

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR

OCTOBER 11, 2013 - OCTOBER 13, 2014

In compliance with the by-laws the chairperson is to provide a written report to the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting in October each year reviewing the activities, decisions and such other information deemed as significant and important in the operations of the OBSP Society.

Progress in our Phase I short-term goal to raise \$50,000 for the removal of asbestos from the Olive Branch school has failed to generate the interest and enthusiasm, along with the revenue we had hoped for. The fund balance as of September 30, 2014 is \$4,640.37.

We received approval from the Della Selsor Trust Fund for a grant in the amount of \$750 for the specific purpose of printing 2500 newly revised brochures (\$299 cost) and for non-profit mailing stamp and annual fee (\$440). A solicitation letter and brochure were sent to all those who had paid membership fees in the past and who were considered to be current members. Approximately one-third of those contacted returned membership fee (\$10) and/or an additional contribution.

Confirmation was received from the Internal Revenue Service on February 9, 2014 as to our ongoing status as a 501 (c) (3) organization. The IRS confirmed our status and that it was retroactive back to our original approval date of May 15, 2011.

Mrs. Pam Mustovich notified me that she was resigning her position as Treasurer effective as of March 26, 2014. Mrs. James (Sharon) Leathley was appointed as our new Treasurer at the July Board meeting.

The 2013 audit of the Secretary and Treasurer's books was completed with no findings or recommendations by Mr. Ray Lowe.

The minutes of the April 14, 2014 board meeting were corrected to read that anyone contributing \$10 or more are to be considered as members of the OBSPS.

Superintendent Martin and I discussed the possibility of the OBSPS and the Tecumseh School District Board of Education holding a joint meeting including Mrs. Jan Hillman to consider ways and means for promoting fund raising ideas along with other suggestions and recommendations for moving the Olive Branch School renovation project forward. I had suggested to Superintendent Martin that we might first meet with representatives (no more than two members) of the Board in a non- public forum to eliminate any concern by the public that could have a negative effect upon the School Districts attempt to pass new monies for operational purposes. The Boards position was to recommend our Board of Trustees meet with the full Board of Education in attendance, and therefore invited the OBSPS to attend one of their stated meetings in July. I declined the offer because I felt we would be limited in the time

allowed at such a meeting for us to have a meaningful discussion. Mr. Martin and I have since discussed this issue but have not arrived at any conclusion as to how we move forward from this point.

The Olive Branch High School was designated as an "Ohio Endangered Historical Site" this past June (2014) by my recommendation. By being nominated to this list, we are highlighting the importance of the "Little Round School House" as a piece of Ohio History that could be facing an uncertain future. The recognition could very well make a difference between property saved, or gone forever, by drawing attention to its future statewide. It deserves the attention or focus of all Ohioans as an important remnant of the past that merits preservation. The list receives substantial media attention, including coverage in all Ohio's major newspapers, as well as in magazines, lifestyle publications and social media. As you may already be aware, I have been interviewed by the *Springfield News-Sun* about the subject. An article appeared in the *Springfield News-Sun* on Monday, September 22, 2014, and Channel 7 reported briefly on the issue on their 5:00 p.m. time slot one other evening that same week.

A resolution was approved at the July meeting to be sent to the Board of Education requesting necessary maintenance and a clean-up of the building and grounds of the Olive Branch building prior to the opening of the 2014-15 school year so as to enhance the appearance of both the grounds and building. On behalf of the Board of Trustees we wish to thank the Board of Education, Administration and staff for their efforts in removing the old building materials and some of the trash that littered the area. We would further encourage the Board to continue building improvements, especially repairs to missing asphalt roof shingles and other exterior building deterioration.

A second resolution for the temporary suspension of non-essential activities by the OBSPS Board of Trustees was tabled for further discussion and consideration in the future.

We as members of the OBSPS Board of Trustees should all be paying members of the Society as such, and if any of you are like me, who forgot to pay our current membership fee of ten dollars, may I suggest that we be sure to remember to do so for the upcoming fiscal year. It is my intent to send a letter to all current members of the Society to remind them of the fee and to encourage them to consider an additional donation toward our Phase I project.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Berry, Chairperson