

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
FEBRUARY 23, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

February 6, 2009 – An application was submitted with required information for our participation in the Federal Stimulus Initiative Program.

February 23, 2009 – The Olive Branch Preservation Society met in the Arrow Conference Room, Tecumseh High School at 7:00 PM to review matters of business concerning the Society. I.R.S. Department of Treasury has notified us (January 27, 2009) that we have been assigned an Employee Identification No. This number will identify us for business accounts, tax returns and other documents. Assignment of an EIN number does not grant tax exemption status to non-profit organizations.

Our application for exemption from Federal Tax and User Free payments was submitted by Attorney Dan Harkins on January 22, 2009 and an acknowledgment notice of receipt was received from the Department of Treasury on February 4, 2009.

Ms. Nathalie Wright has advised us that the final Olive Branch application to the National Register of Historic Places will be submitted to the National Parks Service after a few technical issues are cleared up.

Temporary officers appointed for operation of the Society have been established: Chairman Bill Berry, Board of Education Representative Matt Curtis, Secretary Virginia Cox, and Treasurer James Leathley. The Bylaws Committee consists of Basil Fett, Virginia Cox, Matt Curtis, and Roger Pankake. The Finance Committee will consist of James Leathley, Bill Scarff, John Sipe, and Don Wallace.

March 5, 2009 – It was announced that the effective date of the Code of Regulations for the OBS Preservation Society was January 1, 2009.

The revised draft of the bylaws was reviewed by the Board and approved for presentation to the General Membership at the May 5, 2009 meeting.

The following Board of Trustees were selected and agreed to allow their names to be submitted to the General Membership for approval: Bill Berry, Cyndie Gerken, Virginia Cox, James Leathley, Virgil Studebaker, Ken Strickland, John Sipe, and Susan Brosey, with Jane Manemann as the Board -appointed representative.

May 5, 2009 – The following reports of update activities were shared with The General Membership at the Board of Education/General Membership Meeting:

The final revised NR application has been submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office for signature and forwarding to the National Parks Service, Department of Interior for their approval.

The review by the National Park Board represents the final step in the process for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

OBSPS as a 501(c)(3) organization was approved as of March 3, 2009; the Olive Branch application for National Register approval has now been submitted to the National Parks Service; and application has been submitted for participation in the Federal Stimulus Initiative Program. The bylaws were discussed and approved, after which the election of the slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees was held. Those elected to serve are as follows: Bill Berry, Virginia Cox, Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Virgil Studebaker, Susan Morgan, Ken Strickland and John Sipe.

May 18, 2009 – The Board of Trustees met at 3:30 PM in the Arrow Conference Room for the purpose of organization. The following officers were nominated and by unanimous vote assumed their respective offices: Chairperson Bill Berry, Vice Chairperson Cyndie Gerken, Secretary Ken Strickland, and a Treasurer would be appointed by authorization of the bylaws. Suggested names as to individuals to be considered for appointment as Treasurer were discussed. Chairperson Berry was to make contact with Ms. Pam Mustovich to see if she would accept an appointment as OBSPS Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees length of terms is as follows: two-year term: Virginia Cox and John Sipe; four-year term: Bill Berry, Cyndie Gerken, and Susan Morgan; six-year term: James Leathley, Ken Strickland and Virgil Studebaker. All successive term lengths will be three years per bylaws.

A logo created by Virginia Cox was approved to be used on official documents, stationery, etc.

It was agreed that in order for the Board to have operational funds for incidental expenses, etc. that membership dues will be established. The membership dues will be \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a household.

June 4, 2009 – We received notification from the Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Development, Lisa Pratt-McDaniel, announcing a new Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit which provides a 15% tax credit for the rehabilitation of eligible buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This program is part of the \$1.57 billion bipartisan jobs stimulus plan, which creates new jobs while laying the foundation for economic prosperity. Applications are accepted by dividing the yearlong application period into six-month rounds. The next period for submission is January 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010. It is our intent to submit an application for funding consideration during that period. Chairperson Berry announced that he had appointed Ms. Pam Mustovich as Treasurer of the OBSPS to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.

July 6, 2009 – The Board of Trustees met in the Arrow Conference Room with the meeting called to order by Chairperson Berry at 6:30 PM. With the exception of Treasurer Pam Mustovich, all members of the Board were in attendance.

An update on the status of listing on the National Register of Historic Places for Olive Branch School was discussed. There has been no decision rendered by the National Parks Service Board as of this date.

Suggested names of individuals who might serve on various committees were made. Finance and Publicity Committees are two of the more important committees to be established initially. It will be necessary to begin serious discussions as to cleaning out debris, renovation, and/or rehabilitation of the Olive Branch building once we have been notified of listing on the National Register. Publicity will be of the utmost importance if we are to be successful in raising the necessary funds to rehabilitate the building.

Some concern was expressed over a two-tier membership, i.e. Trustees and general membership. It was explained in order to handle the day-to-day activities and work cooperatively with the Board of Education (legal owners of the building), it would be necessary to have in place a Board of Trustees, which has been approved by the General Membership, to carry out business activities in a timely and efficient manner.

Chairperson Berry announced that he may call for a special meeting to be held either in August or September to be open to the public for the purpose of dedicating the Olive Branch School Building. This was to be determined after receiving final approval from the National Parks Service.

July 31, 2009 – We were notified by Ms. Nathalie Wright that the Olive Branch School had been named to the National Register of Historic Places and that an official letter would be forthcoming from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office soon.

September 3, 2009 – **The Ohio Historic Preservation Office officially notified us that the National Parks Service, United States Department of Interior, had listed the Olive Branch School on the National Register of Historic Places effective July 23, 2009.** The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio that qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.