

**The Ohio Historical Society
Board of Trustees**

Friday, December 15, 2006 – 10:30 a.m.
(Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio)

Trustees Present: Richard Ruppert (President), David Baker (Vice President), Jon Elsasser (Vice President), Marnie C. Black, Jan Devereaux, Grant Douglas, Bob Goldberg, Linda Herrnstein, George Jones, Joseph Leonard, Priscilla Mead, Neil Mortine, Lucy Porter (Emeritus), Ted Prasse (via teleconference), Rich Simpson & Mac Stewart

Regrets: Cathy Crain, Pat Eldredge, Robert H. Jeffrey (Treasurer), Tom Johnson, Ann Lowder & Marian Vance (Secretary)

**Ex Officio's
Present:**

Ann Aquillo (representing Governor Taft), Jamie Abel (representing Ohio board of Regents), Bob Tannous (representing Development Board), Michael Herschler (representing Ohio Academy of Science), William Muthig (representing Ohio Department of Education)

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

President's Report – President Ruppert called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Dr. Ruppert welcomed board members and ex-officios and gave a brief summary of when meetings will be held and an outline of agenda/format for future meetings under his term of presidency. Dr. Ruppert asked trustees to review their responsibilities and asked board members not to hesitate to contact him should they have questions or comments regarding upcoming board meetings.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bill Laidlaw reviewed the goals for FY07 for the Society including revenue, membership, contributions and visitor attendance. He reported while indicators show the Society's performance has improved significantly over last year, it still does not reach targeted goals, especially in revenue. Dr. Laidlaw reported the Society needs to invest more in marketing, technology and efforts to provide market equitable salaries to staff.

Dr. Laidlaw recognized Ann Aquillo for her efforts in providing advice and a smooth transition in acquiring Governor Taft's papers.

I. Strategic Policy/Issues

Finance Committee – Ron Bednar, CFO, reviewed the results of first four month's financials. He reported the operating income at \$560,000 and a change in net assets of \$1,128,000 which is \$764,000 over budget. Investment results account for \$736,000 of the change in net assets. Mr. Bednar emphasized that as vacant positions are filled and the gap in our earned revenue continues to increase, the favorable variance will start to erode. After taking out realized and unrealized investment gains, the Society would be \$6,000 under budget in October. Mr. Bendar reported our realized and unrealized gains for the quarter totaled grew 3.74%.

Government Relations Committee – Todd Kleismit, Director of Government Relations reported his office is working with the Governor's transition team. He reported 30 new legislators are coming into office. Mr. Kleismit asked trustees to let the executive director's office know if they have a special relationship with any of the new legislators, the Governor-elect, the Lt. Governor-elect, or any of the new federal legislators.

Mr. Kleismit reported the Government Relations Committee is meeting soon to address the new administration strategy and to set up a new strategic work plan. If any trustee has any guidance or ideas, he asked that they submit them to Ted Prasse, Chair of the Government Relations Committee or himself.

Physical Structures & Locations Committee – David Baker, Chair, reported the FY07-08 capital budget has been approved. George Kane, Director of Facilities Management, reported an additional \$100,000 was received in our appropriations for Fort Recovery.

OHS staff has worked hard with Tim Keen, Director of Office of Budget and Management, and local legislators to achieve funding on our priority list for capital project funding. Rachel Tooker, COO, credited Todd Kleismit for his hard work and proactivity in working to obtain local support for capital projects.

Mr. Kane reported the Society is working to improve signage at the Center and in achieving standard signage at major sites.

Development Board – Bob Tannous, Chair, gave updates on the Society's Annual Giving Campaign. Mr. Tannous reported at the end of November 2006 the Society had reached 26.5% of its annual fund unrestricted FY07 goal (\$290,000) and 41% of its goal for restricted giving (\$1,000,000).

Mr. Tannous thanked Dick Ruppert and George Jones for signing letters requesting support for Fort Meigs.

II. Consent Agenda

President Ruppert asked if anyone had questions regarding the consent agenda. Hearing none, Jon Elsasser moved that all items in the consent agenda be approved. Bob Goldberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Grant Douglass moved that the board move into the Executive Session at 11:35 a.m. George Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Executive Session and the board meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

III. Education Session

Rachel Tooker presented an abridged PowerPoint presentation on the American Association of Museums (AAM) process for achieving museum accreditation. Rachel emphasized the importance of receiving this accreditation and the overall effect it will have in our community if the Society achieves this award of excellence. OHS was first accredited in 1973, and then had its accreditation reviewed in 1984 and 1998.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Cole CPS.