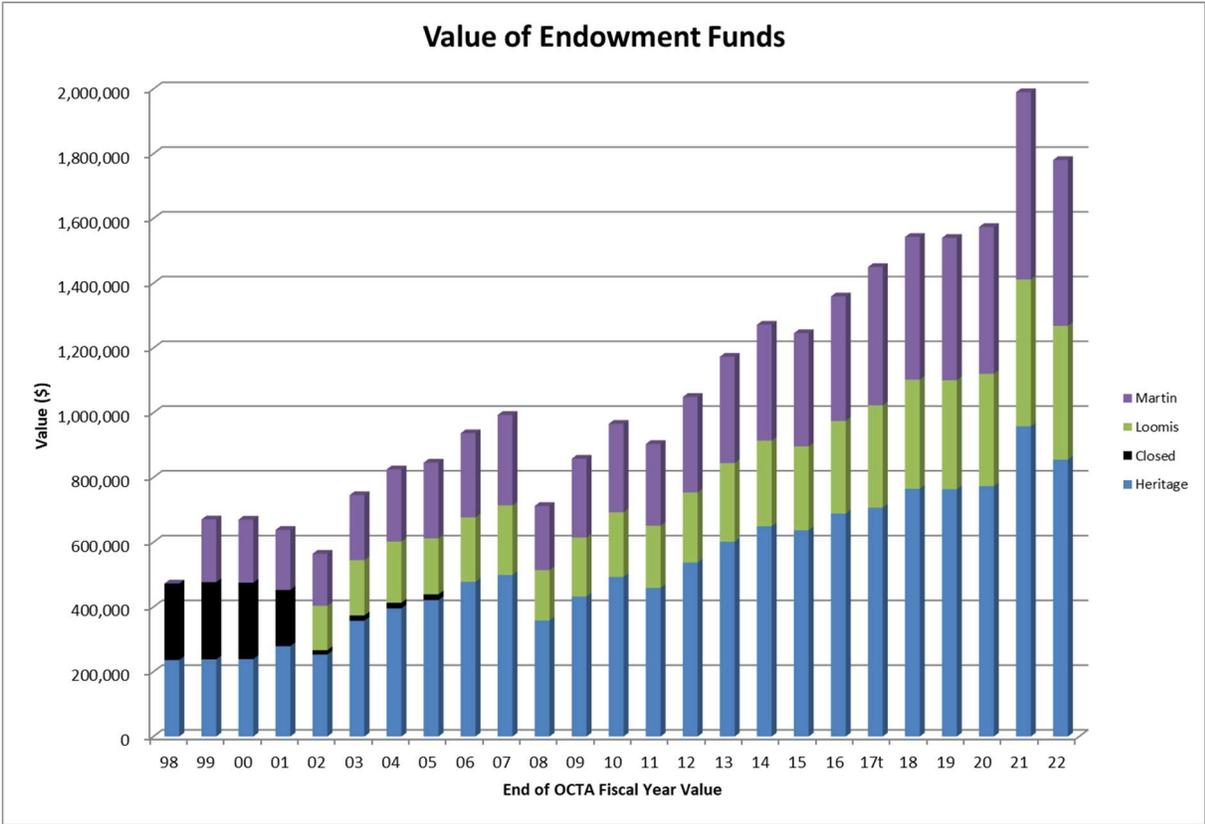


Figure 1. Value of Endowment Funds

The top table below shows the value from 2017 at the end of each OCTA fiscal year and the first three quarters of OCTA FY2022. This is the period in which Brighton Jones has managed our investments.

End FY	9/30/2017	9/30/2018	9/30/2019	9/30/2020	9/30/2021	6/30/2022
Heritage	706,827	765,068	764,089	773,353	958,657	854,992
Loomis	316,366	337,194	336,472	346,880	453,402	413,605
Martin	426,885	440,660	439,585	453,554	578,156	511,958
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,450,078</b>	<b>1,542,922</b>	<b>1,540,146</b>	<b>1,573,787</b>	<b>1,990,215</b>	<b>1,780,555</b>

	1-year Change 2017-2018	1-year Change 2018-2019	1-year Change 2019-2020	1-year Change 2020-2021	3 Qtrs 2021-2022	Change 9/30/2017 6/30/2022	Per Year (4.75 yrs)
Heritage	8.24%	-0.13%	1.21%	23.96%	-10.81%	20.96%	4.41%
Loomis	6.58%	-0.21%	3.09%	30.71%	-8.78%	30.74%	6.47%
Martin	3.23%	-0.24%	3.18%	27.47%	-11.45%	19.93%	4.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.40%</b>	<b>-0.18%</b>	<b>2.18%</b>	<b>26.46%</b>	<b>-10.53%</b>	<b>22.79%</b>	<b>4.80%</b>

Fund values at end of fiscal year. Includes contributions, withdrawals, fees and unrealized gains.

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. The net growth has been slightly under 5% per year for the period analyzed.

Performance Comparison to Benchmarks

Brighton Jones provides comparisons of how our funds performed relative to industry benchmarks. In this calculation the contribution of each fund is weighted by the amount invested in that fund. We have very diverse holdings spread over thirteen mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). With that caveat, a comparison as provided by Brighton Jones is shown below.

	Year-to-Date	1-year	2-year	Inception
All OCTA Funds	-15.75%	-11.74%	9.09%	5.40%
Allocated Weighted Benchmark	-16.68%	-12.80%	7.72%	5.77%
Difference	0.93%	1.06%	1.37%	-0.37%

#### Comparison to Benchmarks

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

#### Fund Allocations

Our twelve investment components are 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 was a conservative allocation that reduces risk, but we felt an increase over a period to 25% fixed income and 75% equities was consistent with our growth goals. We have exceeded that goal and now stand at an 78/22 allocation. The change from the last report was due to the decline in value of equities relative to bonds, not a movement from equities to bonds.

#### Recommended Withdrawal for FY2023

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 will have the equivalent of \$27,000 adjusted for inflation available each year to 2039. In that year, the amount will be \$52,000. The inflation adjusted available cash for each year is shown in the table below.

The Martin Fund is "as needed" and 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. Apart from the Heritage Fund, funds may not be transferred to other expense categories. The restrictions on each endowment are summarized in the attachment to this report.

For the OCTA FY2023 budget the maximums are \$22,174 (Heritage) and \$7,761 (Loomis). Amounts above these values may be withdrawn with specific board approval (two-thirds approving). The IAC does not recommend higher amounts except in exceptional cases.

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	-	

# PRESERVATION

## Report to Board of Directors

August 28, 2022

Casper, Wyoming

*By John Winner  
National Preservation Officer*

### Chapter Preservation Officers:

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

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**Mapping Workshop:** A long time planned basic mapping workshop mostly for members of LDS is scheduled for August 25 & 26, 2022. The first day classroom part will be held at the Sun Ranch located about 60 miles west of Casper. The second day field exercise will be in the same general area. (Note: If all goes well, this workshop will have concluded by Sundays Board meeting.)

**Fire Damage Assessment:** Efforts are underway to assess the trail damage caused by the recent catastrophic wildfires. The fact is, there are not enough OCTA volunteers to do field assessments. Some work is being accomplished on the Beckwourth Trail as a result of the Dixie fire and work continues in the Eldorado National Forest as a result of the Caldor fire.

**B2H:** The Administrative Law Judge has issued her decision in the Contested Case issues and not a good one for OCTA. Each of the issues in the contested case presented by Gail Carbiener were in essence rejected. One of the most important, the Indirect Effects to the viewshed at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) in Baker City. Here is the Judges conclusion:

*"Contrary to Mr. Carbiener's contention, Ms. Lingenfelter's video simulations do not invalidate or outweigh the other evidence in the record demonstrating that, with the proposed mitigation, the proposed project will have a less than*

*significant adverse impact on the scenic value of the NHOTIC and surrounding area."*

*"As for the Flagstaff Hill/NHOTIC area, Idaho Power has demonstrated (and the Department concurred) that the visual impacts of the proposed project would be less than significant. Taking into account mitigation via tower design (H-frame towers with a weathered steel finish) the impact would be of medium intensity and would not preclude the resource's ability to provide the scenic value for which the resource was designated or recognized."*

Another issue that was raised dealt with putting the transmission line underground. The ALJ response:

*"Because Idaho Power did not propose undergrounding the transmission line, the question of whether undergrounding is a better mitigation option is outside the Council's jurisdiction and, accordingly, outside the scope of this contested case."*

**OCTA is not pursuing any further issues raised in the contested case. OCTA will not appeal the decision. A special thanks to Gail for all the tireless effort over many years.**

**However, OCTA is not done with B2H. The BLM's 5<sup>th</sup>. year signing of the B2H Programmatic Agreement (PA) is due for review. Dave Welch has agreed to participate in the PA review discussions and has asked Dave Price, Idaho Chapters Preservation Officer (West) to assist. Here is Dave Welch's report on the meeting with BLM staff:**

*Dave Price and I met today via Zoom with BLM staffers Caryn Burri and Jennifer Theisen. Caryn is the B2H project leader and Jennifer is the project archaeologist. I know Jennifer from projects and tours from about 2010. Both appear to be very open to working with us.*

*We went over ten questions that we had prepared after reviewing the material from the PA Review meeting on May 24. Most dealt with documentation that was mentioned. We confirmed that they are "works in progress" and we will have full capability to review and comment upon them when they become available. They include the Reconnaissance Level Survey (a completed first cut at the cultural resources survey), the Class III Intensive Cultural Resource Review, background information related to that report, and the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). Preparation of the HPMP is particularly important and we (Dave and Dave) will be full participants.*

*We pointed out our confusion on the status of mitigation. We have heard "rumors" of various mitigation plans, but these were mainly related to the Oregon permitting*

*processes. That is not the end of the discussion; it is an ongoing process with the BLM with opportunities for further input on a site-by-site basis. There are also ongoing discussions on mitigation between private parties and Idaho Power. This does not involve the BLM. Our focus should be on the public lands.*

*I have obtained an updated copy of the current transmission line routing. Dave P and I are going to do a map-based study (mostly TNP) to re-assess the critical trail impact points. Much of the routing is away from the trail or in heavily developed areas. While B2H towers are much bigger than the existing towers, the proposed route does follow existing lines in many areas. A preliminary thought (not discussed with the BLM) is to ask for some general mitigation for the impact of the high towers in multiple locations.*

No doubt more to come with B2H.....

**R-Project:** The 225 mile 345 kV transmission line proposed by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in Nebraska that crosses the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails. A lawsuit was filed (OCTA a Plaintiff) when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an Incidental Take Permit authorizing the project to move forward. On June 17, 2020 the court vacated the ITP and remanded the matter back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for further review. The attorney for the Plaintiffs filed a Freedom of Information Act request. We are currently reviewing hundreds of documents and communications between the U.S.F&W and NPPD.

**Greenlink West Transmission Line Project:** A 470 mile new electric transmission line and associated facilities from Las Vegas, Nevada to Reno, Nevada. The project includes 525-kV, 345-kV, 230-kV, and 120-kV transmission facilities plus a series of substations. Most of the transmission line runs parallel to Nevada Hwy. 95 until it reaches an area north of Yerington, Nevada where the line branches to Alt. 95. with multiple smaller transmission lines. The lines will terminate at the Mira Loma Substation, southeast of Reno and Comstock Meadow Substation, on Hwy 439, the new parkway connecting I-80 and Hwy. 50.

A new Fort Churchill Substation will be built. Three new 345kV transmission lines from Fort Churchill Substation: Line 1, 36 miles to Comstock Meadows Substation; Line 2, 33 miles to Comstock Meadows Substation and Line 3, 44 miles to Mira Loma Substation. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will include crossing the Pony Express NHT, the Walker River-Sonora NHT and the California NHT, Carson Route, both the Desert and River branches. The proposed Direct APE Includes two segments of the California Trail and one segment of the Pony Express Trail, and the Indirect (visual) APE contains one segment of the Pony Express and three segments of the California NHT and segments of the Walker River-Sonora NHT.

I have submitted detailed maps showing the transmission line and where the proposed lines will cross the trails. On May 19, 2022, I attended an “in person” scoping meeting in Reno, Nevada.

**Greenlink North Transmission Line Project:** This project spans approximately 235 miles from Ely, Nevada to Yerington, Nevada. This route will parallel U.S. Highway 50

which would impact the Central Overland Trail and the Pony Express NHT. The BLM will begin preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the right-of-way application submitted by Nevada Energy. Formal review process scheduled to begin May 2023. Detailed maps for the proposed transmission lines have been requested from BLM. The second public scoping meeting was held via zoom Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 46 on the call. Aside from the cultural resource issue, visual impact to the “Loneliest Highway” was a frequent discussion topic. Initial review has the proposed transmission line crossing the Central Overland Trail at least five times.

**TransWest Express Transmission Project:** This project is a 500 kV transmission line system that will extend across four states from south-central Wyoming, southeast of Rawlins, to southern Nevada. The project will include approximately 735 miles of transmission line, two terminals located in Wyoming and Utah and, two substations located in Nevada.

The draft Historic Properties Treatment Plan for the Nevada and Utah portions have been distributed to consulting parties for review and comments.

**Gerlach Geothermal Development Project:** Impact to the Nobles Trail. This project proposed by Ormat Technologies Inc. includes 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. Currently working with NPS on issues of correct location of Nobles Trail in project area.

**Gravelly Ford Conservation Easement and Virtual Tour - Long Canyon Open Pit Mine (Mitigation):** Resulting from ongoing mitigation discussions for the Long Canyon Mine Project on the Hastings Cutoff, efforts are still underway to formalize a conservation easement on the California National Trail segments and Gravelly Ford site on land owned by Nevada Gold Mine. The conservation easement will be between Nevada Gold Mine and non-profit Nevada Land Trust. We have been advised that a draft conservation easement will be available in September 2022. I have provided NLT a great deal of information relating to the Gravelly Ford segment.

Also, part of the Long Canyon mitigation, the creation of a Virtual Tour from Interstate 80 to the Gravelly Ford site. The purpose of the virtual tour is to give the public a sense of history and to showcase some of the pristine trail segments. OCTA has been working with Nevada Gold Mine and California Trail Heritage Alliance (Helen Hankins) developing a script for the tour.

**I-229 Project- St. Joseph, Mo.:** A project to reroute I-229 which would impact historical buildings and sites. Latest update from Travis.

*This is the last communication I have on the I-229 Project. Kim Schutte both works for the city of St. Joseph and is an OCTA member. I've copied her here to see if there are any new developments since last spring.*

*Hello all,*

*Yesterday, I was on the MoDOT Zoom meeting for the I-229 project in St. Joseph, Missouri. It looks like they've basically got the redesign down to two options. Both options would remove the double-decker bridge that blocks downtown from the riverfront. Both options will also likely negatively affect some historic brick streets, and one option would completely eradicate one building. One option would basically bring traffic right in front of the Edgar House (which is at 101 Francis St., still standing and being looked at today to turn into a grocery store). It was built in 1845 and most famously was the site of Abraham Lincoln's haircut during his second visit to St. Joseph in 1859. It was stated that the project would likely bring about 16,000 vehicles through the area daily, with 800-1200 of them being tractor-trailers. This is the main connection to the stockyards, which generate over \$1 billion worth of economic activity annually. There are concerns that increased vibrations could be harmful to historic buildings.*

*The meeting was recorded, and we were told that a recording would be sent to us. I'll forward it as soon as I see it. I still don't know the timetable of when bridge removal and construction might begin, but it was stated that the project would cost in the neighborhood of \$50-\$60 million.*

*There were dozens of people on the call, but it looks like only four people responded to last year's preferred alternatives survey, all either members of OCTA or NPS folks. Because of this, it sounded like MoDOT would try to accommodate some of the desired National Historic Trail plans but not all.*

*I've copied here Lee Kreutzer from NPS, as she was also on the call. I also copied Kim Schutte, historic preservation officer for St. Joseph and an OCTA member. They may have other thoughts to add. Kim lives in St. Joseph and is much more familiar with the historic structures and impacts than me. All-in-all, I feel this will be a vast improvement and a great opportunity for the historic trails community to really showcase the riverfront as a major jumping off point, especially for the California Gold Rush.*

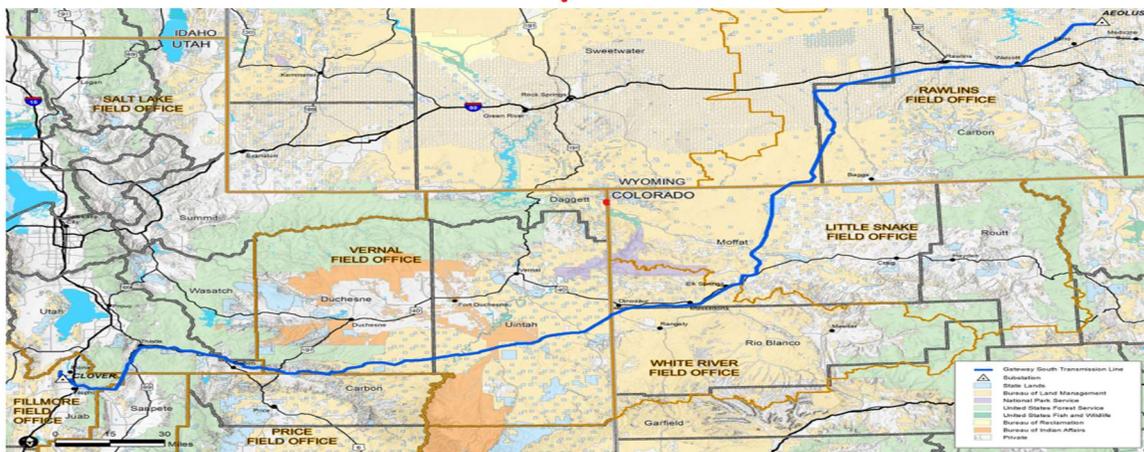
*There was some talk of the Gateway Chapter hosting next spring's board meeting and symposium. If that comes to fruition, I'd highly recommend that any tour stop at the riverfront so we can discuss the project with attendees.*

*Please let me know if you have any other questions.*

*Travis*

**Gateway South Transmission Project:** Update on this project in Colorado. Construction of this project is occurring in multiple locations in all states and in Colorado several artifact/feature discoveries have been made during construction monitoring. BLM determined that the additional adverse effects should be treated in accordance with the Discovery Plan of the Historic Property Treatment Plan as eligible properties with an Adverse Effect Determination. At this time, BLM is asking the Consulting Parties to agree to an expediated process for this addendum treatment plan. This will assist BLM to help ensure that these Discoveries are handled in a timely manner which increases the chances of recovering intact data from them.

**Gateway South Transmission Line  
Segments 1-4 (Overall Project)**



**Number of Miles & Structures:**

- 416 miles
- 1,637 structures

**Federal Right-of-Way Granted:**

- January 2017 (BLM)
- May 2017 (USFS)

**Verizon Wireless -Thousand Springs Communication Tower:** In retrospect this is not a major project, but I bring it to your attention to illustrate the importance of OCTA participating in preservation issues. Verizon Wireless proposes to build a 126-foot self-supporting tower with antennas. The site is located within the area of potential effects (APE) including Old US Highway 30 alignment and the Oregon Trail/Kelton Road near Twin Falls, Idaho. Dave Price and Don Wind, OCTA Idaho Chapter Preservation Officers requested consulting party status to be part of the Section106 mitigation process. A consulting firm, Trileaf, was hired to determine any adverse effects to historic properties. Trileaf determined there were none. Idaho SHPO was consulted and conducted a close interval survey of the APE on July 22, 2022. In part, a letter to Trileaf from the Historical Review Officer, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office stated:

Assessment of Effect

*Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5, we have applied the criteria of effect to the proposed undertaking. Based on the information received on 13 May and 18 July 2022, our office **does not concur** with the finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Our office has determined the undertaking will result in **an adverse effect to historic properties**. The undertaking will adversely affect the aspects of integrity of the setting and feeling of the Oregon Trail/Kelton Road, Thousand Springs Air Park, and Thousand Springs Ranch. We look forward to working with you, as well as other consulting parties (e.g., Oregon and California Trail Association, Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and the National Park Service to avoid, minimize or mitigate these adverse effects. To learn more about the mitigation process please visit <https://history.idaho.gov/section-106/mitigation-process/>.*

It's important to be part of the process.

**Fernley Swales Saga:** In 2001 a Historic Preservation and Access Easement for the Fernley Sand Swales was created with the intent to preserve and protect a segment of the California National Historic Trail (Truckee River Route) and a segment of the original roadbed of the 1868 to 1903 Central Pacific Railroad. The property owner entered into the easement with the Department of Interior (BLM). The easement is approximately 130 acres and includes a 1-mile segment of pristine Class1 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, Nevada and many volunteer organization “to clean” up dump trash. Additionally, OCTA conducts an annual photo monitoring program.

The frustration is: Neither the Grantor (fee simple property owner of bare legal title of the land) or the Grantee, Department of Interior (BLM) owner of the Easement wants any responsibility. **Jon Nowlin**, long time OCTA member, who oversees OCTA’s interest in the Fernley Swales put it this way:

*“Since BLM's establishment of the Easement in 2001, OCTA California-Nevada Chapter volunteers have had lead roles in supporting the annual September National Public Lands cleanups at the Swales and in performing for BLM the annual November photographic monitoring required by BLM's Easement. In addition, OCTA volunteers have been active in trying to limit OHV damage within the Easement by providing signage and physical barriers discouraging increasing new OHV trails.*

*However, with no BLM restraint of OHV incursions in the Easement, these OCTA volunteer efforts have had little long-term impact in preservation of the historic resources in the Easement.*

*So, if BLM apparently has no concern over the future of the historic resources within their formal Easement, what should OCTA's role be?*

There has been countless meetings and discussions between OCTA, BLM, City of Fernley and others. Most recent, a letter to The BLM State Director looking for a positive approach to the preservation of this historic site. As I finalize this report, a meeting with John Raby, BLM State Director is tentatively scheduled for September 14, 2022, in Reno, NV. Hopefully, something good to report next time.

**End of Report**

# Fundraising Committee Report

August 28, 2022

Committee members: Lee Black, Chairman, Steve Allison, John Briggs, Helen Hankins, Bill Martin, Pat Traffas and Dave Welch

Leadership expresses sincere appreciation for your continued support of the OCTA mission. As preservationists, OCTA remains the pre-eminent guardian and promoter of the inspirational story of the 19<sup>th</sup> century westward migration.

The objective of furnishing the following statistics is to help you understand that OCTA giving is increasing even though our membership is in decline. Additionally, it helps to understand how non-profits are doing in these unusual economic times.

Blackbaud Institute, 2021 Charitable Giving Report	Charities with < \$1M in fundraising receipts	Subsector Overall Giving	OCTA
Year over Year %	+9.2%	+15.2%	-26.1%*
Three-year trend	+3.4%	+10.9%	+81.8%
Charities in the overall index - 8635			

\*Overwhelming donor support in 2020 due to postponing Elko Convention.  
(2019 gifts \$36,600, 2020 gifts \$90,000 vs \$66,550 in 2021)

OCTA experienced a 145% year over year growth of fundraising income in 2020.

**Journey of a Lifetime** continues in the development stage. Your Fundraising Committee is appreciative of the Feasibility Study feedback received from OCTA members and businesses. Utilizing the information, we are taking the necessary steps to construct a solid foundation for a successful campaign. Every wagon train headed west had to plan their route, set timing of departure, have sufficient financial and material resources, and manpower to accomplish a successful journey.

Twenty-two recommendations were developed from your input. All required proper consideration prior to launching a successful campaign. The Committee continues researching

and implementing fundraising “Best Practices,” securing operational tools and staffing necessary for success. Understanding our membership interests and expectations is paramount. Hopefully new opportunities to build membership will result. The process now involves a “refreshing of our OCTA Brand”, acquiring a professional data-base system and critical campaign management tools.

In order to achieve various Strategic Plan initiatives, adopted by our membership, OCTA must transition from a solely volunteer organization to a well equipped and staffed organization. The processes will lead to effectively relating to our membership in ways that they understand they are valued. A second goal is to understand OCTA’s value to approximately 75% of current membership who are not engaged and do not contribute annually or attend local or national meetings. Building a stronger relationship with our membership may lead to better involvement, retention and less attrition.

Many have communicated OCTA’s need to gain support from Corporations and communities that are not presently involved. That initiative takes time to develop. It also requires expanded communication through all media platforms available. Steps are underway to achieve enhanced Public Relations and Communications. Ideally the end product is an expanded and engaged membership

The Committee is also pleased to announce that several **Journey of a Lifetime** gifts have been received. Designated funds were received to support the work of the Archaeology, Libraries/Collections Committee and phase one of the rebranding task. In addition, undesignated gifts received are available for other initiatives. The total received to date is \$42,000 with considerably more being pledged. Legacy gifts have also been pledged totaling well over \$250,000.

In closing, once it is appropriate, your committee will make a presentation to the Board to gain commitment to support the Campaign with their work, wealth and wisdom. OCTA is fortunate to have the wisdom, knowledge and financial commitment of the committee members, many who have served as OCTA Presidents and in other important leadership roles. Appreciation is also expressed to our staff, Kathy Conway and Travis Boley, for their commitment to the success of **Journey of a Lifetime**.

## Oregon-California Trails Association

### Report of the Library and Collections Committee, August 2022

The Committee has spent the last several months revising the OCTA Collections Policy and setting out its own internal procedures. In doing so the Committee has reaffirmed its commitment to providing the best contemporary guidance for OCTA in collecting, preserving, and making accessible the widest possible range of historical materials documenting the history of America's Western emigrant trails as well as a century of efforts by organizations and individuals driven to preserve the physical trails and the stories of those who used them.

In developing the updated Collections Policy and its own Standard Operating Procedures, the Committee members are committed to contemporary practices and guidelines accepted by archival, library and museum institutions and their professional organizations in the United States today. The Committee is also very much aware of and attuned to the needs and concerns of those OCTA members and others who have accumulated collections of books, maps, papers, photographs, etc. during their own pursuits of this history. As it moves forward, the Library and Collections Committee is focused on assisting collectors and potential donors of historical materials of whatever type and amount find appropriate repositories or other new users of these materials.

OCTA relies on donors to add to the already-sizeable collection of historical materials housed in the Mattes Library in Independence as well as in the several Trails Branch Libraries with which OCTA has signed agreements. This total collection, along with other important collections, some of which have been assembled by OCTA's Regional Chapters and some which remain in private hands comprise the base of the historical record of the western trails and related work of preservation and education. The Library and Collections Committee believes that OCTA stands in a unique position to ensure that this history is documented in a way that provides for the uses of future generations of researchers.

Moving forward, it is important that the Library and Collections Committee continue to be composed of OCTA members, collectors of trails materials, and professionals in the library, archives, museum, and related fields thereby assembling the combination of knowledge, skills and passion for the subject that support a successful collections program. That said, the Committee sees challenges and opportunities ahead including:

- Funding for this work
- Expanding the work of making these collections digitally available and useable for all.
- Making the various collections in the many current and future repositories known to potential users via an existing or a specially created reference database.
- Recognizing that technology is always changing and even the best of backups may not always protect electronically reproduced documents, providing safe and secure long-term storage for carefully selected core collections in their original formats.

- Maintaining current relationships with existing Trails Branch Libraries and developing new relationships to partner with OCTA and its Regional Chapters in this area of collections as people, priorities and resources change over time.
- Being open and responsive to the needs of OCTA members and other collectors who constitute the base of this entire collections effort.
- Bringing into focus three-dimensional objects that carry information and stories of the western emigrant trails which are found in public and private collections across the west.
- Identifying and supporting new generations of researchers who will use these collections in telling new stories drawn from an old history.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

Michael Smith

Chair

## **PARTNERSHIP**

**To be presented later**

## MEMBERSHIP

### Report to the Board of Directors

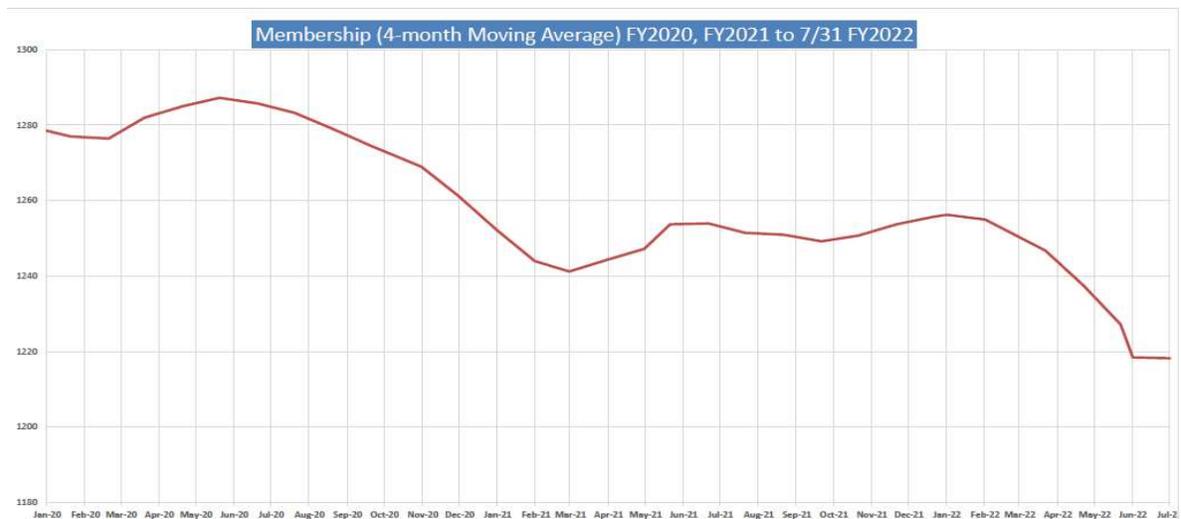
### August 14, 2022

Since Duane Iles stepped down from Membership Committee Chair, we have not been able to persuade anyone to pick up the mantle. This is an extremely important position that can be a major contributor to the Association.

Kathy Conway does continue to report membership at its various levels on a monthly basis and this information is shared with the Board and the Chapter Presidents.

Category	2021 7 31	2021 8 31	2021 9 30	2021 10 31	2021 11 30	2021 12 31	2022 1 31	2022 2 28	2022 3 31	2022 4 30	2022 5 31	2022 6 30	2022 7 31
Corp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emigrant	644	645	648	650	653	655	656	652	627	625	626	633	640
Pioneer	276	281	281	276	276	272	269	263	263	261	256	255	255
Pathfinder	78	76	74	74	75	78	76	80	75	72	73	70	69
Institutional	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4
Library	38	39	39	40	37	38	37	37	39	39	39	38	38
Ezra Meeker Life	107	106	106	107	107	107	107	107	109	109	108	109	110
Trail Patron	64	67	67	66	62	63	63	64	62	63	63	60	60
Student	7	7	8	8	12	11	12	12	13	11	12	12	11
Educator	14	15	14	15	15	16	18	17	15	18	18	18	18
M. M. Society	11	10	10	11	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
Business	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	1248	1255	1256	1256	1256	1259	1257	1251	1223	1219	1216	1216	1222
Paper Trail	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Overall from the number at the end of July in 2021 to the same point in 2022 we see a 2% per annum decline which is not dissimilar to that shown in the graph David Welch provides covering FY2020, FY2021 and YTD FY 2022.



Using the same 4 month moving average Dave’s graph of the period Jan 1 2011 to date shows a trend in year on year decline of 1.4% per annum. What is noticeable from the raw data is that the decline is in the Emigrant and Pioneer levels. Life Members, Pathfinders and Trails Patrons show increases over the extended period.



These data may be worth analyzing to see if there is any seasonal correlation.

The graph below is of the raw data, i.e. not smoothed.



Kathy also prepares a table of Members not renewing and that, too, is shared with the Board and the Chapter Presidents. This is important information to be used in the effort by Chapters to retain their members.

Travis monitors the new member applications to note anyone not joining a local Chapter which information he then sends on to the Chapter President or Membership Chair.

There are three ways in which we are working to turn things around.

1. Improving the way we present OCTA to the World. The Marketing Committee has already been working to use Social Media to address younger age groups as well as improve our appearance to our traditional members. I refer you to their Board report for more information.
2. Improving our capabilities and thus our offer to attract and retain more members. The Fundraising Committee in 'Journey of a Lifetime' has identified a number of areas that we can broaden including Libraries and Collections, Archaeology, Education, Marketing and Preservation. As Duane mentioned in his report of last year, we have also seen the development of Zoom 'talks' especially in the Colorado/Cherokee, Northwest and Southern Trails Chapters. We should ensure these opportunities are publicized more broadly.
3. The same Committee is also looking at customer relationship management systems that would provide improved Member and Donor Management. That can be designed to tell us more about why members join and how to retain them more successfully.

Note for reference two assumptions made about membership that would benefit from being confirmed

1. 1220 Memberships equates to approximately 1600 members.
2. Active members are about 25% of the total.

Finally, thanks to the Chapter Presidents and Membership Chairs for all the work they do to recruit and retain members.

John Briggs

To: OCTA Board & HQ Officers

From: Bill Hill Chair – Publications & Ed. Pub. & Awards

Ref: Publications Report - August 2022.

**Chair Report –**

I wish to thank the Board for its continuing support, my committee members for their cooperation, work, and understanding, and the editors for their dedication to providing professional quality publications and all those who continue to contribute to them.

A revised budget was submitted to the Budget Committee/HQ. It reflected a number of increases. Most were either contractual and/or reflect inflation and actual increased costs. Some smaller ones are related to providing free copies of the OJ at other conventions, or to libraries and visitor centers. Bob's contract is up, & he will receive a new one based on discussions last year and the board approval for a small 5% pay increase. Jay's contract renewed last year also provided for a 5% increase. We look forward to an approval of the proposed budget.

The recipient of the Merrill Mattes Award is Harlan Seyfer for his article, "The Mormon Trail of 1850," Vol. 39, No. 1, Spring 2021. The selection process took longer than expected because of the high quality of many of the articles. Thanks to all the authors and the reviewers. Harlan will be attending the Awards Dinner.

We are still working to see if we will be able to publish some of Greg's books. We are suggesting that we offer a 10% royalty as an inducement (if agreed/approved). We are also discussing how we can provide an updated version of *Graves and Sites* that includes all the new site markings in a professional, yet inexpensively as possible manner. A recent suggestion was to have it available only electronically, in place of or also as a paper copy. Some other inquiries have been made to us to see if we would be interested in publishing other works. We, including the Board, Budget Committee and HQ, need to discuss the whole concept of publishing new works with a realistic view of what Publications & OCTA might be willing and capable of doing now and in the future.

Another concern is the website and how we can improve it. Bob has been working & advocating for some changes, esp. in relation to the OJ. The committee will review the "publications" parts in relation to what we have on it or should have, things to be added, those to be re-worked or improved, how/or where items should be, ease of finding, clarity, etc.

We are looking for additional members for the publication committee.

We will be discussing a publication or something similar to it which will engage the younger students/children – electronic or digital.

**Editors' Reports (continued on next page)**

**Overland Journal.** Report of the editor, August 2022

*Overland Journal* editing and publishing remains on schedule. The summer 2022 issue is in the mail. The Fall 2022 materials will be in designer Ariane Smith's hands about the time of the convention.

I have articles, either complete or in final revision, for the rest of 2022 and the first two or three issues in 2023. Roughly 20 articles are currently being completed, reviewed, edited, and/or considered for publication.

Printers across the country are facing steep increases in the costs of paper and other materials. Labor costs are rising. Our budget, however, should be an accurate forecast for the coming year.

A detailed schedule of production and distribution will be developed for 2023 and shared with headquarters.

All speakers at our current convention have been contacted by me and encouraged to develop articles for the journal.

With respect and in service,

Bob Clark

**News from the Plains,** editor's report - August 2022

All the news on News from the Plains is good! Reports and photos have become more timely in arriving, and the editing and assembly has been smooth. Assembly of our Fall issue will coincide with the Casper convention dates so a little extra time will be needed to gather the stories and photos from the convention and to write the convention overview report.

Thanks to all,

Jay Lawrence

**Ed. Publications Report Portion**

As reported in the spring there were no entries for the February raffle drawing for a class set of our activity books.

We have a recipient for the Outstanding Educator Award for this year. The recipient is the Cathy Lynch/Grand Encampment Museum, Encampment, WY. She will be in attendance along with the Director of the museum, Tim Nicklas, at the Awards Dinner. They have a very exciting program and will receive a plaque and check for \$250.00 during the dinner.

**(continued on next page)**

The student calendar “Mountain Men, Emigrants and Indians – Trade and Trade Goods” for 2023 is now available. Purchase price is still only \$10.00.

The student winners and their school & teacher are:

**Zac Hawkins**, Mrs. Heryford & Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, 5th grade, Salt Lake City, UT; **Evelyn Rotondi**, Mrs. Hazen & Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, 5th grade, Salt Lake City, UT; **Mae Alder**, Mrs. Heryford & Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, 5th grade, Salt Lake City, UT; **Clara Evans**, Mrs. Hazen & Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, 5th grade, Salt Lake City, UT; **Henry Griffin**, Mrs. Hazen & Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, 5th grade, Salt Lake City, UT; **Jack Palmer**, Mrs. Hazen & Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, 5th grade, Salt Lake City, UT; **Kate Massoth**, Ms. Kolarik, John Paul II, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; **Henry Churchill**, Ms. Somerhalder, John Paul II, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; **George Macan**, Ms. Flaspohler, John Paul II, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; **Louise Morgan**, Ms. Churchill, John Paul II, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; **Nian San**, Ms. Churchill, John Paul II, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; **Ramona Slowik**, Ms. Janner, John Paul II, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; **Mary Holland**, Ms. Janner, John Paul II, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS; and **Ruth Lusk**, Ms. Janner, John Paul II, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Overland Park, KS.

The theme for 2024 is “Emigrants and Indians – Tools, Utensils, and Equipment.” We are looking forward to greater participation. Each of the winning students receives a fifty-dollar check and a copy of the calendar.

**The Ed. Publications/Awards portion on the OCTA website is in the process of being brought up to date.**

It would be beneficial to have a dedicated Chairperson in charge of the above Ed. Programs.

(OCTA-Pub.Com.&Ed. Bd. Report-8-2022)

**Oregon-California Trails Association**

**Memorandum**

**Mapping & Marking Committee**

August 14, 2022

To: OCTA Board

From: Dave Welch

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

The mapping and marking committee currently has about sixty members. The committee includes members active in the field and those not able participate in field work. 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.

Several chapters are conducting regular Zoom meeting in the absence of face-to-face meetings. Zoom is a particularly good tool for online mapping discussions. The ability to share screens gives better visibility than is possible in most in-person meetings. In the Northwest we have had several presentations including Emigrant Springs explorations, the Whitman Mission route and the Applegate Trail. The presentations have been recorded and are available to OCTA members.

The process of extending our TNP mapping software subscriptions through the NPS is underway. The table below shows the list of participants. Again, many thanks to the NPS for this support.

As a reminder, Carsonite markers and associated decals may be obtained by a request to Randy Brown. Many markers have been in place for many years. Chapters are encouraged to replace damaged or missing markers and update data on their location.

Mapping training will be held at the Sun Ranch prior to the Casper convention. John Winner will report on that activity.

	TNP Licenses	OCTA Mapping & Marking Committee						8/2/2022
	Name	State	Notes	Product ID	Purchaser	TNP 2022	Sites	Confirmed
1	Bruce Watson	Arizona		9VUEF	NPS	1		Yes
2	Bruce Watson	Colorado		7JLH7	NPS	1	1	Yes
3	David Welch	Oregon		B7S37	NPS	1	1	Yes
4	David Welch	Washington		9QUJC	NPS	1		Yes
5	David Welch	Idaho		GECJF	NPS	1		Yes
6	Dee Owens	California	New		NPS	1		Yes
7	Dee Owens	Nevada	New		NPS	1		Yes
8	Dick Waugh	California		T8QDC	NPS	1		Yes
9	Dick Waugh	Nevada		XEMRV	NPS	1		Yes
10	Ethan Gannett	Colorado	New		NPS	1		Yes
11	Henry Pittock	Oregon		ZSX7U	NPS	1		Yes
12	Dave Price	Idaho	New		NPS	1		Yes
13	Dave Price	Oregon	New		NPS	1		Yes
14	Jesse Petersen	Nevada		PEAV6	NPS	1	1	Yes
15	Jesse Petersen	Utah		QN8UN	NPS	1		Yes
16	Jesse Petersen	Wyoming		JP698	NPS	1		Yes
17	John Winner	California		BVEWP	NPS	1	1	Yes
18	John Winner	Nevada		4AEUL	NPS	1		Yes
19	Jon Nowlin	California		K8LDG	NPS	1	1	Yes
20	Jon Nowlin	Nevada		MVY2N	NPS	1		Yes
21	Kansas-Missouri	Kansas	TBD	?	NPS	1		Yes
22	Larry Schmidt	California		ATHHR	NPS	1	1	Yes
23	Larry Schmidt	Nevada		NYKB9	NPS	1		Yes
24	Richard Silva	California		PSP7Z	NPS	1		Yes
25	Richard Silva	Nevada	New		NPS	1		Yes
26	Richard Silva	Oregon		NPEPQ	NPS	1		Yes
27	Robin Baker	Oregon	New		NPS	1		Yes
28	William C. Burr	Colorado		KETW5	NPS	1		Yes

Package		TNP 2022	Sites
Cost		\$144	\$144
Total Licenses		28	6
Cost		\$4,032	\$864
Total Cost			\$4,896

State Coverage	Number
Kansas	1
Nebraska	0
Colorado	3
Wyoming	1
Utah	1
Idaho	2
Nevada	7
California	6
Oregon	5
Washington	1
Arizona	1
New Mexico	0
Total	28

Graves and Sites Committee

August 18, 2022

The committee will mark the grave of Emma Patrick later this summer. Shown here is the layout of the marker. Attached is an earlier report showing the grave enclosure with a close up of the fragmented headstone. This report was done long before research revealed the identity of Emma Patrick.

Randy Brown



## EMMA PATRICK



The child buried here has been known incorrectly as "Emily" Patrick, age ten, due to erroneous readings of the fragmented inscription on the headstone which was placed at her grave in 1867. It is now known that her name was Emma Patrick, the infant daughter of William Garrison Patrick and Melissa Virginia (Wright) Patrick of Chico, California. ("Emily," which appears on the headstone, may have been a nickname.)

The Patricks were originally residents of Randolph County, Missouri, where they were married in 1850. While living on their farm near the town of Huntsville, they had four children: Mary, Rebecca, Elizabeth, and Ethel. In 1858, they traveled overland to California, the move prompted by Melissa's brother Thomas Shelton Wright, then a resident of Chico who had come to California in 1849 during the gold rush. In 1851 Thomas purchased land near Chico from pioneer John Bidwell where he built a large house and other ranch buildings. Thomas traveled to Missouri for a visit in 1857 and returned the next year with the family of William and Melissa Patrick who settled near him outside Chico. The overland trip was marred by the death of the Patrick's young son Ethel in August somewhere on the trail.

The Patricks, shown here, had three more children born in California before 1867, James, known as "Tom," Bee, and Emma. In 1863 Thomas Wright died leaving his sister Melissa his large ranch house and 267 acres of land. (The house still stands and is a historic landmark in Butte County.) In 1867, the entire Patrick family traveled overland back to Missouri. Melissa's father Johnson Wright had died in April, and the visit to Randolph County was likely concerned with the settlement of the estate.



On the eastbound trip the Patricks followed the Lodgepole Trail, named for the nearby creek, a variant of the Overland Trail in eastern Wyoming. Here on August 9, 1867, their youngest child Emma died. She is described as an "infant" in family documents, but her exact age is unknown. Perhaps the "ten years" thought to have been on the headstone was actually "ten months." If so, this would place her birthday sometime in October, 1866. No other details are known concerning the circumstances of her death. The family inscribed a headstone whose survival allowed the site to remain an identified grave until settlement times, although its fragmentation caused the confusion regarding her name and age.

The family returned to their home near Chico the following year. Melissa Patrick and her daughters traveled by ship via New York while William and son Tom, then only eight-years old, took the overland route driving a herd of newly acquired stock along the way.

The Patricks' last child, William Garrison Patrick, Jr. was born in August, 1870, five months after the death of his father, William, Sr. Melissa Patrick remarried in 1877, and died in 1898. The Wright-Patrick house remained in the family until the 1980s.

**Oregon-California Trails Association**  
P. O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519  
2022

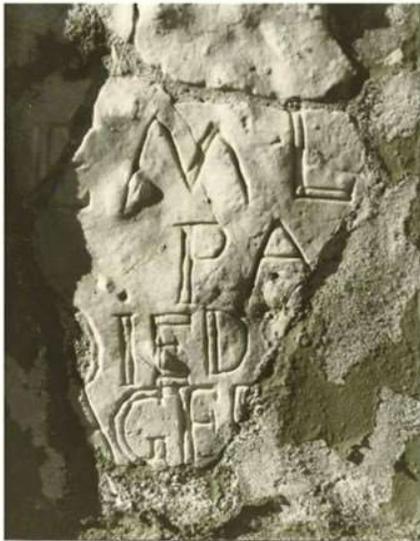
This is a part of your American heritage. Honor it. Protect it. Preserve it for your children.



## The Grave of Emily Patrick



Out on the old Warren Ranch north of Cheyenne is the grave of Emily Patrick. In 1867 Emily and her family were traveling the Lodgepole Trail, a variant of the Overland Trail, when she died and was buried here. Fragments of the original headstone are enclosed in the stone monument. The large sign does not give any information about Emily and has just a short poem written on it. The headstone reads "EMLY PATRICK, DIED AUG. 9, 1867, AGE 10." Nothing more is known about the little girl or her family. Nearby are several sets of well-preserved ruts of the Lodgepole Trail heading west for Cheyenne Pass. The Lodgepole Trail merges with the Overland Trail near Cooper Creek, east of Arlington.



The headstone at the Patrick grave



Ruts of the Lodgepole Trail at the Patrick grave

## MEMORANDUM

To: OCTA Board

From: Camille Bradford

Date: August 14, 2022

### **Re: Hall of Fame Committee Report**

As reported at mid-year, the committee voted to induct three new members in 2022:

- Jim Bridger (1804-1881) – Trail pioneer.  
Legendary mountain man, trapper, Western explorer and guide.
- William Robertson Coe (1869-1955) – Philanthropist.  
A prominent collector of Western Americana.
- Dale Morgan (1914-1971) – Author/editor.  
A renowned Western historian who specialized in works pertaining to the history of Utah and the LDS church, the American fur trade and the overland trails.

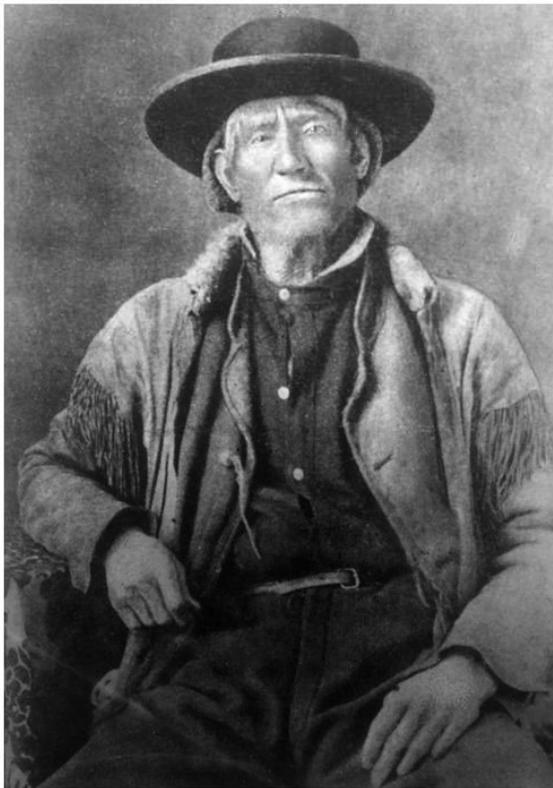
Their plaques will appear in a combined display poster at the convention and their biographies will appear in the Fall issue of Overland Journal.

**(continued on next three pages)**



# EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

## OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



## James Felix Bridger

James Felix “Jim” Bridger was one of the most famous guides, scouts, and mountain men of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Virginia, his family moved to the edges of the American frontier near St. Louis, and he was orphaned at the age of 13. Never formally educated, illiterate his entire life, he apprenticed to Philip Creamer, a famous gunsmith, working at his gun shop and at the Illinois Indian Agency.

In 1822 he joined the fur trapping expedition of Andrew Henry and William Ashley to the upper Missouri River, traveling with Jedediah Smith and others. For the next two decades, Bridger wandered the American West, between the U.S.-Canadian border to the north and the Mexican border to the south; between the Missouri River on the east, and Idaho and Utah territories and Alta California on the west. He was among the first to explore the Yellowstone region and the Great Salt Lake.

In 1843, he established Fort Bridger which became an important resource for emigrant travelers. In the late 1850s, he guided topographical surveys of potential wagon roads along the Yellowstone, Wind, Bighorn, Three Forks, and other rivers. In the 1860s he was a guide at Fort Laramie and later was stationed as a scout at Forts Phil Kearney and C.F. Smith on the Bozeman Trail.

While involved in the Red Cloud War and other conflicts, and as a brigade leader and scout, he had generally good relations with tribes, who trusted his word. He showed Captain Stansbury what would become known as Bridger Pass, an alternative route in south-central Wyoming that bypassed South Pass and shortened the Oregon Trail by more than 60 miles. In 1864, recognizing the need for a safer route to the gold fields in Montana Territory than the Bozeman Trail, he blazed what became known as the Bridger Trail through the Bighorn Basin.

He returned to Missouri in 1868 where he lived until his death. Originally interred at a small cemetery near his home, his remains were moved to Mount Washington Cemetery in Independence, Missouri, in 1904. The reinterment was arranged by General Grenville Mellen Dodge who had consulted Bridger on surveys for the Union Pacific Railroad and had hired him to be chief guide for Indian campaigns on the Bozeman Trail. Dodge also arranged for the creation of a striking seven-foot monument at the gravesite depicting Bridger’s principal achievements.

### Biography

- Born: 1804, Richmond, Virginia
- Died: 1881, Kansas City, Missouri
- Married:
  - Cora (Flathead tribe), c.1835
  - Chipeta (Ute tribe), c. 1846
  - Mary “Little Fawn” (Shoshone tribe), c. 1848
- Noted mountain man and explorer of the American West

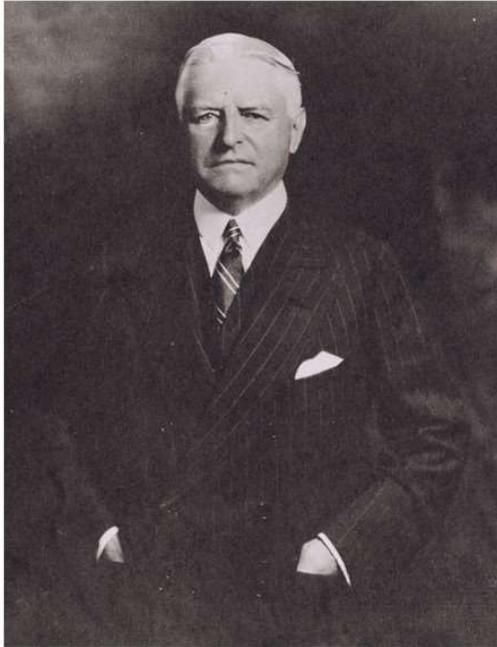
### Achievements

- Among the first explorers of the Yellowstone region and the Great Salt Lake
- Established Fort Bridger as a major trading post on the Oregon Trail
- Blazed what became known as the Bridger Trail to the gold fields of Montana



# EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

## OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



### Biography

- Born 1869, Worcestershire, England
- Died 1955, Palm Beach, Florida
- Married:
  - Jane Hutchinson Falligant, 1893
  - Mai Huttleston Rogers, 1900
  - Caroline Graham Slaughter, 1926

### Achievements

- Insurance executive and philanthropist
- Donor of major collection of Western Americana to Yale University

## William Robertson Coe

William Robertson Coe was among the foremost collectors of Western Americana in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born in England, he moved to the United States with his family when he was 14. He began working at age 16 for Johnson & Higgins, a marine insurance firm, rose quickly through its ranks and became President of the firm in 1910 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1916-1943.

He purchased the ranch of William F. Cody (“Buffalo Bill”) in Cody, Wyoming in 1910, and began acquiring material related to the exploration and settlement of the West – rare original maps, diaries, manuscripts, letters, artwork, photographs, books, newspaper files.

He retained Edward Emory Eberstadt (1883-1958), a Western history scholar and prominent book dealer in New York to advise and assist him in expansion of the collection. It grew to about 10,000 items and covered the period beginning with the Spanish explorations of Juan Perez and Fray Tomas and ending about 1890.

One of Coe’s objectives, as described by Eberstadt was a desire “... to make known to coming generations the conditions which were faced, the hardships which were endured, and the courage that went into the conquest and settlement of the West.” An index to the collection is a volume in itself. Its myriad treasures included original field maps and field notes from the Lewis and Clark expedition, original manuscripts of Robert Stuart’s journals, and over 900 rare photographs taken by William Henry Jackson on Western expeditions in the 1860s and 1870s.

He donated the collection to Yale University where it was the foundation of what is now the prestigious Yale Collection of Western Americana in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. At the time of its donation the university identified the gift as “the largest group of materials in its field that had ever been assembled.”

Coe’s strong interest in the history of his adopted country also inspired him to provide funding for programs in American Studies at forty colleges and universities. A bequest from his estate funded construction of the William Robertson Coe Library and School of American Studies at the University of Wyoming, dedicated in 1958. He was interested in preservation of pioneer trails and supported the Oregon Trail Memorial Association and American Pioneer Trails Association.

In short, Coe’s life was the embodiment of the American Dream, and through his generous philanthropy his love of American history lives on as his legacy at institutions throughout the country.



# EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

## OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



### Biography

- Born 1914, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Died 1971, Accokeek, Maryland
- Historian, author, editor

### Achievements

- Widely acclaimed for works related to the history of Utah, the exploration and settlement of the American West, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Native Americans and mountain men.
- Recipient of two John Simon Guggenheim Fellowships in United States History

## Dale Lowell Morgan

Dale Lowell Morgan was a renowned historian of the American West. As a result of meningitis, he lost his hearing at age 14. Although it was a devastating setback, he overcame the obstacles to communication that it presented and developed remarkable research and writing skills that enhanced his career as an historian and the renown he achieved.

During his career, his meticulous research was generously shared with fellow historians. His works were widely lauded, and his influence was felt by prominent historians over the years, including Fawn Brodie, Juanita Brooks, Wallace Stegner, Harold Schindler, Will Bagley, and many others.

Morgan received a degree in art from the University of Utah in 1937. After his graduation, he began his career in positions connected with history and writing projects sponsored by the Federal Writers Project.

In 1940 he was named state supervisor of the Utah Historical Records Survey. He prepared the *WPA Guide to Utah*, published in 1941, followed by histories of Ogden and Provo. In 1942 he accepted a position with the Office of Price Administration in Washington, D.C.

Morgan's early research and writing focused on the Great Basin and the history of the Latter-day Saints in Utah. His first major book, *The Humboldt: Highroad of the West*, was published in 1943 as part of the Farrar & Rinehart *Rivers of America* series. *The Great Salt Lake*, published in 1947 as part of *The American Lake Series* of Bobbs-Merrill Company, was a comprehensive history of Utah widely acclaimed for the depth of its research.

Other major works included *West from Fort Bridger: The Pioneering of Immigrant Trails Across Utah, 1846-1850*, with J. Roderic Korns, (1951); *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West* (1953); *Overland in 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California-Oregon Trail* (2 vols. 1963); and *The West of William H. Ashley* (1964).

Morgan was the recipient of two John Simon Guggenheim Fellowships in United States History, in 1945 and 1970. From 1954 until his death in 1971 he was an historian at the University of California Bancroft Library.

In 1978, *A Mormon Bibliography, 1830-1930*, an extensive compilation of sources on which he had worked beginning in the 1940s, was published with an introduction written by him prior to his death.

## MEMORANDUM

To: OCTA Board

From: Camille Bradford

Date: August 14, 2022

**Re: Governance Committee report**

The role of the Governance Committee is to provide input and advice on various issues of organization governance, when requested by the President, and I have continued to do so in the interim since the last report.



**CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER**  
**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

The California/Nevada Chapter of OCTA has seen a resurgence of activities in 2022 after the Covid lockdown and the devastating fires in the West last year. Our membership has reached 399 members and is growing, and we are financially secure.

In May, we held our annual Spring Symposium at the Gaia Hotel and Spa in Anderson California, which is located on the Nobles Emigrant Trail and close to where ferry crossed the Sacramento River. The theme of the symposium was The Nobles Trail, and there was a PowerPoint presentation on William Nobles and his trail, one on Pierson B. Redding, and one on Mary Brown, wife of abolitionist John Brown who was hanged for his abolitionist actions. His wife later came to the Sacramento Valley over the Nobles Trail. We ended the symposium with a visit and tour of Shasta City—a Calif. Historical State Park that was the terminus of the trail. Then we did a post symposium tour of the trail to several interesting sites including Charlie's ranch where Bear & Bull Fights were held in the 1850s and to Shingletown, where shingles were made for mining camps near and around Shasta City.

One of the highlights of the symposium was the featuring of the Voices of The Golden Ghosts, a group of African Americans who are reviving the history and legacy of their predecessors—a history that has been virtually forgotten. But with skits, living history impersonations, and stories of their contributions to the early history of California, they made a captivating impression of everyone present.

The devastating fires last year have opened areas that were previously covered with brush making some segments of trails visible that were previously difficult or impossible to access. Dee Owens has been organizing work outings on the Grizzly Flat Road, and the Carson Route in the Eldorado National Forest. On all outings, we follow strict protocol including, recording and photographing all artifacts and reburying exactly where found. These are usually one day projects.

In August, Ken and Jo Johnston led a tour of 9 vehicles on the Lassen Trail from where it branched off the Applegate Trail at Goose Lake to the Sacramento Valley—an adventurous trip, because we took the 1849 east branch of the trail from the Thompson Ranch—homesteaded by the Thompsons in 1872 in Big Valley—to where the trail met Lassen's 1848 west branch south of Little Valley. The Thompsons opened a rock berm on the trail with their Caterpillar to allow us access; whereas, they keep the trail blocked to keep people from entering their ranch from the wilderness.

Dick Waugh did some work on the James Beckwourth Trail near Quincy, California, and Bill Holmes is continuing to work on getting a visitation and interpretive site established at the Johnson Ranch and the End of the California Trail.

As a final word, I would like to say it has been an honor to have been president of the California/Nevada Chapter of OCTA, as I will be terming out this summer, and a new president will take over after the Casper Convention. I would like to thank all of the board members and chapter members, whom I have worked with, as it has been a pleasure, and I look forward to serving for a term as the Immediate Past President of the chapter.

Peace and Happy Trails,

Ken Johnston  
President CA/NV OCTA  
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](mailto:canvocta@gmail.com)

## MEMORANDUM

To: OCTA Board

From: Camille Bradford

Date: August 14, 2022

**Re: Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter report**

The Colorado Chapter's mapping continues in Larimer County. Ethan Gannett and David May recently finished mapping a portion of the Cherokee Trail and forwarded the results to the national organization and to the National Park Service. Their efforts have recruited additional OCTA members in northern Colorado, enhancing further mapping and research.

The chapter is in the process of transitioning the chairmanship of the Mapping Committee from Bruce Watson to Ethan Gannett. The continuance of our mapping efforts and additional finished trail mapping are assured.

Our next chapter event is a get-together on September 10 to honor Bruce and thank him for all he has done over the years, to welcome Ethan and to hear more about the field work that he and David have been conducting in Larimer County.

We will be resuming Zoom events in the Fall.

## Gateway Chapter of OCTA

Report To the Board Meeting August 26, 2022

Our Board starts to plan events in January and here it is August and we are still in a planning mode. Maybe it was the February OCTA News or maybe it was we are more sensitive on the Black Experience on the Trail. Our first program event for the year was The History of the Buffalo Soldiers. We partnered with the St. Joseph Black Archives Museum and the Missouri Humanities Council to bring to St. Joseph Buffalo Soldiers reenactors who told their story of protecting the emigrants. More people attended this event than noted at previous events.

Before he became president, Harry S. Truman worked in an office that was accountable for Trail designation and formation. The Board felt that this would be a good time to visit the newly renovated Truman Library. We also will be visiting historic sites in Independence of the Church of the latter Day Saints. Board member Bill Leppert put together both of these programs.

In October, we will be on the St. Joseph Road to Robinson Kansas. We will have a first-hand experience on the Trail. In Robinson, we will meet Wendell Ganstrom the owner of property on Buttermilk Creek which maybe a feeder route to the St. Joseph Road. Swales can be seen on this property. So, a fun historic adventure awaits. Board member Corky Smith and Jackie Lewin put this experience together.

A part of each board meeting this year has been devoted to planning for the March 2023 mid-term Board meeting and Symposium that will be held in St. Joseph. Jerry Mogg has been diligently mapping each day's activity, places to visit, costs of food and lodging and all the rest of the details that goes into such an event. The Gateway Board has assisted with local knowledge and experience. Not all ideas made the cut. In the end we have a balance of local and national priorities represented in the plan that Jerry put together.

Submitted by,

Dave Berger

President Gateway Chapter

# Idaho Chapter Update

By Jerry Eichhorst, August, 2022

Three community education classes taught by Jerry were full, with 20-25 people in each. The annual spring byway tour resumed this year after a two-year COVID hiatus with the largest turnout in history as 45 people and 24 vehicles caravanned across the southern Idaho desert along the Oregon Trail. Lunch with the local DAR chapter was a special treat.

The annual southern Idaho outing with City of Rocks personnel was well-attended as usual. Metal detecting with the park archaeologist and a tour of the Oregon-California Trail from American Falls to Massacre Rocks State Park were enjoyed by nearly twenty members, as were two nights of group dinners at local restaurants. The spring chapter meeting was held the next day in Burley, Idaho.

About a dozen people met in eastern Oregon the following weekend to have cadaver dogs verify a possible gravesite. The dogs confirmed the presence of human remains, but storms ended the outing before additional sites could be checked.

The chapter lost another valuable member when Gar Elison passed away. He had recently moved to Caldwell, Idaho, to be closer to his family. Immediately becoming active in the Idaho chapter, Gar had agreed to be a director for the chapter. He will be missed.

Hot temperatures and extremely busy schedules have affected activities for the summer. A few outings were discussed but the timing could not be worked out. We are looking at possible outings on the Jeffreys-Goodale Route in INL and the Oregon Trail from Fort Boise to Farewell Bend in September and October. The fall chapter meeting is planned for Saturday, October 15, at a small winery north of Mountain Home.

Jerry will be conducting a tour of the Oregon Trail for the Idaho Heritage Trust (IHT) directors in mid-September. IHT partnered with the Idaho chapter to restore the Canyon Creek stage station. He will also be leading a bus tour of the Oregon Trail and presenting as a panel member for the Idaho Heritage Conference in late September in Pocatello, Idaho.

Preservation continues to be a high priority as power line projects and wind turbine projects are being proposed and developed across the state. Our preservation officers, Dave Price, and Don Wind, do a great job of keeping involved with the projects and keeping John Winner, OCTA national Preservation Officer, up to date with the projects. One of the largest wind turbine projects in the country is being reviewed for south-central Idaho. This project would feed a power line project being developed which runs south to Las Vegas and California, crossing multiple historic routes along the way.

Sign projects are underway or in the NPS Trails Office queue for Boise and Ada County, Lane's Grave in eastern Idaho, and Fort Boise in western Idaho.

A good turnout of Idaho chapter members is expected to attend the Casper convention. Jerry will be leading an informal tour of many sites across Wyoming on the way over for some of the members. Thanks to Randy Brown for helping to work out the details of the tour.

## **KANZA Chapter**

Report to the Board of Directors

August 2022

KANZA Chapter manages to keep busy, despite a dearth of active members. Charlie Wieckert and Beth Skinner have been busy doing the marker inventory for the National Park Service. Arleta Martin keeps putting out a quarterly newsletter. The chapter has been busy working with our partner organization; Alcove Spring Preservation Association (ASPA).

It has been all hands-on deck to clean up the damage created by the EF – 1 tornado in June. Most of the trails were left impassable due to all the trees destroyed. Most of the KANZA Chapter members are also members of the ASPA. Thanks to all the diligent work, all trails are now open. There is still a lot of clean-up to be done.

KANZA is also partnering with ASPA in the restoration of the Alcove building and creation of a museum and library.

Hopefully these efforts will lead to more active chapter members.

Duane A. Iles

President

KANZA Chapter

## **NORTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOC.**

### **BOARD REPORT FOR 2021-22**

**Our Chapter managed to have an in-person meeting in the Fall of 2021. We met in Centralia, WA and listened to an interesting program by Christopher Chapman about his bicycle trips on the Oregon Trail. 17 members attended. We also discussed renting a storage unit to house the books and materials left to the Chapter by some of our members. The Eagle Scouts from Hermiston were able to place several T-Rail markers along the Trail in Eastern Oregon.**

**The National Park Service listed two projects from the Chapter in the National Register of Historic Places. The first being the La Grande to Hilgard segment of the Oregon Trail, the second the document OREGON TRAIL, OREGON, 1840 TO 1880 Multiple Property Document. Many thanks to Gail Carbiener for his work in promoting these projects.**

**We are still without a Vice President and are missing a few other project managers. It is difficult to find willing members when we cannot meet in person.**

**January 2022: Dave Welch proposed a number of Zoom meetings for our Chapter. It was decided to by-pass June, July and August meetings because of summer travels. Dave hosted the meetings and we enjoyed presentations by Robin Baker on the Barlow Road, reports on the search for Trail ruts at Emigrant Springs, discussions of the Applegate Trail, and Trail family histories. The meetings will resume in September.**

**Four of our members attended the Oregon Lavender Event on Saturday June 25 and Sunday June 26. We maintained a booth with information for the public about the Trail. The weather was warm, but not blazing hot, and we were able to give out brochures about the Trail and to visit with people attending the fair.**

**Robin Baker led several hikes on the Barlow Road this Spring and Summer.**

**Jenny Miller led a hike on the Umatilla Depot property this Spring and members walked on parts of the two Trail routes that are on the property.**

**Several of our members have passed this year and we will miss them greatly.**

**Paul Masee, Chuck Hornbuckle, and Jim Riehl all contributed to the Chapter in many ways.**

**The Chapter Book Collection is now housed in a storage building in Oregon City.**

**Rich Herman and his wife Phyllis and Sherrill Beck have been assisting Sallie Riehl in sorting and listing the materials. They hope to complete the main listings in late 2022.**  
**– Sallie Riehl, NW President**

## Southern Trails Chapter (STC) January 2022 to July 2022

Hello,

Southern Trails Chapter BOD has been meeting each month to go over what needs to be completed. Even though we have not met in person, it is hoped to meet later in person in 2022.

### January 2022

No meeting

### February 2022

President Mark Howe had moved back to El Paso, Tx from Pueblo, Colorado. Vice President Cecilia Bell reported that she and her husband attended the San Diego Mormon Battalion celebration and OCTA Board meeting. Other STC members, Melissa Shaw, her son, Jan Iwashita and her husband, also attended.

To update our membership roaster, Cecilia indicated that she was going to remove from the membership rolls anyone who had not been paid last years or present dues. The other members of the Board agreed with this policy. There continues to be a problem with some renewing members that only paid \$10.00 instead of the \$15.00 membership dues. She will be contacting them for the additional money.

Cecilia announced the NM-AZ Historical Society meeting is in Las Cruces April 7-9, 2022. Cecilia and Mark will be attending, and several others might also attend. It was decided to have a STC table at the conference with the chapter paying the entrance cost. The table would have our southern trails map and membership brochures, Bill Martin suggested getting the Butterfield brochure that OCTA has produced.

National OCTA President John Briggs reported on the OCTA Board meeting. OCTA finances are continuing to stay in the black. Membership is on the uptick and the next OCTA Convention will be Aug 28- Sep 3, 2022, at Casper, Wyoming. Pat Fletcher reported that the 2025 Convention is scheduled for 2025 at Fort Smith under the sponsorship of the Southern Trails Chapter. John reported that the talks at San Diego were recorded and will be up on the YouTube channel.

Doug Hocking reported that the next South Trails monthly zoom talk is February 17 and is scheduled to have an Apache historian as the speaker. However, he is having trouble connecting with the speaker for confirmation. There are possible substitute speakers.

David Miller reported that due to some family medical issues with Dan Judkins, that the next issue of Desert Tracks might be slightly delayed.

Bill Martin reported that SB 3519, the Butterfield Historic Trail Designation bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. One of the Congressmen from Arkansas will possibly introduce the same legislation in the House. Bill discussed that it is a great bill for a new Senator or Congressman to support so that he/she can then go back to constituents and report that they are doing something productive in Congress. Pat Fletcher says she is putting together a list of Senators and Congressmen/women who are in districts along the Butterfield Trail.

Melissa Shaw reported that she along with her business webmaster are putting together information, road trip map, and registration for the Temecula Southern Trails Chapter Symposium. It is April 25-27 (Monday-Wed) and there will be a road trip all day Tuesday and talks on Wednesday. She will also have information on accommodations later.

Cecilia Bell talked briefly about the proposed Southern Trails Chapter Conference along with the Big Bend Conference in Alpine, TX the second weekend in November. There is a possibility of Amtrak transportation available from Los Angeles, CA to El Paso, TX and then from El Paso to Alpine, TX and back.

As for our STC legal, the By-Laws apparently were never signed. Melissa Shaw will send them out to Mark and Sue Loucks for signatures. Another point was a discussion of a STC dues increase to cover the increased cost of printing and distribution of Desert Tracks, but this was tabled at this time.

Doug Hocking introduced the possibility of Southern Trails incorporating as a nonprofit so that we could collect our own membership dues and handle book sales. It costs about \$200.00 in Arizona to do this with a \$10.00 annual fee to register the officers. This discussion was also tabled at this time.

Updates of other related conferences:

February10: Colorado-Cherokee Zoom event: Feb 19: Great Western Sugar Co; March 12: How California got its borders.

Jan Iwashita and Doug Hocking are constantly updating information on our Facebook and Website. Keep sending any information that you might get.

As a side note of what STC members are doing: Doug's new book is at the publisher. It is about train robberies along the Southern Border.

### March 2022

The meeting was called to order and reports presented. VP Cecilia Bell reported on her contact with the organizers of the Big Bend Conference. They have put out a call for papers for the conference. There is a hope that there will be papers submitted from several of our members. There are several people especially from Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma who plan to attend the conference.

Financially, STC is doing well with memberships and donations.

Melissa talked about our upcoming Temecula Symposium (April 25-27, 2022). The website for registration is also directly linked to the hotel reservations for if you are staying at the hotel that was set up for the symposium. Day 2 is set for the road trip to Warner's Ranch, Vallecito, Box Canyon and Julian. There will be an hour orientation in the Red Barn prior to the 155-mile road tour with several stops along the way and a hike at Box Canyon. There will be a map, and goody bag to go with you on the trip. The road trip should wrap up about 4 pm back at Temecula. A box lunch for the trip is being discussed. There will be an OCTA/ Southern Trails display in Temecula including past and current issues of Desert Tracks for sale.

Doug Hocking reports that he will be presenting for our Third Thursday History talk. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, March 17, starting at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 Central. It will be on Grant Wheeler and Joe George: Cochise County Cowboys Extraordinaire, They Cowboy'd, They Rodeo'd, and the Robbed Trains.

Melissa Shaw and Cecilia Bell reported that they had picked up in San Diego pamphlets on 1) The Mormon Battalion, 2) The Butterfield Overland Mail Trail and 3) the Southern Emigrant Trail. Cecilia is looking into getting these handouts for the Temecula Symposium and to use at other conferences.

Jan Iwashita requested the info on Doug's talk and the Temecula Symposium to put up on our Face book web page. Pat Fletcher is also giving Jan material on the Southern Trail for the Face book page.

Dan Judkins reports that the last of the articles for *Desert Tracks* is being completed and he hopes to get the issue to the printer on Monday. He is hoping that the printer will have it in time for mailing out the end of this month.

As an aside, Dan reports that he has been in contact with an archaeologist who is digging in the Santa Cruz Valley and has made a fascinating discovery. The dig has unearthed many crossbow boltheads, like arrowheads for a crossbow, that can be attributed to the Coronado Expedition in 1540 AD. The dig has also discovered many horseshoe nails that were used only during that time. Also, a small cannon was found, the type of which was described in the diaries of the Coronado Expedition.

Pat Fletcher asked if people had received the 12-page document on the Southern Trail that she hoped had gone out. Due to computer problems few of us had received this document. She will try to resend it. She also sent out a list of congressional members whose territory lies along the Butterfield Trail. She wants us to correct or modify this list for our contact with them during the Butterfield Trail being hopefully approved by Congress as a National Historic Trail. She wrote an article on our activities and future date for the *News from the Plains*.

Melissa sent out the By-Laws so that both the President and Secretary of our chapter could sign them. These were approved by the board last summer and voted on and adopted by the membership in October 2021.

Because of the increase cost of printing and distributing *Desert Tracks* there was a brief discussion on dues increase for our chapter. There are some logistic problems to investigate since OCTA sends out a printed form with dues costs for the main organization and including the dues for all the chapters. Isobel will investigate these logistics for next month's discussion.

Doug Hocking noted that if we incorporate as a non-profit, we will collect dues and send OCTA's share to national instead of having them send us our share and thus we could raise the rate as we saw fit instead of having to ask OCTA. It was reported that several chapters of OCTA are combining, especially those in the Midwest.

As for what STC members are doing: Doug will be at the Tucson Book Festival this weekend at the University of Arizona - Booth 118, Amigos and Ladies of the West with seven other western authors.

## April 2022

We started with Officer reports and VP Cecilia Bell gave a report of attending the AZ/NM Historical Society meeting with several of our members. She also attended the DAR meeting in Santa Fe at the Santa Fe Museum and talked about the Santa Fe and Southern Trails.

Sue will contact Bill Martin and check on who is sponsoring the Butterfield Overland Trail through the Senate.

Melissa Shaw sent out bank statement to all Board members. Our current bank balance is, \$9130.98. She said that Temecula is excited about our coming conference. There are about 23 attendees. The Fletchers have dropped, but 2 others have joined with the possibility of a few more. It looks like Warner's Ranch will be a long stop and restrooms available. The plans are getting to Vallecito about 1:30 pm with restaurant and museum visit at that stop.

Doug Hocking reported that Chris Evans will be the next speaker for our monthly history talk. She has published several books on Women in Western history. This talk will be on Women in Western Railroad History. He has sent this information to all our members, all former participants and posted it on Face Book.

Dan Judkins reported that the new *Desert Tracks* is out with much help from David Miller. There were several comments on how good the issue is.

Sue Loucks moved that due to the increased cost of printing and mailing *Desert Tracks* that we increase our chapter family or individual annual dues to \$20.00. Melissa Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

It was suggested by Cecilia Bell that we apply for the Outstanding Service Award for our chapter for Jack and Pat Fletcher. I will send out copies of the application for chapter awards with today's minutes to those on this call.

There was also a request to put a symbol beside the various chapters to make it visually easier for people to find the chapter they are seeking from the intimidating digital list.

Member's activities: Mark Howe reported that he is talking to the El Paso Corral of the Westerners on the creation of the Southern Border, Smelertown and the Border markers.

## May 2022

After roll call, Doug Hockings moved approval of the Minutes from the last meeting. David Miller seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Bill Martin was not present but sent in a report that the Senate Bill to designate the Butterfield Trail as a National Historic Trail has passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources National Parks subcommittee. It now goes on to the full committee for consideration. Bill will keep us posted on its progress.

Melissa Shaw, our treasurer reported that the balance in our bank account was \$7857.61. The Temecula conference netted a profit of \$485.00 after all bills were paid. She reported that the Temecula Historical

Society was very excited about the conference and that all the participants seemed to really enjoy the tour around the historic part of town, the museums along the way, the facilities at the Red Barn, the talks on the history of the area, and the road rally. Melissa said she has received some very positive comments from the participants. Sue Loucks and Doug Hockings echoed these comments.

Doug reported that after the conference, he went back and hiked down to the Box Canyon site and noted a waterfall drop just beyond the Box Canyon site. He traveled the original immigrant trail as close as possible as he drove back home to the Green Valley, AZ area.

Dan Judkins moved and Doug Hocking seconded that we send the Temecula Historic Society a Thank You note coming from the Southern Trail Board for all their help with our conference. It was unanimously approved.

Doug Hocking reported that our May historic talk will be on Thursday, 5/19 starting at 5:30 PDT by Jan Cleere. It will be entitled "Military Wives in AZ Territory". Doug will send out the advertising poster tomorrow morning for distribution. It will be posted on Facebook.

Dan Judkins reported that the cost of *Desert Tracks* was higher due to increased cost of processing and printing as well as a page in color. This issue has had many great comments. He and David Miller are actively working on the next issue.

There was a small article in the last issue on the discovery of the Coronado Expedition campsite. More than 100 crossbow bolts have been discovered at this site. Dan was invited to see their excavation and will continue to report what he can on the continuing excavation. This is apparently a garrison camp site set up to resupply the expedition.

The OCTA Annual Convention this year is in Casper, WY on August 28-September 3. The Big Bend Conference is in Alpine, TX on November 11 and 12. Cecilia Bell is planning on tacking on a Southern Trails meeting, if possible.

Jan Iwashita reported that there was a major interest in joining our Facebook site with pictures and information from the Temecula Conference. Many people are following the immigrant trip that is being reported on the Facebook site currently.

Isobel Lingenfelter reported that she used a Coyote symbol to set aside our Southern Trail memberships on the OCTA site.

### June 2022

At the beginning after roll call, a Motion by Melissa Shaw to accept the Minutes of the last meeting was brought to the floor. Motion seconded by Doug Hocking and passed by the Board.

Officer reports started with Doug Hocking who reported that he had not set up a speaker for this month as he was too busy.

Cecilia Bell discussed a brochure for the Butterfield Trail to be placed in several smaller museums and tourist information centers. However, the person that she was talking to was going to charge all the little towns and places \$6000 each. Bill Martin discussed the NPS Butterfield brochure, which might be available if any are left. However, in looking at the NPS brochure and the sponsors for that, there were

no New Mexico sponsors. Later in the meeting there was a discussion of some possible NPS grants to cover the cost of printing a brochure. John Briggs indicated that OCTA was putting their budget together right now with a June 30 deadline. There was a discussion for John Briggs and possibly Isobel Lingenfelter to talk to Travis to see if something could be included in the budget at this time.

Dan Judkins discussed the next issue of *Desert Tracks* planned to be out in August. It is progressing but Dan is having a hard time working on it due to being a caregiver. Ideally, there should be someone else learning the process and this should be an aim in the future. The co-editor of *Desert Tracks* is David Miller who just got out of the hospital a couple of days ago.

John Winner discussed a power grid proposal in the San Bernadino area (near Desert Center, CA), for a huge solar project. Although the project is on BLM land, the lead agency is the Department of Fish and Wildlife because of endangered Desert Tortoises in the area. John sent the information on the project to Mark Howe as we have no other preservation contact. Mark is familiar with the area and did not see a problem but will pass the information onto a contact that Melissa knows. Our chapter really needs a Preservation Officer.

John Briggs talked about the National Conference in Casper, Wyoming. Speakers, tours and hotels are all lined up and we hope people will come.

Our extended Board positions, due to COVID, was briefly discussed with comments from John Winner on how the CA/NV had handled the situation. Bill Martin discussed a Nominations Committee to look for a slate of officers and then hold a zoom chapter meeting for voting. Possibly an email blast to possibly recruit some new members and fill the spots like Preservation Officer, which we have not filled in the past. Possibly the Big Bend conference in November with a Zoom component might be the location of our annual meeting & voting. Current Board members who want to continue, please get a biography to Melissa Shaw.

It was decided to skip a July Board meeting and a July Zoom speaker program. Speaker program would possibly resume in September with a future discussion in how to increase attendance. Future discussions on days and times of the programs.

John Briggs and Isobel Lingenfelter announced that Isobel's last day with OCTA would be June 30. She will be taking a job with the Utah Wildlife Federation. We will miss her, as she has been a big help to the Southern Trails chapter.

#### July 2022

No meeting

Our next Board Meeting will be August 8, starting at 5PM PDT /6 /& 7. All meetings are open, and people are encouraged to attend and be a part.

Submitted by,

Mark Howe, Southern Trails Chapter President

President: Lila Aamodt  
Vice President: Jean Coupal-Smith  
Secretary: Sandra Wiechert  
Treasurer: Kelly Breen

Our membership totals about 82

Our work on Douglas County, KS, signage headed by our Preservation Chair, **Pat Traffas**, led us to sponsor a bus tour of the Oregon/California trail west of the KC metro area on July 30. We had a full bus with **Ross Marshall** and **Pat Traffas** giving most of the commentary. From our meeting place, we followed the Westport Branch of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California National Historic Trail through Olathe to Gardner Junction where the Independence Route meets the Westport Route with **Ross** commenting all the way. We stopped to read the good signage about the trails at Junction Park. At this location, the Oregon-California Trail departs from the older Santa Fe Trail headed southwest. We stopped briefly at the old Lanesfield School on the SFT then travelled north in Johnson County until the Oregon-California trail turns west into Douglas County. **Pat** described the trail, swales, and other historic scenery as we followed the trail back and forth on county roads until stopping at the Bluejacket Winery for lunch. The Winery is named for several crossings of the Wakarusa River nearby. As we continued toward Lawrence, we crossed the Wakarusa at Blanton's Bridge, the other major crossing for the trail. As we entered Lawrence and contemplated how wagons got up on the high ground of Mount Oread, we pointed out the switchbacks that the GLO maps record leading up to the KU campus. Once up near the high ground, **Gary Hicks** said it appears that the trail followed the steep slope that leads to Jayhawk Boulevard. Too much earth moving in creating the campus challenges us to define a definitive route. We got off the bus on Jayhawk Boulevard near the Chi Omega Fountain where an Oregon Trail Marker has been placed at a point established to be where the trail indeed crossed. **Camille Bradford** then talked to us about the marker which features two bronze plaques on a large boulder. The 16½ inch round medallion was a gift from her father-in-law, Howard Driggs, in 1952. It features an ox-drawn wagon headed to the left. The design by James Earle Fraser was adapted from the Oregon Trail memorial half-dollar created for the Oregon Trail Memorial Association (OTMA) founded by Ezra Meeker. Howard Driggs became its president when Meeker died in 1928, and the name of the organization was changed to American Pioneer Trails Association (APTA) in 1941. The oblong plaque bears an inscription by Robert Taft about emigrants plodding up the southern slope of Mount Oread. The rest of our bus tour took us out of Lawrence on 6<sup>th</sup> street, which parallels the trail. We crossed Hwy 10 and stopped at the United Methodist Church to see preserved trail ruts. Heading west on Hwy 40, we passed a number of swales and paused at Coon Point Park where we hope to add a wayside about the trail alongside other area information. We resumed on Hwy 40 to Big Springs on the far west side of Douglas County. On the return trip, **Ross** pointed out a number of historic sites in Lawrence which was settled by abolitionists in 1854 and suffered devastation by William Quantrill in August 1863 during the border wars.

This bus tour was sponsored jointly by Trails Head Chapter and Kansas Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA). In addition, participants were from two other OCTA chapters, Civil War Roundtable, Lewis and Clark, Posse of the Westerners, Native Sons and Daughters of KC, and the Shawnee Indian Mission.

*Lila Aamodt*

## Committee A – Report to the Board

This report was prepared by Mike Smith – who graciously stepped in to oversee this process completed. Due to my work schedule and other family matters, it was greatly appreciated that Mike would step in and help me with my duties of finishing up this task that was started before the pandemic.

The report has been compiled and written by him as I knew he had firsthand knowledge of what was finished, and the shredding company retained to complete the job. I would like to give a BIG Thank You to Mike Smith for his expertise and making sure it was completed properly. I also, want to Thank members of the Trails Head Chapter who volunteered their time to help get this job done, finally!

Dick Nelson, Pat & Levi Traffas, Lila Aamodt, Ross Marshall, Mike Smith, Travis Boley & Kathy Conway, between all of us and having the retention policy at hand it was a task that has now cleared space in the office and storage space in the upstairs of the National Frontier Trails Museum. Progress was made even though it was over a period of the last 3 years.

Now that we have a clean slate this will be easier to maintain on a yearly basis going forward.

At this time, I have nothing further to report regarding Head Quarters.

**\*\*Report on Records Disposal at the OCTA Headquarters in Independence\*\*** ~~ Mike Smith's contribution to this report ~~

In a project interrupted by the Covid pandemic, Committee A volunteers returned to the Headquarters in April to sort out old files and records, thereby designating them for shredding. Working were Dick Nelson, Pat Traffas, Jean Couple-Smith, Lila Aamodt and Mike Smith. Working with Travis Boley and Kathy Conway, the team went through files of membership payments, receipts associated with the annual conventions, etc. all dating prior to 2014 and set them aside where they could be shredded thus joining boxes of similar records assembled in 2019. Only records prior to 2014, and thus over seven years old were identified. No records needed for audits or the history of the organization were so designated. In accordance with OCTA policy, Treasurer Jerry Mogg certified disposal of the identified records.

OCTA retained the firm of Shred America which brought its shredder truck to the office on July 11, 2022. In three hours, the Shred America operator carted the materials to the truck, and put them through its commercial shredder, thereby clearing spaces in both the office and on the second floor of the National Frontier Trails Center. Shred American certified the completion of the work. This project erased the old records backlog. In another few years, the Committee will return to do the process again.

Jean Coupal-Smith

Committee A Chairman

**Committee B**  
**Report to the Board of Directors**  
**August 14, 2022**

Committee B oversees Governance, Finance & Grants, Long-Range Planning and Governance for the Oregon California Trails Association.

OVERSIGHT FINANCE – Continued to review Financial Reports, Budgets and Tax returns for consistency of results as the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer worked successfully to harmonize results.

The FY 2023 budget was created using the assumption that the Journey of a Lifetime project proves to be feasible and that the Collections, Archaeology, Education, Preservation, and other projects dependent on it will be funded. There will be a need for the programmed disbursement from the Heritage Fund, but it is proposed that this can be done against the backdrop of

1. The Endowment Funds have recovered well and now stand at \$1.9m in value
2. The Financial position of the Association is healthy as FYE Sep 2022 closes. (It is assumed at the time of writing that the Casper Convention meets financial targets).

OVERSIGHT LONG RANGE PLANNING – The Strategic Plan was reviewed by the President and the Association Manager.

OVERSIGHT GOVERNANCE – The Chair of the Governance Committee and the President reviewed the following items

- a. The revised Trails Collections Policy
- b. A question raised re the need for a quorum at the Annual Membership Meeting resolved by Article III Section 5 of the By-laws.

**Chairman’s Recommendations**

- a. As with last year, approve appropriate Distributions per the Establishing Documents for each of the Endowment Funds to cover specific project costs (Martin and Loomis) and general project/operating costs (Heritage) as needed. We should strive in the timing of the Strategic Plan to grow income such that these distributions are no longer needed.
- b. Ensure that Board members understand how the differing Financial Reports they receive translate into the Tax Returns.

John Briggs