

**The Ohio Historical Society
Board of Trustees**

Friday, February 16, 2007 – 10:30 a.m.
(Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio)

Trustees Present: Richard Ruppert (President), Jon Elsasser (Vice President), Marian Vance (Secretary), Marnie C. Black, Jan Devereaux, Grant Douglas, Pat Eldredge (Emeritus), Bob Goldberg, Linda Herrnstein, Joseph Leonard, Ann Lowder, Neil Mortine, Lucy Porter (Emeritus), and Rich Simpson

Via Teleconference: Cathy Crain, George Jones, and Ted Prasse

Regrets: David Baker (Vice President), Robert H. Jeffrey (Treasurer), Tom Johnson, Priscilla Mead and Mac Stewart

**Ex-Officio's
Present:**

Jamie Abel (representing Ohio Board of Regents), Dan Baker (representing Speaker of the House), Jim Greenhage (representing Ohio Department of Development), Michael Herschler (representing Ohio Academy of Science), William Muthig (representing Ohio Department of Education), Jeff Ruppert (representing Governor Taft) and Bob Tannous (Development Board Chair)

Staff Present: Bill Laidlaw, Rachel Tooker, Jackie Barton, Ron Bednar, Connie Bodner, Beth Case, Julie Hughes, George Kane, Todd Kleismit, Jeri Kozobarich, Melanie Nye, Jim Strider, Janet Cole CPS and Fritz Milligan (Legal Counsel)

President's Report – President Ruppert called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Dr. Ruppert welcomed board members, ex-officios and staff to the board meeting. Special introductions were made for newly appointed ex-officio Jeff Ruppert, who is serving as representative to Governor Strickland's Office, OHS staff Connie Bodner, Director of Museums, and Jackie Barton, Planning and Special Projects Analyst in the Administration Office. Dr. Ruppert reported on several items of importance (World Heritage Nomination, Domestic Partner Benefits and the Fort Laurens Trails Easement) that are included in the Consent Agenda and he encouraged members to ask any questions if they felt there was a need for further discussion. He also reported an Ad Hoc Ethics Policy Committee will be formed to review the Ethics Policy for revisions needed to comply with American Association of Museums accreditation requirements. Dr. Ruppert announced the Executive Committee on March 28, 2007 will begin at 10:30 a.m. instead of the normal 10:00 a.m. start time.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bill Laidlaw made a special note of Marian Vance's recently published book on Bucyrus, circulated a copy in the meeting and noted also its availability in the OHS Gift Shop. Dr. Laidlaw summarized OHS budget challenges. He reported earned revenue is up 18% but is still behind budget for this year. Dr. Laidlaw noted the '08-09 budget emphasizes our momentum and the positive by adding public value and adding discipline

by staying true to our mission. He reported staff is working with the Tafts in archiving the Governor's papers. The Director reported there has been damage to the President's Pavilion in Ohio Village and staff is in the process of assessing alternatives for repairs.

I. Strategic Policy/Issues

Finance Committee – Ron Bednar, CFO, reviewed the results of the first six month's financials. He reported the operating income at \$888,000 and a change in net assets of \$1,639,000 which is \$1,118,000 over budget. Investment results account for \$788,000 of the change in net assets. Mr. Bednar reviewed the 2007 Forecast Summary and reported the Society plans to end the year \$670,000 over budget. Mr. Bednar was asked to send a break down of sales to board members for further clarification.

Mr. Bednar and Ms. Tooker reviewed the challenges and various budget scenarios for the '08-'09 biennial operating budget. The Society plans to ask for \$1.2 million more than is currently allocated in the '08-09 budget for OHS. Ms. Tooker reviewed priorities and what the \$1.2 million would buy for Ohioans in terms of specific services for the public. Dr. Laidlaw encouraged board members to speak with their local representatives, senators and the Governor's Office on behalf of the Society. Pat Eldredge encouraged all board members to attend Statehood Day on March 1st at the Ohio Statehouse.

Planning & Assessment Committee – At its January 18, 2007 meeting committee members reviewed and summarized for each other several publications relating to how a Board governs itself. The Executive Committee also heard these reviews at its January 31st meeting and it was recommended by that committee to share these reviews with the full board. The reviews from these four summaries were presented in a PowerPoint presentation with a review by Jon Elsasser of a summary approved by the Board in September 2003 based on John and Miriam Carver's "Policy Governance Model." Additional reviews were made by Cathy Crain on Jim Collins' monograph of "Good to Great," Jan Devereaux on Mark Moore's "Public Value Scorecard," and Joe Leonard on Michael Porter's *Harvard Business Review* article "What is Strategy?" These reviews will help the Planning & Assessment Committee find a common language for discussing strategic planning elements, especially as they relate to determining "success and to prioritizing future directions for the Society." Jon Elsasser informed members that the Planning and Assessment Committee intends to hold a planning retreat in the near future and will be inviting board members to attend.

Government Relations Committee – Todd Kleismit, Director of Government Relations strongly encouraged board members to attend Ohio Statehood Day on March 1st at the Statehouse. Mr. Kleismit reported this is not an OHS event but an event sponsored by partnering statewide organizations. Governor Strickland has been invited to speak and the highlight of the event is to conduct dozens of small-group meetings with state legislators in the afternoon. The Statehood History Works priorities agenda for Statehood Day was included in the board packet (page 24). Mr. Kleismit reported 115 reservations have been confirmed to date. Mr. Kleismit also informed the Board that the Society (after considerable evaluation of what the Society needs to operate and what it needs to maintain its momentum) has requested \$1.2 million above the FY'08-'09 proposed biennial operating budget.

II. Consent Agenda

President Ruppert asked if anyone had questions regarding the consent agenda. Hearing none, George Jones moved that all items in the consent agenda be approved. Grant Douglass seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob Goldberg moved that the board move into the Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. Ann Lowder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Executive Session and the board meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

III. Education Session – Review of S.W. Region of State

Rich Simpson introduced guests to the Education Session. The guests were Ned Lodwick, Brown County Historical Society; Jack Blosser, Site Manager at Fort Ancient State Memorial; Edna Burns, Leslie Huggard and Sidnie Reed from Historic New Richmond; Betty Campbell, Carol Stivers and Jane Zachman of Ripley Heritage, Inc.; and Stan Purdy of the US Grant Homestead Association. Awards were presented to honored guests for providing exemplary community involvement and support and for their dedication in the preservation of these historic sites.

Jack Blosser gave an overview of Fort Ancient and the importance it plays in history. He also added the significance of its role in participation in the Boy Scouts of America program, Save America's Treasures Grant program, its recent nomination to the U.S. Tentative List and World Heritage List and its yearly "Celebration" event at the site.

George Kane, Director of Facilities Management Division, gave an overview of the management plans and why they play an important part in the community support of the seven managed sites in the S.W. region: Grant Birthplace, Grant Boyhood Home, Grant Schoolhouse, Rankin House, Harrison Tomb, Stowe House and Glendower.

The education session adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Cole CPS.