

Oregon Country Fair Elections Committee
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, 6:30pm
OCF Office - Zoom Call

Attendance: Jeffrey Rames, Heidi Doscher, Merrill Levine, Jen-Lin Hodgden

Quorum: Quorum met

Agenda:

- Managing Unsubscribes
- Grow/Replace Election Committee Members
- Election Document Retention Strategy
- 2026 Election Committee Budget
- 2026 Election Approach
- Review 2025 Election Approach
- Digitizing Voting Member Registration Form/Process
- Membership Bylaws Project
- Review 2025 Election Volunteer Hours
- Elections/Sunshine Needs and Wants

New Business: None

Old Business: None

The Main Points:

Managing Unsubscribes

Jeff passed on that there were about 100 voters that Unsubscribed from the ElectionBuddy Ballot emails. Group had a good discussion about what we think the member was wanting here. Didn't want to vote in this election, all future elections? Wanted a paper ballot? Maybe they did not realize it was an OCF ballot? No longer wanted anything to do with the Fair?....

Group agreed that it would be difficult to tell what each voter intended. Group agreed that the Election Committee should probably contact each voter and determine if they still want to be or don't want to be a voting member of the Fair. Jeff agreed to follow through on contacting all these members and removing or maintaining their voting status (Member Since Date) in Sunshine.

Grow/Replace Election Committee Members

Jeff notified committee that Barbara Edmonds asked to be remove as an Elections Committee member. Jeff also stated that the FFN will post a request for Election Committee volunteers in the next issue. Jeff asked the current members to let others know there are openings on the committee. Group had a discussion on what the ideal size of the committee should be. Group felt there should be 5 or 7 voting members on the committee. Maybe less now since much of the manual election work is behind us.

Election Document Retention Strategy

Jeff passed on the Attorney feedback on what elections documents the Fair is required to maintain and for how long. Basically the Attorney stated the Oregon ORS rules state that all election documents and files must be maintained forever. Jeff also stated that the two election file cabinets at the Eugene Fair office have been cleaned up. Much of the election "tools" (pencils, sponges, boxes....) have been recycled or trashed. All the 23, 24 and 25 Membership applications have been alphabetized. Jeff mentioned that all the election documents that were in the cabinets and the documents that Stephen Diercouff dropped off have been organized and all fit in the two elections file cabinets.

2026 Election Committee Budget

Jeff passed on that he had spent about \$1,200.00 on the 2025 election. \$715.00 for the ElectionBuddy fee, \$390.00 on stamps and a few misc expenses. He passed on that he thinks the 2026 election budget will be around \$3,000.00, down from the \$9,000.00 or so budget of the past.

2026 Election Approach

Jeff started this conversation about how to best structure the Election Committee meetings going forward. Raised concerns about mirroring the Committee Meeting norms of the Fair, how often to meet, meeting structure around Roberts Rules, note taking, voting.... Group agreed that most Election Committee meetings are task focused, not so much policy or decision making. Jeff agreed to review best practices around committee meetings and start conducting Election Committee meetings around those norms.

Review 2025 Election Approach

The group spent some time talking about the deployment of the 2025 election. Jeff wanted to get the committee's feedback on the good, the bad and the ugly.

- Group felt that there needs to be a better way to communicate what being a voting member means and doesn't mean. GOTV should better explain. That it is for Fair Membership and really just the ability to vote. Group feels that many are not going to vote and don't understand that what is the main and only purpose of the membership registration form.
- Some felt it still would be important to send paper post cards to inform members that the OCF elections will be online.
- Group discussed the need to better detail and improve the Sending and Subject line details. Needs to better show that this is the OCF Election ballot email.
- Discussion around the ElectionBuddy cover letter improvements, voting instructions.....
- The need to continue improving Sunshine to remove manual election prep tasks, including terminations, bylaw requirements, paper ballot requests,.....
- Would it be possible to customize the EB ballot screen to better mirror the OCF look and feel.

Digitizing Voting Member Registration Form/Process

Jeff shared with the group about the project to digitize the Voting Member Registration form. Jeff discussed how that may look, but too early to get into much detail without further work, especially with the SS group. Group discussed concerns about e signatures and the law, posting all and correct personal data by Members, FFN request notice, canceling membership, what is the info the OCF wants and needs only, booth/crew details, Heidi volunteered to work on project.

Membership Bylaws Project

Jeff passed on info about an effort to review and update the bylaws. The effort will mostly focused on Membership bylaws articles. The group did not get into a lot of conversation about the deeper details, was just an introduction to the potential project. Heidi also stated she would like to be part of this effort/project.

Review 2025 Election Volunteer Hours

Jeff shared the excel file that detailed how many volunteer hours each committee member contributed in 2025. He stated that he was not keeping track of the hours very well. He did post what he thought was a fair number of hours for everyone's efforts so far in 2025. He asked each team member to review and let him know if they felt the number of hours was too low.

Elections/Sunshine Needs and Wants

Jeff discussed the need to continue improving SS's election support. He stated that some will come with the Membership Form Digitization project, others will come from issue that surfaced from 2025 election. And some may come from the bylaws project. The issue of having the MS Secretary having the ability to

remove Member Since dates came up. Jeff asked everyone to think about this more and pass thoughts to him.

Voting Results: None - No votes taken

Reports and Documents Introduced: Committee Volunteer Hours

Future Action Steps - Tasks - Calendar or Due dates: See above meeting notes.

Ending Time of Meeting: 8:15pm

Record of Motions Made: None

Draft Agenda for Next Meeting: See above meeting notes