



Ohio National Road Association

President: Denna Johnson

Vice President: Cyndie Gerken

Byway Coordinator: Thea Walsh

76 East High Street. Springfield, Ohio 45502

Phone: 937-328-3582 Email: twalsh@clarkcountyohio.gov

ONRA Website: www.ohionationalroad.org

★ ★ ★ *An All – American Road National Scenic Byway* ★ ★ ★

Board of Directors

Board Officers

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Vice President:

Cyndie Gerken—Miami Co.

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Zane Grey Museum

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President's Message

Dear ONRA members,

As autumn quickly approaches, I find myself looking forward to the beautiful colors and cooler temperatures that come with fall in Ohio. It's a great time of year to bring your family (and your *Traveler's Guide*) and take a leisurely drive along the Historic National Road.

Your ONRA Board has been hard at work on both ongoing and new projects. Inside you'll read about our continuing efforts involving the Blaine Bridge in Belmont County as well as a new project at Brownsville in Licking County. We've been working with the consultant on the Interpretative Signage, have debuted our Display Panels, and have undertaken a new challenge involving several at-risk bridges on the Road. This work represents real progress toward several of our 2007 Goals for the Association.

Since our last newsletter, Board members Glenn Harper, Marian Vance, Lynn Kartavich, Cyndie Gerken and myself, along with Byway

Coordinator Thea Walsh accepted an award for our Design Handbook and represented the Association at the National Scenic Byways Conference in Baltimore. Much new information was gathered from numerous workshops which has been shared with the appropriate ONRA committees. I am proud to report that ONRA is well-respected within the Byway community. And, speaking of recognition, it was announced in Scenic Ohio News that the Design Handbook has also been selected to receive a 2007 Scenic Ohio Award. It's great to see ONRA rewarded for its good work.

I am also pleased to report that the ONRA Education Committee has been energized by its new Chairperson Mary Anne Reeves. Cyndie Gerken, Thea Walsh, and I will join Mary Anne and committee members Sylvia Miller, Pat Henahan, Jan Livingston Brady and Elizabeth Reeb in work on a proposed National Road History Education Kit. Our intention is to eventually get such a "kit" added into the curriculum of Ohio classrooms to help teachers educate their students on National Road Heritage. The committee is also looking to complete the work previously started on a National Road video, which would also be used as an educational tool. Additionally, using Sylvia's National Road audiologue and slide presentation as a basis, we will work on Podcasting as a way to use today's technology to attract teens and geocachers. Ultimately this project will need financial support, so the committee is looking into grant and/or sponsorship opportunities. Education plays such a crucial role in our efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the intrinsic qualities of the Historic National Road in Ohio, and I am very excited about the work of this Committee.

I hope you will take the occasion to visit the Ohio National Road Panels when they are on display at a site near you and plan to join us at the Annual Meeting on November 27. Our members provide a source of inspiration and we'd enjoy the opportunity to meet you. If you cannot attend, visit the ONRA web site for up-to-date information or feel free to contact the Byway Coordinator or any of your Board members with questions, comments, concerns or suggestions. I welcome and encourage your participation.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season (yes, it's just around the corner), and if your plans include that leisurely drive along the Historic National Road, I hope you will Enjoy the Journey!

Denna Johnson - President

Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration

Ohio's Byways... A Sunday Drive Anyday!

Fall 2007

The Annual ONRA Meeting

What: ONRA Annual Meeting

When: November 27, 2007 at 10:00 AM

Where: Conference Room 1C
ODOT Central Office
1980 W. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223

Who: ONRA Board of Directors, ONRA members, and any other interested parties.

Whether you serve on the Board of Directors, are an ONRA member who would like to be on the Board, or are just interested in what the Ohio National Road Association is doing, please join us at our annual meeting for fun, fellowship, and refreshments. Bring a friend!

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

We are pleased to announce new additions to our Board of Directors. Member-at-large Jonathan C. Beard, Jeff Chorpenning for Licking County, Jan Livingston Brady as a representative from Montgomery County, Douglas R. Davis for Muskingum County, and Ex Officio Mary Ellen Weingartner. In addition, we regret to announce that Dave Fisher has resigned as one of our Miami County representatives. Thanks from ONRA to Jonathan, Jeff, Jan, Doug, Mary Ellen and Dave for serving on the Board of Directors.

Inside this Issue

Current Project	2
Blaine Bridge Update	2
Panel Display Schedule	2
Heritage and Hot Rods	3
Yard Sale Days	3
Board Member Honored	3
Membership Information	4



Current Project for ONRA

The Ohio National Road Association is looking to expand its impact on the corridor. Our goal is not only to maintain and preserve the Historic National Road, but also to preserve and maintain the historical landmarks that are located on the Road. One project on which we are working is the restoration of the old Brownsville Post Office in Licking County (pictured to the right in 1966). As part of the preservation of this historic building, we are seeking to have some form of adaptive reuse where it could again provide a service to the public. The building is now in poor condition mainly due to neglect. We are currently looking into stabilizing the building, because we risk losing it due to public safety concerns.



As with any community project, it is essential to build civic capacity. Thea Walsh as well as ONRA Board members spoke at a Bowling Green Twp. meeting on July 31. We are only in the beginning stages of the process, but there seems to be a large amount of public support for the renovation. One of the main benefits of the revival of the Brownsville Post Office is the “Economic Tourism” that is available. This would be something that people would want to see, not only for ascetic purposes, but also to examine its role in history and its role on the Ohio Historic National Road. We hope to be able to receive Federal grant money in order to fund this project to relieve the burden from the citizens, while still maintaining the benefit for them.

Blaine Bridge Update

There is potentially some good news regarding the rehabilitation efforts of the Blaine Bridge and its access. Pease Township is willing to turn over the responsibility of maintaining the bridge and both of its entrances to the new Pease Township Park District. One possibility for the surrounding area is to create a local park in place of the abandoned property in conjunction with the bridge preservation. The Ohio National Road Association is looking to place an



interpretive sign to honor the historical significance the Blaine Bridge has had on the National Road. Blaine Bridge was built in 1828 and was restored in 2005. The “S” Bridge is a total of 345 feet in length. The Blaine Bridge is the longest bridge on the Historic National Road and was named as Ohio’s *Official Bicentennial Bridge* in 2003. It is of vital importance that we continue the work of preserving this national landmark in eastern Ohio’s Belmont County.

New Postcards Available

There are many newly-designed postcards ready for you to send. They are free for you or your organization. Each postcard displays a different site along the Historic National Road. On the back of the postcard there is a brief description of the history of each place and their role on the National Road. This is a great way to get the word out about the National Road, while communicating at the same time. Call the Byway Director Thea Walsh at 937-328-3582 to find out how you can obtain them.



Panel Displays

Our new National Road Exhibit that debuted on March 1st is enjoying great success. There has been much positive feedback as to the quality and educational worth of the display. The panels have actually been traveling the Historic National Road. They have already been placed on display at the Ohio Statehouse, the National Road—Zane Grey Museum, the Englewood Government Center, the Columbus Health Department, and the Preble County Historical Society. Here is a list of dates and places where they will be appearing:

- Clark County Heritage Center in Springfield from 8/14/07–9/4/07 (see related story on page 3)
- Groveport Town Hall—Art Heritage Museum in Groveport from 9/4/07-10/01/07
- The Columbus Metropolitan Library—Hilltop Branch in Columbus beginning on 10/01/07

Make sure you come and see the panels when they are on display near you. If you would like to have the National Road Exhibit at your event, contact Thea Walsh at 937-328-3582.

National Road Yard Sale Days

Pres. Thomas Jefferson probably did not have a six-state yard sale in mind when he initiated funding for the Historic National Road, but that is exactly what happened. The 2nd Annual weeklong mega yard sale covered the entire length of the Historic National Road and was a huge success. This is a completely volunteer event, and there was tremendous participation from residents along the corridor as well as the surrounding areas. With the high number of people participating, not only in the selling, but in the shopping, it provides a great opportunity for ONRA to educate



and inform large numbers of people about the Historic National Road. In the future, we plan not only to heighten the publicity of the event, but also to add increased focus on the educational potential. It is impossible to count the total number of people involved in our event, but we wish to extend a thank you to all who participated and we look forward to your continued support in all of our future endeavors. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual National Road Yard Sale Days to be held May 28–June 1, 2008.

HERITAGE, HOT RODS, AND HARLEYS

On August 18, 2007 the Heritage Center of Clark County held their “REWIN’ IT UP DOWNTOWN” event which turned out to be a huge success for them and for the Ohio National Road Association. Our National Road Exhibit was on display at the Heritage Center during this inaugural Hot Rods, Harleys and Smoke Festival allowing us to show it off to many of the estimated 5,000 people in attendance. Feedback from our display was tremendously positive as people were both entertained and educated by the vast amount of information provided on the panels. Board members Cyndie Gerken and Marian Vance, and TCC planner Zachary Balassone worked an ONRA display table in front of the exhibit giving out *Traveler’s Guides*, Historic National Road postcards, ONRA newsletters, and Scenic Byway maps. The Heritage Center was open for tours from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. that day which provided extended viewing hours for attendees. Outside there were old muscle cars, hot rods, motorcycles, a barbeque rib cookoff, and live music. The Heritage Center of Clark County partnered with MidOhio Harley Davidson and Joe’s U.S. 40 Grille to make this event possible, and donations

were shared with the Ohio National Road Association. Your group or organization might want to consider incorporating the National Road Exhibit into your next event. For details on how to reserve the display panels, see the related story on page 2.



ONRA Vice President Cyndie Gerken with the display

Ed Kemper Honored

On March 27, 2007, Ed Kemper was honored by the Ohio National Road Association for his hard work and dedication in creating and sustaining our organization. He was presented with the first annual Milestone Leadership Award for his “inspiration, enthusiasm, unselfishness, humor and his total dedication in helping to found the Association and contribute to its growth and development”. Ed is pictured to the right holding his wood-carved plaque honoring his service, with a National Road historical mile marker next to his achievements. Ed has been around since the beginning of ONRA, serving as a founding member, Board member representing Montgomery County, and as the Association’s first Vice President. Ed later went on to serve as the President of ONRA. He has long been an advocate of the Road by supporting several local National Road enhancement projects as well as educating the citizenry about the National Road through public presentations. Thank you, Ed, for all of your dedicated work and for your continued support of the Ohio National Road Association. Congratulations!





Ohio National Road Association
 C/O Thea Walsh—Byway Coordinator
 76 E. High Street
 Springfield, Ohio 45502

The Ohio
 National Road
 Association
 would like to
 thank its
 sponsors:



Membership Information

You have the opportunity to play an important role in the preservation and development of the National Road by becoming a Member of the Ohio National Road Association.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ONRA? _____



SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 OHIO NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION
 C/O THEA WALSH—BYWAY COORDINATOR
 76 E. HIGH STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45502

Founding/Business Membership

Membership: For your donation, you will join a select group of individuals who have a vision of what the National Road can be and what part it can play in the development of the communities it connects. The following membership rates apply:

Student Membership:	\$10
Individual Membership:	\$30
Founding Membership:	\$50
(Family)	
Weekend Rover:	\$100
Ohio Voyager:	\$250
Byway Pioneer:	\$500+

Business Membership: Like Founding Members, your donations will afford you a position in the ONRA community and will include you in the visioning and community connections of the National Road. Business members will also receive a National Road window sign. The following **business** rates apply:

1 - 10 employees:	\$100
11 - 100 employees:	\$250
101-500 employees:	\$500