

**Minutes
Trail of Tears Association
Board of Directors
September 20, 2010**

The Board of Directors meeting for the Trail of Tears Association was called to order by Chairman Jack Baker at 1:00 p.m., at Harrah's Event Center in Metropolis, Illinois. Board members in attendance were: Ginger Abernathy, Jack Baker, Jeff Bishop, Riley Bock, Marybelle Chase, Dola Davis, Denise Dowling, Sue Folsom, Bobbie Heffington, Bill Jones, Glenn Jones, Gail King, Shirley Lawrence, Rowena McClinton, John McLarty, Alice Murphree, Herman Peterson, Troy Wayne Poteete, Anne Rogers, Curtis Rohr, Larry Smith, and Deloris Wood. Regina Berna represented the Chickasaw Nation by appointment for this one board meeting by Governor Bill Anoatubby. Additionally, TOTA Executive Director Jerra Quinton was present. Visitors present included: National Park Service staff members Sharon Brown, Carol Clark, Aaron Mahr, and Frank Norris; Betty Barker; Marty King; and Rock Rogers.

The meeting began with everyone present introducing themselves.

Deloris Wood moved to approve the minutes as presented. Curtis Rohr seconded, and the motion passed.

Bobbie Heffington moved to approve the executive committee minutes as presented. Riley Bock seconded, and the executive committee approved the motion.

Treasurer Bobbie Heffington presented the financial report for approval. After a brief discussion, Deloris moved to approve the financial report for the year-to-date report for 2011. Glenn Jones seconded, and the motion passed. Riley Bock then moved to approve the final year-to-date report for 2010. Glenn Jones seconded, and the motion passed. Bobbie then discussed the chapter financial report and stated that she, along with Jerra, will send some helpful and simplified templates and directions to the chapters about the type of information needed for this report.

Troy Wayne Poteete moved to amend the agenda to, at this point, a discussion of a resolution proposal regarding the late board member Beverly Baker. Bobbie Heffington seconded, and the motion passed.

Troy read a resolution honoring Beverly Baker and dedicating the 15th Annual TOTA Conference to her, after which Ginger Abernathy moved to approve the resolution and to have it read at the welcoming of the conference the next morning. Glenn Jones seconded, and the motion passed.

Jerra Quinton and Anne Rogers spoke about the 2011 conference. It will be held in Cherokee, North Carolina, hopefully around the time of the EBCI's fall festival and the Joint Tribal Council meeting.

Jerra informed the board that proposals for the 2012 conference will be taken at the next spring board meeting. Jack Baker described possible plans for the Chickasaw Nation potentially hosting that conference.

Jerra gave her executive director's report, which included information on her visits to: (1) the Historic Trails Workshop in May 2010 in San Antonio; (2) the research trip with the Oklahoma chapter to the National Archives in July 2010; and (3) a trip in August with Paul Austin to Tulsa to meet up with Duane King and Jack Baker to work on a book including letters from missionaries about the removal. In her report, Jerra included a request to chapters to email or call her with specific details about their chapter meetings as early as possible so she can get it on her calendar to attend.

Jack Baker gave his president's report. He included details about: (1) his journey with the Cherokee Nation's "Remember the Removal" bike riders in Kentucky and Arkansas in June 2010; (2) the research trip with the Oklahoma chapter to the National Archives in July 2010; and (3) the trip to Tulsa to work with Duane, Jerra, and Paul on the missionary letters in August 2010.

The National Park Service staff gave their report on the Trail of Tears projects in their office. Aaron Mahr spoke about the new Mantle Rock interpretation and signage and the signage in Pope County, Illinois, both of which would be dedicated that Wednesday of the conference. He praised TOTA for its use of the sign fund that the NPS set up for Trail of Tears signage. He said the fund was almost depleted. He does not have any funds available for this fiscal year, but he will be working to find more money for this fund in the future. He spoke about TOTA's participation in the upcoming trail map and database management workshop being held in Albuquerque in October. Jeff Bishop, Gail King, and John McLarty will be representing the Association at the workshop. Aaron also mentioned that the Oregon-California Trails Association is trying to get their trail amended to include additional trails, one of which is the Cherokee Trail. Perhaps this will help TOTA gain new members from OCTA. He then spoke about the 2011 budget. He said it was stable but that there were no budget increases for the third year in a row. However, the commitment to TOTA and the cooperative agreement is still the same. The Challenge Cost Share program for 2011 is not in the president's budget and so that program may be eliminated for 2011. Sharon Brown spoke about the 2011 funding from the NPS to the Trail of Tears Association, as well as the current Challenge Cost Share projects. She stated that \$165,500 has been obligated to the Trail of Tears Association for fiscal year 2011. There are two Challenge Cost Share projects started already for 2011: the national archives research by the Oklahoma chapter and the transportation experience of the Cherokee removal by the Southeastern Anthropological Institute. Completed Challenge Cost Share projects for 2010 included a research trip to the national archives by the Oklahoma chapter; the Chieftains Excavations in Georgia by Chieftains Museum; research of the Ridge property on the Calhoun Road in Floyd County, Georgia, by Jeff Bishop and Chieftains Museum; and a remote sensing investigation at Campground Church Cemetery near Anna, Illinois, by Harvey Henson of the Illinois chapter. Sharon also shared that Lynne Mager was just hired as another interpretive specialist to work alongside Carol Clark in their office. Carol Clark gave the board a report on the new interpretive projects completed and in progress, including those at Stilwell and Westville, Oklahoma; Mantle Rock Preserve, Kentucky; and Cedartown, Georgia. Frank Norris spoke about private property owners or non-federal property owners and certification. Currently, the Trail of Tears has 55 certified sites.

After a 15-minute recess, the nominating committee spokesman, John McLarty, presented the slate for board elections to the board for consideration. Anne Rogers moved to approve the slate for election, and Glenn Jones seconded. The motion passed. The following officers and board members were elected:

- President (January 2011 – December 2013): Jack Baker
- Vice President (January 2011 – December 2013): Troy Wayne Poteete
- Secretary (January 2011 – December 2013): Patsy Edgar
- Treasurer (January 2011 – December 2013): Bobbie Heffington
- At-Large 1 (January 2011 – December 2014): Brett Riggs
- Executive Committee 1 (January 2011 – December 2012): Sue Folsom
- Executive Committee 2 (January 2011 – December 1012): John McLarty

Jerra announced that the next board meeting will take place toward the latter part of April 2011 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Glenn Jones moved to adjourn, Ginger Abernathy seconded, and the motion passed.