



Message From The Past President

Dear Members,

January 31st, 2022, brings with it the end of my term as your president.

Your new president, Greg Christofferson has generously permitted me to enclose this letter of gratitude in the upcoming edition of your newsletter. THANK YOU, to The Board of Directors, our staff, the many supporting personnel who have done so much up front as well as behind the scenes and to each of you, the members of our beloved Mormon Battalion Association.

During my tenure, we've accomplished many things. We have simplified our association and eliminated military ranks, titles and para-military companies and detachments. We simplified our by-laws and mission/vision statements. We published our tour guide brochure and distributed it out

to many of the cities located along the Battalion trail. The meetings were changed to include educational presentations about the Battalion and we published a semi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed about what's happening. We had several public relations successes including articles in the Church News, Deseret News, LDS Living and numerous other local stories. Our staff traveled all over the U.S. making personal presentations to audiences of members and non-members. Additionally, we commissioned the original composition of "Battalion: A Symphonic Saga" on DVD and CD discs. We marched in the 24th of July parade in Salt Lake City. We jointly sponsored with OCTA the symposium in San Diego. We were front and center for the numerous celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the enlistment and arrival of the Mormon Battalion in San Diego... WOW!

Your leadership group did an outstanding job of keeping Brother Brigham's promise to the Battalion that, "...they will never be forgotten."

It remains my feeling, that our future is closely tied to the descendants of the original members of the Battalion. Research indicates that they number more than one million persons. Let's keep reaching out to them in every way we can.



*God Bless You All,
Jerome*



Oil Painting By George Martin Ottinger

175th Anniversary Celebration – San Diego, January 27-30, 2022

From the President,

I would like to express on behalf of the MBA membership our appreciation to Jerome for his outstanding leadership of our organization these past two years. It's amazing how much has been accomplished under his direction. He will continue to serve the MBA as a member of our Board of Directors.

The weekend of January 27-29, 2022, was one never to be forgotten! The highly successful commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the Battalion in San Diego was the result of the combined efforts of three groups: The Mormon Battalion Association, the Oregon-California Trails Association, and the LDS Church Coordinating Council in San Diego.

The joint conference sponsored by the MBA and OCTA, "San Diego Historic Trails Symposium of 2022," started Thursday evening with a presentation by OCTA vice-president Steve Allison. He grew up in San Diego and gave us a glimpse into a time gone by.

Friday featured eight outstanding hour-long presentations, of which five of the eight speakers were provided by the MBA. Elder D. Todd Christofferson, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the concluding speaker.

He described the historic emigrant trails on Church-owned property and the efforts of the Church to identify and preserve them.

Saturday morning was the stirring scene of 335 men and boys marching into the Old Town San Diego square, representing the soldiers who arrived in San Diego exactly 175 years ago on this date. From a platform surrounded by thousands of people seated and standing, Elder Christofferson, along with local civic and religious leaders, welcomed the marchers and accepted a proclamation from the California State Legislature commemorating the Battalion.

Our Association manned a tent and table on the square where we distributed brochures and medallions and provided activities for children related to the Battalion.

Two additional symposium sessions Saturday afternoon with presentations by Laura Anderson, Mary Ann Kirk and myself completed the joint MBA/OCTA conference. A multi-stake fireside that evening was attended by 900 people. Because there were many in the audience who were not familiar with the Battalion story, I gave a brief history of the Mormon Battalion, followed by remarks by Elder Christofferson.

On Sunday, I escorted three van loads of OCTA members and some of our staff on a 12-hour tour of the Battalion trail from the Anza-Borrego Desert on the Mexican border to the Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, with an additional stop at the San Pasqual Battlefield site.

The entire weekend was filled with all things Mormon Battalion. I am appreciative of our staff and how well everyone worked with Travis Bohle from OCTA and Becky Davies from the LDS Church. Everyone agreed it exceeded our highest expectations!

Enjoy The Photos Below!

Greg



Richard Harden, MBA Membership Officer, and Greg, MBA President, preparing for the Battalion March into Old Town San Diego.



Jewish Temple in Old Town San Diego where OCTA and MBA held their joint conference.



Laura Anderson presenting the Women of the Mormon Battalion that marched into San Diego. Presented in the Jewish Temple pictured above on January 28, 2022.



Elder D. Todd Christofferson speaking on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' involvement to help preserve portions of the historic Oregon-California and Mormon Trails at the OCTA and MBA joint conference on January 28, 2022.



Sister missionaries carry a banner as groups reenact the battalion marching in the street as they take part in the Mormon Battalion celebration in Old Town San Diego on Saturday, January 29, 2022.
Credit: Scott G Winterton, Deseret News



Members of various groups reenacting the battalion march in the street as they take part in the celebration in Old Town San Diego on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

Credit: Scott G Winterton, Deseret News



Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his brother Greg Christofferson, president of the Mormon Battalion Association, pose for a photo holding a proclamation from the California State Legislature commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Mormon Battalion during the celebration in Old Town San Diego on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

Credit: Scott G Winterton, Deseret News



MBA's 175th Anniversary Battalion Banner on display in the Old Town San Diego Square. Many historic commemoration groups, including MBA, had displays and booths set up for public viewing on Saturday, January 29, 2022.



Sisters, Char and Laura, attending the MBA table during the public display period.



Greg Christofferson, president of the Mormon Battalion Association, left, stands at the podium in the San Diego California Stake Center with his brother, Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, on Saturday evening, January 29, 2022, on the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the Mormon Battalion in San Diego.

Credit: Scott G Winterton, Deseret News



In Box Canyon on the Mormon Battalion Trail during Greg's guided tour with OCTA. Upper trail is the Mormon Battalion Wagon Route. Lower (more defined) road is the Butterfield Overland Mail (and Stagecoach) Route from the 1850's-1860's.



At Warner's Ranch along the Mormon Battalion Route, east of Temecula.



Trail's End of the Mormon Battalion Wagon Route at Mission San Luis Rey at dusk, about 20 miles north of San Diego. Greg concludes the tour by reading from Battalion members' journals when they arrived here in January 1847, and saw the Pacific Ocean for the first time. "Oh, the joy!", they wrote.



Mission San Luis Rey at dusk and at the conclusion of the Battalion Trail tour.