

Portage Chronicle



Reporting the events of the Portage Route Chapter, Great Falls, Montana

January 2010

Vol 20 Issue 1

From the President: Dear Member

I think we have had a successful and eventful past year. While the Lewis & Clark movement may be in a decline as the result of the Bicentennial passing, your Board of Directors has vowed to continue to propagate the story for future generations. Besides the annual meeting and picnic, we have sponsored the Sherman Lecture series, the Sherman Award breakfast and supported other organizations throughout the period. We have taken on two new far reaching projects: The Sacajawea "Arduous Journey" bronze statue placement and a Lewis & Clark Map and booklet development.



The late Carol Grende's bronze, which is now located at the Great Falls International Airport, was lacking financial support to purchase it and have it displayed there. The airport was not the ideal location. The Chapter was approached to partner the project. It will be on loan and placed on the river bank in front of the new Federal Courthouse which will provide wider visibility for the community and visitors. In order not to lose this important part of our history in Great Falls, the Chapter agreed to do this since it is Lewis & Clark and in line with our purpose. We are approaching receiving the donations we needed to finalize the project and look forward to a dedication in the spring. **Mary Willmarth** of Vision West and our Treasurer, **Dave Pidcock** had done an outstanding job at raising funds for this project. If you would like to make a donation to it or purchase a smaller bronze to help us get it finished, contact either of them. We need your help to go over the top.

The Lewis & Clark map of regional sites depicted in the Journals and an associated booklet have been a pet project of **Phil Scriver's** since the planning for the L & C Bicentennial. He has spent many hours identifying all the sights and their associated signage and even has included GPS notation for ease of the travelers and Lewis & Clark buffs.

Thank you Phil, your hard work will be appreciated by many for years to come. The items will be finished shortly and will be displayed at the Annual Meeting, January 31, 2009, 4:00 PM at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

We ask you to please RSVP for the Annual Meeting so we don't waste your valuable resources in holding this event. You will be presented a few Bylaw changes to make the Chapter more accommodating to you, the member, and to sustain it in the future. One is changing the Annual Meeting date to September to coincide with our financial year and to schedule it at a time of year for easy travel for our out of town members. There will be other recommendations under a separate section, Bylaw changes, of this newsletter. See you at the Annual Meeting.

Portage Chapter Annual Meeting

Phil Scriver

The annual meeting of the Portage Route Chapter membership will be Sunday, January 31 starting at 4:00 pm at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Activities will start with a business meeting which will be followed by a potluck dinner. The business meeting will include project reports and an overview of the year by President Steve Kubick.

Two very important items of business will be the election of three new Board members and a vote on changes to the bylaws.

Following the business meeting there will be the potluck dinner. The Chapter is providing the main course of turkey, potatoes, and gravy. Those attending should bring side dishes, desserts, etc.

During the dinner a "1806 Trivia Quiz" will be passed out to test your Lewis and Clark knowledge.

Everyone is invited to come out to the annual meeting to enjoy some good company, have some great food, and conduct some important chapter business. This would also be an ideal time to pay your chapter dues for the year.

Upcoming Events

--Portage Route Chapter Annual Meeting—January 31, 2010

--Sherman Breakfast—March 20, 2010

A Personal Milestone

Phil Scriver

This issue of the Portage Chronicle marks twenty years of the Chapter's newsletter. During that time there has been two editors, Don Peterson and myself. I believe that Don will readily agree that sometimes it was a real challenge to get an issue out, but somehow it got done.

The newsletter got its start from a brainstorming session the Chapter held to come up with things the chapter needed to become involved with and things that the Chapter should be doing internally to grow as a chapter both in members and activities.

I worked with Bob Bivens to get the newsletter to become a reality. He told me that he would be very interested in helping me get it going BUT he would NOT be the editor. His departing remarks, after our first issue came out, were that it had to be maintained as a quality work. Only the readers can determine if it has been that.

SACAJAWEA PROJECT: We're almost there

Dave Pidcock

Like most fund raising projects, it always seems that the last few dollars are always the hardest to obtain, and that's where we're at now. We've been extremely fortunate to have so many generous individuals and businesses helping us through donations and purchases, and we're so close to finalizing the fundraising. At the time of this newsletter, we are just a couple thousand dollars away from the \$80,000 that we need to purchase the beautiful 9 foot bronze statue created by the late Carol Grende, and place it beside the new Federal Court House in Great Falls. Yes, the bicentennial is over, but Sacajawea is becoming more popular than ever, as historians are becoming more aware of her importance in the Lewis & Clark Expedition. And it is most fitting that she graces our fine city, and right next to the river that she traveled on for so many months. The setting that she will be placed on is extremely attractive as you will see when attending the formal dedication, or anytime after she comes home.

Fundraising during this frustrating economic turn-down has been most difficult, but we are optimistic that we'll get through this very soon. We look to our membership to assist us with whatever you feel you can spare. Most definitely a check for \$1,000 - \$5,000 would be fantastic, but that's not what we are asking for. If everyone who belongs to the Portage Route Chapter could donate just \$10-\$15 we would reach our goal, and the beautiful bronze of Sacajawea would be ours. We realize that asking for money during the holiday season is a tough call, but I feel you'll come through. As a reminder, any donation of \$5,000 or

more will have their name placed on a permanent bronze plaque right next to the statue.

So we are asking for whatever you can spare as a donation, but don't forget the purchase of one of the miniatures of "Arduous Journey" where 50% of the purchase price goes

towards this project. Not including any shipping charges, the 5" is \$300, the 17" is \$2,500, and the 38" is \$10,000. Rather than take up newsletter space with another order form, just give me a call at **(406) 727-2466** and I'll review everything with you and send an order form if requested. **Donations should be sent to Portage Route Chapter, P.O. Box 2424 – Great Falls, MT 59403.**



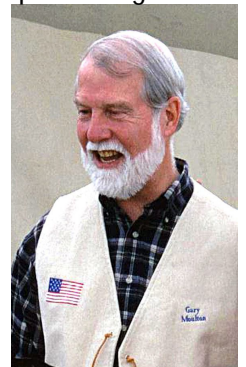
We originally planned on having the dedication ceremony this past fall, but since we hadn't reached the \$80,000 along with the uncertainty of Montana's weather, we had to postpone this until the spring of 2010 when warmer weather will prevail, and make travel less dangerous. I am very optimistic that we'll reach our goal very soon, and then we'll have all winter to plan an entertaining and historical celebration. Obviously we'll keep everyone informed as to the exact date.

Please help us out the best you can, and remember, all it would take is about 150 \$15.00 donations, and "Arduous Journey" would be ours. I have the faith that you'll come through. Thanks in advance and "Season's Greetings".

Mark your 2010 Calendar!

Sue Buchel

The Portage Route Chapter is sponsoring a stimulating afternoon of thoughtful discussion with a dear friend, Dr. Gary Moulton! Joining him will be Dr. Martin Levitt, Librarian for the American Philosophical Society and Dr. George Carlson, Director of our local McLaughlin Research Center. The program will be hosted by former Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation President, Larry Epstein. The topic? "Science and Humanities – Inseparable by Nature." That's all I'll divulge for now, details later. Just save the afternoon of Sunday, March 14th (1pm – 4pm) on that new 2010 calendar you get for Christmas and start thinking about what the program might hold in store.



You're Chapter at work in 2009

Sue Buchel

Thanks to two grant proposals submitted by Don Peterson in 2008, the Portage Route Chapter was able to host a "plethora" of educational programs at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center throughout 2009.

A National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Grant, along with our partner, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association, allowed author James Loewen to conduct a well-attended teacher workshop last February. The day centered around his popular book, "Lies My Teacher Told Me," and helped educators find ways to present a more realistic history to their students. He presented a public lecture the next evening that expanded his topic to entire communities.

The NPS grant also assisted in bringing a whole summer's worth of "Native Voices" to the Center each Saturday evening. Many of you may have enjoyed some of these programs that ranged from musical interpretation to symbolism and art.

A grant directly from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation allowed the Portage Route



Chapter to host a lively program during Native American week in September. The Two Medicine Dancers and Drum brought the steady

rhythm of the drum and the flash of bright regalia to the public.

These grants brought \$7,170 of program support, matched by many hours of volunteer work and in-kind support from Portage Route Chapter and its partners.

Website was a Victim

Phil Scriver

A short while ago the Chapter's website host, Sofast, went out of business. Our webmaster John Toenyes soon found a new host and transferred the entire website quite easily, or so he thought. When the transfer was done a quick check was made, but then the new site went down. After several hours of struggling John discovered that the problems were all coming from our old, old software used to maintain the site. With that being updated the website will run much faster than before, thus proving the old adage that there is good in everything if you just take the time to look.

We will soon have all the old files up and running so we can continue on with adding new things we have planned—new articles and photo albums.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

--these will be voted on during the annual meeting--

Section 2.2: As an entity of the Foundation, the Chapter (provided it maintains no fewer than 10 members) shall receive equal status and recognition given each of the other Chapters. **(cleans up verbage)**

Section 3.3: The dues for membership in the Chapter are in addition to membership in the Foundation. Dues shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall be payable annually in advance and shall cover one year. **(removes dues amounts from the bylaws; provides for the Board to set them)**

Section 4.1a: There will be a minimum of one (1) regular meeting of the general membership each year. The Board of Directors may increase this number by providing the general membership proper notification of the meeting(s). The Annual Membership and Elections of the Board of Directors will be held on the third Sunday in September. The time and place of this meeting will be determined by the Board of Directors however the President must give 30 days notice prior to the general membership. **(section s 4.1a through 7.1 change elections and annual meeting to September putting them in line with the Chapter's fiscal year of 1 October through 30 September)**

Section 4.1e: A quorum shall be 10 percent of the membership at any regular or special Membership meeting.

Section 5.1 Enumeration: The officers of the Chapter shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary chosen during the re-organization meeting of the Board of Directors as soon as possible after the Annual Membership meeting and before the October Board of Directors meeting. The re-organization meeting should take place at the conclusion of the Annual Membership meeting.

Section 7.1 Organization: The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members who are elected for a three year terms with three terms expiring each year at the September Annual Membership meeting. The Directors will elect the Officers of the Chapter: a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary from among them and are known as the Executive Committee who make short term business decisions on behalf of the Chapter Board of Directors.

All Officers are elected for a one year term. The Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary can serve as many terms as they are elected to and that they desire to serve in that capacity. The President can only serve for two consecutive one year terms but is eligible to run again after a four year period has lapsed after his term as President.

Section 7.1c Absences: Any Board member who has missed three (3) unexcused consecutive absences may be subject to removal. The Board of Directors will nominate a member to serve the remainder of the year.

The position will be voted on at the next Annual Membership meeting for the remainder of the term to achieve a three year turnover of the Board of Directors. **(provides for removal of a Board member who does not attend meetings)**

6 - FOR 3 OPEN TERMS

Harry Mitchell

Historically the Portage Route Chapter Board of Directors has had 9 elected members with staggered 3 year terms. Every year 3 director's terms expire, and then are filled, with the "board of directors election" at our annual membership meeting. This year's annual meeting will be Sunday, 31 January 2010 at the L&CIC – (please review the details of our annual meeting on page 1).

Any Portage Route Chapter member in good standing is eligible to serve on our board. He or she is normally elected at our annual meeting for a 3 year term, however, when necessary and with board concurrence, the Portage Route Chapter President may appoint a member to fill a board vacancy.

We currently have 6 nominees for 3 open seats. The 6 nominees are: (alphabetically) - Sue Buchel, Gene Dwyer, *Ida Johnson, Dick Smith, Richard Sterling and *Mary Urquhart; (* incumbent bd. member). At our meeting further nominations may be made from the floor and each nominee will introduce themselves and comment as they desire prior to a confidential paper ballot vote.

Again, please review the annual meeting schedule on page1, mark your calendar now, attend and enjoy good food and L&C fellowship - and vote for not more than 3.

Portage Route Chapter
P.O. Box 2424
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The Portage Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trial Heritage Foundation
Phil Scriver, editor

Chapter website: www.corpsodiscovery.org

Board of Directors

President	Steve Kubick(10)	snak@bresnan.net
Vice President	Marvin Holtz(09)	
Secretary	Ida Johnson(09)	
Treasurer	Dave Pidcock(10)	depvisionquest@aol.com
Past President	Harry Mitchell(10)	hbmitchell@bresnan.net
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Director	Clay Smith(11)	clayandkim@bresnan.com
Director	John Toenyess(11)	tenyess1@msn.com
Director	Claire Roehm(10)	droehm@3riversdbs.net
Director	Phil Scriver(11)	philscriver@yahoo.com

**To RSVP for the Annual Meeting
Call Steve Kubick at 727-2481
Or email him at snak@bresnan.net**