

**Onondaga Friends Association
Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2025**

Theresa, Lil, Ron, Rex, Lori, Sandy, Josh were present.

Secretary Minutes were read and accepted by all present.

Treasurer Rex reported OFA has \$ 21,273 in PayPal and the checking account combined.

A quorum was present.

We discussed that our events went pretty well this year! Next meeting we will decide on our events for 2026.

We did a little early budgeting and discussed how much OFA could offer in donations toward education, science and cave research, and interpretive projects specific to and within the park.

- Rex gave a rough calculation of OFA's overhead at approximately \$2000.00 per year.
- Theresa wanted to ensure that OFA maintains three years of overhead costs in the bank (~ \$6000), and everyone agreed with that idea.
- We estimated \$3000 would go to Missouri Caverns and Blue Heron Trail signage.
- We will need additional signage, incidental needs at the park, and we liked the idea of OFA funding one or two interpretative classes at Earth's Classroom for OFA board members and OCSP staff.
- We decided to reserve the majority of what remains to go toward the Blue Heron Trail extension project, with specifics to be decided later.

Rex will bring the 2026 budget proposal to the January meeting.

We voted on the following three measures:

- **Shall OFA donate funding of \$1005.00 to Earth's Classroom for 3 scholarships to high school juniors and seniors for a year-long program in Field Science Career Experience (FSCE) run by Earth's Classroom?** All present voted YES.
- **Shall OFA create and curate a new sustaining scholarship program for OCSP seasonal interpreters who are also attending college in a relevant field, beginning with \$1000 to be awarded to one or two candidates in 2026 season?** All present voted YES.
- **Shall OFA donate \$750.00 to Stygian grotto for survey equipment?** All present voted YES. Lori later reached out to same board members by phone (Theresa, Lil, Ron, Rex) and also Bobby, to discuss the possibility of extending this amount to \$1000, with \$750 to be donated to Stygian grotto and the remaining \$250 to go any of the three caving groups Bobby suggested. Everyone voted YES to the extension. Everyone also wanted to let Bobby decide which organization the remaining \$250 will go to.

Sandy offered to set up OFA's new scholarship!

Sandy had the idea of OFA sponsoring night-time Onondaga tours instead of night-time Cathedral tours. We decided we needed to think about it and discuss in January.

We discussed holding officer elections in January.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm

**The next OFA meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, January 21st at 6 pm.
Bring a snack for energy and meet up a little early!**