

## IOCTA Spring Meeting 2019

Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:15 am  
Idaho Pizza Company, Boise, ID

### Attending

John Briggs	Pamela Fritz	Dave Newberry
Virgel Clarke	Jan Gurr	Donna Newberry
V. del Valle	Mike Gurr	David Nonsees
Lisa Dinwiddie	Jennifer Higley	Noel Schoneman
Paul Dinwiddie	Lynn Houdyshell	Donna Strider
Dan Dunne	Marge Houdyshell	David Valentine
Mike Edwards	Gary Kaufman	Don Wind
Jerry Eichhorst	Wally Meyer	

### Opening

Jerry opened the meeting at 11:18 am

### Minutes of October 6, 2018 Meeting

Minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at Burley, Idaho were sent out to Executive Committee and approved via email. The minutes will be posted soon to the IOCTA web-site.

### Financial Report – May 11, 2019

<b>Balance after May 2019 meeting</b>	<b>\$7,292.21</b>
<b>Deposits</b>	
Membership Dues	\$525.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Spring Chapter Meeting Lunch	\$603.12
<b>Ending Balance – October 1, 2019</b>	<b>\$7,214.09</b>
<b>Savings Account Balance</b>	<b>\$170.00</b>

John Briggs moved that the financial report be approved. The motion was seconded by Don Wind and passed by unanimous vote.

Virgel Clark moved that the Idaho Chapter pay for lunch for today's meeting. The motion was seconded by Lynn Houdyshell and passed.

### OCTA Fall National Board Meeting & Convention

John Brigg reported on the fall OCTA Board Meeting and Convention held in Santa Fe, NM September 3-8.

- Membership – now down at 1,300 memberships (about 1,800 people) which is not sufficient to maintain the Association without NPS help. In this respect it was noted that membership retention is as important as new memberships. Thus the increased emphasis on having membership committees in each chapter. Other suggestions for increasing membership were made by the Long-Range Planning Committee and will be picked up now by the Strategic Plan being developed for the next 5-year period.

- Although the cost to service a membership is at \$56, higher than the base fee of \$50, there is no appetite to increase membership costs. Note, though, that CA/NV OCTA is increasing the cost of chapter membership to \$15 from \$10 for an individual.
- Even with the NPS grant representing 46% of the total 'income', the budget for 2020 calls for \$27,000 of distribution from the endowment funds if operating expenses of \$319K are to be covered. This in line with the way those funds were set up but opinion on the use of these funds is divided. The three funds in total had a market value of \$1.5m.
- There has been a heavy workload on Preservation especially
  - The R project – a 225 transmission line in Nebraska impacting the Oregon and Mormon Trails
  - B2H in Oregon and especially at the Baker Interpretive Center
  - Avangrid Aurora Solar, the Fernley Swales and Long Canyon Mine in Nevada
- NPS were present in significant numbers given that their HQ is in Santa Fe.
  - Paula Davina's work on signage was mentioned in their presentation.
  - Work on Social Media applications was covered extensively.
  - What was disappointing is that little progress seems to have been made on promoting Historic Trails we thought had been approved by NPS to the Department of the Interior. (Jeffreys-)Goodale Cutoff and the North Alternate are two now 'hanging'.
- The Greg Smith marketing effort maps and auto tour efforts are bringing a huge number of people to our various sites. In addition, Travis Boley, OCTA was able to apply for and acquire \$10K of Google advertising PER month at no cost.
- Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award –
  - Jerry Eichhorst in recognition of his exceptional skills as the leader of the OCTA Convention Planning Committee in developing an improved and simplified overall process for planning and budgeting our conventions and symposiums, which also relieves chapters of much of their repetitive work.
  - Paul Dinwiddie in recognition of his exceptional expertise and technical skills with the OCTA Convention Planning Committee in developing registration software, developing the registration website and training the national OCTA staff in implementing it, all of which greatly upgraded OCTA's registration process.

### **OCTA Upcoming Events**

February 21 – 23, 2020 – Board of Directors Meeting and Spring Symposium – Yuma, AZ

September 19 - 23, 2020 – Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Convention – Elko, NV

Pre-convention tour on the California Trail on September 18 – 19 led by Jerry Eichhorst and Paul Dinwiddie

Fall, 2021 – Convention, Casper, WY

### **National Trails Day – Oregon Trail Clean Up**

On June 1 the BLM sponsored an Oregon Trail cleanup event as part of the National Trails Day. Several Chapter members, along with local residents and the BLM, collected a large dumpster load of trash and debris along the Oregon Trail between Bonneville Point and Highway 21 (Columbia Road neighborhood).

### **Report volunteer hours to OCTA**

Please report your volunteer hours to OCTA. There is a form available on the OCTA-Trails.org web site to enter your volunteer hours. Volunteer hours means a lot of federal funding money for OCTA. OCTA convention is worth 8 hours per day.

### **Northwest Boise Neighborhood Association**

The Northwest Boise Neighborhood Association is interested in identifying the route of the Goodale North through the area (Bogart Lane and Hill Road vicinity). Preservation officers Dave Price, Virgel Clark and Wally Meyer and Jerry Eichhorst met with them in May. Jerry also met with the Boise City Planner and Idaho State Historical Society Archaeologist and has had contact through frequent emails and phone calls.

### **Fort Hall Replica - Pocatello**

The Bannock County Historical Museum has notified the Chapter that anyone from OCTA who would like to tour the Museum and Fort Hall Replica while in the area may do so with a discounted fee of \$4. They just have to identify themselves as OCTA.

### **OCTA New Member Incentives**

If you want to sweeten the pot, tell any new prospective member that join that they will receive the following:

- a copy of In Pursuit of a Dream
- a copy of Graves and Sites on the Oregon and California Trails
- a copy of Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails
- and a copy of our Trails of the Western United States map

That's a retail value of \$70 for a \$50 membership. Plus free digital access to all back issues of Overland Journal from 1983 to present and free access for a year to Paper Trail, our diary index. That's a \$75 value all by itself.

### **Chapter Activities Next Year**

- Spring meeting, Saturday, May 9, Perkins, Burley
- City of Rocks metal detecting and possibly search dogs
- California Trail exploration of Granite Pass
- California Trail pre-convention tour chapter preview
- Toano Road
- Jeffreys-Goodale Cutoff (John Briggs/Gary Makey)

### **Passing of Kessa and Rocco**

Jerry made the sad announcement of the passing of Kessa and Rocco. Kessa and Rocco are the two trained German Shepard cadaver/search and rescue dogs that have assisted the Chapter in locating and validating emigrant graves at numerous sites along the Oregon Trail across Idaho.

### **National History Day Competition.**

Several years ago, IOCTA participated in the Idaho State Historical Society sponsored National History Day competition for Idaho students in grades 4 through 12 and awarded a prize to the best presentation/display about the Oregon Trail. Virgel Clark has proposed that IOCTA resume participating in National History Day with an award of \$250.

After some discussion Wally Meyer moved that the Chapter approve Virgel's proposal and the \$250 annual award. The motion was seconded by Marge Howdy Shell and approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Elections**

The following two Director positions are up for re-election for another three year term.

- Lyle Lambert
- Jim & Dawn Fazio

Virgel Clarke moved that the Chapter approve the re-election of both Directors. The motion was seconded by John Briggs and passed by voice vote.

### Director 3 Year Term Schedule

October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022
Dave & Donna Newberry			
Lynn & Margie Houdyshell			
Bill Wilson			
Lyle Lambert	Lyle Lambert		
Jim & Dawn Fazio	Jim & Dawn Fazio		

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

After the business meeting David Valentine, an archaeologist with Idaho Power described the efforts required to renew power line easements on public lands and the steps taken to mitigate impact to Oregon Trail sites. Following David's presentation Mike Edwards from Ada County Parks and Waterways spoke about the plans to develop and enhance the Oregon Trail Recreation Area just off Highway 21 in SE Boise.

After lunch the group drove to the Oregon Trail Recreation Area. Jerry explained how wagons descended the basalt cliff down to the Boise River. Some of the group walked along on the Oregon Trail and Kelton Road routes.

Submitted by Paul Dinwiddie