

# PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS



October 2007 Volume XVI No. 1



Grand Avenue, Ponca City, c. 1910 (C) Historic Images, Ponca City and not for reproduction

## Ponca City Named a *Preserve America* Community

The City of Ponca City was recently honored when First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of the *Preserve America* initiative, designated it as one of the nation's newest *Preserve America* Communities.

"*Preserve America* Communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This community designation program, combined with the *Preserve America* Grant Program, *Preserve America* Presidential Awards, and other federal support, provides strong incentives for continued preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and most importantly, for children."

The City of Ponca City will receive a certificate of designation signed by Mrs. Bush announcing the City of Ponca City is now a *Preserve America* Community. Communities designated through

the program receive national recognition for their efforts. Benefits include the right to use the *Preserve America* logo on signs and promotional materials; eligibility for *Preserve America* Grants; notification to state tourism offices; and listing in a Web-based directory that showcases Ponca City's preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations. *Preserve America* Communities are also featured in National Register Travel Itineraries and in "Teaching With Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

Ponca City's *Preserve America* Communities application featured its ongoing downtown revitalization program. The effort is led by Ponca City Main Street (PCMS). The City, the Chamber, local businesses and citizens have given new life to the historic district. An increase in tourism and economic development in the heart of the city is a result of their efforts. The PCMS program began in 1987. Since that time the downtown district has benefited from a total of over \$22,000,000 in private investment and \$15,000,000 in public investment

stemming from a sales tax and other city funds. The outcomes have been increased economic vitality, heritage tourism and community pride.

The creation of the annual PCMS Birthday Bash and the development of the annual PCMS Iris Festival are just two examples of the program's activities that stimulate the local economy and feature community heritage. Celebrating the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run and the introduction of new people into the northern part of the state for settlement, the Birthday Bash promotes the community's culture and history by celebrating with food and fun each September. Additionally, PCMS developed a quiz and pamphlet to increase awareness of local history. The quiz is used in presentations in the local schools and at state promotions. The Iris is Ponca City's official flower, and the Iris Festival, on the grounds of the City Hall, draws approximately 5,000 tourists each May. This festival was awarded the "Premier Special Event" for the 44 OK Main Street Communities in 2006.

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# Help the SHPO Recognize Oklahoma Preservation Successes

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) appreciates the many outstanding programs and projects in Oklahoma communities that are helping protect the State's heritage, and we want to acknowledge these important accomplishments. Know someone who rehabilitated an important historic building in your community? Worked with a dedicated group of volunteers to save a historic property? Enjoyed a walking tour in a historic district? These and many more projects and activities contribute to the preservation of Oklahoma's archeological and historic properties. Help the SHPO recognize the many preservation success stories across the state.

The SHPO is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nominations is 5:00pm, Friday, December 7th, and candidates will be notified in February 2008 about the results of the selection process. The awards will be presented at the banquet during Oklahoma's 20th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Ponca City (June 4-6, 2008).

The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation is presented for historic preservation programs or activities that have had statewide impact. The SHPO's Citation of Merit is awarded for noteworthy

accomplishments in historic preservation at the state or local level.

The SHPO will accept nominations in either electronic or hard copy format. To request nomination forms and instructions, contact Shea Otley at 405/521-6249 or [sjotley@okhistory.org](mailto:sjotley@okhistory.org). Or, obtain the information from the SHPO's website at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm) (select "Programs" and then "Awards").

If you have questions about the awards criteria, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).

## Session Proposals Sought for 2008 NTHP Conference

Tulsa will host the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual conference next year. So, mark your calendars for October 21-25, 2008, and plan to be a part of Preservation in Progress. This will be a tremendous opportunity for the entire Oklahoma preservation community.

The NTHP is soliciting education session proposals, and with so many great projects going on across the state, we want to encourage all of you to consider sharing your accomplishments with the national preservation audience. The deadline for your ideas is January 11, 2008. All proposals must be submitted through the NTHP website. For full details visit: [www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org).

## Boo-oodles of Fun



Craft activities at Boo-oodles of Fun, 2005

Celebrate fall and Halloween at the historic Overholser Mansion's Boo-oodles of Fun! Children of all ages will enjoy an exciting costume parade, storytelling from period re-enactors, and thrilling contests in Victorian children's games. After the exciting games, spend the afternoon decorating pumpkins and hearing the tale of Mrs. Oberholster's Cookies. The costume parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. and the book reading will follow at 2:00 p.m. Boo-oodles of Fun is a spooktacular time for the whole family.

**Sunday, October 28th 1-3pm**

Overholser Mansion  
405 NW 15th Street

Children tickets: \$5.

Parents accompanying a child are admitted free.

For reservations and information:  
405/528-8485  
or [overholsermansion@earthlink.net](mailto:overholsermansion@earthlink.net)

Preservation Oklahoma News, the newsletter of Oklahoma's historic preservation community, is published quarterly as a joint project of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

### Co-Editor

Heather Seifert  
Executive Director  
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
Overholser Mansion  
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
405/525-5325  
[www.preserveok.org](http://www.preserveok.org)

### Co-Editor

Melvena Heisch  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
405/522-4484  
[www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm)

### All correspondence, materials, or address changes should be sent to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
[info@preserveok.org](mailto:info@preserveok.org)

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Office of Equal Opportunity  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

# Ponca City Named a *Preserve America* Community

*Continued from Page 1*

Ponca City is the fifth Oklahoma community to receive the *Preserve America* Community designation. Ardmore, Durant, Newkirk, and Shawnee have also received the special recognition.

In 2006, *Preserve America* Grants totaling nearly \$5 million were awarded to 68 projects around the country. Nearly \$5 million will be awarded in 2007, as well. President Bush's fiscal year 2008 budget requests \$10 million in grant funds for which designated *Preserve America* Communities may apply. Grants of \$20,000 to \$150,000 are awarded on a competitive, matching fund basis to help communities develop sustainable management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of their heritage assets. The grants support research, planning, marketing, interpretation, and training efforts.

The *Preserve America* initiative is a White House effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

"Sustainable historic preservation is a wise investment in the future, not a cost for maintaining the past. Communities and the nation receive significant economic, educational, and cultural benefits, including heritage tourism, in return for their preservation efforts," said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which administers *Preserve America* programs for the White House

in cooperation with the Department of the Interior.

The White House is working with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Transportation, the General Services Administration, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to implement *Preserve America*. For more information about the initiative and its programs, visit [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov). Representatives of Oklahoma communities should contact Melvena Heisch, State Historic Preservation Office at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org) to discuss the program and application process.

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## NPS Approves the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to Assume SHPO Functions

Because Indian tribes are sovereign nations, they have special relationships with the federal government. These relationships extend to the protection of historic properties on tribal lands. Section 101(d)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) provides that tribal governments can apply to the National Park Service to assume any or all of the duties assigned to State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) under the NHPA on their respective tribal lands.

The Director of the National Park Service has formally approved the proposal of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to assume certain State Historic Preservation Officer duties within the exterior boundaries of the tribe's trust lands within Oklahoma. The Tribe has assumed formal responsibility for review of Federal undertakings pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. In addition, the Tribe has assumed all of the other SHPO functions set out in the NHPA with the exceptions of assisting in the certification of local governments (Certified Local Governments Program) and assisting in the evaluation of rehabilitation projects for the federal investment tax credits. The CPN's

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) is Mr. Jeremy Finch.

The CPN is the fourth tribe in Oklahoma to receive this special approval from the NPS. The other three tribes include the Absentee-Shawnee of Oklahoma, the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The contact information for the THPOs is as follows:

**Karen Kaniatobe**  
THPO  
Absentee-Shawnee of Oklahoma  
Cultural Preservation Department  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405/ 275-4030  
[kkaniatobe@astribe.com](mailto:kkaniatobe@astribe.com)

**Robert Cast**  
THPO  
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 487  
Binger, OK 73009  
405/ 656-2901  
[rcast@cox.net](mailto:rcast@cox.net)

**Terry Cole**  
Tribal Preservation Officer  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P. O. Drawer 1210  
Durant, OK 74702-1210  
580/ 924-8280  
[tcole@choctawnation.com](mailto:tcole@choctawnation.com)

**Jeremy Finch**  
Cultural Resources Director  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801  
405/ 275-3121  
Fax 405/ 275-0198  
[jfinch@potawatomi.org](mailto:jfinch@potawatomi.org)

For a complete list of tribes that have assumed SHPO functions, please see the NPS website at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tribal/thpo.htm>. Other information about the tribal preservation programs is also available on this website, or you may contact James E. Bird, Chief, Tribal Historic Preservation Program, NPS at: (202) 354-1837 or [james\\_bird@nps.gov](mailto:james_bird@nps.gov).

# 2008 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places Nomination Form

It is time to compile Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2008, and we need your input. Help us identify Oklahoma's threatened historic resources.

Since 1993, Preservation Oklahoma and the State Historic Preservation Office have sponsored Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List. It serves as a sample of the thousands of landmarks across Oklahoma in need of our attention. While the

listing does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, the designation has been a powerful tool to help local organizations raise the awareness of their endangered places.

Please complete both pages of this nomination form and return it by October 30, 2007 to Preservation Oklahoma. The Selection Committee will announce the "2008 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List" in January 2008.

## 1) Nomination Submitted by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## 2) Endangered Place/Property Nominated:

Endangered Place/Property \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Location \_\_\_\_\_

City/Vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Current Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

3) Is the current property owner aware of this nomination? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No



Masonic Lodge, Tonkawa. Endangered 2005



Water Tower, Boley. Endangered 2005



Wheelock Academy, Millerton, Endangered 2007

4) The nominated Endangered Place/Property.....(choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ is a National Historic Landmark, or

\_\_\_\_\_ contributes to a National Historic Landmark district (name of district) \_\_\_\_\_, or

\_\_\_\_\_ individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or

\_\_\_\_\_ contributes to a National Register district (name of district) \_\_\_\_\_, or

\_\_\_\_\_ individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the State Historic Preservation Office, or

\_\_\_\_\_ contributes to a district determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office, or

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the above.

5) The nominated Endangered Place/Property's current condition is best described as:

\_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ poor

6) Other than funding for restoration/rehabilitation, what one service could be provided that would assist you in preserving this endangered place/property?

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7) In 150 words or less, explain why you believe this Endangered Place/Property should be placed on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2008:

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8) Please include at least two color photographs showing the current condition of the nominated place/property. Slides, jpegs, and/or photographs are acceptable. When appropriate, interior photographs are appreciated. Applications without photographs will be disqualified.

Please return this completed form by October 30, 2007 to:  
Preservation Oklahoma Incorporated  
405 NW 15th Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Questions? Call 405/525-5325 or info@preserveok.org

# In the Company of Layton: *Architects Practicing in Oklahoma City Around Statehood*

— Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian  
Part One of Four Part Series —

In the first decade of the last century, Oklahoma City underwent a major transformation. Between 1900 and 1910, the city's population boomed, going from just above ten thousand to over sixty-four thousand. This explosion of residents equaled a phenomenal 540 percent increase in population. The city enjoyed a building boom in both public and private construction throughout the decade as new and old residents demanded modern housing and workspace. Between 1907 and 1908 alone twenty-two additions were incorporated into the city and with them a population of three thousand persons. The relocation of the state capital to Oklahoma City in 1910 further expanded the potential and significance of the city.

One of the most well-known Oklahoma City architects in this period today is Solomon Andrew Layton. Layton was born in Lucas County, Iowa, in about 1865. Notably, his father was a carpenter, as were many other members of his family. Layton graduated high school and then studied architecture under the lone architect in his hometown of Red Oak. According to a brief article in the March 10, 1907, issue of *The Daily Oklahoman*, Layton then moved to Salt Lake City where he practiced for a year with one of the leading architectural firms of that city, before moving to Denver where he practiced his trade for eleven years. Unfortunately, no information has been located yet concerning his work in Salt Lake City or Denver. Although Layton's obituary states he made the 1893 Cherokee Strip land run before settling in El Reno, the brief biography in the 1907 paper indicates he had been practicing in El Reno only for the four years previous to opening his office in Oklahoma City that year.

Even before opening an office in Oklahoma City, Layton designed some major public buildings throughout Oklahoma. This included buildings for the University Preparatory School at Tonkawa, the A&M College at Stillwater, the State Normal College at Edmond and the courthouses at El Reno, Mangum and Norman. In about 1908, Layton partnered with Steward Wemyss-Smith. Not much is known about Wemyss-Smith beyond he practiced in Waco during the early years of the century. During those years, he partnered with Howard Messer. Messer, an Englishman, previously was a member of the Fort Worth firm of Messer-Sanguinet-Messer, which subsequently became Sanguinet and Staats, one of the best known firms in Texas during the first quarter of the 20th century. Layton and Wemyss-Smith remained partners until Wemyss-Smith's passing in October 1920. Notably, the firm retained Smith's name until a new partner was acquired in 1925.

By 1909, the firm of Layton and Smith took on another partner, this one with a long association with architecture in Oklahoma City. This new alliance formed one of the preeminent firms of the period, Layton, Wemyss-Smith and Hawk. Born on March 26, 1864 in Kenton, Ohio, James Watson Hawk came to Oklahoma City in about 1899 from Saint Joseph, Missouri. Apparently, Hawk did not attend a formal architecture school but he had "...had careful training and experience of great value in modern building." By 1907, it was estimated Hawk was the "...designer of 80 percent of the largest and best constructed buildings in the city devoted to business, as well as many of the best designed and most expensive homes in



Canadian County Court House, El Reno



Oklahoma Building, Oklahoma City

the city." His first contract, shortly after arriving in the city, was for the \$40,000 Epworth University Building.

The firm of Layton, Wemyss-Smith and Hawk designed a number of buildings in Oklahoma City during their two year partnership. In addition to being named the architect for the state capitol building in 1910, the firm designed the Baum Building, Oklahoma Building, American National Bank Building, Majestic Building, Sturms' Magazine Building, Insurance Building, High Street School Building, Oklahoma City High School Building and Culbertson School Building, among others.

## *New SHPO Publications Available*

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the availability of new editions of two of its publications. Each of them is a basic tool for preservation leaders, government agency officials with cultural resource management responsibilities, and preservation professionals.

*Oklahoma's National Register Handbook*

includes a complete listing of the state's entries in the register, the criteria for evaluating National Register eligibility, details about what listing means and the rights of private property owners, and more. *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan* (2005) discusses the state's historic resource types and threats to them. Additionally, it includes the goals and objectives

for the statewide preservation effort and suggestions for meeting the objectives. The State Plan is also an easy-to-use guide to preservation-related laws, terminology, and who to contact with your questions.

To request a copy of either publication, contact the SHPO at (405)521-6249 or [sjotley@okhistory.org](mailto:sjotley@okhistory.org).

## December 2007 Calendar of Events

# Register Now for the SHPO's December Workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the schedule for its annual fall workshop series. Each workshop is devoted to one of the SHPO's federal preservation programs and is designed for preservation professionals, government agency representatives, and concerned citizens. The sessions will be held Wednesday, December 5th through Friday, December 7th. The Wednesday sessions will be held in the Centennial Room, Skirvin Hilton Hotel, 1 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City (pre-registration required), and the

Thursday and Friday sessions will be held in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird, Oklahoma City (just northeast of the State Capitol). There is a \$35.00 per person registration fee for the Wednesday workshops (see below). The Thursday and Friday sessions are free, but the SHPO requests that you register by 5:00pm, Wednesday, November 28th. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

### **December 5 (9:30am-12:00noon) Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings**

In this workshop participants will learn about the federal and state investment tax credits for certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. A detailed discussion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will guide owners and developers in successfully preparing the information needed for the State Historic Preservation Office to review the project and for the National Park Service to certify it. This session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

### **December 5 (1:30pm-4:30pm) Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings**

This half-day workshop is dedicated to a thorough discussion of the *Secretary of*

*the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation*. Generally referred to as The Standards, these common sense principles are widely used in the historic preservation field. Whether you are involved in a rehabilitation project for the 20% federal and 20% state tax credits, planning a rehabilitation project funded with federal assistance, serving on a local historic preservation commission, or just wanting to know the best approach to rehabilitating your historic private home, you will find this session invaluable. It is designed as a stand-alone workshop and as a companion to Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation.

### **December 6 (9:30am-4:30pm) The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides that Federal agencies must consider the effect of their undertakings on archeological and historic properties listed in

or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Topics addressed in this day-long workshop include the basic requirements of Section 106, the regulations that went into effect August 5, 2004, which govern the process, how to determine National Register eligibility, what constitutes adverse effects, mitigating adverse effects, and streamlining Section 106 review.

### **December 7 (9:30am-4:30pm) Working with the National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO's programs, and a basic understanding of the register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. The workshop provides detailed information about the National Register criteria, what listing means, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more.

Registered architects who attend these workshops can qualify for American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning units. Contact Catherine Montgomery, AIA at [catherinem@okhistory.org](mailto:catherinem@okhistory.org). If you may have questions about workshop content, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).

To register for any or all of the workshops contact Shea Otley at 405/521-6249 or [sjotley@okhistory.org](mailto:sjotley@okhistory.org). Special requirements will apply to registration for the Wednesday, December 5th sessions, and those details will be provided upon request or can be obtained at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm) (select Events then Special Events).

# Kirkpatrick Family Fund Grant Opportunity

The National Trust for Historic Preservation invites public agencies and non-profit organizations in Oklahoma County to apply for preservation planning grants made possible by a generous gift from the Kirkpatrick Foundation, Inc. The Kirkpatrick

Preservation Fund for Central Oklahoma provides matching grants up to \$10,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts. Grant funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archaeology, engineering,

preservation planning, land-use planning, fundraising, organizational development and law as well as to underwrite educational programs to engage the public. For more information and an application, send an email to [swro@nthp.org](mailto:swro@nthp.org) or call (817)332-4398.

# Thank you

for your 2007 Preservation Oklahoma membership.

## International

Dr. John Feaver  
*Chickasha*

## Colonial Revival

Jane and Pete Holcombe  
*Oklahoma City*

Marty Newman  
*Tulsa*

## Vernacular

William P. Bleakley  
*Oklahoma City*

Brandt Harris  
*Tonkawa*

## Join Preservation Oklahoma today

and become a member of the Statewide Preservation Network.

Preservation Oklahoma's goal is to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma's historic places through advocacy, education and leadership.

As a member, you become part of a vital network of individuals and organizations working to rebuild communities, strengthen neighborhoods, restore historic properties...*you become part of Oklahoma's future.*

name

address

city | state | zip

phone

email

from (if gift)

- Victorian \$10,000 or more
- English Tudor \$1,000 - \$9,999
- International \$500 - \$999
- Colonial Revival \$250 - \$499
- Arts and Crafts \$100 - \$249
- Vernacular up to \$100

Mail, along with check, to:  
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

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Membership contributions are tax deductible.