

TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION
ARKANSAS CHAPTER

ESTABLISHED

Following the April 18, 1996 state caucus meeting at the First Annual Trail of Tears Association Symposium held at the Riverfront Hilton Hotel in North Little Rock, Arkansas, a memorandum was sent out to the Arkansas membership dated May 3, 1996 providing the dates and times of the Arkansas Chapter organizational meeting on May 11th and the first stated Membership Meeting on May 18th. The Trail of Tears Association, Arkansas Chapter held its first organizational meeting Saturday, May 11, 1996 in Little Rock. Chapter Bylaws were adopted and interim officers and directors elected at the membership meeting on Saturday, May 18.

OBJECTIVES

Consistent with the purposes of the National Trail of Tears Association and the management objectives set forth in the National Park Service's Comprehensive Management and Use Plan, the Arkansas Chapter will coordinate programs and projects to effectively:

- preserve and protect trail related resources;
- mark the trail;
- conduct research and educate the public;
- provide for appropriate visitor use opportunities;
- promote the trail as an integrated whole;
- identify potentially certifiable sites/segments;
- stimulate landowner/manger support for certification;
- assist landowners and the National Park Service with preservation, maintenance or development activities through an "adopt a site/segment program";
- distribute materials about stewardship, appropriate public use, methods of obtaining assistance;
- work with the National Park Service and others to obtain cooperation and assistance from other agencies, organizations, or individuals in ways consistent with the Association's 501(c)(3) status;
- raise funds for preservation, research, interpretation, or visitor use development;
- sponsor, organize, promote and manage appropriate Trail events or tours consistent with public use opportunities provided through certification or other agreements;
- provide educational programs and National Park Service training for Chapter volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION
ARKANSAS CHAPTER

MAKE CHECK FOR: \$25 (\$15 NATIONAL, \$10 CHAPTER)
PAYABLE TO: TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION
MAIL TO: MS. OLETA BROCK, P. O. BOX 635, BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712

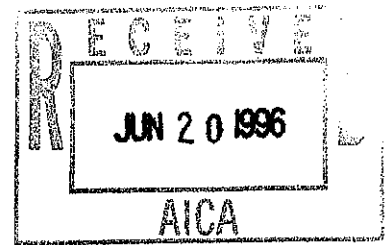
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE (DAY) _____ PHONE (NIGHT) _____

TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION
ARKANSAS CHAPTER
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 18, 1996



The first scheduled Chapter meeting of Saturday, May 18, was convened at 10 a.m. in the North Auditorium at St. Vincent Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. There being no elected officers, Ken Eastin acted as moderator for the meeting. Members present included Brenda Perry, Oleta Brock, Monte Harris, Ret Corbin, Nina Corbin, Guy Murphy, Leigh Glaves, Ken Eastin, Benjamin Talley, Leonard Bland and Kitty Sloan.

Copies of the Chapter bylaws were handed out for consideration by the members. Leonard Bland made a motion that we accept the proposed bylaws as submitted. This was seconded by Oleta Brock. There was general discussion on this and a vote was taken and the motion to accept the bylaws was passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the next Chapter meeting place. It was recommended that the AICA location could be used. Ken Eastin will discuss this with Paul Austin for availability of office space for these meetings. Leonard Bland suggested the meeting be held at the University of Central Arkansas and volunteered to contact Skip Stewart-Abernathy.

In the next order of business the interim officers and directors were elected by the members present. The officers and directors listed below will serve as the Executive board of the Chapter until the 1997 nominating, balloting and election of officers procedures may take place according to the Chapter bylaws (Article V, Section 7).

Oleta Brock, President
Brenda Perry, Secretary/Treasurer
Leigh Glaves, Director

Leonard Bland, Vice President
Ken Eastin, Director

Discussions were held on the location for the state quarterly meetings and annual meeting. Leonard Bland will discuss with Skip Stewart-Abernathy the possibility of using the University of Central Arkansas as the permanent location.

It was suggested the bylaws be reviewed by an attorney prior to submitting them to National Trail of Tears Association with the application for charter as the Arkansas Chapter. The application process to become the Arkansas Chapter charter to the National Association was discussed. The Executive Committee will meet to review and finalize the application the first week in June.

Other discussions included the need for educating the public about the chapter, its objectives and goals; setting up a news release process; need to develop materials for public schools to reach children and their parents; the need to get committees set up; and, the need to inform the membership regarding chapter activities as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Arkansas Chapter will be held on Saturday, July 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Accepted by:

Brenda Perry, Secretary/Treasurer

Oleta Brock, President

June 18, 1996
For Immediate Release
(call Ken Eastin at 682-1301 for more information)

LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Arkansas Chapter of the National Trail of Tears Association is currently forming through the efforts of a group of interested Arkansans. This chapter will be a vital part of the National Trail of Tears Association since all of the routes utilized came through Arkansas before reaching Indian territory in what is now Eastern Oklahoma. The National Association was formed in 1994. It's mission is to assist the National Park Service with the preservation, interpretation and management of this tragic event.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail commemorates the devastating experience of the Cherokee people and other eastern tribes, who were forcibly removed by the U.S. Government in 1838-39 from their homelands in the southeastern United States to new homes hundreds of miles to the west. Approximately 16,000 men, women, and children were forced to make the journey under adverse conditions through nine states. Approximately 8,000 Native Americans died as a result of their removal.

The national historic trail, which was designated by Congress in 1987, encompasses approximately 2,200 miles along the main land and water routes that the Cherokees followed. In Arkansas, the designated land route enters the state in the northwest corner and generally follows US Highway 62 from the town of Gateway, through Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville, then west into Oklahoma. Three detachments of Cherokees, totaling almost 2,800 people, were loaded onto flatboats and traveled by river to Indian Territory. In Arkansas, the designated water route of the Trail of Tears includes the Mississippi River along the eastern border and the Arkansas River through the heart of the state. Two additional routes traveled by large detachments are not part of the national historic trail, but are also consid-

**TRAIL OF TEARS
ARKANSAS CHAPTER
1997 Plan**

I. Membership.

- A. Increase membership to 150 members and 50 active members by October 1997. Put in place procedures to increase membership in areas of quarterly meetings through news media, news releases, brochures at local museums, historical societies, and etc.

Assigned to: Judy Talley (Membership Subcommittee)
Report on
Progress: Quarterly Membership meetings

- B. Coordinate registration at Chapter programs and events to monitor participation by members and non members.

Assigned to: Judy Talley (Membership Subcommittee)
Report on
Progress: Quarterly at meetings and a written report for Annual Report
Due date: Ongoing

- C. Increase active member participation to meet 100 percent of committees' needs.

Assigned to: Judy Talley, Brenda Perry
Report on
Progress: Meetings, Newsletter and Annual Report (optional)
Due Date: Ongoing

- D. Provide written procedures and list of contacts to coordinate TOT volunteer participation in activities that may attract new memberships and sponsors (booths at fairs, cultural events, historical reenactments and etc.).

Assigned to: Monte Harris, Ben Talley, Brenda Perry
Approval: Governing Board
Due date: April 1997

- E. Publish a quarterly newsletter.

Assigned to: Monte Harris & Development Committee
Approval: Development Committee
Due date: November 1996

II. Sites and Trails

- A. Develop procedure for responding to inquiries on developing sites and trails.

Assigned to: Ben Talley and Monty Harris
Approval: Development & Ken Eastin
Due date: April 1997

- B. Develop lists of state museums, parks, historical societies, news media and chambers.

Assigned to: Judy Talley
Due date: April 1996

- C. Offer educational excursions for membership and sponsors to promote and recognize current site and trail development projects. Locations identified are Pea Ridge and Russellville-Dardanelle.

Assigned to: Ben Talley, Steve Adams, Doug Keller, Ken Eastin
Approval: Executive Board
Due date: March 1997

III. Calendar Events.

- A. Develop 1997 calendar of events for Chapter.

Assigned to: Brenda Perry, Monte Harris, Judy Talley and Linda Holbert
Due date: March 1997

- B. Sponsor recognition reception and unveiling of the Native American Children exhibit in Little Rock. Presentation of Award to Jim Scibetta and Rex Horner for their contributions to the Trail of Tears Association, Arkansas Chapter (either at unveiling or at a Special Chapter function).

Assigned to: Brenda Perry, Ben Talley
Due date: (to be determined)

IV. Education (Interpretation)

- A. Develop a working Educational Committee by increasing committee members to 5-7 members.

Assigned to: Linda Holbert, Judy Talley
Due date: October 1997

- B. Provide long-term direction, planning and vision for Education Committee with written goals.

Assigned to: Linda Holbert, Ken Eastin, Linda Perry
Approval: Governing Board
Due date: March 1997

- C. Coordinate combination and exchange of information and documentation with agencies such as Arkansas Heritage, University of Arkansas, local museums, independent research and etc. as it relates to the Arkansas Trail of Tears. Also, serve as an information clearinghouse on all aspects of the Trail of Tears for members and the public.

Assigned to: Linda Holbert
Approval: Education
Due date: On-going (Long term)

- D. Cosponsor an exhibit on Native American Children at the Little Rock Children's Museum. Exhibit to be constructed by Jim Scibetta with the Chapter providing written summaries, pictures, stories, legends, and artifacts contributed by the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Quapaw, Caddo, Delaware, Ketoowah and Osage.

Assigned to: Oleta Brock, Brenda Perry, Linda Holbert
Due date: April 1, 1997

- E. Support efforts to develop a Trail of Tears Interpretive Center in Fort Smith.

Assigned to: Julie Galonska, Ken Eastin, , Ben Talley
Approval: Governing Board
Due date: March 1997

V. Chapter.

A. Annual Meeting

1. Select a theme and programs for 1997 Annual Meeting.

Assigned to: Cleo Lindsey, Ken Eastin, Linda Holbert
Due date: November 1996

2. New Officers' Reception (pre-dinner) at the Annual meeting. Also, coordinate blues show and dance, fry bread and non-alcoholic beverages (charge separate fee).

Assigned to: Ben Talley
Due date: April 1997

3. Provide an informative presentation on the Trail of Tears in Arkansas.

Assigned to: Linda Holbert
Due date: April 1997

- B. Develop standard format for news releases to local news media and application brochure.

Assigned to: Judy Tally
Due date: November 1, 1997

- C. Review the wording of bylaws of the chapter for presentation to the membership.

Assigned to: Governing Board
Due date: November 1, 1997

- D. Review procedures and forms for nominating/balloting/election of officers and directors. Review and approve procedures and forms for nominating committee chairpersons.

Assigned to: Governing Board
Due date: November 1, 1997

TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION
ARKANSAS CHAPTER
Membership Meeting Minutes
July 20, 1996

The quarterly Chapter meeting was held on Saturday, July 20, 1996, at the Chamber of Commerce in Russellville, Arkansas. Officers, directors and members present included Paul Austin, Oleta Brock, Rel Corbin, Nina Corbin, Ken Eastin, Julie Galonska, Monte Harris, Linda Holbert, Kathleen Hollabaugh, Geneva Ferguson, Cleo Lindsey, Brenda Perry, James Putman, Benjamin Talley and Judy Talley. The president called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock p.m. and welcomed members attending.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the May 18, 1996 meeting were submitted for approval. No changes, additions or deletions were submitted by the membership. Motion was made by Ken Eastin to accept the minutes; seconded by Linda Holcomb; and the motion was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Perry reported that we have received no funds at this time, due to our impending charter. She stated we have procedures in place to receive funds from national when our charter has been granted. The floor was opened for Paul Austin who explained that at such time as our charter has been accepted, we will begin to receive funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: President Brock reported an update on charter application process. She has been in contact with Maxwell Ramsey, Vice President of the Trail of Tears Association, regarding our bylaws. A recent update of the bylaws was passed around for review. Also, a handout for instructions on chartering a chapter was made available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Intertribal Council Meeting: President Brock reported on the attendance of herself and Secretary Perry to the Intertribal Council at the invitation of Charles Gourd. They met with the "Repatriation Committee." President Brock shared with them our operations and objectives of the Arkansas Chapter and also our intentions of recognizing the Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, as well as, Cherokee trails. Perry also gave a short account of their meeting with the Repatriation Committee. The floor was given to Paul Austin who read a letter written by Principal Chief of the Cherokees, Joe Byrd, to Trail of Tears Association president, Riley Brock, regarding a resolution signed by the chiefs and governors of the tribes. The resolution had already been presented to the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service. A copy of the resolution will be made available to the membership.

Program Committee: Cleo Lindsey has accepted the duties as chairperson for the Program Committee. She will secure arrangements for our Annual Meeting on April 5, 1997. The floor was opened for nominations for a city, resort or park to hold our first Annual Chapter Meeting the first weekend in April 1997 (as stated in the chapter bylaws). Several sites were nominated and Petit Jean Mountain and Batesville receiving equal votes. Petit Jean was selected the site for Annual Meeting.

Development Committee: Monte Harris has accepted the duties as chairperson of the Development Committee. Monte will also coordinate the newsletter subcommittee which will be published quarterly. The floor was opened to volunteers for the other subcommittees (membership, education, yearbook, special activities). Ben and Judy Talley volunteered to co-chair the Membership subcommittee. Ben and Judy Talley accepted to co-chair the Special Activities subcommittee. Education and Yearbook committees chairs were not filled.

Discussion: Julie Galonska updated the membership on the status of the Ft. Smith Interpretive Center for the Trail of Tears and reviewed the work performed by the National Park Service, Corps of Engineers and the Colonial Dames in the marking of the Water Route. This included a question and answer session.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next quarterly Arkansas Chapter membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 1996.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Secretary/Treasurer

President

Text of chapter bylaws to be voted on at July 24 assembly

Article X of our current bylaws states: "These bylaws may be amended, or repealed and new bylaws adopted, after submission to and approval of the draft by the Association, by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual or regularly scheduled members' meeting when the proposed amendment has been sent out in the notice of such meeting, as described in Article VII, Section 4 (c. Resolutions and Amendments to Chapter Bylaws) of these bylaws." [Actually, Section 3b of Article VII of the current bylaws seems to be the relevant passage -- such mistaken reference being just one example of the need for bylaws revision. For a copy of the current bylaws, contact chapter president Kitty Sloan, 870-239-4252, or the TOTA office 1-800-441-4513.]

Bylaws of the Arkansas chapter, Trail of Tears Association Proposed for adoption by the membership on July 24, 2004

ARTICLE I CHARTER

Section 1. Charter. The Arkansas chapter, Trail of Tears Association (ARTOTA) is a chartered chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership. Members of the Arkansas chapter shall be Association members who have chosen to affiliate with the Arkansas chapter.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual assembly. An annual membership assembly shall be held at the time and the place designated by the chapter president or the chapter board. Notice of the meeting and of any business to be transacted shall be mailed to each member at least 30 days prior to the meeting date. Election of officers and other significant chapter business shall take place at the annual assembly, except when these bylaws require or the board recommends that ballots be mailed to each member.

Section 2. Other scheduled meetings. The president or the board may schedule other meetings. Members should be notified of time and place at least 30 days in advance.

Section 3. Special meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called for any purpose by a majority of the board. Notice of any special meetings must be given at least 10 days prior to such meeting.

Section 4. Voting. Any dues-paying member in good standing shall be entitled to vote at all elections and assemblies of the membership. A current list of members, as provided by the Association office, shall be available at any meeting at which a vote is scheduled to be taken. Unless otherwise provided, any proposition approved by a majority vote of members present and voting shall be enacted.

Section 5. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of the number of members equaling 10 percent of the membership or five members, whichever is greater.

Section 6. Proxies. No proxy voting shall be allowed; an individual designated to cast the vote of an institutional member is not considered to be casting a proxy vote.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the chapter shall be managed and controlled by the chapter board. The officers and directors, as outlined herein, shall in all cases act as a board and may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the chapter as they deem proper, consistent with these bylaws.

Section 2. Number, Term of Office, Qualifications. The board shall consist of at least five members, including the four officers elected by the membership and the immediate past president. The officers shall include a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Each term of office will be for two years, or until a successor is elected. Any candidate for office must be a member in good standing of the Association. Failure of any officer to continue as a member in good standing will be cause for removal from office. In the event that the immediate past president is unable to serve on the board, the president may appoint a special director, subject to confirmation by the board. If not already on the chapter board by virtue of other office, the chapter delegates to the national Association board will serve as ex-officio directors on the chapter board. Persons appointed by the president or the board to head special projects may also serve as ex-officio directors on the chapter board.

Section 3. President. The president shall be the principal executive officer of the chapter and shall preside at all meetings of the board and the membership. The president shall perform all duties incident to the office of the president and such other duties as may be prescribed by these bylaws, by the chapter board, or by the Association.

Section 4. Vice President. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall preside at meetings of the board and the membership. In the event that the

president is not able to complete his/her term, the vice president shall succeed to the presidency. The vice president will perform such other duties as may be prescribed by these bylaws, the president, or the chapter board.

Section 5. Secretary. The secretary shall attend all meetings for the purpose of recording attendance, keeping a record of any votes, and reporting on the proceedings or, in the event of unavoidable absence, arrange for someone else to perform those duties. Whether s/he was able to attend the meeting or not, the secretary shall forward copies of all minutes and reports to the Association office. The secretary shall be the custodian of chapter records and oversee the safe storage and access of all archival files of the chapter. From time to time, the president or the board may assign the secretary additional duties.

Section 6. Treasurer. The treasurer shall keep accurate records of the chapter's finances, paying bills as instructed by the board and maintaining an inventory of assets. A financial report shall be submitted to the chapter membership at its annual assembly and to the Association as required. From time to time, the president or the board may assign the treasurer additional duties.

Section 7. Nominations and Election of Officers and Directors. The board shall serve as a nominating committee. As soon as possible before the expiration of terms, a notice will be sent to the membership soliciting nominations and indicating which incumbents are willing to continue to serve. The nominating committee will be responsible for confirming the willingness to serve of any member nominated by others and of recruiting nominees in the absence of nominations from the membership. Contested elections, with more than one announced nominee for a given position, will be settled by mail ballots. When there is only one nominee per position, the election will take place at the annual assembly. Nominees must be announced to the membership in writing at least 30 days before the annual meeting, through the chapter newsletter or other written communication. Nothing, however, will prohibit additional nominations to be made from the floor, with such contests decided by the members in attendance. Proxy voting will not be allowed.

Section 8. Vacancies. Vacancies in any position will be filled by presidential appointment. A written notice of the appointment should be filed with the Association office and with the custodian of chapter records. If the presidency becomes vacant, the vice president will succeed until the next election. In the event that the vice president is not able to succeed, the board may designate an acting president to serve until the next election.

Section 9. National Directors. The chapter will elect two individuals to serve on the board of directors of the Trail of Tears Association. These national directors may also hold other positions in the chapter.

Section 10. Quorum. In any decision of the board, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Section 11. Compensation. No officer or director is to be compensated for their services except by resolution of the board.

Section 12. Removal of Officers and Directors. The board may remove any officer or director, or any agent elected by the membership, appointed by the board, or appointed by the president, when in the judgment of the board the best interests of the chapter would be served thereby.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees. The president may create and appoint committees, subject to review by the board. Each committee's assignment, list of appointees, and projected timetable will be recorded in the chapter files. Written committee reports are expected and will become part of the chapter files.

ARTICLE VI ARCHIVES

Section 1. Archives. Officers shall maintain written records of chapter activity. Inactive records shall be placed in chapter archives, the depository for which shall be established by the board and reviewed annually.

ARTICLE VII CHAPTER FUNDS

Section 1. Reports to Association. The chapter will provide an annual financial report to the Association, as required by its bylaws.

Section 2. Dissolution. If the chapter fails to meet established standards or its charter to the Association is revoked or the membership votes to dissolve the chapter, all financial obligations will be completed and the remaining funds will be returned to the Association.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to Bylaws. These bylaws may be amended, or repealed and new bylaws adopted, after submission to and approval of draft by the Association, by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any assembly, when the wording of the proposed amendment has been sent out in the notice of such meeting.