

**OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT  
OCTOBER 14, 2020**

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 has certainly been a challenge to all, due (mostly) to the world-wide coronavirus pandemic. The Olive Branch School Preservation Society was not immune to that issue. Due to a lack of / limited activity over the year-end 2019, the January 8, 2020 Trustee meeting was cancelled. With the onset and surge of the Covid-19 virus, and in accordance with the closing of all of the Tecumseh Local School District's buildings, the April 8, 2020 Trustee meeting was cancelled. While our immediate area in particular has been spared from a major spread, mid-summer found the virus to be surging in the state of Ohio. As a result, mandates by the Governor regarding public gatherings were still in place mid-summer. While our executive group certainly does not meet the size of those mandates, out of abundance of caution, the Trustee meeting scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup> was (likewise) cancelled.

While there were no "official" meetings held, 2020 was not void of progress for OBSPS.

- The Society again received an \$800 grant from the Della Selsor Trust for calendar year 2020, which is used for postage, mailings and brochures. As in the past, the Society continued to work with Digital Graphics to maintain and update the OBSPS web site.
- On January 27<sup>th</sup>, we received/deposited \$1,000 from a grant from The Turner Foundation. Proceeds from this grant are to go towards restoration costs of the southeast classroom windows and door.
- On July 21<sup>st</sup>, we received a \$1,500 grant from the Ohio National Road Association – Harper Endowment Fund. As with the Turner Foundation grant funds, proceeds from this grant will go towards restoration costs of the southeast classroom windows and door.

On June 2, 2020, an email was sent to all Trustees. That email solicited the Trustee's review and opinion regarding our proceeding with the restoration of the windows and entrance door of the building's southeast classroom. The proposed work was per an original estimate received from Blind Eye Restoration for that (and other) restoration work, and is estimated to cost \$9,000 (assuming no unforeseen/unknown issues). A unanimous response was received from the Trustees to proceed as proposed. Accordingly, contact with Lindsay Jones (owner of Blind Eye Restoration) was made, and a contract was signed to proceed with the work. Per the contract, 50% of the estimate is due at the time of inception of the work. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Blind Eye crew was on site to begin the restoration. All classroom windows and the classroom entrance door were removed.

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORT (cont'd)**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2020**

The openings were “boarded up”, and the windows and door were hauled to Columbus to begin the restoration process.

As the year-end approaches, we continue to look towards the future. Vice Chair Cyndie Gerken has (once again) applied for funding from the Della Selsor Trust. Similarly, Trustee Sara Suver has graciously (and tirelessly) completed and submitted a new grant request to The Turner Foundation. It is our hope that a 2021 grant from The Turner Foundation will be sufficient to totally renovate the main entrance doors (facing Route 40), the overhead transom and windows.

While 2020 has most certainly been challenging, it is exciting to see the progress of our renovation efforts. 13 years after inception of this organization, our vision is beginning to take shape.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Leathley, Chairperson  
OBSPS Board of Trustees