

**ONRA MINUTES**  
**Bi-Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2010**  
**Columbus Health Department**

**Call to Order:** President Cyndie Gerken called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The following Board members were present: **Cyndie Gerken, Denna Johnson, Ed Kemper, Mary Ellen Weingartner, Larry Bicking, Bill Hart, William Kerrigan, Jan Brady, Jane Lightner, Sylvia Miller, Mike Peppe, Elizabeth Reeb, Dean Ringle, Paul Seibel, Marian Vance, Ed Wagstaff,** and ex- officio members **Frank Quinn, Mary Anne Reeves, Judy Williams, and Jonathan Beard.** Staff member Louis Agresta was also present.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 Board meeting was made by Paul Seibel and seconded by Denna Johnson. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Marian Vance reported a healthy balance in the ONRA coffers and also encouraged Board members to take a look at the restricted funds to see how much match has been raised for all of the ongoing grants. Cyndie commented that the organization is in good financial health thanks to the dedicated work of several Board members. She also reported that we have sufficient match to access the Marketing Grant for the printing of the next edition of the *Traveler's Guide*. Marian and Louis further reported that ONRA was envied by all of the other states in the National Road Alliance because of the Signage Project. Other states have been trying for years to get this done and were excited for Ohio and all of the successes that we have had. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Sylvia Miller. Motion carried.

**Coordinator's Report:** Louis Agresta presented the following report:

**Coordinator Services Billing** – Louis indicated that there are several billings to approve because we now have three grants (Signage, Marketing and Coordinator Services) that are being accessed. Louis reported that the total amount of Coordinator Services billing for March-June 2010 is \$1,245.00. The portion that ONRA owes (20%) is \$160.46. This balance includes an \$88.54 refund for an overcharge on the TCC's behalf. A motion was made by Ed Kemper to approve the Coordinator Services billing and seconded by Elizabeth Reeb. Motion carried.

Louis reported that the total May invoice for the Signage Grant is \$13,052.12. The 20% ONRA portion is \$2610.42. The invoice was so large because it included the purchase of 17 signs and considerable administration as well. The total June invoice was \$2,037.16 with the ONRA share being \$407.44. A motion to approve the billings was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Mary Ellen Weingartner. Motion carried.

Louis reported the Marketing Grant invoice for May was \$1,514.93 with ONRA's 20% share being \$303.00. The total Marketing invoice for June was \$213.23 and the 20% ONRA share was \$42.64. A motion was made by Paul Seibel to approve the Marketing billings and seconded by Ed Wagstaff. Motion carried.

**Interpretive Signage Update** – Louis reported again about how envied ONRA was at the previous day's National Road Alliance meeting. Other states have difficulty working with their Departments of Transportation and other agencies. Louis reported that to date 8 signs had been installed. Larry Bicking reported that the Eagles Nest Sign unveiling was very successful despite the hot weather. It was a wonderful community event that was attended by about 45-50 people. Cyndie reported that at

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the previous signage unveiling at Kirkersville over 100 people were in attendance, and at the Hebron and Hebron Mills sign unveilings there were 50+ present. She discussed how these unveilings symbolize what the project is about. People truly are embracing the history and the heritage of their communities and of the National Road. Louis finished the presentation by commenting on the 5 signs that were faulty. He reported that the two Gateway signs, as well as the Y-bridge, Nelson T. Gant, and Tadmor signs all had spots on them, but would be replaced by the contractor at no cost. Jane Lightner inquired about the Traveler's Information Center kiosk in Preble County which will hold the western Gateway sign. Louis advised that the Committee is looking for a design and would hopefully have that soon. Once a design has been determined and approved by ODOT, cost estimates could be acquired from potential contractors.

**Grant Status and New Applications** – Louis reported that he had applied for a Della Selsor Trust grant in early July on behalf of ONRA. He also reported that he would submit an application for a Turner Foundation grant in mid-September. He additionally reported that the National Scenic Byways grant awards are pending, and that the announcement may be delayed until November.

**Membership Renewals** – Louis reported that there were 15 membership renewals. Most of this can be attributed to the bus tours and Signage unveilings.

**National Road Alliance Meeting** - Louis reported that the Alliance would like to host a 6-state photo contest for children. Children could submit photos from along the Road as a part of a contest. Sylvia Miller reported on a National Road Bicentennial event in which organizers are trying to coordinate a ceremony in Maryland on May 8, 2011. They are trying to coordinate the 6 states to bring a symbolic “torch” from Vandalia, Illinois to Cumberland, Maryland.

### **New Business:**

Cyndie reported that the 2010 ONRA Annual Meeting will be held at the Great Southern/Westin Hotel in Columbus. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM on November 16, 2010. Cyndie reported that they are working with the venue to get discount rates so that members can stay the night, if desired.

### **Old Business:**

Cyndie reported on some good news. Some new people have stepped up to fill Board leadership positions for 2011-2013. She announced that Mary Ellen Weingartner has agreed to be nominated for ONRA secretary. Cyndie then reported that Dean Ringle has agreed to be nominated for ONRA President with a couple of conditions. Cyndie will still help Dean until he gets up to speed, and Doug Smith will stay on as Dean's Vice President. Marian Vance is currently filling out the 2008-2010 term as Treasurer and has agreed to be nominated for 2011-2013.

Judy Williams reported with updates on the October 22, 2010 Endowment Fund Raising event. She encouraged all of the Board members to pass out the “Save the Date” postcards to as many people as they know. Also she encouraged them to send out emails to their E-Address Book. Judy reported that invitations will be going out in mid-September. She also requested that silent auction items be brought to the September 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Judy then came to the Board to ask for an ONRA sponsorship. Figures were discussed as a maximum for ONRA to cover, with the remaining expenses to be taken out of the event's gross proceeds. A motion was made by Mike Peppe to set a \$500.00 maximum for an ONRA sponsorship and seconded by Jane Lightner. Motion carried.

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### Committee Reports:

Marketing Committee – Frank Quinn reported on the status of the ONRA Playing Card initiative. He reported that the project was almost completed and that there are only a few cards left to be sponsored. Frank passed around a couple of potential tuck box designs and the Board voted on which one they preferred. Denna reported that the goal is to have the decks available in time for the 10/22 Endowment Fund Raising event. Denna also reported on the second edition on the National Road Yard Sale Days Cookbook. A motion was made by Jane Lightner to purchase 100 more cookbooks and seconded by Mary Ellen Weingartner. Motion carried.

Endowment Committee - Judy Williams continued her report on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> fund raiser for the Glenn A. Harper Endowment being held at the National Road/Zane Grey Museum. She indicated that the event is in the initial planning phase, but the following activities are being planned: the fourth edition of the *Traveler's Guide* will be debuted; there will be a wine tasting, a silent auction, a lottery tree, and tours of the newly-renovated Museum, and light refreshments. She said that the event is being called "Taking Preservation to the Road". The initial thoughts are that tickets will cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Board members were encouraged to solicit silent auction donations.

Other Business - Jan Brady announced that because of a work conflict, she would have to step down from her Montgomery County Board seat. A motion was made by Jane Lightner to approve her resignation and seconded by Denna Johnson. Motion carried. President Cyndie thanked Jan for her service to the Board and discussed how Jan's resignation opened up some new Board scenarios. She recommended that Paul Seibel be moved from his At Large position to fill Jan's (now) vacant Montgomery County seat. Jeff Sewert (Village Administrator of Lewisburg) has expressed interest in serving on the Board and could be nominated at a subsequent meeting to fill the At Large slot. A motion was made by Mike Peppe to approve Cyndie's recommendation to move Paul into the Montgomery County seat and seconded by Marian Vance. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Larry Bicking and seconded by Ed Kemper. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Minutes compiled by Louis Agresta and respectfully submitted by Secretary Ed Kemper.