Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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The joint publication of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

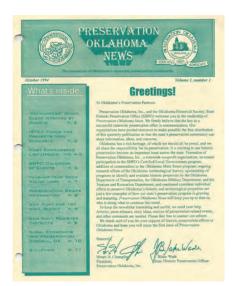




The Power of Partnership



Exterior Restoration of the Overholser Mansion



First edition of Preservation Oklahoma News

For the past two decades, Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Historical Society have demonstrated that partnerships are critical to any successful preservation effort. Together, we have increased the public's awareness about Oklahoma's heritage, provided technical assistance through community workshops, partnered to host the statewide preservation conference, and secured the nominations of structures to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This October marks important milestones for the two most visible aspects of our partnership-the joint publication of *Preservation Oklahoma News* and the stewardship of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion.

Since October 1994 Preservation Oklahoma News has explored issues that are important to Oklahoma's preservation community. It has celebrated numerous preservation successes as well as documented some of its challenges. This issue marks the beginning of the 20th volume of the publication. To recognize this achievement, we are pleased to announce a new look and format that highlights the exciting and evolving face of preservation. We have also increased the number of pages in order to provide more content throughout the year.

On October 14, 2003, Preservation Oklahoma became the official caretaker of one of Oklahoma City's most treasured properties, the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion. Purchased by the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1972, the mansion serves as a reflection of early Oklahoma City history. For the past decade, Preservation Oklahoma has increased programming, provided guided tours for thousands of visitors, and overseen a \$750,000 restoration of the mansion's exterior.

Despite all that has been accomplished, we realize that more important work lies ahead. If the past is any indicator, we are confident that together we will continue to make a difference in the preservation of Oklahoma's historic fabric.

Barrett Williamson President, Board of Directors Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Oklahoma Historical Society

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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.

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The activity that is the subject of newsletter has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act or 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

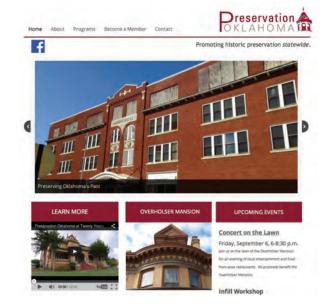
Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.

Fresh from the Carriage House

Check Out POK's New Website!

Preservation Oklahoma is pleased to announce the launch of its newly-designed website. Designed to provide information in a clear and user friendly format, the site features information on POK programming and membership, as well as upcoming events.

Please visit www.preservationok.org and let us know what you think! The site is still a "work in progress" and we welcome any ideas, comments, and suggestions for improvement.



New Additions to Board and Staff

July marked the addition of two valuable members to Preservation Oklahoma.

Pete Holcombe joined the Board of Directors effective July 1. Pete and his wife Jane are long-time residents of Heritage Hills and have been active volunteers for the Overholser Mansion. Pete retired in 2011 after 42 years in the aviation business. Pete also serves as vice-president of Historical Preservation, Inc. and is an active member of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Sierra George joined the POK staff as Programs Assistant on July 29. Sierra is responsible for membership processing and renewals; event planning; and assisting with tours of the Overholser Mansion. Prior to joining POK, Sierra served as an active volunteer, assisting POK with special events and the upkeep of the Overholser Mansion. Sierra holds a B.B.A in International Business from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Thank you, POK Members!

Without the generous support of our members, we would not be able to achieve our goals of protecting and preserving Oklahoma's historic landmarks. Thank you to the following individuals who have recently joined our cause.

Corporate Sod House

Midtown Renaissance

Victorian Mansion

Dr. Kay Decker Suzette Hatfield Cliff and Leslie Hudson

Bungalow

Brooks and Katie Altshuler Mary Athens Dr. John Feaver Jennifer Galvin Michael Hall Jay Hannah Alice Johnson Phil and Milli Kliewer R.L. Rorschack Jeannette Sias Pete White

Sod House

Cathy Ambler
Dr. John Barton
Wayland Bowser and Jane Brown
Paul and Paula Carpenter
James L. Crowl
Jack Dreessen

Fred and Janet Drummond
Dr. Dianna Everett
Steve and Lynn Garman
Natalie Holy
Brenda Johnston
Elise Kilkpatrick and Gary Kuck
Michele Popielec
Max and Anna Randall
Richard Ryerson
Brent Wheelbarger

Student/Senior

Don and Beverly Davis Luke Williams

McAlester's Rainbow for Girls Supreme Temple Re-Dedicated

A festive day was had by all in attendance at the rededication event for the Supreme Temple of the International Rainbow for Girls (IORG) in McAlester on July 25, 2013. Supreme Worthy Advisor Mary Adeline Bradford led the day with Rainbow Girls from 47 states. "It's a wonderful time to be a Rainbow Girl," Bradford said to a cheering audience of several hundred men and women.

The re-dedication of McAlester's Rainbow for Girls Supreme Temple was held to celebrate the building being listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. The Rainbow for Girls Supreme Temple received a certificate signed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin from the Oklahoma Historical Society commemorating its National Register listing. The building at 315 E. Carl Albert Parkway is significant in the area of social history as the world headquarters for the Order of the Rainbow for Girls as well as for its representation of mid-20th-century, Moderne architecture. Bradford said "it's a tremendous honor to be recognized by the Society because the building itself has so much



McAlester's Supreme Temple of the International Rainbow for Girls, Photo: SHPO

historical significance, not just for the organization but for the community."

The organization now has more than 10,000 members worldwide. The temple serves as the central hub for IORG's 850 Assemblies worldwide, including 47 states and eight countries.

Help SHPO Meet National Register Goal!

As of July 1, 2013, 1,227 Oklahoma buildings, structures, districts, sites, objects, and landscapes are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the listings are distributed across all of the state's seventy-seven counties (see the list at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nationalregister.htm). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Oklahoma Historical Society, identifies and nominates properties for this special designation, which contributes to their preservation. To ensure that the heritage of all of the state's people is represented in the National Register and to increase public awareness of historic properties in general, the SHPO set a goal to achieve listing for at least five properties in each county.

We are very close to meeting our goal and need only ten more listings spread among six counties as follows: Cotton County (2 listings needed)

Dewey County (1 listing needed)

Harmon County (1 listing needed)

McClain County (2 listings needed)

Major County (3 listings needed)

Marshall County (1 listing needed)

To help in the final push to meet the goal, you can complete the SHPO's "Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form" located at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrprelim.htm (then select Form Required for Preliminary Opinion) and submit to the SHPO. Or, you may contact Lynda Ozan, National Register Coordinator, at 405/522-4478 or lozan@okhistory.org with your questions or to request a hard copy of the form.

We will appreciate your help to ensure that the heritage of the entire state is represented in Oklahoma's National Register listings. The SHPO nominates properties to the National Register on a quarterly basis, and several nominations are in process at any one time. Whether a property you think qualifies for the designation is located in an underrepresented county or not, the SHPO wants to hear from you. Contact us at 405/521-6249 or visit us online at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm.

CLGs and the NRHP

Oklahoma's Certified Local Governments (CLGs) play an important role in the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Using grant assistance from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), CLGs retain consultants to prepare NRHP nominations, and the local historic preservation commissions carry out the public review of each nomination, regardless of its source, for properties located in their jurisdiction. Several CLGs were very involved in the nomination process during the past year, and many additional nominations are planned for the year ahead.

Over the last year, the *City of Oklahoma City*'s Historic Preservation Commission reviewed and made recommendations to the SHPO on nominations for the United Founders Life Tower, the Mummer's Theater, the Mager Mortgage Company Building, and the Wesley Hospital. The nomination for the theater was produced by advocates concerned about possible demolition of the building. The other three properties are candidates for the preservation tax incentives.

The *City of Tulsa* used CLG funds to have the nomination for the Woodward Park Gardens Historic District prepared.

The *City of Muskogee* utilized its annual CLG grant to hire a consultant to produce five NRHP nominations. These included nominations for the Muskogee Municipal Building, the St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Muskogee Masonic Temple, Beth Israel Temple, and the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

The City of Ardmore produced nominations for the

Turner House and the First Presbyterian Church. Finally, the *City of Enid's* local commission conducted the public review of the nomination for the Cherokee Terrace Apartments, yet another building undergoing rehabilitation for the federal and state preservation tax incentives.

New NRHP nomination projects that CLGs will begin this fall include the City of Oklahoma City's work on the Miller Neighborhood; the City of Ponca City's nominations for St. John's Baptist Church and Pioneer Bible Church, properties identified in the City's recent CLG Fund-assisted thematic survey of churches; and the City of Tulsa's planned nominations for the Bethlehem Steel Building and the Red Fork Commercial District.

Currently, thirteen Oklahoma municipalities have CLG status and work with the SHPO in a variety of ways to foster preservation of Oklahoma's rich heritage. Preparation of and/or processing of NRHP nominations is just one of these activities. Listing in the NRHP builds public awareness of the importance of properties, helps ensure consideration of these special places in public and private planning efforts, and can position property owners to benefit from the federal and state preservation tax credits.

CLGs enforce local historic preservation zoning ordinances and are delegated certain responsibilities by the SHPO. For information about becoming a CLG, visit the SHPO's website at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/clg.htm or contact Glen Roberson at 405/521-6386 or groberson@okhistory.org.



First Methodist Episcopal Church, Muskogee, Photo: SHPO



Woodward Park Gardens Historic District, Tulsa, Photo: SHPO

SHPO/OSU Continue Survey Project Partnership



Louis Geischen Horse Barn, near Orlando Photo: SHPO



Henley Barn, near Kenton Photo: SHPO



Resource # 268, near Hinton Photo: SHPO

The places that tell the stories of Oklahoma's people are found across the landscape and are documented in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) and the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). Through its long-standing partnership with Oklahoma State University (OSU), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will begin two survey projects this fall to add to our collection of these important resources, and the work will be completed by September 2014.

Surveys are performed to identify, record, and evaluate resources for NRHP eligibility and aid in local/statewide planning efforts. All survey information is incorporated into the OLI.

Alyson Greiner, Associate Professor of Geography at OSU, will be conducting a thematic survey project. Her work will consist of archival research to identify specific buildings or other property types associated with significant women in Oklahoma history. Following the research, Greiner will complete on-site verification that each property identified through archival research is extant. Once completed, the SHPO will have a more thorough picture of what remains on the Oklahoma landscape to tell the important story of women in the state's development.

Brad Bays, Associate Professor of Geography at OSU will conduct the fifth, and final, phase of the statewide barn survey. This final phase will cover the southeastern portion of the state which includes eleven counties.

Both projects were identified as priorities in the SHPO's annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for FY 2013. The SHPO funds 60% of the project costs from the HPF and the co-sponsors fund the remaining portion.

Questions or suggestions regarding the on-going surveys can be directed to Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4478 or Allison Archambo at 405-522-2713.

Seeking Nominations for 2014 List of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places

For over twenty years, Preservation Oklahoma has presented an annual list of historic properties that are in danger of being removed from the landscape. The danger presents itself in a variety of ways--neglect, disrepair, or demolition. Although no funding is associated with being included on the list, it has proven to be a powerful tool in energizing the local support necessary to preserve a community's treasured structure, and the stories associated with it.

The list is selected by preservation professionals from across the state. These include historians, architects, and other preservation leaders.

First, we need your help!

Nominations for the list are provided by people like you-local citizens who are passionate about preserving the historic landmarks of their community. If there is a structure in your town that is in danger of vanishing, please submit it be included on next year's list.

To do so, visit the POK website at www.preservationok.org and select the Endangered Places page. The nomination form is located at the bottom of that page.

Nominations are due on **November 1, 2013**, and the list will be announced early next year.

Update on 2013 List

Mummers Theater (Stage Center), pictured top right, was sold to developer Rainey Williams in July 2013. Williams has stated that he plans to submit an application to demolish the theater and replace it with new development. Preservation Oklahoma is actively monitoring the situation and is working with other organizations and local citizens to prevent its demolition.

Preservation Oklahoma is working with the Friends of the Star House, a newly formed group of local citizens, in the stabilization of the **Quanah Parker Star House**, pictured bottom right. Preservation Oklahoma is applying for funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop a conditions assessment report and emergency stabilization plan. These critical documents will be invaluable to the long-term preservation of this southwestern Oklahoma landmark.



Register Now for the SHPO's December Workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the schedule for its Fall 2013 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 4 through Friday, December 6. All sessions will be held in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City (just northeast of the State Capitol). The workshops are free and open to the public, but the SHPO requests that you register by 5:00pm, Wednesday, November 27. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis. The workshop schedule is as follows:

December 4 (10:30am-12:30pm) - 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 4 (1:30pm-4:30pm) - The Secretary's Standards and 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 5 (10:30am-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 which govern the process, how to determine National Register eligibility, what constitutes adverse effects, mitigating adverse effects, and streamlining Section 106 review.

December 6 (10:30am-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. This 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. Simply register for the workshop(s). After the workshops, self-report your attendance at http://www.aia. org/education/index.htm. The SHPO will provide written learning objectives at the workshop and a certificate of attendance the week of December 9th.

If you may have questions about workshop content, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@ okhistory.org.

To register for any or all of the workshops contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory. org by 5:00pm, Wednesday, November 27. You may also register online at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.php.

SHPO Accepting Award Nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Oklahoma Historical Society, is now accepting nominations for its 2014 awards program. Know someone who rehabilitated an important historic building in your community? Protects an important archeological site located on their property? Worked with a dedicated group of volunteers to save an endangered historic landmark? Developed a walking tour for a historic district? These and many more projects and activities contribute to the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage. Help the SHPO recognize the many preservation success stories across the state by nominating worthy individuals, agencies, firms, or organizations from your community.

The SHPO's awards program includes the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nominations is **5:00pm, Friday, December 6th**, and candidates will be notified in February 2014 about the results of the selection process. The awards will be presented at the banquet during Oklahoma's 26th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Norman (June 4-6, 2014).

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 Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org. Or obtain the information from the SHPO's website at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm.

If you have questions about the awards criteria, please contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@ okhistory.org.

SAVE THE DATE

POK 20/20 Tulsa

November 14, 2013

Woody Guthrie Center 102 East Brady Street Tulsa

\$20 POK Members / \$30 Non-members

More information available at www.preservationok.org

The Mansion Minute

Restoration Nearing Completion!

If you drive by the mansion, you will notice something missing-the scaffolding that has surrounded the house for the past year. You will also notice something else missing-the brown paint that has adorned the sandstone for the past 40 years.

Thanks to the tireless work of Choctaw Stone Works, the removal of the paint and the repair of the sandstone is nearing completion. Ronnie and Everett braved the cold, rain, wind and heat over the past year to restore the exterior back to its 1903 appearance.

The final phase will be the repair and removal of the deteriorating wood and the repainting of the soffets. These should be completed by the end of the year.





Ballustrades before (top) and after (bottom), Photos: Lisa Escalon

Join Us for Scary Tales



Things that go bump in the night. A shadow glimpsed out of the corner of an eye. The feeling that someone is watching you-even though you are alone. Join us to hear stories of the unexplained as storyteller Marilyn Hudson shares scary tales about the Overholser Mansion and other places across Oklahoma.

Scary Tales 2013 will take place at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, and Friday, October 25. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. To reserve your spot, please call the POK offices at 405.525.5325 or e-mail: overholsermansion@preservationok.org

Thank you, Volunteers!

The 2013 Concert on the Lawn was a huge success! Kyle Reid and John Calvin entertained the crowd and numerous local restaurants donated food. Special thanks to our amazing volunteers who helped out that evening-Sasha George, Lynette George, Robbie Davis, Jay Escalon, and Cody Hoover. Mark your calendar! The 2014 Concert on the Lawn will take place on Friday, September 5.

Calvin and Reid performing, Photo: Sierra George





A view of my window

Meeting the Houstons: Same Space, Different Time

I have had the pleasure of meeting a lot of new people lately. Some I have met at conferences, others at workshops, and still others by simply answering the phone or checking my e-mail. This is a pretty common experience to anyone starting a new job. However, there are two people in particular I would like to tell you about since I met them in a rather unusual way.

Y.D. Houston and his wife Geneva were both born in Texas. Y.D. was born about 1904 and his wife about 11 years later. Both were high school graduates and Geneva even completed her first year of college. They were married between 1935 and 1940 and worked for an established family in Oklahoma City-Y.D. as the chauffeur and yard man, Geneva as the cook. They were both hard-working, each of them putting in 70 hours a week, and when their employer died in 1940, she left them \$5,000-almost five times their annual salaries, combined.

I have never spoken to Y.D. or Geneva. I have actually never even seen a picture of their faces. How did we meet? The answer is quite simple-my office used to be their living room.

Constructed in 1903, the carriage house served as the stable, hay loft, and servant's quarters for the Overholser Mansion. Eventually, a Baker electric car and a Packard joined the horses on the first floor. The space

was completely renovated in 1972, and today the second floor serves as the offices of Preservation Oklahoma. The hay loft is now the conference room and the stalls below have been replaced with exhibits and a gift shop. But, echoes of the space's previous four-legged residents remain in the form of bite marks on the window sill.

I learned about Y.D. and Geneva as I began wondering about the lives of those who occupied this space before I arrived. I was familiar with the previous Executive Directors of Preservation Oklahoma and had actually visited these offices several times during my previous job. When I learned about what this space was before it became an office, when it was built and what purpose it served, I decided to learn more about the people who called this place home. I walk on the same floors, climb the same stairs, and look out the same windows. What were their stories? I have studied census records and Oklahoma City Polk directories. I have learned of Ruby Giddings, Neta Burris, Leroy Chatman, and Viola Walker. I learned that in 1941, Y.D. and Geneva moved to a house near the Deep Duece section of Oklahoma City. My research is just beginning as there are many names left to learn, many stories left to read.

Although I will never get the chance to speak to Y.D., Geneva, or Leroy-they have each taught me a valuable lesson. The preservation of the Overholser Mansion saved more than just an Oklahoma City treasure. The hard and tireless work of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Chafing Dish Society, and Preservation Oklahoma has also saved something just as important, the stories of those that lived and worked within its walls.

This is the power of preservation and as I look out my window each day, I am thankful for it.





David Pettyjohn Executive Director



Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Oklahoma City, OK Permit No. 2579

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Help Protect Oklahoma's Historic Treasures. Join Preservation Oklahoma Today!

By becoming a member of Preservation Oklahoma, a 501(c)3 organization, you are demonstrating your commitment to historic preservation in our state and your willingness to get involved in the critical issues of preserving Oklahoma's heritage for future generations. Each member increases the strength, power, and presence in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national level. Your membership is greatly appreciated and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership Benefits

In addition to being a part of Oklahoma's preservation community, members of Preservation Oklahoma receive newsletters and email updates on preservation news and issues, invitations to members-only events, free admission to tours and programming throughout the year, and much more!

Membership Levels:

Sod House:\$25 Individual\$75 FamilyBungalow:\$100 Individual\$300 FamilyVictorian Mansion:\$500 Individual\$1,500 Family

Corporate, Institution, and Senior/Student Levels are also available.

To join, please visit http://www.preservationok.org/become-a-member.html and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices!