

FAIR FAMILY NEWS

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR ☉ ONE CREATIVE FAMILY

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 6 November 2025



2026 Board of Directors and Officers

Back row: Anthony "AJ" Jackson (President), Kevin Levy, John Davis, Zahra Indigo Rønlov, Jon Steinhart, Sandra Bauer, George Braddock, Lawrence "LT" Taylor, Paxton Hoag, Hilary Anthony (Treasurer)

Front row: Teresa Vaughn, Trevor Ross (Vice President), John Govsky, Jeffrey Rames (Membership Secretary)

WHAT'S INSIDE

p. 2 Make a Note
pp. 3 – 6 A Job Well Done
p. 7 Craft Update
pp. 8 - 9 Empty Seats
p. 10 Tell a Tale
p. 11 Determined Bananas
pp. 12 – 13 Local Economies
pp. 14 - 23 All the Fixins



FAIR FAMILY CALENDAR

November

- 15 OCF Site Walk, noon-2 pm, Todd Ebens, ash tree inoculation — Can it save our Ash?
- 17 Board of Directors Work Session, EAB Work Group update, 7 -9 pm

DECEMBER

- 1 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom, live-streamed on YouTube
- 3 Fair Family News deadline for December issue

2026

JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 5 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom, live-streamed on YouTube

JULY

- 10-12 No Place Like OM

AND SO MUCH MORE!

To view a full list of committee meetings and events go to: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/events/>

KEEP IN TOUCH

Oregon Country Fair
442 Lawrence St.
Eugene, OR. 97401
(541) 343-4298

FFN@OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG

INFO@OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG

OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG (EVENT INFO)

OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.NET (BUSINESS SITE)



*Happy Birthday
Sagittarius!!!*



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

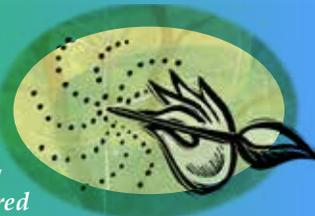


FAMILY LETTERS

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 FFN.

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).



FFN STAFF MIGRATORS

Brad "Mallard" Lerch
norma "warbler" sax
Dan "Sandhill Crane" Cohn
Kim "Whooping Crane" Griggs
Mary "Junco" Doyon
Suzi "Short-eared Owl" Prozanski
Vanessa "Red-shoulder Hawk" Roy
Alex "Snow Goose" Zabala
Trisha "Sparrow" Burbaum
Michael "Eagle" Ottenhausen





Membership & Elections Update

by Jeffrey Rames, OCF Membership Secretary

Happy November everyone! We completed and closed the 2025 Election on October 19, 2025. As you all know, this was the Fair's first hybrid election, with a focus on transitioning to online voting.

Here are some basic numbers. The Fair distributed 5,765 ballots, a 295 increase from 2024. 5,493 of these ballots were online ballots, 272 were paper ballots. We could not send out 33 ballots due to no street or email addresses on file with the Fair. We had about 29 online and paper ballots returned due to bad street and email addresses.

Fair Voters returned 1,408 ballots, or 24.4% of the ballots distributed. This was about a 4% increase from 2024, or 145 ballots. The full 2025 OCF Election Report is included below and is available to view at <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/11/2025-Election-Report-1.pdf>.

Transitioning to chiefly an online election was a huge task for the Fair and the Election Committee to take on. So many from Fair Community rose to this challenge and contributed many hours to ensure the voice of the Membership was going to be heard.

First, our Election Committee Members. Merrill Levine was a huge help in designing our election within ElectionBuddy (EB). Her work on this was always focused on how EB needed to function in front of the Fair's Voting Members. And again Merrill took on many of our election/ ballot prep tasks. As usual, she partnered with everyone with kindness, concern, caring, and a beautiful smile.

A wonderful, remarkable individual and committee partner, Jen-Lin Hodgden does so much for the Fair, and yet still takes the time to work on Elections. Quite impressive. I can honestly say I have learned more from Jen-Lin about how the Fair functions and its history than anyone else. Jen-Lin is always open and willing to take on tasks and wins the Gold Medal for keeping us honest and focused on the Fair Family. Again, a wonderful individual and very, very helpful committee member.

Heidi Doscher has re-created and fine-tuned the Fair's membership roster way too many times, and did it again this year. After years of serving as the Fair's Membership Secretary, she still commits months of her time to ensure Voting Members get their chance to vote. I am still feeling guilty about the many hours of work I asked her to do, and for the work she did without being asked. It was done with kindness, always with a smile, and never a complaint. There was no other person that put more time and energy into this election than Heidi.

Monumental does not come close to describing Heidi's contributions.

As the Fair's new Membership Secretary, I can honestly say that this election would not have taken place without the help of our Staff. Alex Zabala's partnership and support was ongoing and so very helpful. I sat across from Alex for 6 months while working this election, bugging him almost daily. My ongoing interruptions were met with answers, kindness, and a smile. The perfect person to have at the Fair's front door.

One word describes Vanessa Roy's support, Wow. So smart, so willing to help, so kind, always has an answer, and will drop her priorities to help others and did for me. Sharing her deep knowledge of the Fair, our systems, our communication tools, and our norms was needed and given with kindness. Again, massive does not come close to describing her support, just doesn't.

I have yet to find anyone at the Fair that works harder for the Fair than Kirsten Bolton. For me, her patience and deep knowledge was invaluable. She kept her distance from the election work -- as she should -- but was a key partner helping me navigate the Fair's many structural and diverse challenges. Such an impressive and capable individual. This entire team was just wonderful to work with.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to Stephen Diercouff, the Fair's prior Membership Secretary. Stephen was always willing to share his election knowledge, his concerns, and his suggestions. The election data that Stephen created over the years was a huge asset as we worked to ensure that everyone got a ballot. Thank you Stephen.

And finally, our Sunshine team and Jon Steinhart. Easily, 75% of our work to deploy this election was focused around membership data and system support. Going into this online election transition, data and system tools were our biggest challenges, by far. Jon and his team worked tirelessly helping us work through every one of these challenges. They never stopped. When we asked for new systems tools, we got them. When Jon and team could not deliver new tools, they created work arounds that met our needs.

Jon and team were responsive, incredibly helpful, kind, and so very willing to help us succeed. I am sitting here having a tough time describing the support we received from Jon and his team. Their support was simply beyond helpful and THE reason we delivered a successful election.

And here is the main product from Jon Steinhart's

support. The 2025 election took us 6 months to prepare. It took 5 or 6 of us working every week to deploy.

In 2024, the election cost the Fair around \$8,000.00 to deploy. Now, because of Jon and his team's support, the 2026 election will take 2-3 weeks to deploy and cost the Fair maybe \$1,500.00. In my view, that is what IT, systems support is and should be all about. Thank you Jon so very much, and pass our thanks onto your team. So very and beyond helpful.

I would also like to thank Suzi Prozanski, Kay Kintzley, Jain Elliott, Hilary Anthony for their help counting ballots, and Brett Rowlett and Rebecca Principe for their work leading the Candidate's Forum.

The Election Committee will start meeting again in November to review the 2025 election effort, and start the planning for the 2026 election. The Fair Family's volunteer contributions are a stunning thing to watch.

2025 Oregon Country Fair Annual Election Report
Annual Membership Meeting – October 11, 2025
Election Deadline - October 18th, 2025, 8:00 pm PDT
Ballots Counted/Election Certification - October 19, 2025

Board Members Elected (all are three year terms):

Kevin Levy
 Zahra Indigo Ronlov
 Trevor Ross
 Lawrence Taylor

Total Voting Membership: 5,798

(Final Voting Membership List pulled September 24, 2025. Some additions, deletions made as needed)

Ballots Issued:	<u>Online Ballots</u>	<u>Paper Ballots</u>	<u>Total Ballots</u>
Total Ballots Issued:	5,493	272	5,765

Registered Members with no street or email address, so no ballot mailed: **33**
 Ballot emails Unsubscribed by Member: **99**

Undeliverable Ballots (as of October 18, 2025)

Online and Paper Ballots sent but returned, unable to forward: **28**
 Ballots resent: **16**
Total Undeliverable Ballots: 28

Ballots Replaced:

Lost/misplaced ballots replaced: **8 Online - 2 Paper**
 Spoiled ballots replaced: **105 Online - 2 Paper**
Total Ballots Replaced: 117

Ballots Returned:

Total Ballots Returned:	<u>Online Ballots</u>	<u>Paper Ballots</u>	<u>Total Ballots</u>
	1,354	54	1,408

Candidate Vote Totals:

Elected to full terms:	<u>Online Votes</u>	<u>Paper Votes</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>
Kevin Levy	820	24	844
Zahra Indigo Ronlov	683	30	713
Trevor Ross	682	23	705
Lawrence Taylor	660	36	696

Not Elected:

Felicia Kirsch	643	24	667
John Alexander	632	32	664
Noah Persin	396	14	410

Write-ins:

Obbium	1 vote	Shoshanna Cohen	1 vote
Shane Harvey	1 vote	Chava Cohen	1 vote
Ann Bennett Rogers	6 votes	Zara Rubinstein	1 vote
Kendrick Mitchell	1 vote	Dennis Griffin	1 vote
Therease Boudreau	1 vote	Tom Boyatt	1 vote
Lisa Parker	1 vote	John Stamp	3 vote
Amy Hand	2 votes	Santos Narvaez	2 votes
Andrew Simrin	1 vote	Charise Prouty	1 vote
Ann Rogers	3 votes	Aleta Miller-O'higgins	1 vote
Jerry Joffe	1 vote	Joseph Chez	1 vote
Reggie Watts	1 vote	Ann Rodgers	1 vote
Aleta Miller	1 vote	Lucy Kinsley	1 vote
Jon Reinschreiber	1 vote	Greg Beast	1 vote
Diane Albino	1 vote	Kehn Gibson	1 vote
Austin Folnagy	1 vote	Jennifer Barnes	1 vote
Wren Arrenton	1 vote	Jon Silvermoon	3 votes
Martha Evans	1 vote	Spirit Leatherwood	1 vote
Michael Connelly	1 vote	Thomas E price	1 vote
Doug Quirke	1 vote	Steven Berkson	1 vote
Joshua Rubinstein	1 vote	Jack Makarchek	3 votes
Auntie Em	1 vote	Mother Zozima	2 votes
Jack Ward	2 votes	Ryan Kelly	1 vote
David Hoffman	1 vote	John Burgess	1 vote

Jill Heiman Vision Fund Results

	<u>Online Votes</u>	<u>Paper Votes</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>
Arts & Culture	230	8	238
Basic Needs & Equality	601	21	622
Environment & Sustainability	471	18	489

Voter Statistics:

Registered Voters issued ballots:	5,765	99.43%
Undeliverable ballots:	28	0.0048%
Total ballots returned:	1,408	24.42%
Ballots returned late: (as of 10/28/25)	5	0.0035%
Returned ballots not counted:	7	0.0049%

Ballots returned and counted:	1,401	99.50%
Total Members voted:	1,408	24.28%

Volunteers on the Elections Committee and Helpers

Thank you to everyone on the Elections Committee – Laurie/Heidi Doscher, Jen-Lin Hodgden, Merrill Levine. This new approach to the Fair’s election proved to be a huge amount of work. The time, work and commitment each of these committee members volunteered has been outstanding. In addition, the partnership and support from Stephen Diercouff, the former Membership Secretary, proved to be another huge asset.

The election committee welcomes additional members and volunteers. Contact us by email at elections@oregoncountryfair.org if you are interested in learning more.

Volunteers preparing ballots for mailing

Thank you also to Heidi Doscher, Jen-Lin Hodgden, Merrill Levine, and Suzi Prozanski for helping with the ballot preparation.

Volunteers counting ballots

Thank you to our wonderful counting volunteers! They are Heidi Doscher, Jen-Lin Hodgden, Kay Kintzley, Jain Elliott, Suzi Prozanski. You are wonderful!

Treasurer Certifying the ballot counting and the election results

Thank you, Hilary Anthony!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank you, Brett Rowlett and Rebecca Principe of Get Out the Vote, for facilitating the Candidates’ Forum.

Thank you all for voting!

Respectfully submitted by Jeffrey M. Rames, Oregon Country Fair - Membership Secretary



Craft Inventory Crew Announcement

Greetings to OCF crafters and craft-lovers alike from the Craft Inventory Crew! We want to start by bringing to your attention a very important update to the application process for OCF 2026. Each year, our Craft, Esoteric, and Logo Applications become active at the beginning of January.

This year, the deadline to submit applications will be March 1, 2026.

This is earlier than the deadline in previous years. Craft Inventory, in collaboration with Booth Registration and the Craft Committee, has decided a March 1 deadline will allow some much-needed additional time for crews to accurately vet and process applications in preparation for the annual jury processes. This additional time has become necessary as our applicant pool has grown to nearly 500 applications annually. If you, or someone you know, plans to apply, consider beginning preparations now to allow ample time to complete your submission once applications open.

We also want to take a moment to revel with you in the knowledge that our event is one of a vanishing few where visitors can still expect to purchase a

high-quality handmade craft directly from the person who made it. Each year, newly approved crafters join with experienced OCF artisans to provide fairgoers with a vast offering of some of the highest quality and most unique handmade work available anywhere. This special quality of our event is no accident. It takes the combined efforts of our crafters, policy makers, and the entire OCF community to maintain this ethos of support for handmade crafts and those who make them.

It is in this spirit that we want to offer a reminder that only handmade crafts, sold in the presence of the person who made them, are permitted to be sold on site during the three days of the Oregon Country Fair event. This expectation and the related guidelines extend to both public and non-public hours. In simple terms, manufactured, imported, or other resale items are never allowed to be sold at the Fair, day or night. We hope you will join us in our work to keep handmade crafts essential to the OCF experience.

Craft Inventory is happy to help answer any of your craft-related questions. You can reach us by email at craftinventory@oregoncountryfair.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!





Fair Thee Well: Jake Britton

With heavy hearts and deep love, we share the passing of Jacob “Jake” Britton, who left this world far too soon on October 8, 2025, at the age of 30.

He volunteered at the Oregon Country Fair as a coordinator on Entertainment Services crew.

Jacob was a radiant soul — kind, wildly spirited, and fiercely strong. He lived with passion and purpose, leaving a trail of laughter, generosity, and genuine connection wherever he went. Whether exploring the mountains or living on the beach, Jacob embraced life with open arms and an open heart.



He leaves behind a family who loved him endlessly: his parents Melissa (Jim) Cuellar and Jeff (Kyra) Britton; sisters Abigail and Laura Britton; children Grayson Chavez and Jade Britton; partner Kaylea Hitch and son Cypher Day; grandparents Tom and Linda Britton; and a wide circle of relatives and friends who will carry his warmth, humor, and unforgettable energy with them always.

Memorial services will be held in Alpine, WY, and Eugene, OR, at a later date, where we’ll gather to celebrate Jacob and the love he gave so freely.



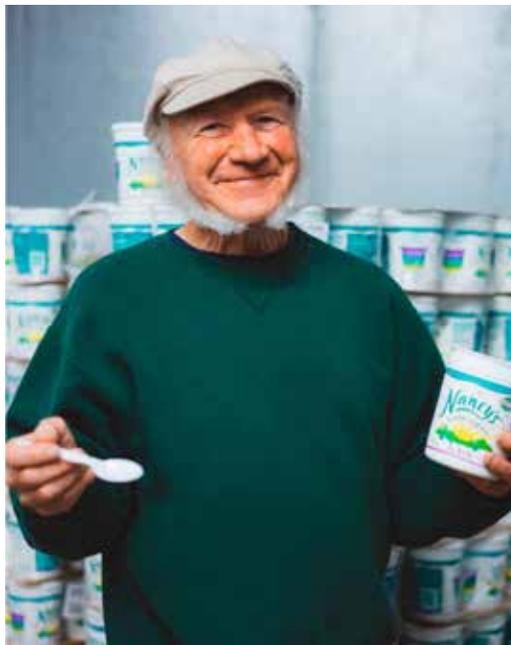
Fair Thee Well: Chuck Kesey

The family of Chuck Kesey, co-founder of Springfield Creamery and co-creator of Nancy’s Probiotic Foods, announced his passing at home in Eugene November 6, surrounded by his family. He was 87.

A scientist, storyteller, and dreamer, Chuck helped launch the natural foods movement more than six decades ago. He and his wife, Sue, built Springfield Creamery into a family business.

Born in La Junta, Colorado, to Fred and Geneva Kesey, Chuck moved to Springfield, Oregon, as a child, where his father managed the Eugene Farmers Creamery, where he and his brother, Ken Kesey, grew up.

In the late 1950s, Chuck studied Dairy Science at Oregon State University, where he became fascinated with beneficial bacteria — considered



a radical idea at the time. There, on a blind date, he met Susan Jameson, a classmate studying Business. They married soon after graduation in 1960 and, with a \$150-a-month lease, they opened Springfield Creamery. Susan, his partner of nearly 65 years, passed away in August 2025.

In 1970, Chuck perfected a recipe with the creamery’s bookkeeper, Nancy Van Brasch Hamren, who had yogurt-making experience, where he added *L. acidophilus* to honey-sweetened yogurt, creating the first commercial yogurt in the United States to contain live probiotics. Nancy’s Yogurt was born, and so was the modern probiotic foods category.

In May 1970, Chuck experimented with frozen yogurt blended with fruit, which the Creamery sold at the

second Oregon Renaissance Faire on Crow Road. That first frozen yogurt turned out a little bit too tart, so the next year Chuck added honey to the frozen yogurt recipe and it was a huge success. The Springfield Creamery has been selling its special batch of frozen yogurt at the Oregon Country Fair ever since — more than 50 years.

When financial hardship struck the family business in 1972, Chuck's creativity extended far beyond the lab. Drawing on the countercultural network of his brother Ken and the Merry Pranksters, he reached out to the Grateful Dead, who played a legendary benefit concert in the field used as a parking lot

especially with employees at the Creamery. His interests were wide-ranging, from galaxies to art to the wildlife that wandered his property. Chuck loved to ponder all that came before him, and his curiosity was contagious.

"Our Dad never stopped exploring — his mind was interested in so many pieces of life," said his daughter, co-owner of Springfield Creamery, Sheryl Kesey Thompson. "He believed that real, healthy food could make people's lives better. That was his true calling, and I think that is what he was most pleased to have had an impact on. He would often remind us, 'We are not making breakfast.



Photo © Jeff Kastner / OPB

for the Oregon Renaissance Faire in Veneta. The funds raised at the concert saved the Creamery, and the concert became an enduring part of Oregon lore.

In 1982 when the Oregon Country Fair needed help with a down payment on the land to buy the property, Chuck again reached out to the Grateful Dead, who played another legendary benefit concert in the parking lot of the Fair in Veneta.

Over the decades, Chuck remained the Creamery's unofficial "Keeper of the Culture." He personally taste-tested each batch of yogurt for more than 50 years, refusing to rely solely on pH meters. He delighted in sharing his latest finds — rocks, mushrooms, flowers, and other artifacts — with his friends far and wide, and

We are making health food, and we are saving lives here."

Together, Chuck and Sue led Springfield Creamery for more than six decades, nurturing a company that remains independent and family-owned, now run by their son and daughter, Kit Kesey and Sheryl Kesey Thompson, as well as the third generation, Taylor, Blake, and Grant Thompson. Today, Nancy's Probiotic Foods continues to make organic and natural cultured products.

A lifelong believer in learning and discovery, Chuck often said that his greatest satisfaction came from "feeding generations of people good, healthy food." To honor that passion, remembrances can be made to the Chuck and Sue Kesey Endowed Scholarship at Oregon State University's Department of Food Science & Technology, supporting the next generation of food innovators and fermentation scientists.

mentation scientists.

"His legacy isn't just in every cup of yogurt," said his son, Kit Kesey. "It's in the culture of curiosity, kindness, and the commitment of doing things the right way, even if you have to strap it together. He created that culture and instilled it in all of us."

Plans for a memorial service to celebrate Chuck Kesey's life will be announced at a later date.

To make a gift to the Chuck and Sue Kesey Endowed Scholarship at Oregon State University's Department of Food Science and Technology, mail to:
OSU Foundation
4238 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333.

Send Us Your Fair Stories!

Fair Family News seeks Your Fair Stories to publish in our new feature, "True Fairy Tales." Help us document the Fair's history since the 1990s.

If your booth or crew has celebrated an anniversary milestone, please write us about your shared Fair history. Tell us about special traditions, magical moments and notable events. Or consider writing brief bios of key people in your crew or booth — whether they are founders or new folks coming in.

We welcome photos along with the articles, or stand-alone photos with a caption to tell the story.

If you need help getting started, we can offer prompts



TRUE FAIRY TALES

and ideas.

Email your questions, your stories and photos to ffn@oregoncountryfair.org. We will publish stories and photos as time and space allow in our new column "True Fairy Tales."

If the Fair Family News gets enough stories over the next few years, we're considering publishing a third book about Fair history — documented and written by you —

complete a trilogy on Fair history that was started by Suzi Prozanski with her books, "Fruit of the Sixties" and "Brigadoon of the Sixties."



Photo © 2025 Imagerium



Miles Thompson and the Unpresidented Brass Band

by Suzi Prozanski, Fair Family News

The Unpresidented Brass Band was founded during Donald Trump's first term by Miles Thompson, a lifetime Fair family member and a trumpeter for 30 years in the Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra. Miles, who is 43 and works as an electrical engineer, envisioned the Unpresidented Brass Band bringing joy and music to Portland's protest scene.

During Trump's first term, the protests grew intense when far-right counter-protesters showed up in Portland spoiling for a fight. Miles' goal was to lighten the energy. Sometimes the band unwittingly found themselves playing music in between anti-Trump protesters and far-right counter-protesters. Even so, band members never experienced personal harm until last month.

On Oct. 12, the band dressed up as bananas to perform in Portland's Emergency Naked Bike Ride, which was held to protest ICE arrests. As the band played the theme from "Ghostbusters" across the street from the Portland ICE facility, federal agents suddenly chased a man across the street and into the banana band formation, knocking over the drummer and crashing into the clarinetist, Oriana Korol, a 38-year-old mother and family therapist.

Oriana was arrested and held for three days before



Photo © Miles Thompson

she was released. She was charged with assaulting an officer and still faces a trial. Oriana is new to the band, but she said the arrest made her more determined to keep playing.

Miles said the outpouring of support after Oriana's arrest was overwhelming. The next weekend when the Unpresidented Brass Band marched in Portland's



Photo © Joe Frazier

No Kings protest, their banana and frog brigade was joined by members of the March Fourth Band, creating a rhythmic beat that was even louder and prouder than before. The whole crowd around them boogied and grooved along.

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: ffunderwriting@gmail.com

DODECA ART FARM
 Creating and enhancing vibrant communities through arts and sciences.

- 501(c)3 nonprofit
- community farm
- vegetarian
- art collective
- sober sanctuary
- moon worshipping
- season celebrating
- ritual transformations
- OCF Art Barn support

WE LOVE YOU!

Starchild CREATIVE SERVICES
 Serving Eugene & Beyond

- Videography & Editing
- Local Green Screen Studio
- Website Support & DIY Training
- Design & Tech Support for Crafters

Sean Bonsell
www.starchildcreative.com

ADAPTIVE HEATING & COOLING

541-833-2846 AdaptiveHeat.com

**Utility & State Rebates
 Low Income Assistance**

Specializing in Ductless Heat Pumps

★STAFF SPECIAL FAIR FAMILY SINCE 1984

Fruit of the Sixties
 The Founding of the Oregon Country Fair

Big Sale!
\$10

**MORE INFO ONLINE: WWW.SUZIPRO.COM
 & TSUNAMIBOOKS.COM**

OREGON'S LOCALLY GROWN FIBER INTERNET.

- ⚡ 20X FASTER THAN CABLE!
- 🏠 LOCALLY OWNED!
- 📄 NO CONTRACTS!

EMERALD BROADBAND
 CALL US!
541-363-0260
EMERALDBROADBAND.COM

In-home care for a better quality of life.

- Companion Care
- Personal Care
- Specialty Care

(541) 833-5050
www.rightathome.net/eugene

Right at Home

Right at Home is a global network where most offices are independently owned and operated under a franchise agreement with Right at Home, LLC.

BEAUTIFUL COZY QUILTS FROM YOUR FAVORITE T-SHIRTS

Memories to Quilts

E f i

memoriestoquilts.com

UNDERWRITERS

WOW HALL
8th & Lincoln
All Ages
687-2746

11/14 - The Stinkfoot Orchestra featuring Napoleon Murphy Brock - A Frank Zappa Tribute
 11/17 - Soulfly
 11/20 - Authority Zero / Voodoo Glowskulls
 11/21 - Life During Wartime (LDW)
 11/22 - Emo Nite
 11/24 - Built to Spill
 11/29 - Cap'n Trips presents Dylan & the Dead
 12/3 - Stick Men
 12/4 - Gareth Reynolds
 12/5&6 - WOW-a-thon 50th Anniversary Celebration



Craig Ralston

LTC #5744C

Tax Returns Prepared
Self employed, stock sales
rentals, multiple/old years

(541) 343-4422

TaxguyCraig@gmail.com

92.7 FM KOCF

Donate your
drink containers
to KOCF via
BottleDrop!

Stream @ kocf.org

THE RITZ
Sauna & Showers

Public & Private, Open-air,
Accessible Showers & Saunas

Serving the OCF Community since 1976

Visit our Facebook - The Ritz Sauna & Showers

CAFÉ Mam
 ORGANIC COFFEE

(888) CAFE-MAM · CAFEMAM.COM





Board of Directors Meeting

November 3, 2025, 7 pm

(Subject to approval by the Board at the December 2025, Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link: <https://youtu.be/q27Z1HEnf5M>

Board Directors present: Anthony “AJ” Jackson (President), Lawrence Taylor, Zahra Indigo Ronlov, Sandra Bauer, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Kevin Levy, Trevor Ross (Vice President), Jon Steinhart, John Govsky, John Davis and Teresa Vaughn. Other Board officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer), Jeffrey Rames (Membership Secretary) and Anna DiBenedetto (Recording Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Melissa Swan (Bookkeeper), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager), Alex Zabala (Office Manager), Sunny Arthurs (Assistant Event Manager) and Steven Berkson (Facilitator).

Announcements

Dani Derrick: She is the scribe for the Committee Best Practices Committee and they are down to only four voting members, so they are looking for new members. It's best to have eight voting members. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6:15 on Zoom. They update and maintain the Committee Best Practices Manual. They would love to have you join them. Reach out to bestpractices@oregoncountryfair.org if interested.

Sandra: This is the first year for funding the Educational Grants to support innovation in programming at the Fair. They had some great submissions but only had a total of \$5,000 to distribute. They selected the following: Energy Park will receive a grant to expand the science education in Energy Park into other fields and invite other University of Oregon science departments to participate. This one is still somewhat conditional; they are waiting for Energy Park to take the proposal to the entire group. Oasis had a proposal that outlines a three-part training series in restorative justice, conflict resolution, and de-escalation skills designed for OCF volunteers, staff, and community members. The goal is to strengthen community resilience, foster effective communication, and provide practical tools for navigating conflict both within OCF and in participants' daily lives. The series will be interactive, engaging, and grounded in experiential learning. Participants will leave with concrete skills in listening, communication, and de-escalation while also building a stronger sense of community connection. Look for information in the program guide. Archaeology will get three new wall hanging or upright cases so they can exhibit more site artifacts. In addition, there will be a new display of Native Plants important to indigenous peoples. Planting boxes of native plants will include interpretative materials focusing on food and culture, with information on plant use, habitat distribution and effect of historical changes with Western agriculture.

AJ: The New Board of Directors met at the annual retreat last weekend. Thanks to membership for allowing them to meet as they do to start their year off in a good, positive direction. Also, he will be communicating with the office tomorrow to make sure they have the information about where to go for food resources for anyone looking for food resources during the government shutdown. Contact the Fair office after noon tomorrow and they should have a list of resources.

Paxton: He invited people to the EAB Board Workshop on November 17 at 7 pm. It will summarize what they have been working on and where they are going. Please come and listen and talk about it. It will affect the Fair tremendously in the future.

Minutes Review

(YouTube video: 0:06:27)

The Board approved the minutes of the October 6, 2025, meeting by unanimous consent.

Agenda Review

The Board approved the November 3, 2025, agenda by unanimous consent.

Staff Report – Executive Director

Kirsten: Congratulations to Kevin Levy, Zahra Indigo, Trevor Ross and Lawrence Taylor on their election to the Board of Directors and thank you to Arna Shaw and John Alexander for their Board service. Thank you to the Elections Committee for their hard work on making this year's election run smoothly and to all the volunteers who came out to help count the votes.

Administration: Staff Annual Reviews will be conducted in November. The Eugene office will be closed the following dates: November 27 and 28 and December 15 to January 2, 2026. The Event Manager position is expected to be filled by November 20 with a start date of January 5, 2026. Budget Committee is in full swing. We have placed a hold on budget increases again this year. We will be evaluating and addressing strategic operational increases. The Board will vote on the expense budget at the Monday, January 26, 2026, Board Budget Meeting. The Board will vote on the 2026 Capital Improvements Budget at the March 2, 2026, Board meeting.

Event Management: As a reminder, the Guideline Change form is on the .net site. The form closes on November 15. All recommended policy guideline changes will be published in the December Fair Family News and be under New Business at the December Board meeting. The 2026 Spring Fling is scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at the WOW Hall. The 2026 Culture Jam is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 30, to Thursday, August 6. The 2026 Teddy Bear Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 16. Craft applications run from January 6 to March 1, 2026. Teen Crew Application for Coordinators will open in February 2026. Entertainment Applications run November 1 to February 15, 2026. Food Applications run October 15 to November 15. The Food Committee is looking for at least two new food booths. Tickets go on sale February 15, 2026. Tickets shift to full price on June 15, 2026, at \$60 per day.

Site: The installation of the manufactured home at the Winery is almost done. The interior is done. We are waiting for the landscaping and stairs on the front and back of the house to be installed. We need furniture donations for this house. It has three bedrooms and we are looking for mattresses — preferably twin, or foam pads, couch(es), chairs and a table. Please call the office if you have something you'd like to donate to see if we still need it.

Marketing: Be sure to check out our Commemorative Sales Merchandise site at merch.oregoncountryfair.org. The store will be shut down on December 15. We'll put everything

in the mail by December 17 so they arrive before the holiday. All of our posters are available for reprint. The Fourth Quarter direct donor campaign launched October 1. Please consider making a cash donation to OCF. We will provide you with a tax-deductible receipt for you to use for your 2025 taxes.

Treasurers' Report

(YouTube video: 0:12:31)

Hilary: The Budget Committee has been meeting throughout October and will continue to meet in November. Thanks to the coordinators who have gotten their schedules to them. A sub-committee is reviewing them, creating an archive as well as reviewing the information to look for patterns and trends to get them caught up on background information. They have two people sitting in on the Committee this year: Annette Sturgill and William Parnham. Their interest and time are appreciated. Next month the Budget Committee will present the Revenue Projection Recommendations to the Board for a vote. They are recommending keeping the same ticket prices and no increase for people on property.

Committee and Working Group Reports

Committees should send their reports to Vanessa (vanessa@oregoncountryfair.org), to be posted on the .net site and included in the Board packet.

Craft Committee met August 13 and the minutes are here: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/10/8_13_25-craft-committee-minutes.pdf.

Craft Committee met September 10 and the minutes are here: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/10/9_10_25-craft-committee-minutes-.pdf.

Elders Committee met June 19 and the minutes are here: https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/10/EldersCommMtg_061925.pdf.

Elders Committee held a retreat on September 20 and the minutes are here: <https://oregon-countryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/10/EldersCommFallRetreat-092025.pdf>.

Elders Committee met on September 25 and the minutes are here: <https://oregoncountryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/10/EldersCommMtg092525.pdf>.

Path Planning Committee met on September 14 and the minutes are here: <https://oregon-countryfair.net/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2025/10/Path-Planning-Meeting-Minutes-9-14-25.pdf>.

Elections Committee report from Jeffrey Rames: We know who won the Board seats. Congratulations to Trevor, Kevin, Indigo and Lawrence. We sent out about 5,765 ballots this year. This is about 300 more than last year. This is chiefly driven by new members at Fair. We had 1,500 new members sign up this year and just under 1,200 who had to be dropped for not voting in the last

three years, per the Bylaws. There were only 33 who could not get a ballot due to no street or email address on file. There were not a lot of undeliverable ballots because email tends to be more current and accurate than street addresses. We didn't have to replace a lot of ballots but a few were switched between paper or email. We had 1,408 members return their ballots. Only 7 couldn't be counted. We counted 1,401 ballots. We had a lot of write-ins, about 40 of them. Most of them only got one vote; the most got six votes. On the Jill Heiman Vision Fund survey, 622 members said Basic Needs and Equality was top priority. Second was Environmental and Sustainability at 489. Arts and Culture came in at 238 votes. Ballots went out to 99 percent of registered members. 24.24 percent returned their ballots, which is about the same that voted. Last year about 20 percent of members voted, so we increased that by about 4 percent. About 99 people unsubscribed from the ballot emails. We need to figure out what that means. Does it mean they don't want to be a member, or they don't want to vote? The election was certified on October 19. We are updating a lot of data in Sunshine. We are removing all Fair member information off ElectionBuddy, so no member information stays there. That will be done this week. The Elections Committee, Jen-Lin, Merrell and Heidi did a huge amount of work, especially Heidi, did so much work. Heidi re-created again the membership list. So much kindness. Stephen Diercouff and his data were a huge asset as well. Jon Steinhart and his team were critical; this couldn't have happened without their help and expertise. It only took volunteers Heidi, Merrell, Jen-Lin, Jane Elliott, Kate Kinsley, Hilary and Suzi Prozanski about 20 minutes to count the paper ballots. There were only about 50 paper ballots despite mailing out more than 200.

The Board approved the committee minutes by unanimous consent.

Old Business

(YouTube video: 0:23:07)

2025 Election Results/Appoint Officers

**Jon Steinhart moved and Kevin seconded to elect Anna DiBenedetto as Recording Secretary.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

**AJ moved and Sandra seconded to elect Jeffrey Rames as Membership Secretary.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

**Sandra moved and AJ seconded to elect Hilary Anthony as Treasurer.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

**Lawrence Taylor moved and Teresa seconded to elect Trevor Ross as Vice President.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

**Jon Steinhart moved and Kevin seconded to elect AJ as President.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

New Business

(YouTube video: 0:27:11)

Approve the Financial Planning Committee’s 2026 Revenue Projections recommendation (AJ Jackson, George Braddock & Sandra Bauer)

**2026
Proposed
Pricing**

**2025
Actual
Pricing**

Admission

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
3-Day	50	50	50	150	50	50	50	150
Advanced (6/13)	50	50	50	150	50	50	50	150
Full Price	60	60	60	180	60	60	60	180

**Pass Sales: Crews, SOs,
Trades**

SO	150		150
SO late	150		150
Elder	60		60
Elder Comp	150		150
EC late	150		150
Teen	60		60
Youth	0	No Charge for kids under 13	0
Worker Day	25	EP and CV	25
Full Price (previously Trades to Sell)	150		150
Discount (CV and EP)	60		60

VS	25	25
VS late	25	25
Oversized	150	150

Registration - Booth Fees

1yo	100	100
food cart	115	115
craft stroller	100	100
craft booth	200	200
food booth	350	350
nonprofit	75	75

Passes:

Registration/Booths

all passes	150
Extra	150
Late passes	150
Teens	60
Youth	0
Worker Day Pass W/Th/F/S/Su	25

No Charge for kids under 13

150
150
150
60
0
25

No Charge for kids under 13

VS	25
VS late	25
Oversized	150

25
25
150

Craft Jury Fees

first item	15
additional	10
public parking	20

15
10
20

OCF Revenue Projections

	2024	2025	2026
	15k/day tickets	15K/day tickets	15K/day tickets
Contributions:			
Community Center			
Donated Assets			
Durables Fund			
FV Donations			
Jill Heiman Fund			
Peach Power Fund			
LPFM			
Other:			
Contributions Subtotal:			
Donations			30,000
Culture Jam	24,000	25,000	25,000

Event			
ADMISSIONS	2,079,987	2,045,487	1,889,000
BARTER FAIR			
ChildCare			
comm sales	30,000	45,000	65,000
CRAFT JURY FEES			
Durables Sales	4,000	4,000	2500
Battery Sales	3,000	-6,000	
GREEN TICKET	40,000	40,000	36,000
ICE (New 2004)	3,000	15,000	18000
Impound Fees			
Paid Parking	137,000	150,000	165000
PASS SALES	674,845	816,489	898,613
PHOTO ID			
REGISTRATION	772,220	827,800	842,685
reg parking			
reg pass			
reg booth fees			
Misc. (Event)	11,000	25,000	8000
INTEREST		3,000	35000
Business Directory			
MISC			
NEWSLETTER	500	500	500
Site Use Fee	1,000	1,000	1000
misc total			
endowment inc			
not included			
TOTAL REVENUE	3,780,552	3,992,276	4,016,298
Event Income	3,755,052	3,962,776	3,839,298

After careful consideration, the Board Giving subcommittee is recommending that the Board Giving Fund give a total of \$28,000 to the following (Jon Steinhart, John Davis, Sandra Bauer and AJ Jackson):

1. Community Supported Shelters - \$13,500 for general organization operating funding to support the ability for the CSS to continue to provide high-quality services and care to those experiencing homelessness in Lane County.

2. Volunteers in Medicine Clinic - \$13,500 for general operating funds. As federal policies shrink financial support for minority populations and low-income individuals, the needs of nonprofits who serve them increases.

3. Skipping Stones - \$1,000 For general operating funds. They feature creative writing and art focusing on global, multicultural and diversity issues, nature awareness and climate issues. They serve about 200 families and send copies to 50 teachers and schools through a digital presence. OCF has funded them previously.

The focus on this year's funding cycle is Social Justice and Social Inequity. The work of these organizations strongly reflects the values and priorities of the Oregon Country Fair. We are honored to provide support for the important contributions of these organizations.

Appoint Norma Sax and Arna Shaw to the Jill Heiman Vision Fund Committee (John Davis, Teresa Vaughn and AJ Jackson)

Appoint Sean Cummins to the Budget Committee (Sandra, George and AJ Jackson)

Amend Article X of the By-Laws (Jon Steinhart, Kevin Levy, Trevor Ross, John Davis, George Braddock)

Currently Reads:

ARTICLE X: TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS OR OFFICERS

1. No director or officer of the OCF shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any transaction with the OCF (including but not limited to contracts), unless:

- a) the transaction is approved or ratified by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Directors who have no direct or indirect interest in the transaction (the transaction may not be approved or ratified under this section by a single director); and
- b) the material facts of the transaction and the nature of the Director's or Officer's interest have been fully disclosed or are known to the Board prior to consideration of the matter and are determined by the Board to be fair to the OCF.

2. A Director or Officer of the OCF has an indirect interest in a transaction if:

- a) Another entity in which the Director or Officer has a material interest or in which the Director or Officer is an employee or general partner or is a party to the transaction; or

- b) Another entity of which the Director or Officer is a Director, Officer, or trustee is a party to the transaction and the transaction is or should be considered by the Board; or
- c) A person who is related to the Director or Officer, or a business associate of the Director or Officer, is a party to the transaction.

Recommend to read:

ARTICLE X: TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS ~~OR~~, OFFICERS, OR BOARD APPOINTEES

1. No director or officer of the OCF or Board appointee shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any transaction with the OCF (including but not limited to contracts), unless:
 - a) the transaction is approved or ratified by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Directors — who have no direct or indirect interest in the transaction (the transaction may not be approved or ratified under this section by a single director); and
 - b) the material facts of the transaction and the nature of the Director's, ~~or~~ Officer's, or Board appointee's interest have been fully disclosed or are known to the Board prior to consideration of the matter and are determined by the Board to be fair to the OCF.

2. A Director or Officer of the OCF or Board appointee has an indirect interest in a transaction if:
 - a) Another entity in which the Director or Officer has a material interest or in which the Director, ~~or~~ Officer, or Board appointee is an employee or general partner or is a party to the transaction; or
 - b) Another entity of which the Director or Officer is a Director, Officer, or trustee is a party to the transaction and the transaction is or should be considered by the Board; or
 - c) A person who is related to the Director ~~or~~, Officer or Board appointee, or a business associate of the Director ~~or~~, Officer, or Board appointee, is a party to the transaction.

Meeting Evaluation

(YouTube video: 0:28:07)

Last round for the good of the peach

Teresa: She is thrilled that everyone was concise tonight. The retreat was excellent. It was good to learn about Indigo and Lawrence Taylor's expertise from their previous Fair experience. She is excited to get to know Trevor as well.

John Govsky: He expressed gratitude for everyone being so concise. It's nice to have a short meeting every once in a while. This is a lot of work!

Jon Steinhart: Thanks to the officers for volunteering to go the extra mile.

Paxton: He is looking forward to this next year. The retreat was great; we have a good team and we have a lot of progress to make.

Next Board Meeting: December 1, 2025, at 7 pm via Zoom

President's Peace

(YouTube video: 0:29:57)

AJ: Thanks to the outgoing Board members John Alexander and Arna Shaw, and thanks to the incoming Board members. Thanks to Kirsten and the staff for all that they do, especially behind the scenes at the retreat. As a leader and a teacher, he frequently thinks of a quote by Maya Angelou about needing to practice what you preach. My intention going forward as a leader in this organization is to be kind, grateful and practice what I preach. Thanks to the Board and membership for your trust. He's just a boy from South Central LA and he is eternally grateful for the opportunity to continue helping lead this organization.

