



Oregon Museums a s s o c i a t i o n *Dispatch*

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Spring 2012

Vice President's Message

Dear OMA Member,

Because of your continued support the Oregon Museums Association has been able to offer many exciting benefits to the museums community throughout the years. I am excited to announce that 2012 is going to bring even more benefits and educational opportunities to your doorstep!

Last fall, OMA was able to begin a new tradition of hosting an Annual Conference, which was a huge success! Those who attended the conference at the Benton County Museum in Philomath participated in sessions ranging from how to stay connected while raising money to addressing your collections conundrums. There was exciting networking occurring as people enjoyed gathering at a local restaurant for dinner and also during a hosted wine and cheese event at the end of a successful, session-filled day.

This year's conference theme is "Museums and the New Normal: Building Relevance in Your Community." The conference will be held at the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland on October 28-30, 2012, so save the date! For those who are interested in submitting a session proposal, stay tuned as we will have announcements in the upcoming months.

Institutional members will be enthused to read that our Rack Card distribution is expanding. We have partnered with the Oregon Travel Association and will be placing these informative cards at eight Visitor Welcome Centers throughout the state. This step will expand the advertising opportunity for your institution. In keeping up with technology, we are excited to be adding a QR code to the rack cards. This will enable anyone with a smart phone to instantly link up with the OMA webpage and find your museum's most current information and events.

We are excited to announce the ability to offer scholarships for workshops and conferences. Our first scholarship being offered is for a basic registration at the joint conference hosted by Northwest Archivists and the Oregon Heritage Commission, held April 26-28 in Salem. Check our website for further details about how to apply; applications are due by April 12.

Thank you for your membership and the OMA officers look forward to a successful, exciting 2012!

Sincerely,

Heather Bouchey
OMA Vice President
Program Committee Chair

Oregon Museums Association Fall Membership Meeting Minutes

General Membership Meeting at Benton County Museum
October 17, 2011

I. President Gardner Chappell called the meeting to order at 10:25am. Approximately 50 members were in attendance.

II. Minutes of the April 9 meeting were presented (and distributed in registration packets). Bob Hart moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Lori Erickson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report

Bob Hart shared that we have new bank account numbers with Wells Fargo to increase security and accommodate online access. Account balances were \$2,985.30 in checking, \$30,132.83 in savings and \$4.00 in petty cash, for a total of \$33,122.13. This may reflect an overpayment from the Connecting to Collections project. Connie Nice asked about necessity of the \$4.00 in petty cash. Sara replied that she really doesn't use it or need it. Kathleen Daly moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Kerry Tymchuk seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Election of Board Officers and At-large Members

Vice President Lori Erickson stepped down. Heather Bouchey was nominated for the Vice President position. President Chappell requested other nominations for V.P. from the membership. None were offered. Connie Nice moved to close the nomination for vice president. Bob Hart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

After nearly a decade on the OMA board, Keni Sturgeon stepped down. Kathleen Daly was nominated as a board member at large. President Chappell requested nominations for other board members. Discussion arose about responsibilities (2 meetings per year in person, others as necessary, and committee meetings, for a two year term). Amy Drake (Southern Oregon Historical Society) and Willie Richardson (Oregon African American Museum) were nominated. Connie Nice moved to close nominations for board members at large and to accept Kathleen, Amy and Willie as board members. Keni Sturgeon seconded the motion. Motion passed uncontested. It was noted that next year we'll possibly need to fill secretary, treasurer and president positions. [Note: after the meeting we noticed that Mark Tolonen's term is also due and should have been voted on.]

V. Gardner Chappell introduced Sara Swanborn as our OMA office staff. Sara requested contact information from our new board members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37am.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Tolonen, OMA Secretary

Meet Your OMA Board: Kathleen Daly

Kathleen Daly graduated Magna Cum Laude from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Merchandising Management, with a Historic and Cultural Studies option. During her senior year of college, Kathleen was an aide to the university's textile collection. After graduation, Kathleen worked at the Benton County Historical Museum as a Museum Aide. She later became their Membership and Visitors Services Coordinator, as well as serving as a collections assistant, assistant to the director, and book store buyer and manager.

In 2006, Kathleen pursued a Master of Arts in Fashion and Textiles Studies with a specialization in Textile Conservation at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. Included in the curriculum were numerous internships and projects at the Museum at FIT, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, the Conservation Laboratory at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Dance Heritage Coalition, and private conservators.

After completing her MA and returning to Oregon, Kathleen worked as a consultant for the Museum of the Oregon Territory. In 2008, she was hired as a Museum Technician for the Oregon Military Museum. In 2009, Kathleen served a one-year term as President for the Clackamas County Heritage Council. She was elected to the OMA Board in 2011.

Students Honored for Saving Historic Items from Floods

When floods threatened two Willamette Valley museums in January, students from Western Oregon University and Willamette University responded to emergency calls and helped save important items in their collections. For their effort, Heritage Programs of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has given the students and the service programs that alerted them Heritage Stewardship Recognition certificates.

“These museums are stewards of the cultural heritage of their communities. In a time of crisis, these busy students dropped their regular activities to rush and help save hundreds of significant cultural artifacts,” said Roger Roper, the leader of OPRD’s Heritage Programs. “We want to recognize them for their work on behalf of current and future generations of Willamette Valley residents.”

Staff at Salem’s Willamette Heritage Center arrived on January 19 to find its mill race full with rushing water. Based on the forecast for the day and the damage sustained during the 1996 flood they took preventative measures and began moving historic objects to higher ground. Since time was of the essence, they decided to round up volunteers.

Amy Vandegrift, the Director of Development and Volunteers at the center, contacted the Community Service Learning program of Willamette University to gather additional people. In less than two hours students, alerted to the emergency by emails and text messages, had arrived and were at work. Vandegrift was moved by the turnout. “They were so helpful and incredibly responsive to our need. Exceptionally generous!” she said.

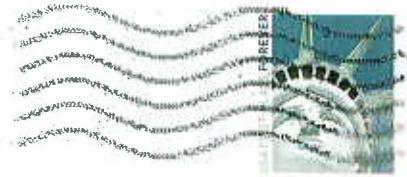
At the Independence Heritage Museum, staff were surprised to arrive to a flooded basement, having had no record of such flooding in the past. Museum Director Peggy Smith began re-organizing the collections. Quickly deciding she needed help, Smith contacted Roben Jack, curator of the Jensen Arctic Museum, who suggested a call to Western Oregon University in nearby Monmouth.

Before Smith was off the phone with information desk staff at WOU’s Werner University Center, they had sent a tweet about the emergency and the volunteers had begun to arrive. The students, primarily football players and members of the Wolves Helping Others student club, slogged through the water and saved every item in the basement. “Their service was invaluable,” said Smith, “When I was their age I didn’t do anything like this. It is nice to see that sort of giving.”

The Heritage Stewardship Recognition program was initiated by Heritage Programs of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to raise the profile of Oregonians who go the extra mile in protecting the state’s heritage. The certificates went to the Community Services Learning program, Megan Neish, Jordan Wildish, Meara Gordanier, Megan Nanry, Meredith Miller, Matthew Bateman, and Shanel Parette at Willamette University.

At Western Oregon University, the certificates went to the Werner University Center’s Information Desk, the Wolves Helping Others club, the WOU football program, Rebecca Eldred, Marcus Cuellar, Trent Gallegas, Summer Swonski, Stacy Potter, Daniel Aumua, Sean Fujinaga, Brad Hall, Emily Bridges, Pristene Delegato, Spencer Bell, Hannah Seely, Justin Cassens, Chris Ekstedt, Jessica Sandalo, Robert Elmer, Chelsea Beecroft, Katie Williams, and Brian Plasker.

“The flood is an important reminder for all museums, libraries, archives, and heritage sites about the need to have plans for responding to emergencies,” said Kyle Jansson, coordinator of the Oregon Heritage Commission. “Not all will discover a potential disaster early and have strong, caring students nearby to prevent major losses.”



Board of Directors

President

Gardner Chappell '12, (541) 957-7007, gchappel@co.douglas.or.us
Director, Douglas County Museum of Natural & Cultural History, Roseburg

Vice President

Heather Bouchey, '13, (503) 276-4366, heather.bouchey@pam.org
Collections Manager, Portland Art Museum, Portland

Secretary

Mark Tolonen '13, (541) 970-6220, mark@bentoncountymuseum.org
Curator of Exhibitions, Benton County Historical Society, Philomath

Treasurer

Bob Hart '12, (541) 682-4242, director@lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org
Executive Director, Lane County Historical Society & Museum, Eugene

Ann Craig, '12, (541) 346-3116, acraig@uoregon.edu

Asst. Dir. of Education, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Eugene

Kathleen Daly, '13, (503) 683-5359, kathleendaly1@us.army.mil
Museum Technician, Oregon Military Museum, Portland

Amy Drake, '13, (541) 773-6536 x1006, amy@sohs.org
Curator of Special Projects, Southern Oregon Historical Society, Medford

Steve Greenwood, '12, (503) 886-1102, steve.m.greenwood@wellsfargo.com
Curator, Wells Fargo History Museum, Portland

Dave Pearson, '12, (503) 325-2323, pearson@crmm.org
Deputy Director, Columbia River Maritime Museum, Astoria

Willie Richardson, '13, (503) 540-4063, oaam@qwestoffice.net
Chairperson, Oregon African American Museum, Salem

OMA DISPATCH

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The newsletter of the Oregon Museums Association, *Dispatch*, is published two times a year: Spring and Fall. Oregon Museums Association is a statewide membership organization serving the needs of museums and related institutions, large and small, across Oregon. OMA holds meetings and workshops around the state, advocates for the interests of its members in legislative and other matters, publishes a rack card to promote member museums, and hosts www.oregonmuseums.org. Historic houses, aquaria, interpretive centers and sites, zoos, heritage sites - all are potential members of OMA. OMA is a nonprofit organization; contributions are tax deductible. OMA provides scholarships to members for professional development. OMA is an affiliated state organization of the Western Museums Association.

Send news about your museum to info@oregonmuseums.org. Digital files are preferred, but hard copy can be sent to PO Box 7, Salem, OR 97308. **Fall Issue Deadline: July 15, 2012**

Calendar of Events

**Oregon Heritage Conference-
Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting**
“Fertile Ground: Planting the Seeds for
Restoration, Innovation and Collaboration”
in Salem, April 26-28, 2012

OMA Members can apply for a scholarship to cover the cost of registration for this conference. Visit our website for more information:
www.OregonMuseums.org

Save the Date!
OMA Annual Conference
“Museums and the New Normal:
Building Relevance in Your Community”
in Ashland, October 28-30, 2012