

**OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
OCTOBER 13, 2021**

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.

2020 ended on an extremely somber note for the Olive Branch School Preservation Society, as well as for all of the Tecumseh Community, as we grieved the loss of Assistant Superintendent Ivan Gehret. Ivan was not only a well-respected Administrator, and the district's representative to OBSPS, but he was a friend to many. His wisdom, input, cooperation, and larger than life personality will be sorely missed.

2021 continued to be a challenge to all, due to the world-wide coronavirus pandemic. The Olive Branch School Preservation Society (again) was not immune to that issue. Due to a lack of / limited activity over the year-end 2020, the January 13, 2021 Trustee meeting was cancelled. With the continued surge of the Covid-19 virus in Ohio in general, and with Clark County specifically seeing a major increase in Covid cases, the April 12, 2021 Trustee meeting was cancelled. Given the limited opportunities afforded us in 2021, and out of abundance of caution, the Trustee meeting scheduled for July 14th was (likewise) cancelled.

While there were no "official" meetings held, 2021 was not void of progress for OBSPS.

- On November 12, 2020, Scott Suther and I met with Lindsay Jones and workers from BlindEye Restoration to install the restored classroom windows and exterior door. We were pleased to learn that the majority of the original glass panes were able to be saved and used in the restored windows. With the installation complete, the classroom is now 100% enclosed and secure.
- The Society (again) received an \$800 grant from the Della Selsor Trust for calendar year 2021, which is used for postage, webpage work and brochures. As in the past, the Society continued to work with Digital Graphics to maintain and update these items.
- In January, we received notification that we (once again) will receive \$1,000 from a grant from The Turner Foundation. Proceeds from this grant were designated towards the restoration costs of the southeast classroom windows and door.
- On February 4th, we received an email notification that OBSPS has been awarded a \$2,000 Grant from the Pomeroy Foundation. Proceeds will be used to update the Society's website, making it more "user friendly" for mobile/handheld devices. Funds were deposited and Scott Green (Digital Graphics) was contacted to begin this work.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT (cont'd)
OCTOBER 13, 2021

- In that it had been over 15 months since we received an estimate for the restoration of the “Main Entrance” doors and surrounding windows, a request for an updated estimate was made of BlindEye Restoration. That updated estimate was received on April 30th. The new estimate is for \$7,700 (versus \$6,500 originally), and is “good” through April, 2022.
- During the reinstallation of the classroom windows and door, Scott Suther and myself discussed several potential restoration projects that could be undertaken with additional grant/funding options. These included the reconstruction of the deteriorating classroom steps, reconstruction of the Main Entrance steps, resurfacing the Main Entrance columns, and repair/resurfacing of the Main Entrance “porch floor”. During the month of May, Scott contacted several area contractors regarding this work, in attempts to obtain estimates for potential grants. Some results were as follows:
 - Blue Bird Construction (McAdams Drive) – submitted an estimate of \$14,000 to replace all four classroom entrance steps
 - Garage Kings – discussed potential “alternative surfacing” for covering the Main Entrance “porch floor”. Will bring in corporate experts to review and make a recommendation
 - Ed Shell Concrete (Champaign County) – respectfully declined to submit a bid, due to concerns of integrity of the existing entrance and columns
 - Coburn Concrete (New Carlisle) – has yet to submit any estimates, despite being contacted multiple times asking him to do so
- On June 22nd, Vice Chair Cyndie Gerken (once again) submitted a grant application to the Della Selsor Trust. The request is for \$3,261, for the purpose of continuing to update our web site, print/mail brochures, and produce invitations to a future Open House (hopefully, Spring of 2022). In the past, we have always received \$800 from them.
- In July, an email was sent to all Trustees. That email solicited the Trustee’s review and opinion regarding our proceeding with the restoration of the Main Entrance doors and surrounding windows, per the updated estimate received in April from Blind Eye Restoration, and estimated to cost \$7,700 (assuming no unforeseen/unknown issues). The cost of this restoration would be paid via existing funds on hand. A unanimous response was received from the Trustees to proceed as proposed. On July 17th, I emailed BlindEye Restoration and advised Lindsay, that we have decided to move forward with the restoration of the front doors and windows. A signed estimate approval was forwarded with the email.
- On September 12th, Cyndie Gerkin submitted a grant application to the Turner Foundation. The amount of the request is for \$8,960. Proceeds from this grant would go towards restoration costs on the front entrance doors, windows and steps.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT (cont'd)
OCTOBER 13, 2021

- An appointment has been made with BlindEye Restoration for December 14th at 10:00 to begin the restoration process of the Main Entrance doors and surrounding windows. As in the case of the classroom windows and door, these items will be removed and taken to BlindEye's place of business, and the building properly secured. No timeline has been estimated for completion of the restoration process.

As the year-end approaches, we continue to look towards the future. We continue to look for any and all potential grant opportunities, in hopes of furthering our renovation efforts. As can be said of any major project such as ours – “This is a marathon, not a sprint”.

While 2020 and 2021 have been challenging indeed, it is exciting to see the progress of our renovation efforts. 13 years after inception of this organization, our vision continues to take shape.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Leathley, Chairperson
OBSPS Board of Trustees