

Old Independence



Regional Museum

Fall 2018 Annual Report & Newsletter

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SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

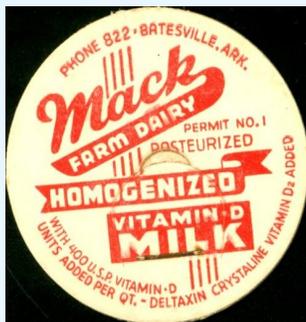
Alan Bufford, Curator of Collections

In my four years of volunteering here at the museum, I have noticed one particular area we are a bit short in documenting — the everyday men and women whose jobs were either a necessity in the life of our communities, or whose jobs brought us special joys. Call them our unsung heroes. These are the people and/or occupations we remember from our childhoods. Those folks touched our lives in some memorable way. Perhaps it was someone in an occupation that no longer exists, jobs that ever-expanding technologies have eliminated. Let me jump-start your thought process by mentioning a few people/occupations I remember from my own childhood.

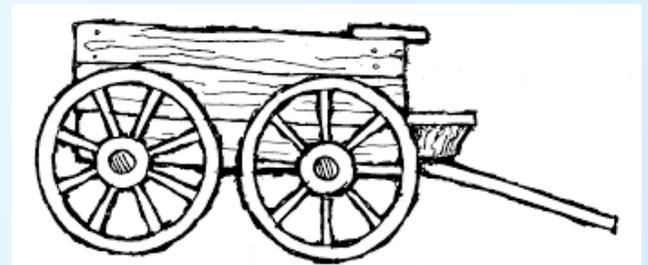
Who remembers Mr. Joe Wisdom, the door-to-door salesman for Watkins Company products — those baking spices and flavorings? And for me, the kid, he always had a piece of butterscotch hard candy or a stick of Wrigley's chewing gum. Mr. Wisdom walked the streets and byways of Batesville selling his wares. He was always welcomed and invited inside our home. Watkins Pure Vanilla was a staple in my mother's kitchen.

Who remembers the home delivery of dairy products by Mack Farm Dairy? Just before sunrise, a Mack Farm Dairy refrigerated truck made its rounds. What stands out in my memory? The slapping sound of the lid closing on the insulated aluminum milk box on the front porch. The sound of that lid closing was both comforting and bothersome. Comforting in that it was a part of the rhythm of life. Both-

ersome in that it served as an early-warning signal that it would soon be time to crawl out of bed!



The scavenger wagon. Now this had to be the nastiest of all the dirty jobs. I've only heard very small bits of this story. Apparently prior to the installation of sanitary sewer systems, cities and towns required the services of "the scavenger." Many decades ago, my aunt, Emma Helen Bufford Cavenar, made reference to "laying in bed at night and hearing the scavenger wagon rattle down the street." Most likely this was in the 1920's Batesville when she was a very young girl. Who can flesh out the story of the scavenger wagon? Was this person an employee of the city or a private businessman who contracted with individual homeowners? Even with the services of the scavenger, weren't diseases from contaminated well water an ever present problem?



Let's honor these folks by writing down their individual stories and adding them to the museum's collections. Don't allow their contributions to our everyday lives to be lost to history. Send us your contribution via email to april@oirm.org or regular mail to 380 S. 9th Street in Batesville.

Thanks!





Looking Back At Our Museum's Early History

Our Twentieth Anniversary!

On the afternoon of October 28 people gathered in the museum to celebrate its past and present existence. Bruce Johnston, a board member, introduced Nelson Barnett, who told about the museum's beginning back in 1991 when a group of 17 people who were interested in preserving and showcasing the region's history formed a planning group. Nelson was one of those, and he told how the group met every month for two years, brainstorming and learning from well-established museums in the state.

Bruce then introduced Twyla Gill Wright, who was the founding board president and now serves as volunteer exhibit curator. She presented a slide show titled "Moments to Remember." It showcased important, hilarious, sweet events in the museum's 20 year history.

As these were shown, Bruce and Twyla invited those in attendance to tell their own memories that related to the photos. They would call out to the crowd, "Who remembers that time? Tell us about it!"

At the end of the program, all were invited to enjoy the museum's birthday cake and other refreshments and to continue sharing memories.



Ribbon cutting, left to right: Batesville mayor Joe Biard, Nelson Barnett, Twyla Wright, Arkansas Representative John Miller, Lt Gov. Winn Rockefeller, Charles Covington, Terrell Tebbetts, Fitzhugh Spragins.

In 1993 a Board was formed and incorporated as non-profit museum. That early Board of Trustees started to write policies, plan a capital fund-raising campaign, select a site, and ask for financial investment.

After raising \$400,000 in gifts and pledges in seven months, the former National Guard Armory was donated by Doyle and Raye Rogers and Preston and Charlotte Grace for use as the museum.

The Witsell and Rasco architectural firm drew up the plans and Reed Construction Company renovated the front half of the derelict building.

On the museum's grand opening day on September 12, 1998, Arkansas Lt. Governor Winn Rockefeller cut the ribbon with Don Hedden's Bowie knife and a crowd of 300 cheered. Four years later the second half of the museum building was renovated by M & A Jones and completed with the help of a large HUD grant from the government.



National Guard Armory, ca. 1995



Bringing Its History to the Present

Over the years the changing board and staff have worked to make Old Independence one of the outstanding middle-sized museums in the state. It has won numerous awards. Its changing exhibits were designated “Best in the State” in 2009, 2014, and 2016 by the Arkansas Museum Association.

The museum uses its objects and photographs to show true stories of the 12-county region that was once part of Independence County. During the past 20 years the museum has presented 75 changing exhibits and displays, and also hosted 18 traveling exhibits.

Presently, Old Independence has over 41,000 collections computerized and professionally protected in 3 storage areas and an 800 sq. ft. environmentally controlled vault room for keeping documents and photographs. Significant numbers of genealogists spend time in the museum’s Archival Research Library.

Besides its large number of collections, and its constantly changing exhibits, the museum has sponsored almost 400 programs and events during its 20 years of existence. An average of 5,000 visitors have walked through the museum every year, many from other states and countries. Families and school children have enjoyed Family Day events, summer camp, and many school tours.

Over the years untold numbers of dedicated volunteers greet visitors, guide them in the exhibits, and sell items in our gift shop. Others work cataloging our collections on the computer and preparing items to be preserved.



Exhibit News

Twyla Wright, Curator of Exhibits



“Taking to the Sky” Exhibit Opens!

Our new exhibit opened in September. It fills the main gallery with a huge hang glider mounted high above (on loan by Ross Jones). Large panels mounted on the walls show the photographs and stories of some early pilots in our area. One is titled “A Few Who Took to the Sky” and another panel is named “Why Fly?” Still another panel shows several military pilots, even two who flew Air Force Two.

A short film clip shows Will Rogers landing near Batesville in 1931. Jim Barnett’s voice narrates it. Visitors can also watch cattle being herded by a drone, and then fold paper airplanes and fly them through a hula hoop.

Aviation histories and photographs of each of the twelve counties in our region are contained in a large inviting scrapbook. A hands-on computer flight simulator sits ready for visitors to try flying different aircraft anywhere in America and beyond. A windsock flies overhead, donated by the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics.

The exhibit’s grand opening featured Dr. David Dawes, president of Ozarka College, speaking about their flight training program. Several of those students and trainers also took part in the program. A large crowd attended and enjoyed watching children fly balsa wood planes in a contest. Creators of this exhibit were Twyla Wright, Vicki Garland, Linda Wann and extended team. Fourteen local pilots underwrote the cost of creating this exhibit.





Education Events

Terri Crawford, Humanities Educator

Heritage Month Grant

In 2018, OIRM received a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage to celebrate Arkansas Heritage Month in May. Museum staff and volunteers presented “Wild History” as a school tour and also as a theme for Spring Family Day. The tour focused on extinct passenger pigeons and Carolina parakeets, extirpated black bears, endangered bats, and endemic deer. Students crafted bear claw necklaces and foam bats that could eat, sleep and fly.

Over 800 students from seven school districts experienced the “Wild History” tour free of charge. The matching grant totaled \$4,700 with DAH providing \$3,525 and OIRM matching \$1,175 with in-kind volunteer hours. Materials purchased through this grant will allow “Wild History” to become part of our permanent programming for schools.



Local objects on display for “Wild History”

Day Camp

In June, OIRM hosted “Time Travelers” Day Camp. Campers hopped through time, experiencing a different era each morning through oral presentations, crafts, chores and snacks. Jumping into 1831, campers learned about steamboats from Captain Charles Kelly (aka Dr. George Lankford). The following day, Mr. Alan Bufford found the campers in the Civil War era. Next, Mr. Nelson Barnett engaged campers with the story of the 1920 fire in downtown Batesville. On the last day, campers learned about the good old days of 1957 from Mr. Butch Ketz and Mr. Gary Bridgeman.

To close the session, campers each brought an item for a time capsule to be housed at the museum and to be opened in fifty years.



Volunteer Terri Walden teaches campers how to hula-hoop.

Family Day Events

Each year, OIRM hosts three Family Days with programming geared toward elementary students and their families. These events are free to the public and allow families to participate in hands-on projects while exploring the museum.

In May, the theme for Spring Family Day was “Wild History,” sponsored in part by an Arkansas Heritage Month grant. Through assorted crafts and games, visitors learned about the significance of wildlife to settlers in the original Independence County region. Sgt. Ron Davidson with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission spoke about the extirpation and reintroduction of black bears in Arkansas, and wildlife rehabilitator Rebecca Gage shared information about caring for injured wildlife. The event was well-attended thanks in part to a beautiful spring day.

Visitors for Fall Family Day in October were invited to participate in old-fashioned crafts, games and demonstrations. A favorite craft was making paper, along with planting herbs, making bird feeders, and creating pictures with beans. Children enjoyed games such as quoits, lawn bowling, and a pumpkin toss. Amanda Nikkel demonstrated the art of spinning while Cassieopia Hursh made soap using natural ingredients. Families

were treated to a taste of popcorn roasted over an open fire. In addition, Cindy Bunch made fresh apple cider using her cider press. Thanks to another beautiful Arkansas day, many visitors both new and returning enjoyed the event.

Christmas Family Day will be held on Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Visitors of all ages are invited to decorate cookies and participate in a variety of crafts. Cedric Morley will bring his balloon magic in the morning, followed by a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Coco Nobles in historic dress will highlight Christmas during the Civil War era, and Ed Casper will share Christmas melodies on his accordion. Museum staff is planning for a big event!



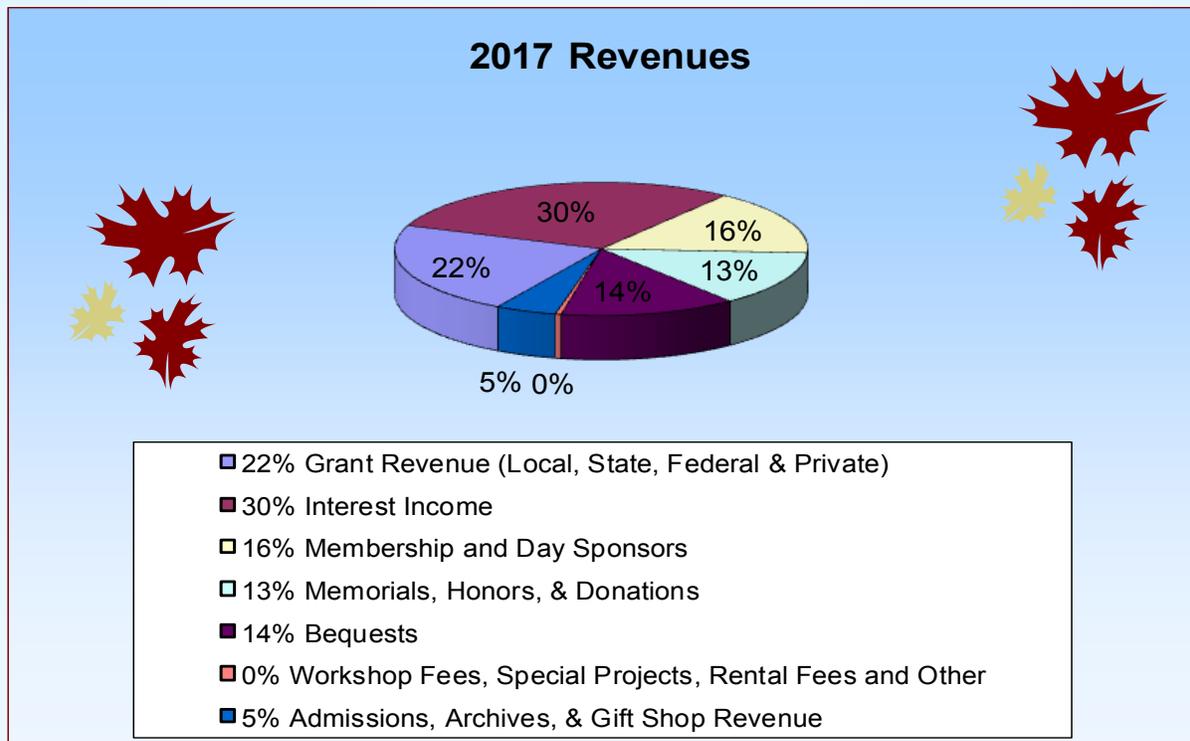
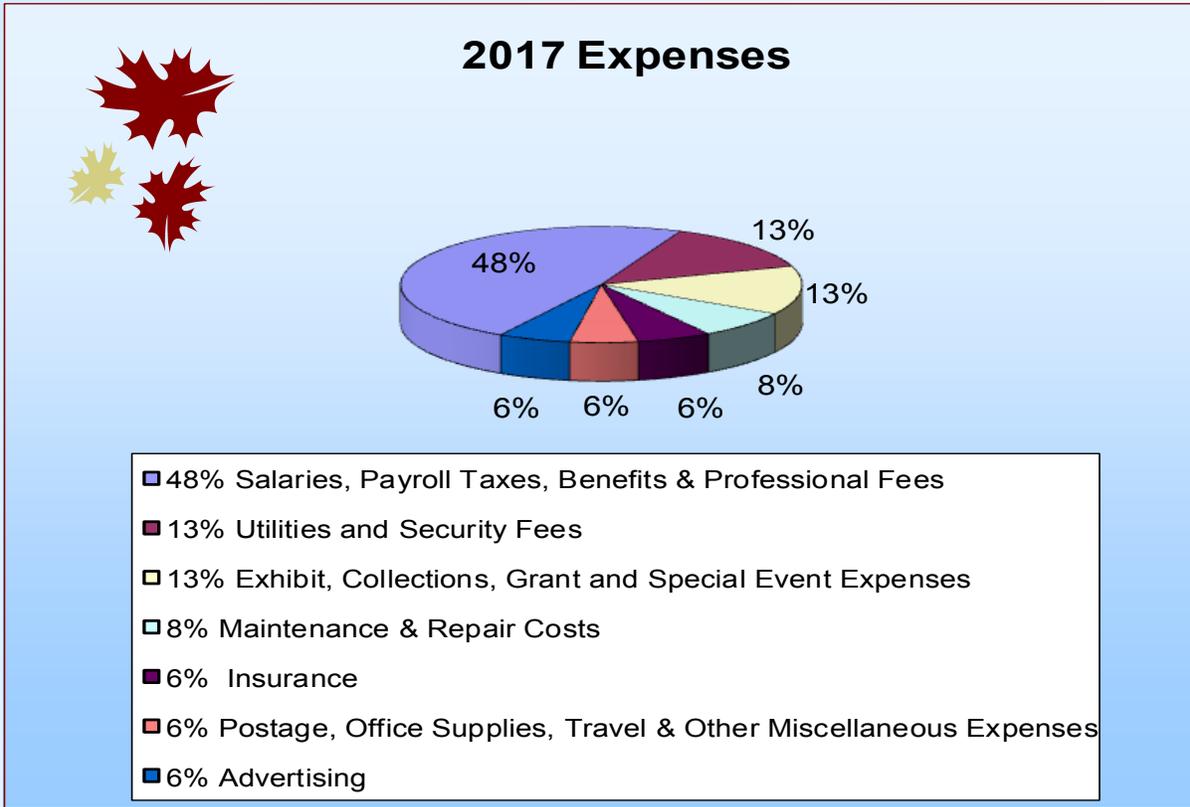
Trey Morley and Zane Wilkins learn about passenger pigeons.

Home School Days

OIRM offered Home School Days in both the spring and fall. The theme for the spring event was “Trains,” highlighting the importance of train travel in the settling of the area. Upon arrival, students were presented with train tickets and “valuables” like money, jewelry, and pocket watches. They were surprised by the Olyphant train robbers who demanded passengers hand over everything they had!

Throughout the morning, students learned about the Transcontinental Railway, train travel, wrecks, train uses and robberies, and language. In the closing program, Ms. Kate Cooke offered a first-hand account of her experience as a train wreck survivor of a local passenger train that collided with a freight train.

Expenses & Revenues



Museum Membership

Day Sponsor Members are individuals and businesses that support a day of operating costs at the Museum. For each day sponsored, the member can "name the day". Many choose to honor a birthday, anniversary, friendship or express support of a local business.

Four Days or More

Arkansas Lime
First Community Bank-Dale Cole
Kate & Sam Cooke
Willa Harkey
Jane Jameson
Nichols Family
LaCroix Optical
Kirk Warden *Flight*
Dennis & Twyla Wright

Two Days

Charles & Betty Barnett
Robert Carius
Annette Heasley
Don Heuer
George Lankford
MaryAnn Marshall
Steve & Ellen Massey
Lisenne Rockefeller

20th Anniversary Celebration

In honor of our 20th Anniversary, old and new members came together in October and raised \$8460.00

One Day

Dave & Cindy Allen
Richard & Ruth Ashcraft
Nelson & Sandy Barnett
Nancy Britton
Alan Bufford
Charles & Jennie Cole
Citizens Bank of Batesville
Econo-Mart Pharmacy/
P. Holifield
FutureFuel Chemical Company
Bruce & Sue Johnston
Bill & Sandra Nash Hughes
Jimmy & Bertha Hughes
Karl & Terry Kemp *Flight*
Ketz Family
Ray & Diane LaCroix *Flight*
Dianne Lamberth *Flight*
Pat & Mary Lea
Mike & Bobby Low *Flight*
Matthew Luoma
Lyon College
M & A Jones Construction
Marshall Dry Goods
Barrett & Sara Moore
David & Sharan Pittser
Rog Rogers *Flight*
Fred & Peggy Shelton
Jay Shell
Kay Southerland
Southerland/Shell Trust
Barbara Stevenson
Robert & Deborah Stroud
Terrell & Diane Tebbetts
Bill & Janis Walmsley
Mike & Sandy West
Jim Wann
David Wilkins

Friend Memberships

Judy Babcock
Phil & Dee Dee Baldwin
Batesville Eye Care Center
Bryant's Pharmacy *Flight*
Polly Bennett
Larry & Martha Bentley
Paul & Joni Bube
Kay Crutcher
Richard Dawe *Flight*
Boris & Pamela Dover
Pam Easterwood
Andrew Fisher
Gerald Fulbright
David Hanks
TJ & Tommie Hively
Barbara Hoover
Ed & Verlene House *Flight*
Bobby Hughes *Flight*
Carolyn Craig Keeble
Wesley & Virginia Ketz Jr.
Ed Mabry *Flight*
Glenda Martin
Doug Matthews *Flight*
Charles M. McClain, Jr.
Midwest Lime
Marian Milum
Jack & Anne Moore
Ozarka College *Flight*
Ozarka Aerosports *Flight*
Robert J Reynolds
Ann Rhodes
Robb & Amanda Roberts
Carol Robertson
Skip & Billie Rutherford
William & Louise Sandefur
Becky Siegel
Bradley Slaughter

Robert S. Stroud
Steve & Jo Wilson

Family Memberships

James & Camille Anderson
Jim & Anne Bechdoldt
David & Suzanne Blair
Scott & Kathryn Blackwell
Jim & Joanna Buchanan
Sharan Cain
Robert & Patsy Craig
Gene & Terri Crawford
Tom & Dorothy Dodson
George & Della Mae Dortch
Elizabeth Evans
R.B. & Nona Floyd
Kenny & Michele Gerhardt
Robert & Gayla Griffin
Barry & Sandy Hammers
Guy & Charlotte Lacy
John & Jean Larson
Dean & Leann Lindsey
Charles & Shirley Marable
Randolph & Francis Mathis
Gary & Tommie McDonald
Max & Susan McElmurry
Merry McSpadden
Larry & Jaydine Morton
Helen Musgrave
Dick & Farris Nelms
Craig Ogilvie
Joe & Kay Pool
Judy & Bob Purnell
Eric & Laura Reed
Charlie & Ruby Schaaf
Jay & Cathy Shell
Mary Slaughter

Membership Continued...



Stephen Smart
Joe Swafford *Flight*
Phyllis Terhune
Clint & Mayfan Thomas
Fran Troy
Hal & Mary Vandiver
Fred & Linda Wann
David Winberry

Individual Memberships

Denise Baker
Batesville Collectors Club
Polly Bennett
Ernestine Boyce
Jordan Branscum
Marilyn Brewer
Cliff Brown
Rosemary Catton
Marilynn Chlebak
Dwight Ford
Jean Garner
Carol Gifford
Margaret Henley
Barbara Rutherford Keedy
Kristi Ketz
James McLean
Carolyn McClure
Robbie Purdom
Amy Shaver
Willie Strong
Mary Lee Thessen
Malinda Maxfield Tulloh
Bonnie Wade



Senior Memberships

Rosemary Catton
Mickey & Shirley Coe
William Coe
Betty Crutcher
Connie Crymes
Janet Galvan
Lloyd Gathright
Velma McSpadden Gould
Mary Harmon
Emma Hedden
Jack Helm
Valerie Holler
Jack Jackson
Frances Jernigan
LaVerl Mason
Cheryl Matthews
James Miller
Nelda Mitchell
Michael Moser
Sam Ross
Kay Simpson
Joan Sellers
Dorma Talburt
Betty Weaver
Tandy Whitaker
Steve & Jo Wilson
Alice Witterman
Lucy Yeager

Twyla Wright, Curator of Collections, Founding Donor and Lifetime Trustee, solicited funds for the new aviation exhibit *raising \$2550!*

"Donors are noted by the word "flight"

New Floor Covering!

Our twenty-year-old carpet was replaced with vinyl plank flooring this year, for a total cost of \$9,638.85.

Citizens Bank furnished it in the Southerland Gallery and Southerland Theater.

Elmer and Deborah Cochran paid for it in the Information Office and the Gift Shop.

And through the generosity of the **Roller Funeral Home** the museum's front office floor is now sparkling new.



Remember Our Gift Shop

Still looking for that perfect holiday gift for your loved one? Visit our Museum Gift Shop for handmade and unusual items.

For those who "have everything," consider gifting them a Museum membership or making a donation in their honor. Both the donor and honoree receive a card acknowledging the contribution. This is an excellent way to support the Museum and its programming.

OIRM 2018 Volunteers



*Board of
Directors
President
Sandy West*

As we draw near to the close of another year, there is much to celebrate—most of

all the Museum's 20th Anniversary, which is a significant milestone. If you were unable to attend the 20th Celebration, you missed a wonderful slide show created by Twyla Wright that evoked many memories from the beginnings of the dream that was to become Old Independence Regional Museum. That afternoon was also the Museum's Annual meeting where Board members and positions for the coming year are voted upon. We are excited to welcome Alan Bufford, Kathy Clements, Ashley Engles and Landon Reeves as they begin their 3 year terms. Officers for the year 2019 will include James McLean as Vice-Chairman, Bruce Johnston as secretary, Amelia Bowman as Treasurer, and I will be continuing as Board Chair. But bringing on new Board members means we have to say good-bye to those who are rotating off. Special thanks go to Sylvia Crosby, Chuck Jones, Barrett Moore and Cliff Brown for their service to the Museum. A major change we faced this year occurred when April White decided that her health would not permit her to continue working as Administrative Assistant. There are no words to describe how grateful we are for the knowledge, love, passion and untold hours April poured into OIRM. April, we miss you!! At the beginning of October, Laura Reed was hired as the new Administrative Assistant and she is currently melding this position with her previous positions as Docent Coordinator and Gift Shop Manager. Laura brings a wealth of experience at OIRM to her new position and we are fortunate that she was willing to take on more responsibility. While April may be away from the museum physically, she and Laura are in constant contact, so we have the best of both worlds. I am looking forward to 2019. *Sandy*

Cindy Allen
Judy Allen-**Bronze**
Ruth Ashcraft
Betty Barnett
Nelson Barnett
Scott Blackwell-**Silver**
Deanna Brown
Keith Brown
Kristen Brown
Alan Bufford
Susie Bumpers-**Bronze**
Joel Cannady
Alice Clark
Ruth Cook
Sam Crawford-**Bronze**
Gene Crawford
Sylvia Crosby-**Silver**
Joan Davidson
Melody Fitterling
Taylor Fitterling-**Bronze**
Nona Floyd-**Bronze**
Vicki Garland
Emilee Gerhardt
Pamela Glover-**Bronze**
Beverly Grigsby
Bertha Hughes-**Bronze**
Joe James
Sara Jones
Brienne Kolton-**Bronze**
Marcus Kolton
Kay Longenbach
Suzanne Magouyrk
MaryAnn Marshall
Steve Massey
Frances Mathis
Sherry Matthews-**Silver**
Tommie McDonald
Nelda Mitchell-**Silver**
Ann Mobley-**Bronze**
Julia Nail
Amanda Nikkel

Clara Nikkel
Darcy Nikkel
Bekah Paxson
Ed Pellow
Ruth Pellow
Sharan Pittser-**Lifetime**
George Pouliot
Mack Reed
Whitney Stone
Alexander Tenace
Jack Thomas
Jeannie Wagoner
Terri Walden
Hova Walter
Linda Wann
Jon Webb-**Gold**
Jan Wesley
Mike West
Dennis Wright
Twyla Wright-**Lifetime**
Jeanette Youngblood
Savannah Youngblood

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PSVA) is the premier volunteer awards program, encouraging citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition.

There are 3 categories depending on age and number of hours served: bronze, silver and gold.

Sharan Pittser and Twyla Wright have both attained the lifetime service award of 4000 hours.

OIRM 2018 Board of Directors

Lifetime Trustees: Twyla Gill Wright & Dr. George Lankford

Sandy West - President
Chuck Jones - Vice President
Amelia Bowman - Treasurer
Sylvia Crosby- Secretary
Brenda Bittle
Cliff Brown
Nona Floyd
Bruce Johnston
Glenda Martin
James McLean
Barrett Moore
David Winberry

