

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum News

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 37 #1 &2 Spring/Summer 2023



*Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
Association, Inc.
A non-profit 501(c) 3 organization*

Our Mission

The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is an educational and repository facility that demonstrates the history, the vision, the vitality, and the values and culture of the peoples of the Siuslaw Valley and coastal region.

Museum Hours

The museum is now open
Wed thru Sun
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Hours will be extended as soon as additional volunteers become available.

Phone (541) 997-7884

E-mail harry@siuslawpioneermuseum.com

library@siuslawpioneermuseum.com

www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Siuslaw-Pioneer-Museum>

Summer Calendar

Jul 10 10am Board Mtg
Aug 14 10am Board Mtg
Aug 19 Pioneer Picnic
Sep 11 10am Board Mtg
Oct 9 10am Board Mtg

Board meetings are held at the museum

Pioneer Picnic Time

We are back on track to re-start this activity.

Put this date in your calendar
Saturday, Aug 19, 2023

Elks RV Park on Mercer Lake Rd.

We Start at 12:00 Noon and Socialize.
Serve lunch at 1:00
Your choice of: Baby Back Ribs, Baked Salmon, or Chicken

Side dishes and dessert are Potluck
please bring one to share.

Open mike after we eat, we hope to hear some great Family history stories.
Some pioneer personas will be there in costume.

RSVP by August 10th along with entrée choice, to email below.

Questions, Call or Email Del Phelps at dphelps@bhhsnw.com or 541-991-7787

FROM YOUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Del Phelps, Board President



A tough subject to talk about.... But we must: Yearly Dues have declined almost 30% this year. Does our billing process have a glitch? Is it us at the museum? When I ask if people have gotten a billing, a lot are saying no they have not. Harry is very methodical in his billing procedure and at my request even sent out a member letter with the billing included in a full-sized envelope this year. So, something is amiss, and I must find it, and get it corrected.

So, please, if any of you members out there did not get a bill this year and wish to continue with us, please contact us, so we can start to correct whatever went wrong.

Our dues income is what funds about 25% our daily operations expenses. Our visitors bring in about 2½ times as much as our dues income. Gift shop, grants and other gifts make up the rest. With the drop in dues this year, it could cause us to have to dip into reserves and I don't want to go there, we worked too hard to build them to a level that can cover the unexpected.

We, on our end, are going to do our part to make sure every one of our recorded members gets a billing next year by making some changes in how we computerize our member records in the finance program we use and auto bill from our finance program. Tying dues income to member names in our financial program and at what level of membership should be a big improvement in the process and a lot less time-consuming. We would like to switch over to e-mail and our website as the preferred way for our members to receive and pay their dues for their annual billing. If every member that has an e-mail could send it to us for our data base, we could start making these improvements to our system.

We are told by our visitors that we are the "Best little museum on the coast" and I am hoping to keep it that way. By continuing to work together, we can!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Our SPM Board has been joined by two new members who will be great additions to the board. They are both well qualified in Finance. They are Amy Graham and Dorothy "Dot" Hosking (Bettina Hannagan's Mother). Below is the Bio that Dot provided.

Dorothy Hosking

I was born and raised in Coos Bay, Oregon. My great grandfather, John Lamont, arrived in Coos county in 1871 and home-

steaded in the Coaledo and Bandon areas. My third great uncle, Michael Troutman Simmons, was one of the founders of the state of Washington. My other great grandfather, William H. Hosking, was from St Just in Penwith, Cornwall, UK. He settled in Washington. How his son came to settle in Coos county is another fun story. This history has greatly influenced my search for information on the pioneers of Oregon.

I worked with the Genealogical Society of Douglas County for about 10 years as President and researcher. After moving to Florence in 2021 I became involved with Rotary and Soroptimist in addition to my work with two Cornish organizations. I am also a proud member of SNOB (Society of Native Oregon Born!).

My passion is researching family histories and crocheting blankets for my 36 grand, great, and great great grandchildren. I became a Board member in March 2023 and look forward to helping to maintain and strengthen the Museum.

MUSEUM RESEARCH LIBRARY REPORT

June, 2023, Board Meeting

Submitted by Stephen Skidmore

Museum Library volunteers met on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

In attendance were Hester Grove, Jim Hays, Gail McDivitt, Merilee Mulvey, Pat Rongey, Steve Skidmore, Sharon Waite, and Sandy Zinn.

The meeting was called to order at 10:56 AM.

Sandy: there is a Zoom meeting scheduled for June 28 with Kate of PastPerfect to begin the process of using PastPerfect to backup our data. We have sent PastPerfect our data and this meeting will be a review of the that data. We sent the data to PastPerfect via Dropbox. We have received two new items from Buffy Kennedy and Marilyn and David Carroll—a child's potty chair and a trunk. We have received a book, written by David Thom, about 10 Mile, a community in the Stonefield Beach area.

Merilee: she has been working with Sandy in Jean's Sewing Room, going through 30 boxes of clothing. They have been accessioning and de-accessioning the material. All items are being evaluated for display and then cleaned up, if needed, sometimes using OxiClean.

Pat: she continues to thin the family files and identify photos.

Gail: she and Sandy have been entering clothing items from Jean's Sewing Room into PastPerfect on Tuesdays. On Thursdays, she has been entering cameras and Bibles into Past Perfect.

Hester: Hester has been entering family photos from the Waite collection into PastPerfect. Waite refers to Sharon's husband.

Jim: has been taking down and inventorying Rhody displays. Many need to be redone, and there are several years that have no poster display. We have over 90 years of Rhody posters. The cost to redo a poster is about \$40. Jim and others will be analyzing the posters we have to determine if they need to be re-done. He has taken down the latest lobby display. The next lobby display will be the Riverview School, which was located at milepost 8 on Highway 126. The school closed in 1926 when it was consolidated with Cushman School. A future lobby display will feature the Mapleton school. Jim is working with Zach of The Siuslaw News on "Then and Now" series. Several Museum photos were used by Three Rivers Casino in the reopening of the Blue Bill Restaurant. The Museum received lots of good publicity re: the reopening with a photo in The Siuslaw News.

Sharon: she has been working with Jim on various projects. Sharon presented a program on local schools for the DAR that was well-received. She has been authenticating an 1897 journal from a New York fire station.

Deb: Deb was not at meeting but submitted a written report. "The Bob Serra story has been posted to the website. Roger McCorkle was interviewed and has reviewed his draft story. He is trying to locate a particular picture to add to it. I indicated to him I could post the story and add the picture at a later date. He is OK with that.

Future interviews for the Oral History project include 1) Jim & Judy Sindt; 2) Jack & Anne Stonelake and 3) Del Phelps. I will also be contacting Virginia Mason for a story(ies) regarding the Jean's Sewing Shop exhibit on the second floor. Merilee Mulvey may be working with me on this. Lastly, Suzanne Korosec will be researching the early railroad which brought travel from Eugene to Cushman for a future blog post."

The next meeting will be July 6 at 11:00 AM at the Museum Library.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

SPM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, May 8, 2023 Native American Room of the Museum
Submitted by Stephen Skidmore

Board Members present: Jesse Beers, Cathy Dupont, Amy Graham, Dorothy Hosking, Del Phelps, Pat Rongey, Craig Sanders, Annie Schmidt, Steve Skidmore

Guests Attending: Lonnie Iholts

The Board meeting was called to order by President Del Phelps at 10:02 AM. There was a quorum in attendance.

Additions to the Agenda

Discussion of security camera and tsunami insurance coverage were added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of April 10 (see attachments)

Craig had two changes to the draft of April 10 minutes and Steve has already made the changes. Craig moved and Annie seconded to approve the April 10 minutes, with Craig's changes. Ayes: all.

Treasurer's Report

Lonnie thanked Dorothy for her work in acclimating herself to the Treasurer's position. There is much work to be done to clean up the financial procedures before Dorothy can take over. We need a new debit card as the old one is in Lonnie's name. There has been no phone bill since last October. That may be a Hyak issue. Membership dues are 50% below what was received last year at this time. Also lagging behind last year's receipts are admissions and donations. Amy offered to do membership billing but is not able to do other Treasurer duties.

Operations Report

There was a written report from Harry.

Curator's Report

There was no report.

Research Library Report

There was a written report from Steve.

Blog

Deb is progressing with the blog.

Marketing/Website

Del sent out a press release re: Business After Hours at the Museum on May 18. There also was a small ad. Del will make a push for membership at Business After Hours. Annie will have Heritage Players there for the event.

Finances

There needs to be an invoice and/or receipt for each purchase.

Dry Rot Situation

Dan Lofy will begin work in July on ameliorating the dry rot situation. The Museum displays in the affected areas need to be removed and stored. Harry needs to be informed about this. Lofy has been given a \$9,000 down payment on the work.

PastPerfect

We need an efficient method for backing up PastPerfect. A membership in AASLH (i.e., American Association of State and Local History) would allow us to back up PastPerfect to the

cloud for a one-time fee of \$300 and an annual fee of \$696. Annual membership in the AASLH is \$118 per year. Del moved and Dorothy seconded to become members of AASLH. Sandy will be authorized to use our AASHL membership to move our PastPerfect to the cloud. Pat moved and Dorothy seconded to expend \$300 one-time payment and then \$696 per year to contract with AASHL to have our PastPerfect data backed up to the cloud. Ayes: all. We will be contracting with AASHL once our membership has been paid and is active.

Museum Events

The Museum will host the Chamber's Business After Hours for the Rhody princes and princesses at the Museum on May 18, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:00. Mayor will emcee and Mary Ann will cater. The Heritage Players will be in attendance.

The Museum, the local chapter of the DAR, and the Siuslaw Genealogical Society will have a table on the Museum lawn during Rhody Days and sell books and book bags.

The annual picnic will be on August 19 at the Elks RV Park clubhouse.

Security Cameras

We have not yet heard from Hyak.

Tsunami Insurance

Lonnie is checking on tsunami insurance coverage cost.

Roundtable

Pat said that the Museum's brochure is out-of-date. She suggested that we consider raising the price of admission. The Military Museum recently raised its admission price from \$5.00 to \$7.00. This issue will be tabled until next month. In the meantime, Pat will investigate admission prices at museums on the coast.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

NEW WEBSITE

About three years ago the board agreed it was time to upgrade our museum web site. We went through a lengthy hassle with the individual who had ownership of our Domaine and after some tough negotiation by the new people we picked to do a new web design (Up Link Spider) we finally got it back. During that time a grant of \$2,500.00 was applied for and received from Western Lane Community Foundation. I am happy to say that we now have a very nice site with a Donor Button and Blog. Thank You Deb Lobey! (in the red)



But due to change of people and time passing, it came to my attention that the WLCF Grant had not been given a final report. So I went back and gathered the information, pulled up the grant reporting on line and completed it. Below is the response from WLCF. Yea! We are now eligible again.

Re-do. WLCF now says we are now approved for future grant requests. If you wish to see what I submitted, you may, I am so glad to let you all know that WCLF has approved our grant report for the \$2,500.00 web site open the web address below where it says, "You Can View." Just go on line and type in "Siuslaw Pioneer Museum" and explore.

SHOUT OUT TO HONEST CONTRACTOR

Norm Wells, Ray Wells, Inc

Submitted by Del Phelps, Board President

The big orange object in the museum parking lot looks a little like the Mars Lander! But it is on our Fire Suppression Equipment vault for a reason. Because the city made our contractor, Ray Wells, Inc. move the vault from where it was originally planned and to the current location to get it out of City Right of way, which we were unaware occupied half of our parking lot on the north end. We have learned the hatch cover is under rated for heavier vehicles. Norm says he did not catch that when the change was ordered. The Vault lid is correctly rated but the hatch cover is not. In order to correct the problem a whole new vault lid with the correctly rated hatch cover must be installed. This will occur in July or August. I asked Norm what that is going to cost, and he said, "you don't want to know" "it is my mistake, and I will take care of it". For My part, I am sure glad we contracted with Norm to do the job, And I told him so!

So, to all, Please do not remove the Orange Object from the fire vault lid and remember to thank this contractor, Norm Wells, Ray Wells, Inc. for not only giving us a gift back on the job cost in the first place, but for stepping up and taking care of this situation with the vault lid at his companies expense.



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Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
Board of Trustees 2023

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 President: Del Phelps
 Vice President: Craig Sanders
 Secretary: Steve Skidmore
 Treasurer: Dot Hosking

Trustees
 Amy Grant
 John Barnes
 Cathy Dupont
 Jesse Beers
 Annie Schmidt
 Pat Rongey

Board Meetings are held
 the 2nd Monday of each month
 at 10:00 a.m. at the museum.

These meetings are open
 to all members. Call ahead for
 space availability.

Museum Research Library

By Appointment.
 Call Museum for requests
 541-997-7884

The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum News
 is published quarterly by the
 Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
Editor: TBD
Layout: Dianna Kramer
 We reserve the right to edit or
 reject any article.

STORY TIME

Story Time is currently on hold.
Visit the museum website or Facebook page
for Story Time updates

www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Siuslaw-Pioneer-Museum>

.....
 Please join us for Story Time at 7:00 pm on the last Friday of each month
 at the Museum.

The public is invited. Admission is free. Donations accepted.

.....
 Please contact Del Phelps at 541-991-7787 or the museum at 541-997-7884 if
 you have a suggestion for a program. We would love to hear your story.

Check out our new Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Website
www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com

And our Facebook Page found under Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
<https://www.facebook.com/Siuslaw-Pioneer-Museum>

ENDOWMENT FUND

An Endowment Fund in the
 Museum's name has been established
 with many financial gifts from our members.

Donors who wish to contribute to this fund should make the check
payable to:
"Western Lane Community Foundation"
 and specify
"Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Endowment"
 on the check.

Mail check to:
 Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
 P. O. Box 2637
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*Please keep in mind that checks specified to the endowment are to be
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