

**Minutes**  
**Trail of Tears Association**  
**Board of Directors**  
**October 5, 2009**

The Board of Directors meeting for the Trail of Tears Association was called to order by Vice President/Acting Chairman at 1:10 p.m., at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention Center in Guntersville, Alabama. Board members in attendance were: Ginger Abernathy, Beverly Baker, Joyce Bear, Regina Berna, Marybelle Chase, Tommy Cox, Dola Davis, Denise Dowling, Patsy Edgar, Sue Folsom, Bill Jones, Glenn Jones, Gail King, Shirley Lawrence, Rowena McClinton, John McLarty, Alice Murphree, Herman Peterson, Troy Poteete, Anne Rogers, Curtis Rohr, Larry Smith, and Deloris Wood. Additionally, Executive Director Jerra Quinton was present. National Park Service (NPS) staff Aaron Mahr, Sharon Brown, Steve Burns, John Cannella, and Lee Kreutzer also attended the meeting.

After Acting Chairman Troy Poteete introduced new members of the board, Patsy Edgar moved to approve the executive committee minutes, Beverly Baker, and the executive committee approved the motion.

Curtis Rohr moved to accept the minutes, Glenn Jones seconded, and the motion passed.

Patsy Edgar gave the financial report in Treasurer Bobbie Heffington's absence. Denise Dowling moved to approve the financial report as presented. Ginger Abernathy seconded, and the motion passed.

Jerra Quinton gave a brief report on the 2010 conference, which is scheduled to be held in Metropolis, Illinois, at Harrah's Casino, Hotel, and Event Center. The 2011 conference was then discussed, and Jerra stated that the time to set the location for the 2011 conference would be the spring board meeting of 2010. A discussion then followed about the order of hosting state chapters, at which time Glenn Jones moved to have a conference in North Carolina before having one in Oklahoma. Bill Jones seconded, and the motion passed.

Jerra gave the executive director's report. She included brief reports on the new part-time administration staff person; the Partnership for the National Trails System conference in Montana, which included a youth initiative in which TOTA member Ryan Cole participated; the upcoming Hike the Hill meeting in Washington, D.C.; new membership forms, and the newly designed TOTA website, which will include all the state chapters.

Troy gave a brief report on the Trail of Tears events he had attended over the last several months, which included Hike the Hill in Washington, D.C., a Tennessee chapter meeting, a Kentucky chapter meeting, Elizabeth Town Community College event, Blythe's Ferry dedication, and the Partnership for the National Trails System conference in Montana.

The National Park Service staff gave a report on what each staff person is working on with regards to the Trail of Tears. Aaron Mahr stated that the cooperative agreement between the NPS and TOTA had been completed and approved for \$130,000 for FY 2010. He stated that the interpretive film had been completed and that copies would be distributed at this conference in Guntersville over the course of the week. Aaron introduced new faces, Lee Kreutzer, the cultural resource specialist for the Intermountain Region of the National Trails System, and John Cannella, the new GIS specialist in the Santa Fe office. Sharon Brown then gave an update on the Challenge Cost-share (CCS) program: two more CCS projects had been completed this past summer, one at Chieftains Museum in Georgia and one on the Tusculumbia Railroad by Gail King in Alabama. Also, the Oklahoma chapter will be submitting their report soon on their second trip to the National Archives. Sharon also stated that their office has three new employees – Carol Ortega will be helping track all of the agreements, and Carol Clark and Ann Balew will be the new interpretive staff starting later in the month. Steve Burns provided a hand out on the signing effort and how to obtain funds for signage projects. John Cannella spoke briefly about the GIS work he has planned for the Trail of Tears. Lee Kreutzer reported about her work with Mike Taylor on combining compliance efforts between the Santa Fe office and the Salt Lake City office of the Intermountain Region.

After discussion about the new distribution of membership dues between the national association and the chapters, Bill Jones moved the following regarding additional state chapter memberships:

- Additional state chapter memberships would remain at \$10.
- The state chapter in which the person resides gets \$15, while the remaining chapters get \$10.
- If the person does not live in one of the states of which (s)he is a member, the national association will keep \$15 and provide the chapters will \$10 each.

Tommy Cox seconded, and the motion passed.

The board discussed possible dates for the spring 2010 board meeting. Patsy Edgar asked for the board and staff to consider April 14th or 19th.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.