



# FAIR FAMILY NEWS

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR  ONE CREATIVE FAMILY

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2 JUNE 2021



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Photo © 2019 Dennis Shen



## FAIR FAMILY CALENDAR

*Editor's Note: Because of the physical distancing required at this time during this COVID-19 pandemic, many OCF meetings have been canceled, and those that will go forward are being held virtually. For the latest information on Fair meetings and how to join them online, please check the [calendar of events on the OregonCountryFair.net site](#).*

*Below are the dates of the Board meetings and Fair Family News deadlines.*

### **JUNE**

27 Board of Directors Meeting, 3 p.m. online

### **JULY**

No Fair Family News in July

9,10,11 VIRTUAL FAIR,

[www.oregoncountryfair.org](http://www.oregoncountryfair.org)

### **AUGUST**

2 Board of Directors Meeting

7 FAIR FAMILY NEWS DEADLINE

For additional events see:

<https://oregoncountryfair.net/events/>

## *Diversity Committee History*

The History of the Diversity Committee will continue in the August issue.



**WASH HANDS IN SOAP AND WATER!**

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

Oregon Country Fair

442 Lawrence St.

Eugene, OR. 97401

(541) 343-4298

FFN@OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG

OFFICE@OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG

OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG (EVENT INFO)

OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.NET (BUSINESS SITE)



*Happy  
Birthday  
Cancers & Leos!*



Here's a shout out to all our great Fair family members! Every one of you deserves recognition for your hard work for the Fair!

## *Get on the FFN and/or Voting Membership List*

*Tell us your name; your email address to be notified of the online version of the newsletter; your crew or booth number; name of your leader or booth rep; name of person who can verify your participation, and your mailing address if applying for membership.*

*Mail to: OCF, Membership/Mailing,  
442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, 97401.*

*Or Email to: [info@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:info@oregoncountryfair.org)*



## **FFN VIRTUAL FAIRIES**

Niki "Screen Resolution" Harris

Suzi "Avatar" Prozanski

norma "interactive" sax

Daniel "Matrix" Cohn

Brad "Remote" Lerch

Kim "Cloud" Griggs

Mary "Digital" Doyon

Mary "Cache" Callaghan

Michael "Analog" Ottenhausen

## *Fair Artisans & Food Booths*

### *Take Part in the 2021 Fair in the Clouds!*

Here are three ways to engage this year:

#### **#1: Artisan & Food Booth Online Listings**

OCF juried Artisans and Food Booths can submit a listing if they have never had one or update their current listing. This is a great place to let folks know how to reach you. These listings will be visible during the Fair in the Clouds and year-round at [www.oregoncountryfair.org](http://www.oregoncountryfair.org).

- A. If you already submitted a listing in the past, check the database to see if you'd like to submit an update:

[Artisans](#)

[Food Booths](#)

- B. \*Submission Form for updates AND listing for the first time:

Submission Form for Artisan & Food Booth Listings

<https://www.oregoncountryfair.org/submit-listing-details/>

\*These are not automatic postings. After submitting, please allow a few days for your listing to appear.

What's changed?

- We have made the database more accessible by adding a search box on the listing page that will allow shoppers to search by Artisan Name, Business Name or Food Booth Name.
- The program will now allow up to three images to be uploaded instead of just one.

#### **Extra! Extra!**

The Artisan & Food Booth Listings above are automatically linked by Booth number to Cartography Crew's spectacular Interactive Map of the Fair, updated from last year and filled with Fair history, stories and videos. If people are looking at the map, they can click on your booth and up will come your listing.



Photo © 2019 Jeremy Running

#### **#2: The M8trix — The 3-D Fair Experience**

The Fair in the Clouds brings back an upgraded version of last summer's virtual Fair world where visitors don their own Avatar and explore the Fair in a 3-D virtual space. The M8trix folks are excited to help you have a presence in the "other world"!

Contact M8trix Helping Hands

<https://forms.gle/NVH5QPKuXc2FKWVT9>

#### **#3: The Peach Pages—Fair Stories and History**

This is also a project started last year and revised for 2021. Any Fair person has an opportunity to request a Peach Page. Peach Pages are for Fair Stories and History, not for promotion or advertising. That said, if you submit a story and are approved, you may include your website address or any other way to reach you. After this year's Fair in the Clouds, the Peach Pages project will stay on the Fair website year-round!

More about the Peach Pages project and Request Form

<https://peachpages.oregoncountryfair.org/request/>



## OCF Fair in the Clouds

by Mary Doyon, Fair Family News

OCF Fair in the Clouds is returning this year after a surprising and undeniable success last year. The virtual Fair garnered nationwide (47 states)

and international (15 countries) attention. Sales of merchandise and fundraising efforts combined brought in \$150,000 in the two weeks surrounding the event. Fairies are currently hard at work putting together a new and improved version of the 3D M8trx, the 2D interactive map, new live streams, archive material and shopping portals.

Chris Calef is the wizard behind the M8trx (the 3-D portion of Fair in the Clouds that premiered last summer at vOCF 2020). Last year's canceled Fair weighed heavily upon him and his Security bag checking crew mates. He had a background in game building, and he recalled feeling that he did not want to see the 2020 Fair "just become a sad Zoom meeting."

Having seen some of what Chris does in his gaming business, Hub Bub, his crew mates requested he build them a "room" so they could have a virtual re-creation of the annual camp get-together. He had been mulling that over already, but suggested they not stop with just their crew. Why not do it for the whole Fair?

Of course similar feelings of sadness and loss ran through all Fairies. Tim Mueller and Adrian Acosta with Community Village were poking through the massive archive of CV videos and hoping to put something together to share with other lonely Fairies. Tim said, "Last year we in Community Village were trying to come up with a small replacement of the Community Village/Fair experience, and we had several people with skills putting ideas together." At the first Zoom meeting set up for CV, Adrian made a rough pitch to get video clips of performers (Village Stage) set up for viewers. "Crystalyn (Frank, Operations Manager) was at that meeting," said Adrian. She subsequently put together all the individual efforts to make smaller meetings into the virtual Fair.

But a project like this had never been discussed, much less done before. "We spent too much of the time we wanted to spend building, on explaining," said Adrian. Another problem last year was the structure of the working groups, and it was not something anyone wanted to replicate this year. "If something started to fall over during the event, I could not stop what I was doing to fix it," Adrian recalled.

Last year's budget is generously described as shoe-

string, and the long hours spent bringing the concept from fantasy to reality burned some of the talented workers out. This year they have a better separation of roles, creating a "healthier" organizational chart.

Last year was, of course, an unplanned shock to everyone. People threw themselves into creating the platforms and apparatus needed to hold the first virtual event OCF had ever experienced. Much like the physical Fair, half emergency and half creative achievement.

Community Village became one of the pillars of the virtual Fair by reason of their archives (they had a full day of content); four live streams; and dedicated, talented folks working on it.

Tim noted "we gathered content from posts, from our activists, entertainers — we had video of 25 different acts from all over. You know CV opens its arms wide to everyone. People like Lego Fair Woodsy."

Adrian added: "We heard many wonderful stories from folks who enjoyed it last year. People said it was the most accessible Fair ever. My wife's family in Ohio watched for three days."

### Improvements this year

This year has improvements over last year. First, the Fair is providing more support with a larger budget. This really helps with computer services and musician licensing.

They are also using a new technology, Mozilla Hubs. It is difficult to know how it will react to real-world problems, with hundreds of the public using it, most for the first time.

New and upgraded features throughout the virtual Fair this year will include a way to donate to nonprofits, and the Fair Artisan and Food Booth database has been made more accessible by adding a search box directly on the listing page that will allow shoppers to search by their favorite artisan name, business name or food booth name. Artisans can now post three photos to catch the eye of customers instead of one, and there will be more opportunities to tip performers.

In the 3-D M8trx, improvements have been made to the 3D "rooms" to allow more content and more visitors. Breakthroughs were made in navigation, keeping metrics, and outreach to booth holders is greatly increased this year. Still a work in progress, it is not yet clear how many booths will participate this time around.

Last year the M8trx did the best job promoting itself, so many visitors thought it was the only way to engage. The rest is 2-D but has many parts such as the interactive map, opportunities to peruse Artisan Listings, watch

livestreams, view archival footage and more. Please be sure to check out all the 2D content as well. “We plan to have a full day — 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 10 — to do our best to entertain, to inform and create,” Tim said.

### Can virtual Fair become a permanent part of OCF?

Many people on the first year’s and this year’s teams are excited to think of the possibilities of having a virtual portal.

Chris notes this could be a permanent feature of the OCF, providing a way to reach out to disabled, elderly or faraway people. Ideally, this would run concurrently with physical Fair, but there are serious technical issues with bandwidth at the site. Trees are like WiFi sponges, so just streaming the Fair live may never be a possibility.

The virtual portal could become useful for other events the Fair puts on that do not need the site. This could help the Fair reach out to the world, proclaim our values, set up engaging content like fun games. Chris was interviewed in PCGames magazine last year, and that brought the attention of the tech world to the Fair.

So the form is unknown at this time. “We are building a platform for the OCF online as a way to create ways

to express yourself. Inevitably, things start small and build from there. So this year, like last year, when it is over we will take a breath, debrief, see what we have learned, and decide where we want to go from there,” says Adrian.

But OCF has created a portal website that can be used year-round. Many on the team are excited to create outreach and make the Internet look like us. They want to carry on this energy. That feeling drives creation. It would be exciting to see a variety of Fair-flavored events throughout the year. Adrian commented, “It is difficult to not get sidetracked imagining the future, but we have the current event to finish!”

Tim said, “The computer is a creative tool, like other video tools. The Internet is not just for young people. The Internet is a space for people — like Fair.” Adrian added, “And the Fair community wants to bring our own voice to this space. Before, we didn’t know how, the Fair didn’t. It is exciting to see these changes and dream of the future.”

Suggestion: Hold your own Fair in the Clouds watch parties! Select from fully vaccinated friends and family to have a miniature Fair experience in your own home or garden, complete with hugs!



## Oregon Country Fair Elders Website

### *News from Elders*

*submitted by Carolyn Gsell, scribe for Elders Committee*

Fair Elders continue to be active despite the pandemic. We’ve put on our tech hats and have used both the GoToMeeting and Zoom platforms. We switched our listserv from Yahoo to Google. Our Facebook page is active.

Now we’ve taken another big step and developed our very own Oregon Country Fair Elders Website. Copy this URL into your device’s address bar: [www.ocfelders.weebly.com](http://www.ocfelders.weebly.com). If you’re reading this online, just click on the link. You’ll find all kinds of information about applying for Elder status, get the latest Elder Committee meeting minutes, event notifications, news, history, Elder contributions to the Fair, contact info, links to relevant sites, and stories written by Elders.

Most importantly, the Elders website is a great

way to connect with other Elders through volunteering. There are many Elder volunteer opportunities available. Don’t see a volunteer position that matches your skill set? Invent your own position!

Please note, we have not applied search engine optimization (SEO) to the site, so searching by keywords won’t work. You’ll have to enter the address [www.ocfelders.weebly.com](http://www.ocfelders.weebly.com) in the address bar. Those accustomed to using the Oregon Country Fair dot net site to access Elder Committee meeting minutes and events will continue to find them there as well.

Your feedback or contributions of stories and photos are most welcome. We would also appreciate any help with improving graphics and layout. You can reach us at [ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com).

## FairCARE Seeks New Members

In mid 2020, the Executive Director created FairCARE, a work group dedicated to review and revise process and policies around a new and improved OCF Community Standards of Behavior. FairCARE experienced some attrition over the past year and would love additional Fair Family members to join us! We are committed to opening seats at the table for Fair Members who would like to be a part of refining systems of conflict and accountability that focus on mending harms and healing relationships at the Fair.

In an effort to incorporate a wide spectrum of perspectives in the work group, we are specifically looking for people who make our work group more diverse. Our current members have skills/expertise/roles in: staff, operations, BUMs, coordinators, human resources, the Board, corporate management and administration, policy development, restorative justice, mediation,

conflict resolution, process improvement and more. We're looking for skills to fill in the gaps in our skills/expertise/roles.

Our work moving forward will require skills/perspectives in human resources, complex management, and diversity and inclusion strategies.

Our work group does have a consistent time commitment, so our preference will be to recruit from Fair Family those who are able to consistently meet and spend additional time outside of meetings. We meet remotely every two weeks.

We hope to hear from a diverse pool of candidates able to represent a range of perspectives and many ways of participation at Fair.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to: [faircare@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:faircare@oregoncountryfair.org) by August 25, 2021. We look forward to hearing from you!



Photo © 2019 Dennis Shen

### FAMILY LETTERS

This newsletter is for the Oregon Country Fair Family and all material is volunteered from the membership.

Opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair or the FEN.

Letters must be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for length and clarity. Please include name, Fair Affiliation and a method of communication (i.e. phone number or e-mail).



## Community Village Meets Monthly

The Community Village meets online at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of every month, year-round except for December, July, and (during years with on-site Fairs) August. Check the calendar at [oregoncountryfair.net](http://oregoncountryfair.net) site for more information.



## Sound Bites

by Sean Cummins, Station Manager 92.7 FM KOCF

Happy summer, Fair friends and family! Hope this finds you well. Over at KOCF, we're kicking things into gear for the season.

First and foremost, we're getting excited for this year's Fair in the Clouds event! I've heard through the grapevine that there are lots of Fair-tacular things on tap, and I encourage you all to head over to the OCF website. Be sure to check out all of the different ways to interact with the event, happening July 9 through July 11.

KOCF is always growing, and this month is no different. Keep your dial tuned in — we're launching at least five new hosts in the coming few weeks: three with new eclectic shows, a new host for our Celtic music hour, and a new host for our Jazz Cafe. Speaking of Jazz Cafe, longtime KOCF volunteer Stu Burgess is leaving us to pursue a wonderful opportunity that's opened up for him in a different part of our lovely state. We wish you all the best and will keep the lights on for you, Stu!

KOCF's second pledge drive of the year is coming up in late July. Tune in to KOCF-92.7 FM for more information.

I mentioned last month that KOCF is keeping an eye out for opportunities to get back into the community as it becomes safe to do so. Well,

finally the time has come. For the first time in well over a year, KOCF will be doing a live remote broadcast from the Elmira Grange, for the Elmira Grange Block Party on June 26. We'll be out there from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., so stop by and say hi!

Finally, the FCC is considering a proposal right now that would increase wattage for many LPFM radio stations from 100 to 250 watts. That would make a huge difference in the size of KOCF's broadcast footprint, as well as the quality of signal within that footprint. If you feel so inclined, here's how you can comment on the process:

- To get to the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) visit <https://fcc.gov/ecfs/>
- At the top menu, click the link that reads "Submit a FILING."
- Fill in the "PROCEEDINGS" field with RM-11909.
- Fill in your name, address and email address, it is mainly self-explanatory.

That about wraps it up for this month. As always, thanks so much for your support, and see you in the clouds.



## Fair Thee Well: Jimmy Larsen

Jimmy Larsen, one of the earliest members of the Ritz Sauna Flamingo Clan, passed away in April. From Mara Lopez on Facebook: "Jimmy was a friend, mentor, uncle and brother to all who crossed his path. He taught anyone who wished to learn from him with patience, grace and, most importantly, a sense of humor. His arms



were always open for a hug and his shoulder for a cry. He loved animals like Scaredy Kitty, ones who trusted no human but him. There are no words rich enough to express how impoverished our community is by his loss. Until we meet again we will carry you with us always."

## *Fair Thee Well: Midge Campbell*

Midge Campbell, one of the co-founders of the Oregon Country Fair's Four-A program, died May 18 at age 69. She served as coordinator of the OCF Four-A Crew for decades.

She was born in Washington state and grew up in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, after her family moved there when she was two months old. Midge contracted cerebral palsy, which led to her using a wheelchair to get around.

In the mid-1980s when Midge was helping Douglas County with accessibility studies, she was recommended to do the same work for the Country Fair by her friend Robert Leo Heilman. The following excerpts about her Fair experiences come from an interview with Mickey Stellavato at the Fair on July 6, 2016.

The subject of access came up in 1984 at a Community Village meeting, Midge said.

"A friend of mine, Bob Heilman, who worked in the Community Village Info booth, told them 'I know someone who does that for Douglas County' and he called me to come assess how accessible the Fair was. I came for the day and fell in love with it. I rented a motel in Eugene and came back all three days. I thought to myself: 'I've got to figure out a way to become a part of this. It's just awesome.'

"That summer I did an exchange in Germany about independent living in the United States," Midge continued. "This is before the ADA (American Disabilities Act) and all that stuff. I was really into equal access and I've always lived independently even though I've been disabled my entire life.

"My friend who is blind also went on that trip with me. She came to the Fair in 1985 and we went to a meeting. Community Village told us: 'Well, you can work out of the Health Booth.'

"We said 'It's not a health issue. It's an access issue. Equal access.'

"Well, we don't have any place to put you except the Health Booth or Peace & Justice, and it's too full.' So we spent three years in the Health Booth until the Village decided to give us our own booth, and they gave us four passes," Midge said, adding that she became coordinator of the booth.



In the early 1990s, the Fair Board approved Four-A as its own separate crew.

"We started out with 36 crew members: 12 sign language interpreters, 12 volunteers at Dragon and 12 at the Village," Midge said. "Now (2017) we have 52 crew members plus 12 Village crew plus 36 day passes. There are about 150 of us. We get passes in various places and do access for Fair: in the parking lot, camping, potties, all of it. We help alter-abled people find their spot and make sure everyone's having a wonderful time.

"Everyone should be able to enjoy it and not be segregated or treated differently. I get lots of mail saying thank-you — 'Thank

you for treating me like a human.' The Fair does that for everyone, I think. I want to include myself and all the other people like me," Midge said.

"Most of the time as a person in a chair, they escort you over there and say 'This is where you park. This is where you be.' Here (at the OCF), you're free to be wherever you want to be and do whatever you want to do. That's something I've always looked for in life. It's something I want to make sure it's happening for everyone who comes. Equal access to the joy and the love that's apparently here — always have and always will be.

"The Fair was doing access long before they made it a law. We're always educating new people. I always wanted to work myself out of a crew. That everybody would be aware enough that each crew would do their part to make sure everybody is being taken care of. But that's not so. There's always new people coming on; new people who need to be educated," she said.

"My kids and my grand kids have grown up here, she added. "This (2017) is the 30th anniversary of the crew. We've got a long ways to go but it's a nice fair pace. There are so many people involved, I don't take the credit. Without the whole group, it never would have happened. I'm honored to have such a wonderful crew. ... They come back year after year."



## Fair Thee Well: Celeste Rose

Celeste Rose, founder of Community Children's Theater in Eugene (later renamed Rose Children's Theater in her honor), died peacefully June 1 in Springfield at age 82. Celeste also was a longtime volunteer with the Oregon Country Fair, working Watergate Security from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for more than 20 years.

Celeste grew up in Eugene, then moved with her husband to North Carolina, then Texas. She moved back to Eugene after her marriage ended. Her daughter, Allyson, died of an epileptic seizure in San Francisco in 1991.

In 1978, Celeste enrolled at the University of Oregon to study theater. That same year, she founded Community Children's Theater and continued using her multiple talents to produce puppet shows from the van, painted blue with giant green polka-dots, that had brought her back to Eugene.

In the years to follow, Celeste not only put on puppet and marionette shows, she continued to write, produce, and direct plays at the Hult Center for children to star in and shine. She was a playwright, director, puppeteer, marionettist, actor, storyteller, author of personal memoirs and novels, songwriter and singer and always delightfully funny. In addition to producing plays with the kids at the Hult Center and marionette shows at events such as the Eugene Celebration, she presented puppet and marionette shows at libraries, classrooms, parks, and other public gathering areas across Oregon.

At the Country Fair, Celeste's ease with children was evident, said her good friend Meg Schaefer. "Because of her experience in theater, children recognized that she was completely accessible," Meg said. "She was this complete love light. She became a Fair Grandma to all the kids whose parents were on the crew."



Celeste cherished her Security shift at Watergate from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Everybody who knew her, knew she'd be there then," Meg said. "It was the perfect place for her so she could just love people and make friends with everyone who came through. She liked to dress in outrageous costumes." Like so many at the Fair, she enjoyed expressing her free spirit through her costuming.

After retiring from Community Children's Theater in Eugene in 2002, Celeste founded the Oregon Fantasy Puppet Theatre and

following her dream of living "in the big city," Celeste moved to Portland. She made many new friends, put on shows in Portland, and still took her marionettes on the road.

About four years ago, Celeste returned to Eugene and moved into assisted living as she coped with Alzheimer's. "When she (recently) broke her hip, she knew

it was time to go," Meg said. "She stopped eating and drinking. She was a Radical Warrior Woman. When it was time to do something, she found a way to do it. In her last moments before crossing over, I sang her favorite song to her, 'Teddy Bears' Picnic,' of course!"

An impromptu Celebration of Life gathering was held at Tugman Park near Celeste's former Eugene home the week of her death.



Image by Chris Coles



Image by Chris Coles

Image by Chris Coles



## *Fair Thee Well: Jerome Stephen John Garger*

Jerome Stephen John Garger, a Fair Elder and ardent letter-writer to Fair Family News, died on May 7, 2021, at his home in Yachats, Oregon. He was 83 years old.

Jerome was born on November 15, 1937, to Stephen and Estelle Garger, a tailor and a homemaker, in St. Louis, Missouri. He had an older sister, Helen, who preceded him in death. He attended Catholic schools in South St. Louis, of which he did not speak fondly. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1957-1963 and earned his bachelor's degree in English from St. Louis University in 1960, the first in his family to go to college. He met Judith Kubal at college, and after marrying they moved to Salt Lake City, where they started a family while Jerome earned a master's degree in English before returning to St. Louis.

A teacher by trade and by nature, Jerome taught writing and literature at the University of Utah, at St. Louis University High School, and at Forest Park Community College in St. Louis, where he was the head of the English department.

In 1971 he began teaching at Lane Community College, where he remained until his retirement in 1998. Jerome was admired and appreciated by his students and fellow faculty.

He was a force at LCC. He was proud of his successful effort to make it a non-smoking campus and in 1989 Jerome started a new class entitled "Trends in Peace Studies," which covered such topics as poverty, racism, environmental destruction, economic injustice, human rights, and the structural causes of violence and war.

Jerome's interest in peace started when he was in the USMC and it became a lifelong passion. In the 1960s he

was an anti-war protestor and organizer. He protested against racism and police brutality in St. Louis, New York City, and Washington, D.C. He continued his activism well into his retirement, including writing eloquent and passionate letters to the editor to this newsletter and other newspapers.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki Wootten; his three children, Jennifer Stern, Tom Garger (and daughter-in-law Caroline Crippen) and Rachel Shepard; and three grandchildren, Natalie Stern, Max Garger, and Claire Shepard. He is also survived by two stepchildren, Neil Manning and Corinne Payer, and five more grandchildren, Connor and Carson Manning, Cooper, Parker, and Maggie Payer, and extended family.

Vicki and Jerome married on a fine summer day in 1999, their union celebrated by family and dear friends. They were devoted to each other these past 20 years. Jerome loved his wife, his children and grandchildren, and his many good friends; a good meal shared with others, especially one that ended with pie; the Oregon coast; trees; a good argument; a well-organized stack of firewood; basketball; the Oregon Country Fair; reading and writing; travel; crafting birthday poems for loved ones; walking the 804 trail; did we mention pie? He took great pleasure in spending time with other human beings, reflecting upon politics, philosophy, the physical world, the very nature of life on this planet. He is deeply missed by those who knew and loved him. He lived a rich and varied life. He was fully himself.

To quote the Bard: "He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."



## *Fair Thee Well: James Douglas "Jimbo" Westfall*

Two memorial gatherings will be held Monday, July 5, for James Douglas "Jimbo" Westfall, who died May 31, 2021 at age 54.

Jimbo was born July 5, 1968, and lived in many places as he grew up because his dad served in the military. He loved the Fair, volunteering on Recycling Crew and often participating in the Lime Green Parade. He is survived by his former partner Janay Hill and their daughter, Elizabeth Hill.

The first gathering to honor Jimbo's life will be held July 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the



"Bulb Ranch" in Glenwood. There will be music and a table for muchies and non-alcoholic thirst quenchers. It is a non-alcohol event. Any food or drink contributions need to be in individual-size containers for a Covid-safe gathering.

The second gathering will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. at the top of Skinner Butte Park. Please park at the bottom of the butte; a car will shuttle people to the top. Bring a candle to light.

## *Fair Thee Well: Meredith Margaret Owens Reed*

We are heartbroken to share that Meredith Owens Reed, who was part of the Café LaFayette family for 16 years at the Oregon Country Fair, passed away in Everett, Wash., on April 15, 2021.

Meredith tragically died at age 42 from a blood clot in her lung the same day she underwent a C-section to deliver her son Dylan, who was born three months before his due date.

Dylan Russell Reed weighed 2 pounds, 11 ounces, when he was born, but has gained weight in the neonatal intensive care unit at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett. His father, Matt Reed, spends hours each day with his son, holding him and changing his tiny diapers. Matt has taken time off from his job as a wildlife biologist with Hamer Environmental.

"My son Dylan has now spent nine weeks in the NICU and will likely be there for at least a few more weeks," Matt commented. "Overall he is doing pretty good but he has his good days and bad days. He is still on supplemental air support and takes most of his food through a feeding tube. I can't wait to have him home. His nursery is all set up and ready for him."

Matt met Meredith online in 2018. On their first date, she brought him blueberries grown by her parents. They married March 20, 2020, in a small ceremony at a waterfront park in La Conner because of the pandemic.

"She just had this zest for life," Matt says. "She liked talking to people. I'm the quiet one."

Meredith grew up in Lake Stevens, Washington, and graduated from high school there. She attended Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash., and taught for several years at Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School. A devoted mother, Meredith had a 6-year-old son, Harrison Owens, who was excited to become an older brother.

"Meredith loved to do everything" said her mother, Karen Alvin, noting that her oldest daughter loved to travel and had once gone tandem sky-diving.

At the Oregon Country Fair, Meredith served as one of the Booth Reps for Café Lafayette. Café Lafayette owner Sherry Fisher said her daughter introduced her to Meredith.



*Meredith, son Harrison, and husband Matt*

"Meredith let me know from the beginning that she didn't know anything about restaurant business," Sherry said. "Because all of my passes are working passes, I just looked at her and said 'You can count money maybe you can cashier,' which she gladly did. At the end of Fair, she asked me what did I do with all those receipts and Fair info that I threw in a bus tub.

Well she took it all home and the next thing, we had notebooks and an accounting ledger."

Sherry said Meredith took care of all the crew members, checking them in, making sure they had a tent space, and creating a nice gathering spot in the Southwoods.

"She also created Cafe Lafayette Manual, with a map, answering any questions they may have had," Sherry said. "This allowed me to take care of the restaurant business, including working with the county health department the fire crew in the all-around safety of our booth."

Sherry loved Meredith like a daughter, and they kept in touch year-round.

Meredith made and sold hula-hoops as a hobby. Students at Harrison's school paid tribute to Meredith on her birthday in late May by hula hooping together. The school, Skagit Art Preschool, is also leading an effort to construct a memorial garden and playground in Meredith's honor.

Meredith most recently worked as a lead consultant for Mosaic Company in Everett.

She is survived by her husband, Matt Reed; sons Dylan and Harrison; parents, Karen and Ken Alvin; a brother, Will; and sister, Colleen.

### **How to help**

Two GoFundMe online fundraisers have been established in memory of Meredith Reed.

To help the family, search [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) for [Support for Meredith Owens Reed – Matt Reed Family](#)

To help start a garden at Skagit Art Preschool, search [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) for [Memorial Learning Garden for Meredith Owens Reed](#)

# UNDERWRITERS

## Recently Unclassified Material

We accept UnClassifieds up to 30 words for \$5 each, per issue. Send listing with \$5 to O.C.F.-F.F.N. 442 Lawrence St. Eugene, OR 97401. For questions, information about display underwriting and to submit listings, Email [bradlerch@aol.com](mailto:bradlerch@aol.com)



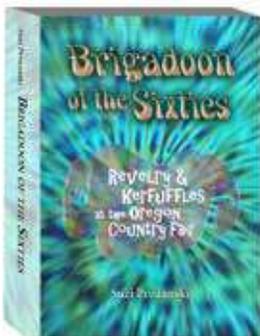
VirtualMidnightShow.com July 10 Be There Then.

Does your prose need polish? Your spelling need spot checking? Is your punctuation problematic? Let's talk about your writing project and how I can help make it publishable. [norma@ipolishprose.com](mailto:norma@ipolishprose.com)

Looking for others to help form sustainable, supportive, semi-rural community in Oregon for neurodiverse individuals and their families. Contact [neurodiversevillage@gmail.com](mailto:neurodiversevillage@gmail.com)

Royal Blueberries is hiring for this summer's harvest. Call 541-689-1836 or email [berries@royalblueberries.com](mailto:berries@royalblueberries.com) for details.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 7, 2021

7 p.m., Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

[YouTube recording link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIKUtxX7CXI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIKUtxX7CXI>

(subject to approval by the Board at the June 27, 2021 meeting)

**Board Directors present:** Anthony "AJ" Jackson (VP of Membership Engagement and Services), Colleen Bauman (President), Cynthia "Peaches" Peachey, George Braddock, Lily Harmon-Gross, (First VP, alternate), Lisa Cooley, Palmer Parker (alternate), Paxton Hoag, Sam Rutledge, Sandra Bauer, Spirit Leatherwood and Sue Theolass. **Other Board Officers present:** Heidi Doscher (Membership Secretary), Kimberly "Kimmo" Howard (Recording Secretary), Lisa Parker (VP of Bylaw and Policy Compliance), Hilary Anthony and Lynda Gingerich (Co-Treasurers). **Staff present:** Crystalyn Frank, Liz Field, and Shane Harvey.

### Announcements (YouTube video 12:30)

Colleen announced that members may speak 1.5 minutes during member comments on any topic, and may choose to speak again on one additional agenda item during the meeting. As time allows, members may speak again during the meeting evaluation.

AJ said the youth vision project is up and going. Feedback from Fair youth will be shared in the next Fair Family News. Spread the word and encourage youth 20 years and younger to send feedback via email to: [youthvision2021@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:youthvision2021@oregoncountryfair.org).

Palmer announced Midge Campbell, 4A (Alter-abled) Coordinator, passed away.

### Minutes Review (YouTube video 15:00)

Colleen asked if there were any objections to approving the June 7, 2021, Board meeting minutes.

Sue said she would abstain, as she left the meeting early.

There were no objections, so approved by the Board.

### Agenda Review, Amend, Approve (YouTube video 15:50)

Colleen asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda.

Peaches added a New Business item to the agenda:

BUM proposal for potential fall fundraiser event

Lily read the motion for the New Business item regarding winery Property priorities and next steps:

The Board moves to direct the Fixed Assets Committee, working closely with the Site Manager, and other relevant stakeholders, to explore options and formulate recommendations on the best uses of the most recent property acquired, formerly known as Secret House, and referred to on OCF maps as Outer Limits. The FAC will report back to the Board at the September Board meeting.

Lily added a New Business item to the agenda:

The Board moves to codify the new Grievance Process as policy, and to adopt this new method as written by the FairCARE work group. This policy will be reviewed and revised at least biennially by the Executive Director and the Grievance Administrator, in concert with the FairCARE work group, with the next revision to occur no later than September 2023.

Lily said stakeholders will be invited to a session on Thursday, June 24, where the Board and management team will be able to provide feedback to questions. The information will be available to membership on the oregoncountryfair.net site: under General Info, Board of Directors, Board of Directors Working Documents, DRAFT Grievance Process, 2021.

Questions can be emailed to: [FairCARE@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:FairCARE@oregoncountryfair.org), or [lilyclearwater@gmail.com](mailto:lilyclearwater@gmail.com). Also, FairCARE is seeking new members. Please see the June issue of FFN for more information.

Sam tabled the Diversity agenda items:

1. Approve Asian American and Pacific Islander Solidarity Statement
2. Donate to Lane East Asian Network

### Member Comments (YouTube video 23:26)

Craig supports the motion regarding closed sessions in the Bylaws, expressed it is best practice for nonprofit organizations.

He also is in favor of three-year Board terms, and recommends at-large Board members elected for their expertise.

Craig encouraged the Board to

authorize the Fixed Assets Committee to sell the wine-making equipment on the Outer Limits property.

Lucy expressed disappointment and concern about the Fundraising Committee efforts.

She is saddened by membership input constrictions at Board meetings. Lucy said it is a community meeting, and feels like there are a lot of rumors and misinformation.

FireDIC said he understand the desire to get things done, balanced with a reasonable amount of deliberation but feels there is a trend to do business with less member input behind closed doors. If we are truly an intentional community and family, then limiting member input is antithesis of our purpose.

Jon Steinhart feels it is the responsibility of the Board liaisons to keep the Diversity Committee on task. When a committee or employee makes a report to the Board, the Board should make sure they are on task. In not doing so, there is an unhealthy environment where it is about personality instead of the work.

He expressed he did not like some Board member's comments regarding alcohol sales, and supporting the work of the staff. The Fair does not exist to support staff. Our staff is well-compensated to support the Fair.

Jon Steinhart hopes the Board will be more responsive to his emails, and that the Board will stop blaming membership for raising issues he feels should be responded to.

Spirit said she has received membership feedback about music on site, and wanted to acknowledge that management is looking at options.

### Staff Report (YouTube video 31:00)

#### Interim Executive Director's Report from Liz:

During May, the Executive Director search process moved forward according to plan. The application phase closed, the Search Committee began interviews and anticipates that it will come to the Board later this month with a recommendation.

On the staff front, planning continues for 2021 events and work on the site is ramping up, all with the support of fabulous volunteers.

#### Operations and Events:

Fair in the Clouds: A Virtual Event planning and development continues. Crystalyn will give an update on that.

The fourth 2021 Operations Open House for members was held on May 23, and turnout was very light. Staff intends to publicize the upcoming Open Houses and reassess, as time goes on, whether or not to continue these. Looking ahead, Open Houses will be held on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 5-6 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Culture Jam 2021 planning is moving forward smoothly. The date has been set for August 14, and Culture Jam staff are beginning to develop plans for the day's activities.

Regarding the 2021 Fall Harvest Event and Alternatives, the Board passed a motion in March: *to direct staff and management to explore planning and executing of a fall harvest celebration, possibly to include a haunted house woods or other outdoor activities at the winery property with public health and safety as a paramount concern. This may be a multiple-year project if public health remains a concern.*

The plan was to use the Special

Use Permit (SUP) associated with the property, and hold the festival over multiple weekends. In May, the Board decided against the associated sale of bottled wine. As the event would not support the SUP, it could only be for one day. The Management Team considered this among other factors that included: weather uncertainty in October and the potential for a muddy event venue; doubts about whether the Winery or Outer Limits property would have the same attendance draw as the "traditional" site; the considerable investment in time needed to develop a completely new event on site (at a time when staff should begin setting sights on Fair 2022); and limited expectations for a revenue payoff from this one-day, on-site, family-oriented event.

In light of these considerations, the Management Team believes that we should not move forward with the Harvest Festival at the Outer Limits property. The Management Team has begun to explore expanding upon the well-established KOCF Halloween Hullabaloo in Eugene, as well as another possible event on the traditional property, both of which would be volunteer-driven and have revenue-generation objectives. The Management Team would like to return to the Board following further concept development and an associated budget proposal.

#### Site and Facilities Management:

OCF's insurance broker sent us the property insurance policy renewal, just prior to our policy's expiration. The broker had had a tough time finding coverage, due to the fire hazard in our area. The policy's annual premium has increased from approximately \$5,650 to \$11,000, almost doubling. This underlines the fire hazards and importance of redoubling efforts to

remain vigilant to this risk.

The bulk of OCF's annual wildflower bloom on site is over, but the excellent weather still provides a great opportunity for visitors to enjoy the site. OCF protocols on site remain in accordance with CDC and OHA guidance, as posted on our signage and the .net site. Please note that the site will be closed from July 4-12.

Arborists came out in early May to help remove two grand firs that were killed by beetles, and were located near several structures. All went smoothly and samples have been sent off to identify the type of beetle in order to devise a plan to protect the remaining grand firs in the area. Special thanks to volunteers Kevin Hilary, Tom Ford, and Jason Warren for their efforts on this front!

For those who would like to volunteer with this effort or others, please visit the .net site to sign up for work parties. This is a great opportunity to get out on the land, support the Fair, and help us prepare for the next big event.

Senate Bill 405 has been signed by Oregon's Governor. This legislation benefits OCF and many other Non-Conforming Use (NCU) determinations across Oregon. Our thanks, once again, to Floyd Prozanski, Thom Lanfere, Michael Gelardi, and Shane for their contributions to this important effort.

#### Proposed Payroll Adjustment:

In May the Board received a proposal, which will be considered this month, to increase the staff payroll budget by \$58,000. The original 2021 payroll budget had hour reductions and some pay cuts. This adjustment would give the Executive Director the opportunity to reconsider and modify those, providing needed flexibility to increase staff hours to meet work demands.

The 2021 budget was developed in 2020 with payroll-related cuts to help offset the significant reduction in revenue due to the pandemic in 2020 and anticipated in 2021. The initial 2021-adopted budget included approximately \$405,000 in payroll (a decrease of close to 20 percent from the 2020 actual). The budget was developed before the federal aid programs for 2021 were announced. These include funding to support payroll and operations.

OCF originally budgeted the use of current-year earnings and reserve funds to cover the entire 2021 payroll. The proposed increase, and previous adjustments, would put 2021 payroll at about \$470,000; revenue from the Federal Programs are estimated to bring in approximately \$265,000 (roughly \$100k from the PPP2 and \$165K from the ERC); this will vary depending on how much payroll we have. As a result, with the proposed adjustment, OCF would be funding close to \$200,000 of payroll from current revenue and reserves (as opposed to more than \$400,000, as initially anticipated).

AJ asked for clarity on the reason to not move forward with the Harvest Festival at the Outer Limits property. Liz explained that moving from the initially envisioned multi-week event with alcohol sales to a one-time event in October would require considerable effort, with risks of poor weather and limited revenue. Crystalyn noted the alcohol option met the SUP agritourism guideline for the property.

AJ feels a one-day event is better than no event. Liz said the management team is exploring another option for an event on the traditional property, and/or in Eugene for the Hullabaloo, and revenue generation objectives remain.

#### **Fair in the Clouds: A Virtual Event — Report from Crystalyn:**

Last year in a matter of two months, volunteers helped create the first Fair virtual event. It seemed impossible, but it was hugely successful with international media attention. The volunteers helping knew it was something we would continue to use in the future after the pandemic.

In 2021, the virtual steering group has been meeting weekly. Thanks to Kirk Schulz in this effort. Sean Cummins is working on the Peach Stream content, and has received more than 100 entertainment applications.

Brooks is working on workshops and educational content. He, along with Briannia and Iana, are organizing DEI and BlackLivesMatter topics. Community Village folks are helping to create a virtual Village for Saturday activities. Andy Goldfinger is working on a virtual Horse Corral that will be live streamed from a local location. BonBon and other volunteers are making a new peach gate, which will serve as the landing page for online participants to easily navigate around the virtual opportunities.

Rosanna is working on an updated interactive map. Paxton has been an enormous help with video content and participating in the steering group. It is incredible that he has been to every in-person event, and also has participated with these two virtual fairs.

Diane McWhorter helps contribute her juried crafter experience to the steering group. We have more volunteers ready to help booths get up online. There will be a digital Peach Pit, and thanks to norma for her help. We have many more volunteers and staff helping.

With the help of more amazing volunteers, the Fair in the Clouds:

A Virtual Event poster will soon be unveiled. New merchandise items will be coming too!

**We are working on underwriting for the virtual Fair, and are attentive to the concerns of corporate-like sponsorship tactics. We are ensuring that the donations received do not influence the content.**

Volunteers are still needed! To help the virtual event be a success, we need your help. Please visit the .net site for opportunities to engage such as live stream production, website development, matrix booth help, digital and other graphics, promotion, and underwriting.

Bring your fantastic ideas and let us know how you can participate and share your part in the making of this magical event!

#### **Treasurer Report and Budget Items (YouTube video 1:01:30)**

Lynda said the Budget Committee met with the Fixed Assets Committee to learn more about each other. Over the next few months, the Budget Committee will be working on proposed changes to the operational budget process. With the amount of growth we have had, our existing formulas are not sustaining us. The committee will also be brainstorming on how we can find better ways for the committee and organization to work together. We will continue budget work, and will meet online the third Wednesday each month at 6 p.m.

**Lily moved and Paxton seconded to approve an adjustment for payroll, adding \$58,000 to the 2021 OCF budget.**

Colleen offered member and Board input, and asked if there

were any objections to the motion. Spirit abstained. There were no objections.

**Motion passed: 9-0-1; Spirit abstained.**

Hilary thanked the Budget Committee. We have a big challenge to figure out how to support the organization in flexing, and the time and energy is appreciated.

#### **Committee and Working Group Reports (YouTube video 1:06:45)**

Committees and work groups are asked to email their minutes or reports to the Fair staff 10 days prior to the Board meetings for inclusion in Board packets and posting on the oregoncountryfair.net site. Brief summaries are requested when a committee or work group wants to make a verbal report at Board meetings.

**Food Committee report:** A Food Booth Town Hall was held June 9. We received updates from Veggie on the Run and Lane County Health, Site Report from Shane, info on how to participate in the Virtual Fair, a discussion on booth recycling challenges, and a DEI update. We had a Q & A session about the 2022 Fair and a discussion on future workshop presentations.

**Craft Committee report:** A Crafter Town Hall was held June 13. We had a Site Report, an update on the Artisans Directory, and an update on Fair in the Clouds. We reported on our activities over the last year and have discussions on the Booth Representative description, and Crafters' Rights and Responsibilities.

**LUMP report:** Shane gave us updates about removal of some beetle-infested firs and monitoring for other infestations. Dennis suggest-

ed we sterilize pulled geraniums in black plastic bags in the sun and compost them rather than sending them to the landfill.

We discussed the Board decision not to research selling shiners. We want to support local agriculture with alternative events and reduce parking during the Fair.

We approved the final application for Green Zone designation, and started planning to distribute and publicize it.

Check the .net site for future LUMP Committee meetings.

**Path Planning Committee report:** Path Planning met in May to discuss long-term planning using projected growth metrics. Guests were in attendance from Parking Crew and the discussion focused on potential parking expansion.

Progress is continuous with mapping and hand sanitizer stations.

Path Planning will take off June and July to resume August 15.

#### **KOCF report:**

**Engineering:** Our construction permit for the new tower has been officially closed out, and as of today, June 7, we have officially been granted our License to Cover, which just means that the FCC has accepted that we built a new tower, and has granted our license to broadcast from that new tower. It may seem a small thing, but without it we would not have a radio station, so I want to thank Dean Middleton, Station Engineer, for managing this process from start to finish.

The FCC is considering a proposal that would increase wattage for many LPFM radio stations from 100 to 250 watts. To comment in support, go to the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at <https://fcc.gov/ecfs/>:

At the top menu, click the link

that reads "Submit a FILING."

Fill in the "PROCEEDINGS" field with RM-11909.

Fill in your name, address, and email address, it is mainly self-explanatory.

**Programming:** New programs this month include a new Jazz Cafe host, three new eclectic hosts, and new Celtic Hour host.

The second pledge drive of 2021 is coming up and will be held July 23 to August 1.

**Events:** KOCF will be doing a live remote from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at the Elmira Grange Block Party. Should be fun with food, bands, and vendors. See you there!

**Diversity Committee report:** The work with the consultants is continuing. We are planning a Board Working Assembly in September to review the consultants' recommendations.

For the virtual fair, the committee is working on a panel discussion where questions for the committee can be addressed. Send your questions to [diversity@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:diversity@oregoncountryfair.org).

**Elders Committee:** As the Board Liaison, Spirit wanted to acknowledge the wisdom and guidance that comes from the Elders. AnnMarie has been working on a new Elder's website that is phenomenal. Stay tuned to the .net site for more information. Folks can email [ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com) to share pictures, and you can receive updated information on job descriptions.

Spirit wanted to point out that the Elders Committee meetings are at the end of month, so the feedback they give to their Board liaison is close in time to the next Board meeting. Her concern is that it does not allow sufficient time

for the Board members to review feedback from the committee when voting on issues.

AJ expressed thanks to the Elders Committee for supporting him as a new Board member, and said there are some amazing people who have been with the Fair for a long time.

**Bylaws Committee Report:** The committee is continuing the comprehensive Bylaws review work, and focusing on the New Business agenda topic of Board terms, composition, and limits. Because we are waiting for attorney review, the New Business item on the agenda will remain as New Business at the June 27, 2021, Board meeting. Committee meeting minutes are available on the .net site.

#### **Old Business** (Zoom video 1:17:06)

**Paxton moved and Peaches seconded to amend Article V and Article VIII of the Oregon Country Fair Bylaws to allow the Board to vote in closed sessions on matters pertaining to personnel, real estate, or legal matters, as published on the oregoncountryfair.net website.**

Paxton said this motion is recommended by nonprofit consultants and recent consultation by one of our Fair attorneys.

In response to concerns the committee received, Lisa Parker shared a timeline of the work on the motion and summarized: This motion has been in process for 83 days, just one day short of 12 weeks. All 2021 Bylaws Committee meetings have been posted on the .net site, and all meeting minutes at which this proposal was discussed are up to date on the .net site. Notification to the Board of Directors occurred 66 days ago. Notification to the mem-

bership via the April 5, 2021, Board of Directors meeting occurred 63 days ago.

Aaron said taking votes in a closed session is a major step for our organization, and does not believe the ramifications of option A were examined enough. Members should know how each Board member votes, and should be able to ask questions about what the Board is voting on. This will cause distrust and accusations of secrecy.

Jon P. said there is concern in the community about option A, and thinks it could cause the annual meeting to be a closed meeting. He thinks it would mean that members would only be able to attend monthly meetings and not special meetings. Jon P. is in favor of option B, and would prefer a work assembly where it can be reviewed line by line.

Heather also prefers option B. She said real estate is not the same as land use, and questioned what is considered sensitive information about real estate.

FireDIC likes option B, and is concerned about other implications in the motion. He believes an attorney will always say "no and everything is risky and dangerous," and suggested questions to the attorney should be reworded. He questions the legal obligation basis.

Jon Silvermoon said Bylaws are an organization's core governing document and reflect its core principles and values. As such, they should only be changed for a compelling reason and I do not see one for the proposed changes being considered by the Board tonight. Current practice permits the Board to discuss sensitive or confidential issues in closed session with a formal vote taking place in an open meeting. When necessary, that formal vote has been on carefully

crafted motions preserving confidentiality with a subsequent explanation at the time confidentiality was no longer needed. What is the problem or issue that the proposed bylaw amendments address?

Jon Silvermoon continued, under both bylaw amendments as currently worded, there is no requirement that the membership ever be informed of the subject matter of closed session motions or how individual Board members voted on closed session motions. Indeed, reference to recording and distribution of closed session minutes will be removed from the Bylaws under option A. There is no transparency here nor is there accountability of Board members to the general membership. I urge you to reject both proposed bylaw amendment options.

Paxton said sensitive real estate matters include the price we negotiate for a property, and supports other legal matters with individuals should be kept confidential. If something is confidential, then those details should not be shared with all of membership.

Sam thanked those who astutely brought up the rights of membership in the Bylaws, but thinks option A does not conflict with the rights of membership articles. Within the bounds of confidentiality and discussion details, members will still be informed of decisions made.

Palmer said some of the past Bylaws Committee meetings were hosted at the home of attorney Russell Poppe. While our current attorney does not have the Fair history that Russell did, we have a 50-year history of making personnel, legal and real estate decisions discreetly. While Palmer has reservations and concerns about votes in closed sessions, he understands the need to keep personnel

matters out of the public forum. As a governance Board, personnel issues will be the responsibility of the Executive Director.

Spirit said she was on the fence about voting on personnel matters in closed meetings. The Board already discusses personnel, legal, and real estate matters.

Sandra does not have any objections to option A, saying it is professional, best practice, and the right thing to do. She encouraged a reporting function for providing relevant information to members.

AJ expressed he initially had reservations, and researched similar organization practices. Not only did we get advice from our lawyer, but we also have people on this committee that genuinely believes in transparency. AJ hears the concerns from membership about issue of trust, but also knows it is widely understood the Board already discusses personnel, legal, and real estate matters.

Sue agreed with Sandra and AJ, and said it is the proper thing to do.

Lisa Cooley said she was also on the fence like Spirit, but after considering the risks she believes it is more professional and best practice with matters that should not be made public.

Spirit thanked the Bylaws Committee and Board for their work with the process of the motion. She is not questioning anyone's intention, but thinks there are conflicting interpretations of what confidential means. Spirit sees the benefit of a closed vote on personnel issues only, and did not expect the more comprehensive option A. She expressed concern with the updated verbiage about annual board meetings, and the removal of "the organization for the production of the current year's annual outdoor fair, as well as any other activities."

Spirit wants to ensure the rights of membership "to be informed on Board actions and corporate operations" is not taken away.

Peaches noted the Bylaws do indicate the membership is entitled to be informed, and the current motion would not change that.

Sam clarified the annual meeting in the motion is referring to the Annual Board Meeting (beginning of November), not the Annual Membership Meeting (mid-October). Sam is concerned about discussing confidential details in closed sessions, and then trying to craft a motion which does not contain those details. A confidential matter voted on in an open meeting, where specific details cannot be disclosed, may not be binding. It does not seem to be a good decision to allow members, who may not have all facts, to speak in open meetings on matters that are classified for legal reasons as confidential. Sam supports the motion with option A.

Spirit thanked Sam for the annual meeting clarification, and said her difference of opinion about the motion was not meant as disrespect. While there may have been votes in previous closed sessions, she thinks it is dicey and sometimes not fair. Spirit reiterated she would support voting in closed sessions on personnel only. She does not expect the proposed motion to stop members from speaking and commenting at open meetings, and agreed with Jon Silvermoon when he questioned what problem or issue the proposed bylaw amendments were addressing. Spirit thinks the motion needs more work in order for she and membership to feel comfortable.

Lisa Parker said the verbiage about the annual meeting was not new, and was moved from a different section already in the Bylaws.

The only difference was the word Board was added to clarify the difference of Board or membership annual meeting.

AJ said it is important to understand what risks we take in voting on legal issues in a public meeting, and maintain responsibility to the organization. For example, we know the price negotiations for real estate should be confidential.

Lisa Cooley asked to hear Aaron's comments again, and suggested it might help to offer a friendly amendment to address membership concerns.

Paxton said there are legal issues that do not ever get discussed at open meetings; for example, lawsuits due to injury or someone being outed from the event. It is important to clarify legal matters in this amendment to the Bylaws.

Spirit said when a vote comes to the Board in an open meeting, the details are not always discussed, but it is done for transparency. A friendly amendment might include notifying membership, and expanding on what we currently have. Members should be notified in a specific timeframe for votes taken by the Board in closed sessions.

**Motion passed: 9-1; Spirit opposed.**

#### **Meeting Evaluation** (Zoom video 2:05:50)

Mark suggested that when Board members speak, they prepare ahead of time to unmute themselves. For those not speaking, mute yourselves to keep the background noise off the audio.

Jon P. suggested the exact wording of the proposed Bylaws changes should have been read again before the vote. He thinks the verbiage goes beyond personnel, legal, and real estate matters.

Spirit thanked Colleen for running an excellent meeting. She also thanked membership for respectfully expressing themselves. In her own self-review, Spirit apologized for not asking for a friendly amendment.

Peaches thanked everyone for the robust and respectful conversation. She thanked Lisa Parker for her explanation of the timeline background on the work done and feedback received for the Bylaws motion. While we have online meeting fatigue, it is important we stay engaged at the committee meeting level and provide our input and feedback during the work process. There are ways for members to plug in beyond the monthly Board meeting.

Sam gave thanks for a great meeting, and getting business done in a timely manner by being respectful, calm, and being able to talk through disagreements.

Paxton thanked Colleen for keeping the meeting on track and moving forward. He looks forward to when we get back to in-person meetings.

Crystalyn gave thanks to our volunteers, including Board members, for participating and ensuring we continue to build connections as we emerge from the past year of isolation. She is grateful to be part of the efforts of the Fair community and expressed how valuable it is.

Shane said while some are saying there is no event, we are having a virtual event that people have been working on all year. We need to promote it as much as we can.

#### **President's Peace** (Zoom video 2:15:28)

*Colleen invited Lisa Parker, VP of Bylaw and Policy Compliance, to end the meeting.*

Lisa Parker: Usually, this time of year, we would be gathering on the Fair site to prepare the space for our essential event. This is the second year we have not been able to create our intentional community that I think of as Pre-Fair. It feels like so long ago that we celebrated our 50th anniversary event, blissfully unaware of what was to come. One of the things I get to do at Pre-Fair is to give you a tetanus shot when your foot is punctured by an old nail, if something hot burns you in the kitchen, or any number of calamities that sometimes happen in service to the Fair.

For the second year in a row, I will not be able to give any tetanus vaccines at Pre-Fair. But, for the first time in my life I have had the incredible honor and privilege to have vaccinated many of you, either literally or by association, against a deadly virus in the midst of a global pandemic. That has filled my heart immeasurably, and has been an incredible gift. Thank you, and I look forward to one more Fair In the Clouds.

The next scheduled online Board Meeting is June 27, 2021, at 3 p.m., with agenda items to include:

Diversity Committee Statement and Donation Request New Business

Winery Property Priorities and Next Steps

Board terms / composition / limits and proposed Bylaws amendments

BUM proposal for potential fall fundraiser event

Codify the new Grievance Process as policy, proposed by Fair-CARE