

ONRA MINUTES
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009
Western Ohio Bus Tour

Call to order: President Cyndie Gerken called the meeting to order on the bus at 9:18 a.m. The following Board members were present: **Cyndie Gerken, Doug Smith, Denna Johnson, Ed Kemper, Larry Bicking, William Hart, Lynn Kartavich, Jan Livingston-Brady, Sylvia Miller, Jeana Paglialunga, Elizabeth Reeb, Dean Ringle, Paul Seibel, Marian Vance, Ed Wagstaff, David Wesler, Mary Ellen Weingartner and Jane Lightner.** Staff members Glen Massie and Louis Agresta were present. Guests included Alma Kemper, Liz Bicking, Linda Wagstaff, John Paglialunga, Melanie Runkel (Clark County-Springfield TCC), and Bruce Jones and Cathy Corley from New York City. Mark Church was our most capable bus driver.

President Cyndie welcomed everyone. She thanked Glen Massie for his past service to ONRA and introduced Louis Agresta, who will be taking over as Byway Coordinator. Louis presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Jones and Ms. Corley for attending all the way from New York.

Board Membership: President Cyndie reported that we need to invoke our by-law rule that stipulates a Board member should be removed after unexcused absences from three consecutive meetings. Doug Davis from Muskingum County has failed to participate at minimum standards and should be removed from his seat. A motion to do so was made by Marian Vance and seconded by Lynn Kartavich. Motion carried. Denna Johnson then moved and Sylvia Miller seconded, to appoint Mary Ellen Weingartner to the newly-vacated Muskingum County Board seat. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the minutes of the July 28th meeting was made by Paul Seibel and seconded by Jeana Paglialunga. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Denna Johnson emphasized the need for greater income, including additional memberships. Denna presented copies of the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report was made by Dean Ringle and seconded by Paul Seibel. Motion carried.

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

Ohio Magazine Response - As of September 21, we have received 97 requests for the *Traveler's Guides* in response to our ad in Ohio Magazine. Each respondent received a letter along with a membership form and the latest newsletter. To date we have received no new memberships from those mailings.

Coordinator Service Billing - Billings submitted today cover the period of July-Aug 2009. Total was \$8,131.37 with 80% (\$6,505.10) being submitted to ODOT for payment from the National Scenic Byway Grant, and 20%, (\$1,626.27) from ONRA. A motion to approve payment was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Dean Ringle. Motion carried.

Signage Update - Zach is waiting to receive a software update in order to finish editing the signs. President Cyndie will do the final editing of the text on the signs. The unveiling of our first sign (at the Madonna of the Trail) was on August 27 at Snyder Park in Springfield.

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Annual Meeting - Our Annual Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, November 17th at the Statehouse in Columbus. The event will include the meeting, hors d'oeuvres and a tour of the Statehouse. We are looking for sponsorship for the meeting to help us underwrite costs.

Fall Newsletter - The Fall 2009 newsletter is due out soon. Louis asked for ideas on topics.

Submitted Grants - We are seeking matching funds to secure our Marketing grant. A grant application for that purpose has been submitted to The Turner Foundation in Springfield.

Old Business:

Endowment Fund - The ONRA Executive Committee has signed an agreement with the Springfield Foundation to manage the Glenn A. Harper Endowment for Preservation Along the Ohio Historic National Road. We will have a fund-raiser next year.

October 13 Eastern Public Bus Trip - President Cyndie said we only have 6 reservations to date. The question is whether we cancel the trip now, or continue to try to find participants. Our bus rental cost is \$600. The cost per participant is \$60. Vice President Doug Smith suggested we think about this question during our trip and come up with a decision before the end of the day. He also suggested that we need to re-think the entire trip-plan concept. We need to revamp and re-energize our promotion efforts if we are to be successful. Individual Board members will have to get involved and help with the promotion. Dean Ringle moved and Denna Johnson seconded to wait until Oct. 1st to get a minimum of 20 reservations. If we fail to do that, we cancel the trip. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: President Cyndie reminded committees that meetings were to be held during the off month between Board meetings, as we are committed and supposed to do.

Editing Committee - Doug Smith said that he and Glenn Harper are having the maps updated for the revised and updated *Guide*. It will include the bridge that crosses Big Darby Creek. Also, he said the maps will be put on Google. Currently, OHS has only 1,200 *Guides* left on hand.

County Happenings: Louis Agresta said that our panel display is currently in South Vienna. The Blaine Hill Bridge has been nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by Mike Peppe and Nancy Campbell. It awaits approval by the National Parks Service in Washington.

Miscellaneous: Tour bus tour included a visit to the Richmond, Indiana Visitor's Center and the Randolph Township Historical Society Museum in Englewood. A box lunch catered by Joe's US 40 Grille was served at the Aullwood Audubon Center in Butler Township, Montgomery County. The tour continued with stops at the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler's facility in Vandalia and at Clark County's Heritage Center Museum in Springfield.

Adjournment: When the bus arrived back at Denna Johnson's after the Road trip, Paul Seibel moved and Ed Wagstaff seconded to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Motion carried. President Cyndie thanked everyone for attending the tour.

Submitted by Ed Kemper - Secretary