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FAIR FAMILY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 27 Get Out The Vote Candidates Forum, 4 pm, online

OCTOBER

- 1 Guidelines Form Available
- 5 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, via Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube
- 7 Fair Family News deadline for October issue
- 10 Annual Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene and livestreamed on YouTube
- 17 Site walk: Todd Ebens on Ash Inoculation, second year, Saving Legacy Trees, noon, meet at Main Camp; if flooded meet at the HUB
- 17 Ballots due for Board of Directors Election, 8 pm, at the Fair Office, 442 Lawrence (postmarks don't count)
- 18 Board of Directors ballots will be counted; results posted
- 24 Full Moon Spirit Walk, 3 pm, meet at Alice's for walkabout; ceremonial burning of memorial messages, potluck

NOVEMBER

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, via Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube
- 11 Deadline for November issue of Fair Family News
- 15 Deadline for Guidelines Submissions
- 21 Site walk: OCF Wood Debris Management Biochar, Chips & Firewood, Oh my!, noon, meet at Main Camp; if flooded meet at the HUB

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
 Libras!!*



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!

Become a Voting Member of the Fair



Fill out the [Voting Member Registration form](#) and return it to the Fair's Eugene office, or email it to elections@oregoncountryfair.org

Get on the FFN List

Tell us your name and your email address to be notified of the posting of the online version of the newsletter.

Email to: info@oregoncountryfair.org



FFN EQUALS-NOX



Daniel "Companion" Cohn
 norma "peer" sax
 Kim "Doppelganger" Griggs
 Mary "Alter Ego" Doyon
 Suzi "Copy" Prozanski
 Vanessa "Counterpart" Roy
 Alex "Equate" Zabala
 Trisha "Parallel" Burbaum
 Michael "Double" Ottenhausen
 Brad "Match" Lerch



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).



I Endorse Jon Steinhart

Dear Fair Family News:

I would like to encourage the membership to vote for candidate Jon Steinhart. Yes, Jon has in the past been controversial and may still be at times to some. He is also willing to express his opinion. This may offend some, but he does not do it with the intention of offending.

What makes Jon different and adds to the reasons that I support him are: He states his opinions and why he holds that opinion. He often gives references for what he has said and the public source of that information, so you (Fair members) can review. If you disagree, he reminds us all to stick to the issue and what is said, not to attack anyone personally.

He is an OCF Elder and has worked with many of the crews and helped in their functions to make the OCF a success. In fact, he would not be a candidate if he did not have the Oregon Country Fair success as a major personal issue.

In summation; he is a farmer, father, and family man, has extensive business experience personally and with the varied personnel of the OCF and its many crews. He is a member of the OCF IT committee and has expressed that the most important aspect of the OCF is to maintain its financial viability and longevity. He continues to volunteer by running as an OCF Board candidate (that demands dedication!), so VOTE.

*Michael James-Long,
Elder Committee*

Harmony through Sociocracy

Change is a recurring theme in our lives. Albert Einstein said, "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

The OCF shifted from consensus to majority "rules" in 1982. Consensus is a long-wearing process. Majority has winners and losers, pitting people against each other and allowing only a few voices. Consent offers another approach. Consent is an inclusive, equitable, transparent approach to decision-making and project execution, while improving through continuous feedback and evaluation. "Sociocracy" aligns with OCF members' alternative values and pursuit of modeling a countercultural lifestyle, without hierarchy, aggregated power, ego, or conflict.

The Sociocracy / Dynamic Governance model forms overlapping circles of people working together on a project, with unlimited numbers of circles and sub-circles. These circles are made of people doing the actual work. Everyone speaks, opening opportunities to hear the wisdom of quieter voices. Circles have the delegated power to make decisions for their area of responsibility (ie, traffic, registration).

Each circle chooses two representatives to join a Coordinating circle, providing informed decision-making with transparent flow of information from the periphery to the top and back to the periphery. Decisions are made by consent. A clear, quick-moving process of proposal selection, clarification and understanding, addressing concerns, adjusting the proposal, and obtaining consent, without personal preferences or drama.

Lastly, evaluation circles encourage improved performance and personal growth. Sociocracy fits perfectly for the progressive thinkers of the Fair, aligning with cultural and ethical needs; promoting cooperation; providing inclusion, equanimity; and distribution of power.

Visit sociocracyforall.org. Review the learning materials, take classes, and read the books. Let's change the OCF majority governance to sociocracy. Let's do this!

"The only way to make sense of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."-Alan Watts.

*Peggy Renfroe
Elder*



Here Comes the Sun

Quick update from the Inventory crew: A huge shout-out to the Sunshine Database Crew who made it possible for us to check in and wristband all of the Security Crews electronically this year. The search functionality made finding people much easier than previous years and helped us speed up the process at the Sticker Booth.

We're looking forward to a future of faster check-ins for all of Fair Family!

Brittany Baker

Security Wristbanding Crew lead



Annual "Fall Leaves" Full Moon Spirit Walk

by Fair Elders Committee



Lisa Cooley placing the messages in the fire last year.

Please join us at Alice's on Saturday, October 24, at 4 p.m. for the Elders-sponsored Annual Full Moon Spirit Walk, honoring and celebrating those who have left this earthly plane. The building opens at 3 p.m., and all Fair Family members are welcome to attend.

The Fair site is especially magical in late October. Maple, alder, and oak leaves in many sizes and colors grace the paths, while the long light of late afternoon filtering through the trees informs us that endings eventually lead to new

beginnings. It is a fitting time of year to celebrate our departed loved ones.

Together, we will walk about the Fair site to remember and honor Fair Family members connected to specific booths and spaces. After returning to Alice's, we'll share a fall-themed potluck dinner, then gather around the firepit to ceremonially read and burn the beautiful messages Fairgoers left on the Peggy Day Fitzgerald Memorial Kiosk during the 2026 Fair. Attendees may say the names of those they wish to grieve and honor, share stories, and help read messages before placing them in the honorary fire. Remembrances are not lim-

Hello Fair family,

I recently read a poem that hit me hard, so I wanted to share it. The poem is "All've it," the poet is Matt Moberg. Please look it up, read it, let it touch you deeply. *with all the love in the world,*

Sue Theolass

Crafter

Link to the poem: <https://ohbythewayblog.blogspot.com/2026/06/allve-it-by-matt-moberg.html>

ited to Fair Family. The loss of a grandparent, parent, child, sibling, friend, cultural icon... all are invited into the circle.

Details:

- **Saturday, October 24**
- **3-4 p.m. – Gather at Alice's**
- **4 – 5:30 p.m. – Fair walk-about**
- **5:30 p.m. – Potluck**
- **6:15 p.m. – Twilight to dark fire ceremony**

Attendees are welcome to join for all or part of the event. Overnight stays at Alice's are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and camping is also an option. Please bring a fall-themed potluck dish to share.

Not sure where Alice's Wonderland is located? From Suttle Road, turn left on Aero, then left on Chickadee Lane. Look for the Alice's Wonderland sandwich board on the left; The Hub is a bit farther ahead on the right. If parking is full at Alice's, please park at The Hub. Alice's meeting house is next to the big-screen kitchen. Questions? Email eldervolunteers@gmail.com or contact Lisa Cooley at 541-556-5547.



The memorial kiosk covered with messages.

Call for Participation: Alcohol and Drug Recovery Space Task Force

by Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors

At its September 14, 2026, meeting, the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors passed a motion establishing an **Alcohol and Drug Recovery Space Task Force**.

The purpose of the task force is to research, develop, and present a comprehensive proposal for creating a dedicated recovery space during the week of the Oregon Country Fair. The Board is committed to exploring ways to foster a culture of **inclusion, wellness, belonging, and support** for members of the recovery community.

The task force will explore how the Fair can best provide a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for people in recovery from alcohol and other drugs, as well as for those seeking recovery support while attending or participating in the Fair.

What the Task Force Will Do

The task force will be responsible for:

Assessing the needs of the recovery community within the Oregon Country Fair.

Researching best practices from comparable festivals, events, and organizations that provide recovery support spaces.

Identifying potential locations, operational considerations, staffing and volunteer needs, scheduling, accessibility, and resource requirements.

Developing recommendations for partnerships, programming, and meeting formats that foster a safe, welcoming, and recovery-oriented environment.

Evaluating budgetary implications and any necessary policy or operational considerations.

Preparing a written proposal, including recommendations and an implementation plan, for presentation to the Board of Directors within one year of the task force's creation.

Who We are Looking For

We are seeking members who bring **expertise in the field of recovery, peer support, substance use services, lived experience, community care, or related areas, along with a passion for supporting the recovery community**.

If you are interested in joining this task force, please email a **letter of interest** to the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors at ocfbboard@oregoncountryfair.org by **November 1, 2026**.

In your letter, please share a little about your experience, relevant expertise, and why this work is meaningful to you.

We recognize that meaningful community input will be essential to developing a proposal that reflects the experiences and needs of the recovery community. We look forward to bringing together people with knowledge, experience, and passion to help envision a recovery space where people feel **welcomed, supported, safe, and fully part of the Oregon Country Fair community**.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Best Practices Committee Looking for More Members

Best Practices Committee would like you to join us in adding more Fair family to our committee membership. We will be meeting on the third Monday of the month from 7-8:30 pm.

Our work in progress now is hosting open meetings to gather Board Committees' feedback on a proposed BoD motion. We are then working that feedback into a proposal to the BoD.

We will be reviewing the Committee Best Practices

Manual and hope to add new insight.

We will be utilizing fun, creative ways to support our membership sharing their voice with the BoD through committee work.

Please join us at our monthly meetings which are open to all Fair family.

Subscribe to our friends email list to be updated on our ongoing work: Bestpractices@oregoncountryfair.org



Look for Your Ballots and Vote



Everyone can send election questions or request help by emailing elections@oregoncountryfair.org. The Elections Committee will be present at the Eugene Fair office on October 10, prior to the Annual Membership Meeting to help you with your ballots. They will be available from 4 to 5:30 pm to provide help and answer questions.

The Committee will not be at the Unitarian Universalist Church during the Annual Meeting; however, you can drop off your paper ballots at the meeting.

This will be a hybrid election. The majority of registered Fair Voters will receive their ballot in their email inbox. Those without email access will receive a paper ballot in the mail.

BALLOTS ARE DUE BY 8 PM ON OCTOBER 17!

Membership Meeting Agenda

Welcome/Agenda Review – AJ Jackson, President
 State of the Peach – Kirsten Bolton, Executive Director
 Treasurer's Report/Annual Financial Report – Hilary Anthony
 Feedback Report - Pam Tyrell
Candidate Presentations
 Conclusion – AJ Jackson, President

Candidate Presentations Format:

- Each Candidate has 6 minutes to use as they please
- A Candidate can invite questions from the attendees
- If audience has a question, raise your hand
- Facilitator will moderate hands
- Facilitator will provide a 30-second signal that the 6 minutes is nearly up

2026 OCF Candidate List

Tierra "Sunny" Arthurs
 Sandra Bauer
 Roman Hargrave
 Anthony "AJ" Jackson
 Felicia Kirsch
 Jon Pincus
 Peggy Renfro
 Ann Bennett Rogers
 Jon Steinhart
 Teresa Vaughn
 Candidates from the Floor

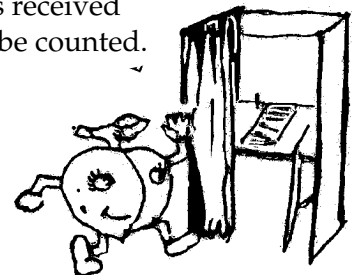
Annual Membership Meeting

October 10 at 6:30pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
1685 W 13th Ave., Eugene

All members are welcome to attend in person. Speakers that are not available to attend in person will join the meeting using Zoom. We will live-stream the meeting on YouTube. Please plan on watching the meeting on YouTube if you cannot attend in person.

OCF Election Schedule

- September 27, 4 pm – Get Out The Vote Candidates Forum
 Send your questions for candidates to gotv@oregoncountryfair.org by 10 am on Friday, September 25.
- October 1 – If you haven't received your ballot by this date, we may not have your correct address or you may not be on the voting member list. Contact elections@oregoncountryfair.org as soon as possible to check on your ballot.
- October 10, 6:30 pm – Annual Membership Meeting. The agenda will include the State of the Peach, the Treasurers' report and Board candidate statements.
 The meeting will be held in person at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene. There will be a YouTube livestream to view the meeting.
- Elections Committee will be at the Eugene office from 4 pm-5:30 pm. Please come to the Eugene office if you need help with a replacement ballot. You can drop off your ballot at the meeting.
- October 17, 8 pm – BALLOTS ARE DUE at the Fair office, 442 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97401. Ballots received after this time will not be counted.
- October 18 – Ballots will be counted, with results posted upon completion.



Tierra “Sunny” Arthurs



Tierra “Sunny” Arthurs
tierrasunshine82@gmail.com

I am running for the Board to help steward our organization in a direction that serves our entire community and endures for future generations. I believe that a healthy organization is an ecosystem where leaders serve to support the needs of members at every level. My focus is on membership-driven decision making that furthers humanistic sustainability. We are our greatest resource.

I know the Oregon Country Fair well, and I want to protect its future. During my 10 years on security, 15 years as the Entertainment Camp Host and 2.5 years as an Event Manager for the Oregon Country Fair, I learned that it is each of you who make OCF home. I have seen this organization from every vantage point. I value every role membership plays in making this event transformative. From booths, crews, elders, youth, staff, new volunteers to seasoned ones - we are all part of our sustainable growth and collective future.

I spent my 20s and 30s building a complex, mission-driven organization. As President and Event Director for Emerald City Roller Derby, I participated in the transition to a 501(c)(3) and managed the first certified sustainable sporting event on the West Coast. I received extensive training on creating humanistically sustainable practices for grassroots, membership-driven organizations and events. I learned that sustainability from a volunteer perspective includes clear policies and procedures with respect to access, equity and belonging.

Strategic Pillars

1. Standardizing Stakeholder Input

At times we have grown “too big, too fast,” sometimes resulting in decision-making that is short-sighted. I will advocate for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and policies that bring in stakeholder input at every major decision point. We must slow down to ensure our process matches our purpose.

2. Psycho-Spiritual Rejuvenation

I propose we re-integrate “psycho-spiritual rejuvenation” into our cultural story and re-center this goal in our decision making. This is not merely a phrase; it is about nurturing the healing, joy and inspiration the Oregon Country Fair sparks within all us and keeps us coming back. It also speaks to supporting the desire in our youth to engage while honoring our provenance and the guidance of our elders. I’ll work on bridging the “uncomfortable rub” between generations by creating formal spaces for mentorship and “Oral History” integration into our staff and coordinator training.

The choice to give our time and creativity to OCF without remuneration is what makes this place so unique and is the key behind “Fair Magic.” It is something far beyond concepts of “buy-in” or blind faith. I recently asked folks to offer a sentiment that captures the essence behind why we choose to give service to the fair. The Elders I spoke with all replied with the same enthusiastic response: “Psycho-Spiritual Rejuvenation!” It reminded me that our community has long thought about its purpose, and getting back to that vital purpose is key to our longevity.

3. Equitable Infrastructure & Grievance Reform

I truly believe with all of my heart that most of us arrived here with the best of intentions. Just like other grassroots collaborative efforts, we were not trained how to create policy around access, equity, and belonging. We are trying and learning as we go.

Yet our current policies and procedures around how we govern ourselves are not adequately meeting our needs. It is a common misstep for grass roots organizations to ask diverse communities to create their own policies. But structures to support the well-being, inclusivity and safety of membership cannot be viewed as optional or the job of membership alone. To address this, I will champion:

- Clearly Defined Pathways: Transparent timelines and procedures for grievances.
- Policy Templates, Guidelines and Resources: Providing “jump-off points” for inclusivity and growing diversity so that the burden of architecture does not fall on diverse community members.
- Equitable Budgeting: Allocation of community resources that reflect our whole community with fairness and equity as the bedrock of that decision making.

With these pillars I hope to bring a humanistic approach to true sustainability. I love this community. I cherish this place. The Oregon Country Fair gave me the room to grow, to learn, and eventually, to lead. I am offering different approaches to concepts that have carried value in our family since our inception. With love and respect for our founders. I ask for your vote to help finesse our operations and ensure our mission statement remains a living, breathing reality for every member.

Sandra Bauer



Sandra Bauer
Sanbauer@aol.com

I am asking for your vote because I believe deeply in what the Oregon Country Fair is, what it has built over fifty-seven years, and what it still has the responsibility to become.

Most people who encounter the Fair see three magical days in July. What I see, as someone who has spent years in this community as one of the original core group of founders who celebrated when we got our 100th booth - is the other 362 days. The Fair exists because thousands of people choose, year after year, to give their time, skill, and heart to something bigger than themselves. Everything the Fair accomplishes is because people believe this place is worth their labor of love, and the community we build together.

Education has always been important at the Fair. We educate the public and each other about sustainable living, about art and the value of handcrafted goods, about alternative energies, about the archaeology, about community organizations, about community-building outside the traditional market economy. We need to constantly update education at the fair so this last year I led our newly established Educational Grants program, created to enhance and expand the Fair's educational offerings during the Fair. This last year we funded educational projects in Energy Park, The Oasis and Archaeology.

Our three Philanthropic funds direct our philanthropy dollars to organizations working on social justice and equity, environmental protection, community social programs, and educational programs in our neighboring schools and to other non-profits who do work in concert with our values. I led the updating of the Board Giving Grants so that our annual grants would be in larger, more significant amounts, rather than in smaller scattered gifts. This allows that funding to create a far more substantial impact. This year's focus was on Social Justice and Social Inequity.

I believe in policy that is consistent and consistently applied across thousands of volunteers and staff, so people know what to expect and can trust the process. Inclusion and belonging is important to the organization, grounded in the understanding that an organization committed to inclusion must first build an inclusive community within its own culture. We continue to educate ourselves on how to do the work to get this right and to bring the training to everyone.

Some of my work on the board includes serving as co-chair of the Fixed Assets Committee, where we have focused on maintaining and updating our fixed assets. I chair the Personnel Policy Committee, which keeps our employee manual current and fair for staff. I have managed the Executive Director evaluation process on behalf of the board for several years, working closely with an outside HR firm we retained to help shape and carry it out. I have also served as the board's liaison to the Budget Committee for six years.

One of the board's most important responsibilities is fiduciary. The Budget Committee is a careful steward of our finances, and the board is responsible for reviewing and approving that work. That same fiduciary responsibility extends to the infrastructure that supports it all — water, power, roads, structures, and IT and Internet access, including the reliable connectivity our vendors need to run their booths — systems that were built for a much smaller and simpler operation than the one we run today. Meeting the Fair's current scale and safety needs means budgeting seriously for those upgrades.

Fifty-seven years of community, generosity, and values - a spirit of whimsy, costumes, wandering performers, and handcrafted artistry and great food around every corner - built this Fair, and it is now up to us to make sure the people and the structures that sustain it are ready for what comes next. I would be honored to earn your vote to keep doing this work alongside all of you.

Roman Hargrave



Roman Hargrave
(541) 357-7499
ocf@hargrave.info

The importance of the OCF was immediately obvious to me upon first encounter. We have the unique and precious opportunity to invite our guests to an experience - a situation - that breaks prevailing narratives, and that we have the resources to do so accessibly, at this scale, and with regularity is rare. Such happenings have been and will continue to be of utmost social importance, and we must be judicious to ensure that we are able to fulfill the need for such well in to the future, as I believe we presently do and can play a greater role in shaping the future we want for the world around us.

In my (thus far) short time here, I have been privileged to interact with a number of different crews and management, and to better understand how they work and to a certain degree what challenges they face. I recognize and appreciate the hard work that many of us put in to making this event happen: in many cases, we ask a lot of our volunteers - be it to deploy their skilled trades as plumbers, carpenters, electricians, beekeepers, mechanics, cooks, bakers, horticulturists, arborists, nurses, accountants, and so forth, or to do difficult - even hazardous - jobs which can be hard to staff in the outside world. We owe it to our volunteers to respect their contributions both in how we as family treat one-another, as coordinators in equitably staffing our crews, and as directors in the decisions we make about how to allocate our limited resources. It is these things in particular - mutual respect and resource management - that have most moved me to run. Albeit that I may be one of the least tenured candidates running in this election,

I feel that I can offer an unburdened but ideologically- and mission-aligned perspective to the board. I strive to bring my best self to interactions and to avoid letting preconceptions cloud my treatment of others or the outcomes of my decision making. I think that at any level we can not allow for ego, emotions, and petty disagreements to interfere with our ability to make the most optimal decisions.

Whirlwind stance summary:

- **Population & Resources, Sustainability:** In the weeks surrounding the event, not to mention the event itself, we bring a lot of people together, and we ask a lot of the land, our infrastructure, and each-other. Amidst all of the excitement and business, we must conduct ourselves in a sustainable manner. "Sustainable" here is used in the holistic sense: we must be respectful of the the land, as it is a key aspect of our identity as an organization and event; we must be considerate of the volume and contents of our waste streams; and that we operate in a manner that allows for continued maintenance of our facilities and to put on the next event.
- **DEI:** As an organization with counter-culture roots, it is a service to our past, present, and future that we foster an inclusive, welcoming, and non-toxic environment regardless of the identity of any party to an interaction. Whilst I think we are generally aligned with that, and I have witnessed some of the most exemplary interpersonal behavior at the OCF, there is always room for growth. I would be interested to bolster our code of conduct, would support any effort to improve our implementation thereof, and would more generally support any other such similar efforts.
- **Others:** the above two are those which immediately come to mind; however, I would be happy to discuss any matter which you are curious about. I have made contact information available for this purpose, and am most responsive by email, secondarily SMS.

About me:

I am a software engineer professionally, with experience beyond simply technical matters including software architecture, project management, and soft skills such as interviewing and mentoring. I have many hobbies among which I count photography, electronics, reverse engineering, baking, fragrance, gardening, and general tinkering. I work on Sunshine.

Anthony (AJ) Jackson



Anthony (AJ) Jackson
aj.ocf2020@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Oregon Country Fair Community,

Serving as your Vice President and President over the past six years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. This organization has profoundly shaped my journey and inspired countless others. Through periods of celebration, challenge, change, and growth, I have been constantly reminded that the true strength of the Fair lies in its people. Every decision, conversation, and success has been made possible by the passion, generosity, and dedication of this incredible community.

During my time serving this organization, our Board has worked intentionally to transition into a stronger governance board. While this process has presented challenges, it has been essential. We have focused on clarifying the Board's role in providing long-term vision, sound financial stewardship, and organizational accountability, while empowering our staff and volunteers to lead operations. This work has strengthened our organization and fostered a healthier partnership between governance and operations, establishing a solid foundation for the Fair's future.

I am particularly proud of our progress toward creating greater equity within our volunteer community. The Oregon Country Fair thrives because thousands of volunteers dedicate their time, creativity, and energy. Every volunteer deserves to be treated with fairness, consistency, and respect. Together, we have taken significant steps to improve policies, increase transparency, and create more equitable opportunities for participation and leadership across the organization.

At the same time, this work remains an ongoing commitment. Like many organizations, we continue to address complex questions regarding how we build a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and positioned to thrive. I am proud that the Board has embraced its responsibility to lead these conversations, establish clear priorities, and support meaningful change with humility, active listening, and courage.

Looking ahead to another term, my primary goal is to support and develop the next generation of Fair leadership. A successful organization must cultivate new leaders who bring fresh perspectives while honoring our core values and traditions. I believe my experience can provide stability during this transition while making space for emerging voices. True leadership is about preparing others to lead when their time comes.

For more than five decades, the Oregon Country Fair has evolved while remaining rooted in creativity, community, stewardship, and joyful expression. I am excited about our trajectory and believe our best years are still ahead.

The success of the 2026 Fair is a beautiful testament to what we can accomplish together. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our exceptional staff, the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy, our artisans, entertainers, food booth operators, crews, and everyone who helped create this year's event. Your dedication is the reason the Fair continues to inspire generations.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve as your President, and I am deeply grateful for your trust. I would be honored to continue serving on the Board of Directors as we build on our progress, support new leadership, and ensure the Oregon Country Fair continues to flourish.

Sincerely,

Anthony (AJ) Jackson

Felicia Kirsch



Felicia Kirsch
felicia@oregoncountryfair.org

It has been an honor to serve on the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors after being appointed to fill the vacancy following the passing of a beloved board member. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I am asking for your vote to continue that service in an elected term.

My involvement with the Fair extends beyond the Board. Over the years, I have worked in food booths and currently help build the Farside Campground. Those experiences have given me a deeper appreciation for the work, dedication, and collaboration that make the Oregon Country Fair possible.

As a small business owner, I bring practical experience that directly supports the work of the Board. I regularly review contracts and leases, oversee accounting and payroll, manage budgets, and make financial decisions that require both immediate problem-solving and long-term planning. That experience has taught me to look closely at the details, ask questions when something doesn't make sense and understand the consequences of the commitments we make.

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to protect the financial health of the Fair, but our responsibility extends beyond finances. We are also stewards of the organization, its values, its community, and the land that makes the Fair possible. As our climate continues to change, we need to prepare to change

with it and must have a plan to keep the Oregon Country Fairgrounds vibrant and healthy. This includes having a strategic plan for when we lose portions of our canopy to the Emerald Ash Borer.

If the Emerald Ash Borer continues to move at its natural rate, we will see it reach the Fairgrounds within the next seven years and potentially much sooner if transported by human activity. I attended several Emerald Ash Borer Task Force work groups. I am excited about the direction the Fair is taking with the Sapling Stewardship Program and its focus on identifying, protecting, and nurturing the young trees that are already naturally establishing themselves on the Fairgrounds. At the same time, we need a plan in place for the time in between the loss of significant, mature Oregon ash trees and when the younger trees are large enough to replace the canopy. Maintaining shade is essential, not only to protect the underlying vegetation and the health of our ecosystem, but also to preserve the character, comfort and quality of the Fair.

During my time on the Board, I participated in the OCF True Allyship training. One of the most important things I took away from the experience is the understanding that I can do better and that so many of us can do better. Growth begins with being willing to listen, learn, reflect and sometimes challenge our own assumptions. Individually, our knowledge is limited. Collectively, there is something divine in what we can create.

As the Fair continues to grow, we must make sure our infrastructure grows with it. That means understanding the true capacity of our property, identifying aging systems before they fail and developing a long-term capital plan that prioritized replacement, accessibility, and resilience. Our responsibility isn't simply to maintain the Fair we inherited; it is to leave the next generation a Fair that is healthy, sustainable and prepared for its future.

I value respectful dialogue, listening to diverse perspectives and working collaboratively to find practical solutions. My goal is to help ensure that the Oregon Country Fair remains financially sound, environmentally responsible, and true to the creativity, community, and values that have made it so special.

I have truly loved serving on this Board and being part of the work that helps shape the future of our Fair. It would be an honor to earn your vote and the opportunity to continue serving this community that means so much to me. I am committed to helping ensure that the Oregon Country Fair we love continues to thrive for generations to come.

Jon Pincus



Jon Pincus
jpincus24@gmail.com

Hi Family,

My name is Jon Pincus.

I am running for the board because I think we need to get a little closer to the original values that have brought us together to make the Oregon Country Fair year after year. Those values have always included a commitment to advancing social justice, conscious stewardship of our beautiful land by working within nature rather than trying to dominate it, a collaborative approach to our work, and equity among those who do the work.

Our Fair is supported by a wonderful small paid staff and is brought to fruition annually by thousands of volunteers. In the end it is the volunteers, together with our awesome crafters and artists of every type, that create the Fair that thousands of ticket holders experience. Walking the paths during Fair our visitors get to feel part of that community, even if just for few hours. They can feel it! My feeling is that our Fair needs our volunteers booth folks, performers and members to play a far greater role in the Fair's decision making processes if we are to keep that essential sense of community.

The other critical element in the Fair experience is our wonderful forested site. In the next few years we will need to be ready to meet the challenges of the potential arrival of EAB on our site. The sensitivity, knowledge, and preparation we bring to the task of maintaining the Fair experience and our community will determine our success. One thing I do know is that success in responding to EAB and our other tough challenges will require the participation of the entire Fair family. I know we can succeed because we are "One Creative Family".

Jon Pincus,

Current OCF Service:

EAB Task Force, Path Planning Committee, Committees Best Practices Committee, Elder, I have been working with Site Crew in recent years.

Previous OCF Service: first volunteer year 1970, Water Crew Co-coordinator, Water Barrels Coordinator, Quartermaster, Construction Desk Representative, Intergenerational Task Force, Board of Directors (two terms)

In the "UnFair" world I am a semi-retired designer with an emphasis on historic preservation, retired event producer and facility manager.

If you think I can help on the OCF Board of Directors please vote for me. Most of all, please remember that we can only keep this beautiful dream going together.

Peggy Renfroe



Peggy Renfroe
peggylourenfroe@gmail.com

I was twenty-seven and new to Eugene when a friend invited me to the OCF. He managed to talk to someone who let us in. We built our camp deep in a blackberry patch behind a teepee. To find my way back to our camp, I wandered lost while totally in awe of the scene. It was then that I realized that this was a community that I wanted to be part of.

I volunteered with security and worked in several booths. In the eighties, I helped Michael Went construct the horse corral, which is still standing. I practiced Reiki, the healing arts, and measured auras with a dowsing rod in my booths, and now I am an Elder.

I am an artist. I have worked in the healing arts for thirty years, including hospice care, before retiring. I have always been an assertive advocate devoted to helping folks unable to stand up for themselves. I have accomplished hard tasks through determination alone. I have been a Hoedad tree planter and worked other manual labor jobs. I love nature, especially the part that relates to the Kalapuya land where we gather each year.

I served with two non-profits in the past. Currently, I am studying the requirements for state non-profits and, of course, the OCF guidelines.

You may ask why I am running for the board. I will say initially that I am devoted to the well-being of the OCF and the family we have created. It seems

to me that there are issues that need to be readdressed. Perhaps we should reexamine the policies that have guided us. There is a need to look at the policies that have led us to where we are now.

In the 80s, Robert DeSpain joined others in implementing the community-building practices that Marshall Landman had used to establish the Community Village. Those were days when there was a kind of harmony that has changed a bit. An amendment was added to the bylaws in 2012, allowing members to be removed. The list of those expelled, banned, or left because of toxicity has grown long and heartbreaking. Forty years before the amendment, there was only one expulsion. Many of those named are founders. Family who have dedicated their hearts and souls to the OCF. They are not disposable volunteers. However, I have noticed that entire crews seem to be missing - Archaeology and DEI issues come to mind. Several crafters have similar complaints. The monetization and digitization are ostracizing a portion of our members. As an OCF board member, I would seek solutions to meet those needs. In the early days, there was a caveat to offer suggestions to fix "wrongs". Now it's confusing to speak of change because avenues don't appear so easily.

I would like to see the OCF facilitate community-building workshops that might help unite the Fair and assist in developing a reparative process to heal some of the rifts, eliminate stifling policies, and advance a well-thought-out transformation back to unity and collaboration. Hybrid board meetings are essential for inclusivity and the community aspect. I would like to see potlucks and for membership to have monthly hybrid meetings, similar to the board meetings, beyond the annual membership meeting. We can initiate change by working together to build a stronger community with transparency.

All of our voices are important, and we need to hear each other in ways that utilize our communal resources and our ability to work together to unify our Family. We did it before, and with a blueprint from the past, we can do it again. I can help with the reparative process. Please help me reunite our family.

Ann Bennett Rogers



Ann Bennett Rogers
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I am running for the Board of Directors of the Oregon Country Fair because stewardship of our land is my passion. I contribute to the Fair's non-profit 501(c)(3) status by promoting educational participatory activities. Specifically, I prepare the exhibit in Ark Park and helped to develop with Stewardship the Passport program to which Ark Park is an active participant. My personal and professional life provides me with skills and knowledge that can contribute to the wellbeing and health of the Fair. My Fair involvement is year-round, and I see the land in all of the seasons. I am a member of Path Planning and Elders Committees as well as on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) task force. I attend other committee meetings as my schedule allows. Our committees include individuals who bring skills to the table who often provide specialized knowledge to assist policy and operations.

Our land is facing many challenges with climate change and the threat of the EAB. It is important as stewards of the land to employ the best scientifically based ecological knowledge and attempt to set the highest standards. As a member of the EAB task force we are developing strategies to address the numerous areas of the Fair and work within our Fair values. I bring to that group my background in environmental planning and awareness of the opportunities that will help us to address this issue as well as other ecological stewardship issues including maintaining the health of our riparian buffers and stewarding

all of our properties.

Our population and attendance caps are a mix of significant intertwined issues which also fit into stewardship as we have a desire to not love our Fair to death. We rely on volunteers, as do many non-profit organizations. We also rely on an event to produce our working revenue income. The importance of our entertainers, crafters and food booths cannot be understated. These groups are the reasons people return year after year. The trick is to find the sweet spot where our goals are met and we preserve the health of our land, support our and respect our volunteers, entertainers, crafters and food booths. In some instances, this may involve re-orienting our understanding of long-standing practices to ensure our revenues and our impact upon the land and to keep us on a healthy path with respect of our Fair family.

In addition, to having served previously on the Board of the Fair, I have been involved in a number of other non-profit organizations. I have volunteered and served on the Boards of the Association of Oregon Archaeologists and Fair Family Radio. I have served on a committee for the Oregon Community Fund where I had the opportunity to learn many organizational skills that have enhanced my participation in all types of organizations. Currently I also volunteer with the Springfield based Cascade Volunteers

I bring an understanding of diversity issues based on life experiences and formal trainings including yearly trainings on civil rights and diversity issues. My work and life experiences have included tribal consultations, ADA issues, working with immigrants, and working in programs to repair racially discriminatory policies that had been structured to deny BI-POC groups access to government programs. As a member of the former Diversity Committee, we wrote the statements in solidarity for Black, Asian Americans lives. How one addresses these DEI issues in a non-threatening manner is important in moving forward. We must honor diversity and recognize humanity.

Please consider voting for me, and I will do the best to help keep the Oregon Country Fair sustainable and honoring the overarching issues of the 1960s that originally brought the Fair into existence. I know about the Fair's dirt. I have read the soil survey and soil testing reports. Our soil is not healthy. Let's make our soil healthy through stewardship and the health of the Fair will fall into place. As others have written: "creation is worth conserving and stewardship is an act of gratitude."

No portion of this document was created by Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Jon Steinhart



Jon Steinhart
ocfbod@fourwinds.com

I started volunteering at the Fair more than three decades ago drawn by the mission of educating the public about alternatives to the mainstream. This connected me to the amazing crazy creative community that comes together every year to make the event happen. It also got me involved with the smaller community of folks who volunteer year-round. While never in my life plan, one thing lead to another and I'm finishing up a term on the board. I'm asking for your vote for one more term so that I can continue to help our organization thrive in these difficult times.

I ran last time to get things done for the good of our organization, not to be a figurehead. The record shows my success. Not by acting alone, but by collaborating, as it takes a minimum of eight votes to pass a motion.

During this term, I initiated work including the privacy policy, EDIB Work Group, eliminating late fees on passes, bringing amplified sound into balance and updating our Bylaws for the on-line era. I worked with management and other Coordinators to edit the Guidelines for clarity and consistency and got them divided into two booklets saving paper.

I contributed to the Community Support process, the Committees in Good Standing policy, and the Committee Videos policy.

I participated in the board giving and educational programming grant work including funding Conflict Restorative Skill Building at the OASIS and Country Phair Physics in Energy Park.

I believe in addressing issues when they arise; kicking them down the road just makes things harder for everybody. I've spent much of my current term playing catch-up on several that had become nigh intractable. If re-elected, I want to focus on what I see as one of the board's main roles which is planning.

There are a number of challenges ahead for the Fair. These include significant expenses on the horizon to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer. Climate change is requiring us to provide more shade and dust control. We have a large number of unfunded capital improvement projects. Members asked us to work toward a carbon-neutral event, but that work hasn't been funded. And we're hitting the limits of growth; we can't easily expand while keeping it a walking event. We need to be thinking about the best uses of our resources.

I believe that all Fair participants should be treated equitably and work to craft policies accordingly. Given that we've grown to the point where we don't all know everybody else I support uniform policies so that it's not all about who you know.

I constantly solicit member input to inform policy discussions. We're a large organization and everybody counts.

I prefer to work in the background without drama. One of the things that I've learned during this term is how difficult that is.

Separate from my board service, I'm also the Coordinator for Sunshine which is likely the most insanely complex and ambitious volunteer project ever done at the Fair. It's clunky because it was produced practically overnight to meet an emergency need. There's still a lot of work to do and I apologize for any difficulty that it's caused. But, I'm proud of the work my crew has done. Taking credit cards for pass purchases has made everybody's life easier. Sunshine has improved our ability to do financial planning and manage our resources. It's made it much easier to become a Fair member. And, because I started planning for it years ago, was a key part in enabling us to move to hybrid elections which is saving us a lot of money that we can use for other priorities. We did a very successful trial of paperless registration this year.

I also recruited people with the skill to do our sound monitoring which helps us stay in compliance with county regulations and developed a capital project request for fiber internet which was approved.

Being a director has it's challenges. It's heartbreaking making decisions that are in the best interests of the organization knowing that not everybody is going to be happy. And it's frustrating when confidentiality prevents debunking misinformation.

I believe that our organization is best served by a board with a diverse set of skills. My dedication, work ethic, forward-looking attention to detail, technology/business skills, and collaboration have shown their value this term. Vote for me if you think that they're still needed so that the board can do the business magic that supports our glorious event magic.

Teresa Vaughn



Teresa Vaughn
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You might reasonably wonder, “Why would anyone want to serve on the Board?” That’s a fair question. Have you been to a Board meeting?

For me, the answer is easy. Every Thursday night before the Fair opens, I walk the grounds and marvel at what we’ve created together. Thousands of people are there—not because they’re being paid, but because they care. They bring their time, talent, sweat, creativity, and love to build something that exists for just a few extraordinary days. Everywhere I look, people are putting the finishing touches on their booth, their stage, their art installation, their camp. The excitement is palpable in the details: a final brushstroke of paint, a carefully hung banner, a shared laugh between neighbors who haven’t seen each other since last year. People beam with pride as they show off what they’ve built, greet old friends, and help neighboring crews finish the last few details. That extraordinary sense of pride, ownership, and shared purpose is something I’ve never experienced anywhere else. We are a truly unique organization.

One of the clearest reminders of why the Fair matters comes from watching my nephew, Isaac. Every year he leaves the Fair inspired to create more joy, more whimsy, and more spaces where people are celebrated for all their gifts—especially the wonderfully weird ones. When he told me he wanted to spend the rest of the year paying forward what he receives at the Fair, I realized that’s the real magic of this place. For generations, people have come to the Fair to

renew themselves, then carried that inspiration home to their families, communities, and the world beyond the gates.

I’ve been fortunate to contribute to the Fair in many different ways over the years. I spent more than twenty years as Spoken Word Stage Manager, coordinating sound and emcees at the Front Porch, Rabbit Hole, Spirit Tower, and Chez Ray’s. In my early years I served on Security Path Rove, and today I coordinate decorations for the Still Living Room. This year, one of my favorite projects was creating the peach luminaries—tributes to those founders, loved ones, and others who helped “light the way” and whose contributions continue to shape the Fair.

For the past three years, I’ve also had the privilege of serving on the Board and on the Fixed Assets, Bylaws, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, and Philanthropy committees. That work has given me a much deeper understanding of both the opportunities and the challenges of stewarding an organization as unique and complex as ours.

Community isn’t something I experience only at the Fair. I live on a commune in Northwest Washington and served for many years as president of the Evergreen Land Trust. Between that experience, 44 years of teaching fifth grade and middle school math, and three years on the Fair Board, I’ve had plenty of practice with collaboration, problem-solving, budgets, governance, and the sometimes complicated work of finding common ground. I retired from teaching this year, which means I now have more time and energy to devote to the work of the Fair.

I want to help protect this tradition, which is why I’m asking for your vote. I’m excited to help carry forward the important work we’re doing around equity and belonging, while also helping the Fair prepare for long-term challenges like climate change and the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer, expanding philanthropy and educational opportunities, and ensuring the Fair remains financially strong through thoughtful governance and budget oversight. Bylaws, budgets, and governance may never be as visible as a giant puppet or a stilt walker, but they are what make the magic possible year after year.

Every Thursday before the gates open, I’m reminded of what this community can accomplish together. I would be honored to help protect it for generations to come.



TRUE FAIRY TALES



How I Learned to Pass It on to the Next Generation

by Laurie Childers, Elder, formerly Stage Left Crew

Once a group entity is more than a few decades old, the issue of longevity begins to arise. I've served on boards of directors for nonprofits large and small, once lived in an intentional community, and belong to a Quaker meeting. I've observed that as founders get older and eventually die, the average age of the group rises and rises, and pretty soon the decision making among the greying hairs includes, "How do we attract younger members? How do we stay relevant for the next generation?"

I learned how in an unusual context. There are two principles to remember, and a third that might be just as crucial.

For two decades, I worked on a crew that created an original stage set for an original vaudeville production at the Oregon Country Fair, a three-day public festival, each summer. The outdoor set was roughly 45 ft wide and 16 ft tall; the stage floor much wider to accommodate a live band.

In the beginning, when the stage was smaller, one person (an old friend) created something rudimentary. Because the Fair's vaudeville shows made me laugh so profoundly, I begged to help, and he took me on as Art Slave. Within a week he promoted me to Co-Artistic Director. The crew grew over some years to consist of seven people who earned overnight camping passes for the Fair. The work was challenging as well as



The Krewe d'Arte volunteers erect the backdrop for Stage Left 2026: (from left): Amelia Burke-Holt, Miranda Erlich (white pants, face hidden behind backdrop), Samantha Walter, Forest Giardina, Lila Kaye, Nachi de Lange.



Nachi de Lange (left) and Amelia Burke-Holt paint flats backstage for "HatsOff!" for Stage Left 2026.

creatively delightful. Often, I was asked to make large props: one year I made nine bananas that were six feet tall and weighed more than seven pounds each.

Out of eventual necessity (ahem) we reorganized. (The crew founder called it the Bloodless Coup.)

We rotated design leadership among we three main artists each year. The rest would take on delegated creative tasks. We also helped the Fair by making changes that reduced costs. This worked beautifully for about 10 years.

However, we were getting into our 40s and the work was physically demanding. The stage flats were heavy and dangerous to lift into place. We decided to allocate one of our seven passes to a young person each year to help out.

The first was a nephew of one of our artists. He

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Stage Left volunteers (from left) Julia Selker, (unknown visitors in background), Lila Kaye, and Samantha Walter start erecting the 2023 Stage Left backdrop.

was disappointingly flaky, and didn't show up when we needed him most for Takedown Monday. We tried some other young fellow the next year who also proved flaky. The third year, we took on a young woman who grew up loving our shows. She was much better, but sometimes not around when we suddenly needed her.

By the next year, my daughter (herself devoted to the Fair) was 15. She had a friend who'd designed sets for their high school theater productions. Amelia was 16 when I first brought her on under a Teen Crew pass. Because there were two teens around, their other high school friends came to visit and we sometimes had helpful extra hands. It was like magic. The next year I took on another teen or two and made it official.

Instead of our single young person wandering off in search of desirable companionship, their friends were coming to us. Thus, the first principle I learned: **Critical Mass**. To diversify, make the effort to find not just one of what your group is missing, but try for at least three. No one wants to feel like a token who is either ignored or superficially used. We all want to feel supported, surrounded by buddies who understand our sense of humor.

As our older crew members retired or moved on, and the young teens became eligible for adult passes, they officially joined the crew. We re-named ourselves

the Krewe d'Arte. Amelia entered Southern Oregon University for a degree in Theater Set Design and Construction. She had professors who envied her position on our Krewe. She brought technical know-how and greatly expanded the design possibilities.

One year, as we were having breakfast on-site before beginning the day's work, Amelia announced, "I had a life-changing revelation last night." She had our full attention! "Well, since the career I'm going into involves theater set design and construction, and every show means about two months' commitment, I'll have a fairly flexible schedule. This means I'll always be able to do the Oregon Country Fair!"

By then I was the last of my generation on the Krewe and thrilled by Amelia's desire for long-term involvement. Over several years, I made a point of introducing Amelia to people who worked on the crews that built our stage structure and managed other tangential aspects. I became eligible for a Fair Elder pass when I turned 55 and had accumulated 20 years of documented work on a volunteer crew. That year Amelia turned 21. She brought in friends from the theater tech department to serve on the Krewe d'Arte. I saw how they had vocabulary such as "proud" when the Masonite layer sticks out over the frame, and "shy" when it backs up a bit, so that one could create smooth corners. It was clear they were way more qualified than we ever were. And her designs were astoundingly, exhilaratingly, outside the box.

Which brings me to the second principle: **Prepare to Cheerfully Relinquish Control**. Be ready to hand over



Foest Giardina and Graham Jones paint the finishing details on the Stage Left backdrop for 2025.

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authority and control when the right person arrives, has the desire, and understands the needs. For the latter to happen, actively pass on information and contacts over time. Don't wait until you are burned out, exhausted, or somehow incapable to seek new leadership. (Trust me, you are likely to scare away your next generation if you wait so long.) Understand that the ways you were taught aren't necessarily that excellent. Allow people to do things differently, and they might well be better.

At lunch pre-Fair that transition year, I ended up telling two of the Construction Crew leaders what I'd learned about Critical Mass, and how I was managing the transition. (One was also chair of the Fair's Board.) Rather than run off to the Art Barn at the other end of the Fair site, I worked on an independent art project in the seating area near the stage, with my back to the set. I wanted Amelia to succeed, not test her.

I told her that I was nearby in case she needed me, but that I totally trusted her and her crew. Only twice did she come up and ask if I could phone Quartermaster or Construction for a ladder or some needed material. Both times I pulled out my phone and said, "I'll give you their phone number so that you can call this time and every time in the future." The transition was so far smooth and stress-free.

Kirk and Jack put their hands together in front of their chests and started bowing to me, over and over. "Thank you, thank you, thank you! You are the first crew to hand it over to the next generation, and NOT take it back!"

That surprised and saddened me then. But in the 12 years since, I painfully experienced a statewide non-profit, many vibrant decades old (whose focus was nonviolence!) fail because of the inability of a few of the stalwarts to welcome in the next generation and support their heartfelt, intelligent, creative work. We lost these fabulous young adults despite great effort on the part of many of us who actively supported them. It appears that some elders have been waiting for a younger person to follow them around to imitate their work style exactly for the ensuing decades. (Take note: This is not going to

happen.) Meanwhile those same elders apparently felt it was their duty to doubt and criticize in excess every difference in style or content. Fearing cultural evolution is fearing life itself.

How ironic that many in the generation that rebelled in the '60s and '70s forgot how their elders criticized and resisted their honest efforts for changes for a better world. Because the younger generation includes people who

(an extra hooray here!) come from different backgrounds than the WASP straight cisgender dominant-culture elders, things are likely to look and feel a little different. I recognize that as a vibrant sign of health.

There's a post-script to the Krewe d'Arte story. Amelia didn't just populate the Krewe with her twenty-something peers. She immediately allocated one of the seven passes to her father, who is full of creativity and contributes much. Thirteen years later I still camp with them



Amelia Burke-Holt (left) and Julia Selker prep backdrop details for the 2023 Stage Left "Launderland" show.

backstage, although my primary volunteer work has shifted. If I'm available and the Krewe d'Arte can use the extra help, I happily pitch in. Our backstage community is beautifully multi-generational. This gives me great joy.

Importantly, I am profoundly moved by how kind the Krewe d'Arte are to each other and others. The sets are constructed and painted without the drama and stress that we experienced in my early years on the set crew. One hears "please," "thank you," and "I empower you to construct that part of the set as you see fit." Competence proves itself. Soft-spoken, feminine Amelia Burke-Holt is the best leader I know.

I'm increasingly aware of how their high school theater tech teacher, Elizabeth Wyatt, had instilled not only tech skills, but specific, smart leadership processes and the joy of inter-generational cooperative effort. The Krewe d'Arte inherited these gifts with this next generation. Theater is a team sport, one with excellent life lessons. I recommend incorporating the combination of Kindness, Joy, Respect, and Fun as a third principle, especially if there is no salary to attract your younger generation. Even with a salary, you'll want the third principle alive and well.

Send Us Your Fair Stories!

Help us document the Oregon Country Fair's rich, quirky, fun and varied history! We want to publish YOUR Fair Stories for posterity with "True Fairy Tales."

If your booth or crew has celebrated an anniversary milestone, tell us all about it. What are your special traditions, magical moments and notable events?

Or send us short biographies describing key people and how they contribute to your crew or booth — whether they are founders or new folks coming in.

We welcome your photos along with the articles, as well as standalone photos with a caption to tell your



TRUE FAIRY TALES

story.

If you need help getting started, we can offer prompts and ideas.

Email your questions, 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."

Already the stories are beginning to flow in! We are collecting them to publish a third book about Fair history — documented and written mostly by you. We are hoping to complete a trilogy

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





Sound Bites

by Andy Goldfinger, Station Manager and Program Director, KOCF

The last month saw KOCF take on its first-ever film festival at the Art House in Eugene. KOCF presented four films during the month of August: "The Last Waltz," "Summer of Soul," "20 Feet from Stardom" and "Festival Express." All the films were heartily attended, and we thank you all for being there. It was a lot of fun to put on and we may do it again next year.

As we head into September, there is a lot going on here at the station. On September 12 we were at the Chili Cook-off and Harvest Festival in Veneta, where our incredible food creators Liz and Koa presented the finest chili on the planet. On September 26 KOCF will join the Eugene Bright Parade, a community event that is rapidly becoming an integral part of the Eugene community.

One of the primary goals I have always had at KOCF was to increase our coverage area. We started with a frequency change, going from 92.5 to 92.7 because God was stepping on our signal and creating a situation that became untenable if we were to survive. Next came the relocation of our transmitter and antenna from the fire station in Veneta to Bolton Hill. This increased our coverage area exponentially, but there are still some spots where we do not reach and would like to.

This brings us to our next phase, our first translator. A location has been found and we tested the coverage of this potential location. Our test at Solar Heights proved to be wildly successful, as we were able to hear our signal crystal clear through the Eu-

gene, Springfield and Junction City areas, as well as Cottage Grove. As a result of this test, we are going to go forward and apply for a translator when the FCC window opens in November. Very exciting for the station.

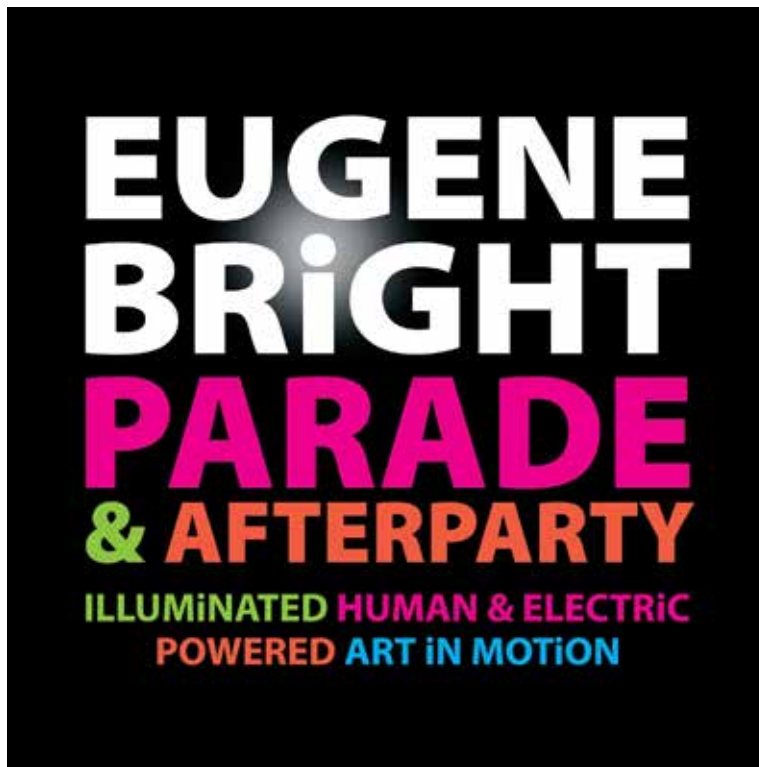
This leads to this month's KOCF spotlight, which is on the man who made KOCF what it is: Dean Middleton. When I came to KOCF in 2015 and started working with the Fair and others, I was told in no

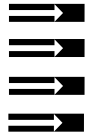
uncertain terms that KOCF exists because of Dean. One of the conditions set by the Fair Board was that Dean be the Station Manager. The station was a no-go if Dean did not take that on! As I ascended to the various management positions within the station, Dean was always the sounding board and final say.

The love and commitment from Dean for this station and all those involved cannot be overstated. While Dean has stepped away from the role of Station Manager, he continues to provide his

leadership and immense knowledge as our chief engineer, spearheading our desire to expand the station's reach. In this effort we hope to have our first translator to increase our coverage area even more. In short, KOCF would not exist were it not for Dean's commitment to this station.

Locally produced programming and community involvement continue to be the cornerstones of KOCF. If anyone is interested in doing a show, and can make the time commitment, I would love to hear your idea and find a spot in our programming. I am always reachable so please email me (andy@kocf.org).

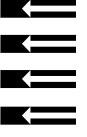




Fair Philanthropy:

Fair Donors Raise \$41,658 for Basic Needs Nonprofits

by Jill Heiman Vision Fund



Thanks to our very generous OCF donors this year, we are excited to announce that the Jill Heiman Vision Fund raised \$41,658 to donate to groups helping people meet basic needs. The fund received \$21,657 in checks, food vouchers and cash from Fairgoers, volunteers and Fair booths, plus the \$20,000 match from the Oregon Country Fair's Board of Directors. That means that each of these five nonprofit agencies will receive a little more than \$8,300:

The Kareng Fund/Caring Fund will support artisans who experience problems such as medical situations, vehicle failures, fires or thefts that compromise the artist's ability to work.

Mid Lane Cares for its shower and laundry program. Volunteers staff the hygiene program at Fern Ridge Service Center that benefits unhoused individuals, as well as families and children with unstable housing from the Fern Ridge School District. Our donation will help fund a new water heater and provide soap and other hygiene supplies.

Oregon Community Asylum Network will help ICE victims meet basic survival needs. Our donation will go toward shelter, utilities, transportation, legal representation and medical care for asylum seekers. The program prioritizes families torn apart by ICE, and family members who have been traumatized, kidnapped, deported or sent to detention camps.

Volunteers in Medicine will provide free health care to low-income adults in Lane County. About 65 percent of patients are Spanish-speaking, and VIM offers home-delivered medications and telehealth options for patients worried about the uptick in federal immigration enforcement policy. VIM does not share any patient information with federal or state entities.

Willamette Food & Farm Coalition for its food equity programs in Veneta and Oakridge. Donations will improve access to nutritious, fresh food by directing surplus harvests from local farms to nearby food pantries. Funds will also be used for two incentive programs: Protein Bucks offers \$10 tokens for purchase of locally raised protein and Little Sprouts hands out \$5 tokens to children 12 and under for purchasing fresh fruits, vegetables or plant starts.

Over the years since the fund began in 1996, Fair donors and the Fair Board's match have made it possible for the Jill Heiman Vision Fund to give more than \$738,000 to area nonprofits. The JHVF committee thanks all of our supporters: crew volunteers, food and craft artisans, Fairgoers, and the OCF Board! One food voucher and one dollar at a time, together we are making a difference in our community!



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: ffnunderwriting@gmail.com

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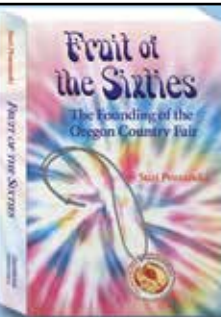
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 10/3 - Dark Beats for Dark Times III
 10/4 - Feng E
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 10/8 - Mike Dawes
 10/9 - The Menzingers with Hot Water Music
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 10/15 - D.R.I. with Scattered Guts
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**Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2026, 7 pm**

(Subject to approval by the Board at the October 5, 2026, Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link: https://www.youtube.com/live/Pb8X6zlfV7g?si=JX5E_2vNVZW_gNPU

Board Directors present: Anthony “AJ” Jackson (President), Lawrence “LT” Taylor, Felicia Kirsch, Zahra Indigo Ronlov, Sandra Bauer, Paxton Hoag, Trevor Ross (Vice President), Jon Steinhart, John Govsky and Teresa Vaughn. Absent Board Members: Kevin Levy and John Davis. Other Board officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer) and Anna DiBenedetto (Recording Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Alex Zabala (Office Manager), Mark Malaska (Senior Event Manager) and Steven Berkson (Facilitator).

Announcements

Sandra: Thanks to Norma Sax for creating a document with all the Board motions from 2010 to current. It will be on the .net site and updated monthly. This is a goal that has been desired for years. You used to have to review all the meeting minutes to find motions, which could be a very long process. Norma did the tedious process for us all.

Indigo: The Jill Heiman Vision Fund received \$21,658 in checks, food vouchers and cash from Fairgoers, volunteers and Fair booths, plus the \$20,000 match from the Oregon Country Fair’s Board of Directors, which means that Fair donors raised \$41,658 for Basic Needs Nonprofits. The JHVF will donate the money to groups helping people meet basic needs. That means that each of these five nonprofit agencies will receive a little more than \$8,300:

- **The Kareng Fund/Caring Fund** for a safety net aiding local artisans who experience crises.
- **Mid Lane Cares** for water heater and hygiene supplies at a shower and laundry center serving unhoused and housing-insecure families in Fern Ridge.
- **Oregon Community Asylum Network** to help ICE victims meet basic survival needs.
- **Volunteers in Medicine** to provide free health care to low-income adults in Lane County.
- **Willamette Food & Farm Coalition** to direct surplus harvests from local farms to food pantries.

Since the fund began in 1996, donors and the Fair Board’s match have made it possible for the Jill Heiman Vision Fund to give more than \$738,000 to area nonprofits.

Committee Best Practices Committee is hosting open meetings to gather Board committee members’ feedback around a proposal for the Board. All Board committee members are invited to a meeting on September 21 from 7 to 8:30 pm for a work session to continue to refine the topic of recommitment. There is a draft motion that is a framework for the discussion and will be updated with collective input. Ongoing, they meet on the third Monday of the month from 7 to 8:30 pm and the Zoom link is on the .net site. They will be utilizing fun, creative ways to have committee members share their voices with the Board through committee work. They will be reviewing the

CBP manual and hope to add new insights. Please join them! They need to grow the committee with new members. The meetings are open to all Fair family.

Membership Comments

(YouTube video: 0:06:30)

Ann Bennett Rogers: She is still advocating for hybrid meetings. There are 22 people on the Zoom meeting. There are people that want to interact and network. People could work on projects together before or after the meeting.

Consent Calendar

Items on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a member of the Board requests that a specific item be removed for separate action.

1. Approval of the Agenda.
2. Approval of the minutes of the August 3, 2026, meeting.
3. Committee and Working Group Reports:
 - a. Food Committee held a Closed Work Session on July 28, 2026.

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

Staff Report – Executive Director

Kirsten: **Administration:** The 2025 Comparative Financial Statements are completed. They are in the Board Packet this month. The 990 and CT-12 Tax Filings for 2025 are complete and will be submitted to the Board for approval at the October Board meeting.

We sent a membership drive email to more than 15,000 participants on September 2. We have registered approximately 333 new members through the database between September 2 and September 8. Since the feature became available in May 2026, 528 members have registered. This is a new era for our organization where our database now does more than just issuing passes, it includes membership. Thanks to the OCFIS Team for continuing to grow the scope of the database.

The last date to register to vote in this year's election was Thursday, September 10. The Candidate's Forum is Sunday, September 27, at 4 pm. Submit questions for the candidates by Friday, September 25, at 10 am to gotv@oregoncountryfair.org. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church. This is a hybrid meeting, and a Zoom link will be provided. The Board of Directors Election is Saturday, October 17. Ballots are due at the Eugene office by 8 pm on that day. There are five seats available. The top four vote-getters will serve three-year terms, and the fifth-highest vote-getter will serve a one-year term.

Marketing: Commemorative Sales were the highest sales ever. Big thanks to the Commemorative Sales Crew. A reorder was done because of the high demand, so be sure to check out our Merchandise site at merch.oregoncountryfair.org if you didn't get an item that you wanted at the Fair this year. All of our posters are available for reprint. We will do a fourth-quarter merchandise sales push. A fourth-quarter direct donor campaign will launch October 1.

Event Management: The Teddy Bear Picnic was a huge success. The weather was perfect! Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to enjoy the picnic and thank you to the volunteers who helped put it on! The annual Beaver Open Hacky Sack Tournament took place September 5 to 7. We love hosting this group, and the tournament was a success. The annual Elmira High School Track Meet took place on Wednesday, September 9. Every year up to 500 youth from around the state participate.

Guideline Changes: Form will go live on the .net site on October 1. Closing date will be November 15. The Board will vote on guideline policy changes at the December Board meeting.

Site Management: The site is looking good and winterization efforts have begun. Culture Jam was a huge success. Congratulations to Jans and his team for another successful year.

Treasurer's Report

(YouTube video: 0:12:14)

Hilary: The 2025 Comparative Financial Statements will be posted on the website after the annual meeting. Highlights include a presentation that conforms with generally accepted accounting principles. We do budget to actual to report internally, so we will need to regroup a couple of things. They tell a different story such as grouping according to crew, staff and programs. The totals and numbers are the same, just grouped differently. We compare our overall financial health to other nonprofits. Their terminology is a little bit different. Generally accepted accounting principles consider CDs as something different than cash. The balance sheet says that at the end of 2025 the balance was \$2.9 million, but financial statement says cash plus CDs went up \$150,000. Cash flows show the cash went up \$500,000 because the \$400,000 of CDs is not counted as a cash asset. It's an accounting convention that is not intuitive.

We had a good year. Our event income was up about \$50,000, but the cost was up \$300,000. We are having a great recovery. Commemorative sales were big. We are doing the best we can, considering we're not retaining the same sales that we had pre-COVID. We aren't hitting 15,000 attendance on Friday and Saturday, which is a different economic reality than pre-COVID. The statement of functional expenses is where we break out direct and indirect expenses. Programs include the event, youth programs, philanthropy, property tax and payroll. Eighty percent of all expenses are related to the event. We can look at this in more detail at the Annual Meeting.

We look at cash a lot. We have been shifting from designated funds (\$1.5 million pre-COVID) to accommodate longer-term planning, but they became tedious to track. Now we have shifted to long-term capital projects, such as the water project. We have five years to complete them. We have about \$500,000 to complete long-term projects, mostly the water project. The next big one will be about Emerald Ash Borer. We also have a rainy day fund. Reserves are not just for rainy day fund, we could fund a capital project, buy land or accommodate an emergency. The rainy day fund was used for COVID. We don't know what the next "rainy day" will be. We need reserves

that equal about a year's worth of income, or \$4 million. Right now we have about \$2 million in reserves. The reserves are not sacrosanct; we can use them sometimes, but we should keep the goal of trying to increase them.

Old Business

(YouTube video: 0:20:48)

Establish an Alcohol and Drug Recovery Space Task Force to research, develop, and present a comprehensive proposal for creating a dedicated recovery space during the week of the Oregon Country Fair. (AJ Jackson, Sandra Bauer, Kevin Levy, Jon Steinhart and Zahra Indigo Ronlov)

AJ moved and Trevor seconded to establish an Alcohol and Drug Recovery Space Task Force to research, develop and present a comprehensive proposal for creating a dedicated recovery space during the week of the Oregon Country Fair.

The purpose of this task force shall be to evaluate and recommend how the Fair can best provide a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for individuals in recovery from alcohol and other drugs, as well as those seeking recovery support while attending or participating in the event.

The task force will be responsible for:

- Assessing the needs of the recovery community within the Oregon Country Fair.
- Researching best practices from comparable festivals, events and organizations that provide recovery support spaces.
- Identifying potential locations, operational considerations, staffing or volunteer needs, scheduling, accessibility, and resource requirements.
- Developing recommendations for partnerships, programming and meeting formats that foster a safe, welcoming and recovery-oriented environment.
- Evaluating budgetary implications and any necessary policy or operational considerations.
- Presenting a written proposal, including recommendations and an implementation plan, to the Board of Directors for review and consideration within one year of the creation of the task force.

The Board affirms its commitment to fostering a culture of inclusion, wellness and belonging by exploring opportunities to support members of the recovery community through intentional and accessible programming at the Oregon Country Fair.

AJ: Over the 20 years that he has been at Fair, a constant thing that he has heard is that there are Fair family who don't feel safe attending Fair anymore due to their addiction. There are meetings, but there is not a ton of space available and the timing can be tricky. People can even be turned away. He is not an expert or knows what is needed to support these folks, but it is a serious need. He would like to be able to welcome folks back to Fair so they can enjoy it again.

Member Input:

Steven Berkson: What would the relationship be to what White Bird already provides?

Michael Connelly: He supports developing something like this for the Fair. Dead Heads have Wharf Rats and String Cheese and Burning Man have sober supports. He hopes this is approved. It's much needed and will be very helpful.

Board discussion:

Jon Steinhart: He supports the motion. Wharf Rats are self-organized, not sponsored by the Grateful Dead organization. A few years ago, we got a request for a Native American camping space. Jon Steinhart called the person who made the request and asked what was really desired and he said that he wanted a less tempting camping space, since many folks in that community have a predisposition to addiction. Hopefully that idea can be incorporated into the review.

LT: He enthusiastically supports this. A beloved, longtime entertainer told him that it's too hard to maintain sobriety at Fair. Many folks would benefit.

Paxton: He's seen the need for this for a long time. We have several resources at Fair, but they're scattered at Community Village and White Bird. We need to inventory them all and manage them all together. Other big events have been starting to do this and it's necessary in this current environment. He misses the Drug Info booth from the 1980s.

Trevor: Personally, he has longtime folks in his life who are embracing sobriety, and they don't feel like they can safely be at Fair. This would be an inclusive way to include sober people.

Sandra: This is an important and safe way to care for folks in our community while they discover new ways to live.

Teresa: She appreciates the points made by Steven, Paxton and Jon Steinhart. This task force needs to connect with folks who are already providing services. Spoken Word also has something related.

AJ: He got a chance to spend time with someone who came back to Fair after almost a decade to talk about whether this idea would work. He walked around with him to see if it would make sense. He is so happy to hear the support here. This would change things for several folks that want to return.

The motion passed: 10-0.

New Business

(YouTube video: 0:33:20)

Oregon Country Fair approves a sponsorship of the Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) 2026 event at the \$5,000 sponsorship level, with funding to come from the Board-approved sponsorship and community engagement budget. (AJ Jackson, Paxton Hoag, Trevor Ross, Sandra Bauer and Kevin Levy)

Next Board Meeting – October 5 at 7 pm via Zoom

