

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
October 11, 2011 – October 5, 2012

As required by the Bylaws of the Olive Branch School Preservation Society (OBSPS), Article VI, Section 5 “Report to Trustees - The Chairperson shall furnish a written report annually to all trustees of the Society. Said report shall be made available to the general membership.” This report covers those activities occurring from the date of our October 10, 2011 Annual Report up to the present.

Mrs. Jane Manemann and Mr. John Sipe were reappointed to two-year terms on the Board of Trustees at the October 2011 Annual Meeting. Bill Berry, Cyndie Gerken, Susan Morgan, Peter Scarff, Ken Strickland, Pam Mustovich and Virgil Studebaker continued to serve as members of the Board.

The October 10, 2011 Board meeting generated an enthusiastic discussion on a number of topics of interest including proposals and recommendations for certain actions necessary to keep the public informed and involved in the renovation project of the Olive Branch “Little Round School” building.

Acknowledging the severe economic crisis this country has been experiencing for the past four years, with no signs of alleviating any time soon, the Trustees continue to go forward in their planning for the preservation of the Olive Branch building. Future generations will forgive us if we make every effort to save this historic building, but fail; they will never forgive us, nor should they, if we fail to try.

The Trustees approved the printing of 5,000 brochures highlighting the mission, history, membership, and donation opportunities of the Olive Branch School Preservation Society. To date, over 3,500 brochures have been mailed and/or distributed to prospective donors, clubs, businesses and others interested in the renovation project.

On January 9, 2012, Howard Stahl was officially approved as an OBSPS Trustee by the Board to fill the unexpired term of Jim Leathley who had resigned. Howard has also been appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Board unanimously approved a resolution to join the National Trust Preservation Fund in January 2012. The membership fees are \$115 annually. The National Trust is an umbrella organization that can be helpful to us in seeking matching grant funds to assist in such programs as consultation, printing, stationary, and signage. The Application process for such grants must be made through the National Trust Preservation Fund.

A thank you letter has been prepared to be sent by the Treasurer to those who contribute to the support of OBSPS, acknowledging their gift and informing them that all monetary donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by current law. It was also recommended that the Treasurer complete an up-to-date database of donors and their contact information, and that the list be maintained and available to the Trustees at all times.

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Debbie Brandt, an enthusiastic volunteer for the Olive Branch project, has been working diligently acquiring alumni lists, which may be used if and when a decision is made to send a mass mailing for fund raising. She reported that she has accumulated 40 pages of e-mail addresses, and has also made use of contact information in the alumni reunion books provided by John Sipe and Ken Strickland.

At the April 9, 2012 meeting the Board approved a proposal for the Society to establish a stand alone web site, which could be linked to and from the Tecumseh Local Schools' site. The cost of the proposal is \$599 and was submitted by Mr. Scott Green of Digital Graphics in New Carlisle. The proposal includes securing a domain name and web listing as well as establishing PayPal capabilities as part of the design work. Vice Chairperson Cyndie Gerken has agreed to work with Scott by supplying pertinent information to be included in the web site. Once the site was initially mocked up, Scott was to preview the site with the Board. The web site was previewed and launched prior to our October 8, 2012 Annual Meeting.

The planned June 23, 2012 clean up and open house event had to be canceled because of several complications, including the fact that US 40 paving equipment vehicles were being parked around the Olive Branch building.

At the July 9, 2012 meeting a decision was made by the Board to make certain changes in the design of the proposed thermometer/fund raising sign, which will be installed in front of Olive Branch. The sign will now read "Help Restore This Historic Building," with the term "Phase 1 Goal" placed at the top of the sign designating a goal of \$50,000. The goal selected is for the specific purpose of asbestos removal from the building. It was further recommended that when this goal was reached we will move to a Phase 2 goal, yet to be determined. As a result of these recommendations, additional cost will be incurred due to changes in the type of material needed. The cost for building the thermometer sign and setting it in place at the selected location was \$450. Mr. Bruce Eggleston constructed the thermometer sign and had it completed by late September. A date for installation/unveiling has not been established, but will coincide with an Open House at Olive Branch School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Berry, Chairperson
Olive Branch School Preservation Society