

**OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
OCTOBER 09, 2019**

In accordance with the bylaws, the OBSPS Chair presents this annual written report to the Board of Trustees and makes it available to the general membership. The following report reviews the activities, decisions and other such information deemed important to the operations of the Society.

The Society again received an \$800 grant from the Della Selsor Trust for calendar year 2019, which is used for our postal permit and mailings. As in the past, the Society continued to work with Digital Graphics to maintain and update the OBSPS web site.

At the January 19, 2019 meeting, a written quote was distributed from Centennial Preservation Group, for restoration of the windows in the southeast classroom, as well as the exterior classroom door. Discussion was had concerning the potential of doing some interior work with existing funds, to show donors and potential contributors that we are doing what we can with the funds that we have. Suggestions were made regarding posting our fundraiser letter on our Facebook page, as well as posting it to the THS Class of '66 and the 1960's Facebook page. In addition to the above, the Trustees were advised of the resignation of John Sipe from the Board of Trustees, as well as the need to appoint a new person to fill Mr. Sipe's unexpired term (expiring 10/31/2020). Suggestions for appointment were made, and Jim & Sharon volunteered to contact those persons regarding their potential acceptance.

On March 21, 2019, an email was sent out detailing that "an executive decision" was made between co-chair Cyndie Gerken and myself to forgo the April 10, 2019 Board meeting, due to planned extended vacation by Sharon and I. In lieu of the April meeting, the aforementioned email contained a quarterly financial report, as well as updated information as follows:

I met with Jason Simmons from Ted Bolle Millworks, Inc. to outline our window and door restoration project. They expressed interest, but also advised of their very filled schedule. Jason advised that they could probably come out in the spring to view the project, which would fit fine with our needs. As of March 18th, no contact had been received from them. Also, the Board was informed that Sara Suver had accepted the unexpired Board position created by the resignation of John Sipe. In addition, Scott Suther was contacted and questioned about his potential interest in joining the Board. It is believed that Scott's involvement and knowledge of local history, as well as his knowledge and use of social media, would be instrumental to the Board as an additional member. Scott advised that he would like to attend the July meeting, and would make a determination after doing so. In addition to the above, the Board was informed that contractors have begun to be contacted, to get ideas and possible cost estimates for renovation work, electrical work, etc.

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At the July 10, 2019 meeting, we welcomed guests Connie Sample and Wes Baker. Mr. Baker is a Clark County representative of the Ohio National Road Association's Board. Our Board was advised that, despite multiple emails and phone messages, no response has been received from Ted Bolle Millworks, Inc., regarding an estimate of the window and door restoration/repair. Scott Suther suggested that we contact Stull Woodworks for an estimate. Stull Woodworks is a local company (where his brother-in-law works) that is involved in the restoration business. The Board was also informed that grant paperwork was submitted in May, to the Della Selser Trust, applying for a 2020 award. Treasurer Sharon Leathley reported that she had contacted a local CPA regarding the audit required by our bylaws. She was advised that we should avoid calling the review "an audit", as that would be very comprehensive and expensive. He advised that we should instead complete a "financial review," completed by any individual who does not handle the money of the organization. Given this, the Board voted to suspend the required 10-day prior notice for bylaw changes, strike the words financial audit, and approved a bylaw change to allow for a "financial review" to be completed by an unrelated person, who had no involvement with the organization's finances. Volunteers were requested, and Board members Virgil Studebaker, Cyndie Gerken, and Don Wallace volunteered to conduct a review as needed. Also, at the meeting, the Board was informed that an application was made to (and subsequently awarded by) the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to obtain funds for a National Register sign. The sign was being made and would be sent in late summer. Discussions were made regarding an official unveiling, with a fall timeline being decided upon (possibly coinciding with Board member Susan Morgan's Class of 1969's 50th Reunion. Discussion was held about the eventual "staging" of the classroom, with various "period" desks and items actually used by students of Olive Branch. Also at the meeting, co-chair Cyndie Gerken informed the Board that she and Trustee Sara Suver would check out requirements for a Turner Foundation grant, with hopes of submitting an application for same. Mention was made about the potential need for a "special meeting" of the Board, to plan for an Open House (should it be prior to our scheduled October 9, 2019 meeting date). At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Wes Baker advised that he would like to become a member of the Olive Branch School Preservation Society, and submitted a check to treasurer Sharon Leathley for his dues/donation.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of OBSPS Ex Officio Board member and Tecumseh Local Schools Board member, Peter Scarff on August 25, 2019. We were saddened once more, on September 30, 2019, as we learned of the passing of ex-OBSPS Board member John Sipe. Both Peter and John were vital members of our Board, our schools, and our community. Their passing leaves a tremendous void. We will miss their wisdom, their knowledge, their commitment, and more importantly – their presence.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Leathley, Chairperson
OBSPS Board of Trustees