

## I-OCTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, OCTOBER 4, 2008, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

1. **Call to Order:** 10:30 am by Doug Jenson, President (Idaho Falls) at the Addison West Restaurant, Twin Falls, Idaho. Doug asked everyone to introduce themselves; the 17 in attendance were: I-OCTA President, Doug Jenson (Idaho Falls); Lyle Lambert, Eastern VP (Pocatello); Jerry Eichhorst, Western VP & Web Master (Boise); Bill Wilson, Treasurer (Boise); Kay Coffman, Secretary (Boise); James McGill, Preservation Officer (Nampa); Board of Directors, Fred Dykes (Pocatello), Peg Cristobal, BOD & Historian (Filer), Dell Mangum (Blackfoot). Also: Afton Patrick (Filer), Patti McGill (Nampa), Gil & Jane Wyllie (Boise), Mary Alice Wilson (Boise), Amy Ballard (Fairfield), Vern Grozitze and Brent Reber (Salt Lake City).
  
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Doug emailed the August 6 minutes to be read prior to the meeting. Motion by Jerry to accept the minutes as is, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Afton, and it carried.
  
3. **Reports:**
  - A. **Treasurer:** Bill provided copies of the treasurer's reports for April 26, August 6, October 4, a ledger page showing deposits & expenditures, and the membership list. Bill read the treasurer's report which shows a checking account balance of \$4,564.50 and CD balance of \$2,363.69. Kathy Conway, National, reported to Bill that we will be receiving \$1,270 as our share of Raffle, Silent Auction and Live Auction receipts from the Convention. Bill also handed out the membership list showing 221 currently paid members with 69 new this fiscal year (indicated by an "N" after the due date), many of the new ones brought in by Jim, plus seven Trail Dust only subscriptions (20 memberships expired). Jerry thanked and complimented Peg & Patti for all the work they did on the CD's and the Pioneer Face pins for the Convention. Motion by Peg to accept the treasurer's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lyle, and it carried.
  
  - B. **Website:** Jerry reported that the cost of the web site, [www.idahooccta.org](http://www.idahooccta.org), has raised one dollar a month to \$12.95. He will be putting together some slideshows and pictures from the Convention that he got from Jim. Jim said that he accumulated photos from various people, put them on a disc and sent them to Jerry to use for the web site; anyone may have a copy of the CD upon request. He also has a CD of maps and photos from the Goodale Cutoff Trip and the Owyhee County Trip that is available; Peg asked for a copy of the CD for the I-OCTA history records.
  
  - C. **Preservation:** Gil reported that due to a recent fire in SW Boise that burned some houses, a 12 foot wall will be built between Boise City and Idaho Power property that will go over the Trail. Jim clarified that the trail in that location has been covered with dirt from when the development was built so the fence won't affect it other than separating the ramp from the Trail. Jim said that satellite photos show four Trail ramps in that area. Jerry said that he has

links on the web site to the Statesman newspaper article that Wally did and the KBCI-TV piece that Bill did; Doug complimented them on very nice presentations.

#### **4. Old Business:**

A. Convention Wrap-up: Jim reported that the wagon train and Convention got publicity as far east as Kansas City; Dell added that through emails, as far as Australia. Bill presented the "Bill Wilson Award for the most popular tour of the Convention" to Jerry. It was a framed large print photo of the Three Island Crossing, the tour that Jerry guided that included three buses; Bill gave him one other print so Jerry can use whichever on he prefers in the frame. Jim reported that the first Utter Disaster Tour and the Owyhee County Tour are being repeated by the Canyon County Historical Society and they are going to try to repeat as many of all the tours as possible beginning next spring. Jerry said that Global Travel wants him to do a Crossing Tour for them next July 15. Doug mentioned that there were a number of awards given out at the Convention and he has one with him presented to the Idaho Chapter from the BLM. Dell recommended that we have some kind of recognition of the award in the *Trail Dust*; Jim asked for a good picture of it for the newsletter. It was determined that the Award Plaque should be maintained by the President. Jim asked Patti to share the award she received at the Convention that Lyle instigated, called "The Golden Gate Award". It's a hame from collar of a draft animal harness intended to assist Patti with opening and closing gates when she and Jim are rut running with Preservation projects; she's the one who opens and closes the gates for Jim. Jim reported that the Convention was a great success. It was planned and pulled off in a short two years with the help of the NW OCTA Chapter and 4-5 local historical societies who brought in good ideas. The Live Auction turned out really good. Doug stated that in a survey a few years ago people said that Idaho was where they wanted to come and he's heard nothing but good comments about the Convention in Nampa in August; they saw lots of things and were really impressed. Doug thanked everyone who was involved; Jim and Roger put in an enormous amount of time along with lots of other people in lots of different ways. Doug said that it is good that we did it! Jerry thanked Doug, Afton, Peggy and Bill for helping with his tour. Jim said he was told by some of the new members that when we do this again that they want to help. Jim said that we might want to think about it again in 5-6 years because we have a lot to show and if we start thinking about it early we wouldn't be as cramped as this time with making the arrangements. With our expanded membership, if we sponsored the Convention more regularly, we could keep the knowledge of how to plan it more current. Bill suggested Twin Falls as a possible Convention site in the future and Afton said that three more hotels are being built that would finally provide enough accommodations to make it possible. Peg said that there's so much in the Twin Falls area that's never been seen by OCTA members and there's easy access to other trails and sites. Dell suggested that we ask National to send out

a questionnaire, like they've done before, to find out from members what they would change, add, etc. and Jim concurred.

B. Parting of Ways Efforts: Doug reported that Lyle has completed all the repair work on the grave fence and sign and refuses to submit a bill for the expenses. Lyle received a thank you and applause from everyone. The original installation at the grave site was done in 1997.

C. BLM Byway Progress & Plans: Jerry reported that the signs will be worked on next year, including the possible use of cement markers along with big signs and flat board signs at various locations.

D. Lander Road Interest at Stump Creek: Doug reported that it's the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lander Road; a July trip is planned to work on the Road. Afton reported that she attended a Legislative meeting including Federal and State Agencies which indicated that money previously budgeted for this work might not become available after all because of Agency financial cutbacks at this time. If money has already been funded, it's likely good through next July, but future allocations are in question. Jim mentioned that since the Lander Road is a National Historic Trail, we can perhaps work through the NPS for a grant.

**Additional Old Business – Credit Card Application**: Doug passed around application forms that Vern brought and said that OCTA gets \$50 when a person signs up and uses the credit card the first time and then OCTA receives .3% for purchases afterwards.

**Additional Old Business – Volunteer Report**: Doug asked that volunteer hours and expenses be submitted to him for the report to Congress. Jim has turned in time for all of us up to the Convention.

## **5. New Business:**

A. Activities – What Do We Want, What Do We Need: Doug asked for ideas on how to restructure ourselves to appeal to more people; ways for them to get involved and develop interests. Suggestions, ideas and comments:

Peg – Ask in *Trail Dust* for ideas from people on what they want to do. Afton – Have mini-regional meetings to better cover the State since we're so spread out. The different areas/regions could have afternoon or evening meetings with activities and/or presentations so that not everyone has to travel across the State to a large meeting. People would get better acquainted with people in their area, could meet more often, with less travel involved and then they might be more inclined to travel to the regular membership meetings. It takes an effort by the people in their own little areas to do that. Bill – Another tour for the locals in the area, like Jim did several years ago, from Thomas Fork Crossing up and over Big Hill. Big

Hill is such well known landmark on the OR-CA Trail that it might trigger local interest to see it and realize what people had to do to get over it. Afton & Doug suggested a meeting with a video presentation rather than an outing to spark interest and get them comfortable, perhaps with a potluck; thus taking less time and being less intimidating than an outing for sparking initial interest. Jerry – Ask Dean Shaw from the BLM to do a presentation on his “artifakes”, showing people how he makes them; or Kelly from Hagerman talk about Indians in the valley; things of interest to the local people. Tour the archaeological museum at the College of Idaho in Caldwell and other things, besides just meeting in a restaurant, to get people who buy memberships interested in history and OCTA. Dell – He got interested in OCTA & I-OCTA through a local historical society who had Jim come over to give a talk about the stage stations up by Big Butte. Until then he had no idea there was even an OCTA organization, so getting on the agenda to make presentations at the meetings of the historical societies across the State would be informative and generate interest. Jerry mentioned that he's been asked to speak to the Hagerman Valley Historical Society sometime this fall. Jim – He would like to see us pattern ourselves after some of the things the NW Chapter does, like their annual symposium for all the members. Perhaps a two day symposium that involves the historical societies and moves to different locations each year; this would continue some momentum and interest generated by the Convention also. With that, another class could be lined up for teacher credits to get more of them interested along with more local people in each area where the symposium is held; class credit for teachers can be done through any of the colleges. Amy – She found out about OCTA through the web site and the *Trail Dust* and she thinks that's two things we're doing right and need to keep doing. She was researching Camas Prairie history on the internet, because her husband's family is fifth generation settlers, and saw that we were having our Spring meeting in Fairfield where she lives; until that time she had never heard of OCTA. Jerry suggested he put something on the web site that says, “Curious about I-OCTA?” to stimulate interest. Doug commented that he's heard that we're too well hidden, it's too hard to find out about us, and so we need to find ways to become more visible. There was discussion that we should perhaps have someone who gets meeting announcements and information in the papers across the State; for instance, Cheryl Tussey with AARP who is a professional at that and she would know what advertising resources are available. Bill – He suggested that we put an ad in the quarterly Idaho Genealogical Society publication, even if it costs us for the ad, since many genealogists might likely have Trail ancestors and thereby an interest. Jim – He suggested the newsletters that Historical Societies put out. Jim will put something in the *Trail Dust* to tell people to get their ideas to the Board. Jerry – Jerry made a motion “to have the Board of Directors start to investigate ways to publicize I-OCTA throughout the State, whether by TV, web sites, newspapers or any other sources available, and get back to us during the Spring BOD Meeting with their findings so our events can be publicized with the hope of drawing more people to them”; Afton 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it carried.

B. Demographics: Doug presented a chart that Jerry made showing that most of the members reside in Western Idaho, a surprising 73%; 14% in Central and 13% in Eastern. It represents the population distribution of Idaho so we have to work with what we have, but it also represents where the regional meetings could make a difference. Jerry mentioned that about a third of our members are from out of State as well. Jerry will put the chart on the web site.

C. Revising *Immigrant Trails of Southern Idaho*: Jim stated that he talked with Stan McDonald (BLM) about redoing the State Historical Society and BLM publication (revised in 1989 and 1993 from the 1976 version) and he thinks Suzi Pengilly (SHS) would work on it also. They will ask for our input of all we've found, including maps; Doug said he would get in touch with Stan about getting it started.

D. Elections: Present officers who have agreed to remain in their positions for another year are: Pres., Doug; VP-E, Lyle; VP-W, Jerry; Treas., Bill; Sec., Kay. The Bylaws state that the BOD's are to come up with the candidates for next year. Jerry nominated those five people for their current positions as a complete slate to continue for another; Peg 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it carried. Two Board of Director positions need to be replaced and the Bylaws state that the five positions should be spread out over the State. Norma Dart, voted in last year, has resigned her position and Claire Ricketts stated that he needs to be replaced because he is unable to actively participate any longer. It was determined in the Board Meeting that the replacements can be voted into full terms. Jerry nominated Amy Ballard, Fairfield resident, for the Central Idaho position to replace Claire and Suzi Pengilly, member of State Historical Society, to replace Norma, to full three year terms; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dell, and it carried. Fred and Peg's terms will expire in the Fall of 2009 and Dell in 2010 and they may be reappointed if they're still interested. However next year if, Fred retires as BOD, Jerry suggested that his seat be changed from Eastern Idaho to Western according to the demographics of the membership. Right now we have Fred and Dell as Eastern, Amy and Peg as Central, and Suzi as Western; two in Western Idaho would be more appropriate. Appointed positions are Historian, Peg; Librarian, Wendy; Preservation Officer, Jim; *Trail Dust* Editor, Jim; Web Master, Jerry. All have agreed to continue for another year and Doug appointed them for the upcoming year. Jerry said for anyone having an interest in learning to back up the appointed positions to express it to the incumbents. Doug thanked Jerry for handling the elections this year. Jim asked if anyone would be interested in being backups for the Appointed Positions so they can start learning ahead of time in case there are changes next year. Amy volunteered to be a backup for *Trail Dust* and Jim said he would work with her to prepare for that. Doug asked Jim to put it in the *Trail Dust* to solicit possible interest. Jim mentioned that the WY Chapter decided to have two people, one for each side of the State, for Preservation Officers and the NW Chapter decided on one person for Preservation Officer and another for Mapping Chairman. Jim suggested that we think about something

like that for our Chapter, rather than one person doing all the work across the State. If someone could make arrangements for the work on the Eastern side of the State, Jim could probably go over there and assist with the field work; he would be interested in working with anyone interested in that. Dell expressed an interest as a backup to the appointed Preservation Officer position for the East side of the State.

E. New Pounder and Puller: Jerry is in need of new equipment for the new style of stakes; Jim suggested that Jerry ask Dick Hill, BLM, about getting them for us.

F. CO-ED Database: Doug has the information for OCTA members to access the database; contact him if interested. It's free for members and nonmembers pay a fee.

**F. Closing the Meeting**: At 11:55 am, Afton moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry, and carried with the meeting adjourned by Doug.

Lunch was eaten in the room followed by a tour of the Herrett Center for Arts and Science which is a non-profit museum on the main campus of the [College of Southern Idaho](#) in Twin Falls, Idaho. Its purpose is primarily educational, offering programs to elementary and secondary school students, CSI students, and the adult community of south-central Idaho. The Center collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits anthropological artifacts and natural history specimens with an emphasis on the prehistoric American continents.