SUPPORT FOR AMTRAK IS STILL NEEDED

OARP ANNUAL MEETING IS MAY 18th

OPTIONS for OHIO by Manfred Orlow
OARP Political Affairs Coordinator

The past two months have been extremely busy ones for OARP legislative activities. A top priority for us right now is to try to establish the new Ohio 3-C Corridor Amtrak rail passenger service, between Cleveland-Columbus-Cincinnati, with the help of the Celeste Administration and the new 116th General Assembly in the Statehouse. While we are still extremely disappointed that the funding for the 3-C Amtrak service was not included in Governor Celeste's proposed biennial budget, OARP remains undaunted and we are very actively pursuing other means of action. We have discovered, though, that the Governor's office, per se, is not opposed to the 3-C Corridor funding of approximately $6.7 million for the biennium; but chose, for political reasons, not to include any new projects in the Governor's budget which was submitted for Ohio House and Senate approval. Our strategy right now, after many discussions with politically astute individuals, is to seek broad legislative support from members of both Ohio

(Continued on Page 5)

March 1985
issue #63
AMTRAK STILL THREATENED

The White House is still pressing to shut down Amtrak. All 20 million passengers annually would be inconvenienced or stranded, including those in the busy Northeast Corridor, if Amtrak were discontinued in that corridor. The United States Congress could never afford to allow such a situation to occur. 

This week’s issue of the AMTRAK NEWSLETTER highlights the efforts of the White House to cut Amtrak funding. The agency was created to provide a competitive alternative to auto travel in the 1970s, and it has been a success story. Amtrak operates more than 300 routes in the United States, carrying about 20 million passengers each year. The agency has made a profit for several years, and it has helped to reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil. 

The White House wanted to cut Amtrak funding in 1985, but Congress would not go along. Since then, the agency has continued to operate successfully. In fact, Amtrak has been one of the few government agencies that has remained solvent. 

However, the White House is still pressing to cut Amtrak funding. The agency is already facing a budget crisis, and it is likely to face further cuts in the future. 

The AMTRAK NEWSLETTER is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the future of Amtrak. It provides updates on the agency’s operations, budget, and political climate. It also includes articles by some of the nation’s leading experts on rail transportation. 

I urge you to subscribe to the AMTRAK NEWSLETTER and support Amtrak. The nation needs a strong rail system, and Amtrak is one of the best. 

Thank you for your support. 

Sincerely, 
[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]
Most of us already know that the Republican leadership of the Senate voted on April 4th to essentially endorse President Reagan's (and David Stockman's) proposed budget with zero funding for Amtrak; effective wit the beginning of the next federal fiscal year on October 1, 1985. The only opportunity we as OARP members and Amtrak riders/supporters have influence the outcome of the full Senate vote is to communicate with members of the full Senate and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The two U.S. senators from Ohio, JOHN GLENN and HOWARD METZENBAUM, have somewhat opposing profiles concerning Amtrak at the moment. As we see it... HOWARD METZENBAUM has consistently voted in favor of continued Amtrak funding and has spoken out in behalf of Amtrak at various committee meetings, most recently during the televised (C-SPAN) Commerce Committee hearings on March 7th. According to the Senator's staff person for rail matters, Dick Woodruff, Senator METZENBAUM will vote against any attempts to eliminate Amtrak. However, this does not mean that the passenger railroad corporation will receive its full requested funding. Very likely the next year's funding may remain at a $684 million "freeze" level. OARP has received a letter from Senator METZENBAUM in support of continued Amtrak funding. Senator JOHN GLENN, on the other hand, does not serve on any committees dealing directly with Amtrak or any other railroad matters. From his recent letters to OARP members, JOHN GLENN does not seem at all convinced that Amtrak is needed! GLENN is a powerful member of the U.S. Senate and his support is needed! Letters of support and letters of education need to be sent to Senator JOHN GLENN now! If possible, PHONE the Senator's office in Columbus at 614-469-6697! Again, time is of the essence!

As to the U.S. House of Representatives, we have clearly identified Congressman JOHN R. KASICH (R-12) as being very negative on Amtrak. His letters to constituents clearly display a lack of facts. OARP members to constituents clearly display a lack of facts. OARP members to constituents-eighty letters to constituents must work on Mr. Kasich and alers in the 12th Congressional District MUST work on Mr. Kasich and alers in the 12th Congressional District MUST work on Mr. Kasich and alers in the 12th Congressional District MUST work on Mr. Kasich and letters to constituents easily display a lack of facts. OARP members must write to Congressman Kasich asking for his full-time support for Amtrak, not against it, as he stands now.

For the first time since 1981, the House is letting the Republican Senate majority "work" the Federal Budget for FY 1986-87. Democratic strategy this time is for the Republicans to do all the posturing and headlining about cuts and program eliminations which will prove to be very unpopular with many of their constituents. The non-binding Senate Republican leadership - Reagan Administration compromise of early April will be quickly overshadowed by attempts of the full Senate to develop a budget resolution which could be voted upon. It is just as likely, however, that within the next few months no agreement can be reached and that the final Senate decisions will be left up to the mighty Committee on Appropriations. However, because of the strong Amtrak supporters serving on that Committee, it is not probable (according to Dick Woodruff of Sen. Metzenbaum's office) that any drastic cuts will affect Amtrak. House concurrence with any full Senate vote is not going to happen either, so some cuts will likely be restored or eliminated there.

It appears to OARP at this stage that Amtrak will survive, but not without active support from us, the passengers. What will be the cost to Amtrak? Likely not too much, considering all the negative publicity the Republican leadership and Administration has generated for it. Solid support does seem to be there when it's needed. It appears to us that the Amtrak budget will probably stay around a "freeze" amount of $684 million. Our thanks also to Greg Means from Cong. Eckart's office for information on the Amtrak situation.

OPTIONS FOR OHIO

houses to introduce an OARP-written budget amendment and appropriation at the right time during the budgeting process between now and approximately June 30th. We have already developed such Ohio enabling legislation for Amtrak-State contracted service which has been received favorably by most legislators who have had a chance to review it. Powerful House leader C. J. McKin (D-36th) has already offered to sponsor this legislation and we are very grateful to him for his offer. Especially heartening to us as we wade through the legislative quagmire of political vs. practical action considerations for new 3-C service, is that we do seem to have friends and supporters in the Legislature. We are beginning to develop a coalition of support for the 3-C Corridor! We could not have proceeded as well as we have without the help of one very willing individual, Ron Good of The Sierra Club. Thanks especially to Howard Harding and his involvement with The Sierra Club, their executive committee voted to assist us legislatively with the 3-C project by asking their full-time lobbyist to be available with help and support. We are very much indebted to Ron Good as we continue our 3-C activities. The question about the constitutionality of Amtrak 403(b) service in Ohio still keeps coming up from the Ohio Attorney General's office. It is a complicated issue, yet we see no reason that Ohio cannot find a solution for this... if it really wants to, since most of the other states operating Amtrak 403(b) services have almost identical constitutional language. The issue MUST be resolved. OARP member, attorney Ben Farah of Cleveland has offered to assist us. We'll keep you posted about further activities in the May issue of the 6:53.

HELP! It would be very helpful to OARP if EVERY OHIO OARP MEMBER would send OARP a 14¢ postcard with: 1) your name and address; 2) the name of your U.S. Congressional Representative; 3) the name of your Ohio State Senator; and 4) the name of your Ohio House Representative. This will help us do a lot of our research work as we proceed with our legislative listing documentation efforts. We THANK YOU IN ADVANCE for your help in this regard and, believe us, it WILL help us greatly!

OARP is working on an Ohio House-Senate joint resolution in support of Amtrak. We understand Indiana and New York recently passed supportive legislation.

SIXTH attended the March 9th OARP-OARP-INDAR-OHIOAR Meetings in Fort Wayne. OARP's BARRY WILLIAMS and Amtrak's BRIAN ROSENWALD were the guest speakers. Some attendees stated this was one of the best regional meetings we've had. Photos and full report in the May 6:53.
PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE AUTHORIZED AMTRAK TRAVEL AGENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OARP:

AKRON CANAL FULTON CINCINNATI CLEVELAND COLUMBUS COLUMBUS FAIRBORN FINDLAY MASSILLON Piqua ST. MARYS SANDUSKY SIDNEY TROY WEST CHESTER CHINA TRAVEL BUREAU, INC. MASSILLON AAA TRAVEL AMES TRAVEL SERVICE CARDUSSE TRAVEL ROUND THE WORLD TRAVEL AGENCY THE OHIO AUTOMOBILE CLUB THE TRAVEL MARKET, INC. HERITAGE TRAVEL, INC. MCDOWELL TRAVEL AGENCY, INC. MASSILLON AAA TRAVEL MIAMI COUNTY AUTO CLUB VIP TRAVEL SERVICES, INC. SANDUSKY TRAVEL SERVICE, INC. AAA WORLD-WIDE TRAVEL MIAMI COUNTY AUTO CLUB MIAMI COUNTY AUTO CLUB WEST CHESTER TRAVEL, INC.

Authorized Amtrak travel agents who wish to join OARP and be listed in this DIRECTORY should send a $25.00 check, made payable to the OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS, and mail this to OARP, P.O. Box 653, Xenia, OH 45385. Please refer any inquiries on OARP's "TRAM" (Train Agency Member) PROGRAM to OARP Pres. Tom Pulsifer (at the same address) or call 513-461-0644 (days) or 513-372-9868 (evenings). The DIRECTORY listings are limited to the CITY, BUSINESS NAME of the Agency, and the PHONE NUMBER.

OARP'S GOING ON THE AIR! Thanks to the efforts of OARP members JOE TAYLOR and BILL GLASSER three third-second radio public service announcements (PSAs) have been produced for OARP and are right now being distributed with a cover letter from OARP's President to 72 Ohio radio stations. We'll play all three PSAs for you at OARP's Spring Meeting in May, and in the meantime you may just hear one of our spots on your favorite radio station. The spots stress the benefits of modern passenger trains and that Ohioans could enjoy additional Amtrak services; and that one way to help achieve this is to write to OARP. The actual sounds of Amtrak's CARDINAL whistling to Hamilton, Ohio, is featured on each of the radio spots. Thanks to Amtrak for providing this useful information.

AMTRAK FACTS / STATE OF OHIO

Amtrak operates four trains through Ohio:
- CARDINAL New York-Washington-Cincinnati-Chicago
- BROADWAY LIMITED New York-Pittsburgh-Chicago
- CAPITAL LIMITED Washington/Boston-Toledo-Chicago
- LAKE SHORE LIMITED New York/Boston-Toledo-Chicago
- LAKESIDE LIMITED Toledo-Detroit-Chicago

Amtrak serves these Ohio stations: [List of stations]

Amtrak expended nearly $5.3 million for goods and services in Ohio in FY 84. The following cities provided a major portion of those purchases: BEECHWOOD $73,900; CLEVELAND $1,318,060; MANSFIELD $1,163,188; TOLEDO $360,794.

Amtrak employs 37 of Ohio's residents whose annualized earnings total about $830,000.

Thanks to Amtrak for providing OARP with this useful information.

WHY THE EXTRA POSTAGE? The January issue of the 6:53 was printed on the wrong weight of paper which made each bound copy weigh in excess of one ounce. Because of the mistake, and not wishing to delay distribution of the newsletter, our printer paid for the extra postage required to mail each copy.

AMTRAK SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS, effective April 28, 1985, will affect two of the Amtrak trains serving Ohio: the CARDINAL and the LAKESIDE LIMITED. The new times for the OHIO STATIONS are shown here for your information:

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<th>Station</th>
<th>Old Time</th>
<th>New Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3:30a</td>
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<td>1:43a</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3:06a</td>
<td>3:12a</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELYRIA</td>
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<td>4:36a</td>
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and... ALL ABOARD AMERICA FARES are extended for sale through Nov. 15 for travel thru Dec. 15. For travel from April 7 thru June 15 only, the 1- and 2-zone fares will be $125 and $200, respectively (child's fare). Not valid in conjunction with sleeping car travel July 1-Aug. 18 on trains in Western or Central Regions, except will be valid on the CITY OF NEW ORLEANS and the RIVER CITIES trains.
JOIN OARP TODAY and help get Ohio moving on modern passenger trains! OARP is NOT another railfan club. We are rail transportation advocates! OARP is the statewide voice of concerned citizens working together to help achieve better rail passenger services. We're over 700 strong and moving forward together for better trains in the 1980's. We invite YOU to get on board! A new membership in OARP is $10 for your first year; $15 thereafter.

Name ___________________________  CHECK HERE [ ] if you can be active in the ongoing work of your OARP!

Address ____________________________

REGISTRATION FORM FOR OARP'S ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY/MAY 18

$12.50 per person(*). NAME__________________________
Make your check or MO payable to the OHIO ADDRESS__________________________________________
ASSOC. OF R.R. PASSENGERS. Mail to: CITY__________________________
O.A.R.P. STATE__________________________ PHONE NUMBER__________
O.P. BOX 653 
XENIA, OH 45385

(*) After May 15th the cost per person will be $14.00.

LAST MINUTE REGISTRATIONS will be accepted through the evening of THURSDAY, MAY 16th. Call TOM PULSIFER at 513-372-9868 between 6pm-9pm weekdays or 12n-9pm on weekends. EARLY registrants benefit from the $12.50 buffet luncheon rate. After MAY 15th the luncheon rate is $14.00 per person. REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS WILL NOT BE HONORED AFTER MAY 15th.

THE CHRISTOPHER INN BUFFET LUNCHEON (subject to change): Relish Tray, Melon Basket, Tossed Greens with Dressing, Cheese Tray, Rolls and Butter, Cottage Cheese, Fresh Vegetable Salad, Mixed Vegetable Medley, Baby Belgium Carrots, Rice Pilaf, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Roast Sirloin of Beef, Baked Cod with Mushroom Sauce, Dessert Table, Coffee, Tea and Decaffeinated Coffee. Those who attended OARP's 10th Anniversary Event at The Christopher Inn in 1983 will recall the great luncheon buffet!

PARKING: The Christopher Inn has a 3-level garage. Drive in the entrance and up the ramp. If the garage is full, go to the large lot directly behind (north of) The Christopher. In either case, have your parking ticket stamped at the front desk and your parking is free.

BY BUS: Greyhound is a 10-12 minute walk from The Christopher. From the Trailways station take a #2 COTA bus downtown and change at Broad Street to a #10 eastbound bus and get off at The Christopher.
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Name ____________________________ CHECK HERE [ ] if you can be active in the ongoing work of your OARP!
Address __________________________
City __________________________ Phone __________________________
State/ZIP _________________________

Mail this page with your check/m.o. to OARP MEMBERSHIP SERVICES P.O. BOX 653 XENIA, OH 45385

SEND ME __ OARP LAPEL PINS @ $3.50 each, postpaid.
SEND ME __ OARP GLASS TANKARDS @ $5.00 each, postpaid.
SEND ME __ 1985 OARP CALENDARS @ 10c each in any quantity plus a minimum $1.00 donation to help cover calendar mailing costs.
SEND ME __ OARP WINDOW DECALS @ 50c each, postpaid.
SEND ME __ OARP BUMPER STICKERS @ $1.00 each, postpaid (Let's Get Ohio Moving On Passenger Trains)
SEND ME __ OARP MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES/FLYERS ____________________________ No charge for these items...
SEND ME __ OARP RAIL TRIP REPORT FORMS ____________________________ but OARP would appreciate stamps, a self-addressed stamped envelope, or a donation to help defray postage expenses.
SEND ME __ OARP LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY ____________________________ Indicate quantity wanted for any item(a).
SEND ME __ OARP GUIDE TO THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION & OFFICIALS OF AMTRAK ____________________________
SEND ME __ OARP RAIL TRAVEL GUIDE (Aug83) ____________________________
SEND ME __ AMTRAK EAST-MIDWEST TIMETABLE ____________________________
SEND ME __ AMTRAK NATIONWIDE TIMETABLE (Please send a self-addressed business letter size envelope with 56¢ postage (22+17+17) affixed for this item to expedite handling. Thanks!)
SEND ME __ "HELP SAVE AMTRAK" 8x11" POSTER(s) on heavy paper.

Members and others should use this page to order materials, making sure your name and correct mailing address are filled in the space above. YOUR DONATIONS HELP OARP DO MORE FOR BETTER PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICES!
"the 6:53" is the official bi-monthly publication (Jan-Mar-May-Jul-Sep-Nov) of the OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS, an incorporated, not-for-profit organization of some 700+ concerned citizens working on a volunteer basis to PROMOTE TRAVEL BY TRAIN and to HELP WORK FOR IMPROVED AND EXPANDED RAIL PASSENGER SERVICES IN AND THROUGH OHIO. The work of OARP is supported solely through membership dues and by extra donations of time, talents and dollars by our members. JOIN OARP NOW and HELP US FIGHT FOR THE RAIL TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE! Annual dues are $10 (min.) for NEW MEMBERS and $15 (min.) for all renewals. There's a handy membership coupon printed in this issue. ALL ABOARD!

NEXT MEETING: OARP ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 1985
10:30AM - 4:30PM $12.50
INCLUDES SUMPTUOUS BUFFET LUNCHEON
AT THE CHRISTOPHER INN
300 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO