

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
OCTOBER 9, 2017

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. This year's report was co-written by the Vice Chair since the current Chair took over that position mid-year. The following report reviews the activities, decisions and other such information deemed important to the operations of the Society.

The year started off with Vice Chair Cyndie Gerken as Acting Chair for the January meeting due to last fall's unexpected resignation of Bill Berry from his position as both an OBSPS Board of Trustees member and Chair of the Society. As a result of this development, the election of officers was tabled. The election was put off again at the January meeting; however, two new trustees, Jim Leathley and Don Wallace, were elected to the Board. The Society received an \$800 grant from the Della Selsor Trust for calendar year 2017, which is used for our postal permit and mailings. The Society continued to work with Digital Graphics to maintain and update the OBSPS web site.

In February, Bill Burrows of Advanced Mechanical Services in Fairborn did his walkthrough at the Olive Branch building. However, he did not feel he was the right person to do an estimate of the restoration work needed. In March, Kevin Rose from The Turner Foundation also came to look at the building and agreed to set up a meeting with the OBSPS trustees and Turner Foundation CEO John Landess.

At the April Board meeting, a bylaw change regarding membership, dues and attendance was presented by Acting Chair Cyndie Gerken. The old bylaws were confusing in regard to what minimal amount of donation was required for membership status. Officers Cyndie Gerken, Sharon Leathley and Susan Morgan reviewed this prior to the meeting and came up with a simply stated replacement, which included the addition of an attendance clause regarding unexcused absences by Board members. The amendment basically stated that dues are a minimum of \$10 a year and the Board members must pay dues to remain on the Board of Trustees. As per the current bylaws, the suggested amendment was sent out to all current Board members ten days in advance, so that it could be voted upon. This amendment was approved by the trustees at the April Board meeting.

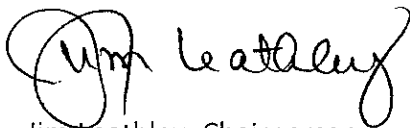
TLS Superintendent Norm Glismann reported in April that the contract with the School Board was in process and he did have the one page letter complete for us to present when contacting people for assistance with the building restoration. It documents the working relationship of the TLS Board and the Olive Branch School Preservation Society. Each Board member was given a copy to review. When the full contract is completed and approved, a copy will be sent to each Board member. Also in April, Jim Leathley was elected to serve as the new Chairperson, with those in the positions of Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer remaining the same.

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The July Board meeting was held at a special time (11:00 a.m.) in conjunction with an invitation to and visit from John Landess and Kevin Rose from the Turner Foundation. The purpose of their visit was to complete a walkthrough of the Olive Branch building, and to hopefully garner their input, insight, and potential support of the preservation project. Mr. Landess and Mr. Rose were impressed both with the unique design and how well intact the building is. Several suggestions were made including: (a) consider restoring just one room to help visualize the project and induce financial support; (b) possibly utilize local college students for drawings, etc. needed for the project; (c) possible alignment with The Springfield Foundation to provide additional avenues of financial support. Peter Scarff was asked to discuss with TLS Board the potential of clearing the south east classroom of stored items. Immediately following the tour, the regularly scheduled Board meeting was held. Majority of the discussion of the meeting was in regards to the tour with Mr. Landess and Mr. Rose.

In conjunction with discussions with Mr. Landess, and in an effort to aid in the receipt of donations and/or grants, an executive committee comprised of Vice Chair Cyndie Gerken, Secretary Susan Morgan, and Treasurer Sharon Leathley met to discuss the potential alignment with The Springfield Foundation. The Springfield Foundation gives the public the opportunity to donate or leave a portion of their estate to organizations. By investing a portion of our funds with the Foundation we would be added to their list of benefactors on their brochures, etc. There are two options in joining the Springfield Foundation endowment funds: Agency Endowment Fund (minimum \$10,000) or Horizon Fund (has no minimum start-up amount and no fees). The committee felt there was no reason to not become involved with the Springfield Foundation. As permitted by our By-Laws, the Executive Committee agreed that \$5,000 would be sent to Springfield Foundation to create the Olive Branch School Preservation Horizon Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Leathley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jim Leathley, Chairperson
OBSPS Board of Trustees