

Attendance: Craft Committee: Lucy Kingsley (Facilitator), Diane McWhorter (Scribe), James Nason, sue theolass

Board Liaisons: sue theolass, Arna Shaw

Staff: Vanessa Roy, Promotions Manager; Alexis Maddock, Site Manager

Coordinators: Adam Budd, Craft Inventory Crew; Doug Quirke, Booth Registration Crew

Other participants: Lune Whitlock, Peter Huiras, Sylvia Farman, Holly, Thwing, Robin, Kathleen Cremonesi, Arbel Shemesh, Alison Grayson, Emory

Introductions and Announcements: No announcements

Site Report: Alexis, the Site Manager, said that the site is just about put away for the rainy season. He found it remarkable how well people took care of their booth and camping sites post-Fair. Maybe 5% needed some additional assistance in meeting expectations. He wants to work with Craft and Food Committees to increase communication, carry on the history and create more accountability. Projects being worked on are the recycling slab at the winery and general maintenance. If you want to know how to start your construction project next season you can start with Alexis and he can connect you with the people on Construction Crew who can approve or assist you with your design. [You can also read the Booth Construction details in the guidelines, found in documents on the .net site] His email is alexis@oregoncountryfair.org

Booth Registration Crew Coordinator Report: Doug is co-coordinator with Larissa. He is expecting to be able to coordinate with Construction Red Tag crew to figure out the available booths earlier this next year. The Food Booths deadline to apply is now going to be March 1st, and the Craft Booth deadline may also be moved to March 1st from April 1st. This would also allow for a complete listing of crafters to be put together in time to be printed in the Peach Pit. Their deadline is May 15th for final content so a directory would need to be completed in advance of that, not really possible when the deadline for booths is May 1 as it is at present. It would also make assigning the One-Year-Only booths much easier for all and give those crafters more time to get their construction needs met.

Craft Inventory Crew Coordinator Report: Adam clarified that applications open on January 1st and the deadline is currently April 1st but may be moved to March 1st. By May 1st there is a decision about how many artisans will be accepted from the jury. Once a crafter is accepted, they are still in as long as they sell within the requirements of the LOA policy. Some prefer to jury each year to see if they can score high enough to get a One-Year-Only booth or apply for the Permanent Placement program. Booth Reps who have booths do not have to re-jury unless they wish to sell a new craft that uses different materials and techniques. Some artisans do apply separately for their separate types of crafts. You can email them at craftinventory@oregoncountryfair.org with your questions.

Wristband Prices: The Financial Planning and Budget Committees met and made tentative plans to increase the wristbands to \$120 from \$100. Two contracts that are essential (porta-potties and busses) went up much higher and those costs have to be covered. Ticket prices were raised in 2023 and may be raised again. Members in the group hoped that costs would be spread evenly and not just on booth members. Staff is looking for ways to cut costs (using less paper is one way) and will continue to work to balance costs for all participants and the public.

Craft Committee Scribe: Diane is resigning after the November meeting and the committee is in need of a scribe. They would not need to be a committee member and would take minutes at minimum. There are other duties that could be taken on by this volunteer if they were willing. The committee can also accept new members, which begins with attendance at meetings for some period of time (six months at least) to get to know how the committee works. Meetings are the second Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, and they don't meet in December, June, or July. You can find the zoom link on the .net site.

Internet Service: Many crafters had no internet service at the 2023 event, due to several factors. In general crafters have been very disappointed in the place this issue seems to be in the priority list. Stringing wires through the woods for the wifi is very difficult to maintain and keep functional, and crafters have to share that capability with other types of communications for internal staff. The COWS that are brought by the internet providers can be inadequate or not brought to site for the event. That is difficult to control. The password is not a secret but the system of dispersing that at the last minute is fragmented. The internet service is also needed by the neighboring towns and emergency services are compromised by having so much additional use. There is a longterm plan to bury wires along the water lines, which will be replaced over the next five years. Individuals can also try creating hot spots in their booths for their own use. This issue is definitely one that many people are working to improve.

Booth Rep Guidelines: There is currently some confusion in the guidelines referring to the number of years a crafter needs to be in a booth before being named a Booth Rep. That will be changed this year to be more clear. They need five years as a crafter at the event, and two years in a particular booth to be named in that booth.

Thanks to all who attended and to all who support and maintain the hand-crafted life.