

Summer 2007

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OMA DISPATCH

Post Office Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207 www.oregonmuseums.org

The newsletter of the Oregon Museums Association, *Dispatch*, is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. 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 bi-annual *Guide To Oregon Museums*, and a periodic directory of all known museums in the state. 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 Katherine Huit (research@viclink.com). Digital files are preferred, but hard copy can be sent to Katherine Huit, 7020 SW Lebold Road, McMinnville, OR 97128.

Editor: Katherine Huit
Editorial Board: Connie Nice, Alice Parman, Julie Reese, and David Porter.

Summer Issue Deadline: August 14, 2007

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING OMA MEETINGS

Fall 2007
Columbia River Maritime Museum, Astoria
October 21 & 22

Spring 2008 TBD

Fall 2008 OMSI, Portland, Date TBD

Members,

Be sure to mark your calendar for the OMA fall meeting, when we will unveil the latest and greatest issue of the bi-annual Guide to Oregon Museums!

Might your museum or cultural site be interested in hosting a future OMA meeting? Is there a topic or issue you would like to present or see covered at an upcoming OMA meeting? If so, contact OMA Program Chair David Porter: 503.657.9336 or trlboss@att.net.

President's Message

It's Summer! That means that most of us in the museum world are busy hosting visitors who are expanding their minds while relaxing from their workaday world. This is the perfect opportunity to acquaint them with our collections, our programs, and our missions. Hopefully, many first-time visitors will find your museum this summer, thanks to the fantastic new OMA website. MJ Korieva and Richard Engeman have been working diligently to give each member museum an enticing web presence on the easy-to-navigate, information-packed website. Those of you who attended the Spring OMA meeting in conjunction with the Oregon Heritage Conference were able to preview the site and to tweak the information that represented your institution. Parts of that same information will be used in the coming edition of the Oregon Museums guidebook.

The Heritage Conference, organized by Heritage Commission Coordinator and OMA Board member Kyle Jansson, provided an excellent variety of workshops which fit the needs of many of our museums: archival organization, oral history gathering, collection management, volunteer programs, and "living" history presentations.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Oregon Museums Association annual meeting in Astoria, October 21-22. As always it will be a chance to share what works, what doesn't, new ideas...and to renew our network of museum contacts for continued discussions throughout the year.

Have a great Summer! See you in the Fall!

Sincerely,
Julie Reese, President

American Association of Museums Conference Review

By David Porter

The American Association of Museums held its annual meeting in May in Chicago. The conference was the largest ever with more than 6,000 delegates attending. At the conference AAM announced the selection of prominent educator, scientist and Minneapolis civic leader Ford W. Bell for the position of president and CEO. Bell made appearances at committee meetings, sessions, general sessions, and evening events to introduce himself to attendees. He came across as a man of genuine warmth, gentle humor, and a true desire to connect with the community of museum professionals as their advocate.

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Another highlight of the AAM gathering was the keynote speech by Salman Rushdie, noted author and lecturer. Rushdie talked about his experience growing up in India where the Hindi word for 'yesterday' and 'tomorrow' is the same and only defined by context. He noted that Indian culture largely doesn't understand the idea of 'preservation of the past'. By contrast, he spent his later boyhood in England and became an aficionado of museums. Rushdie's comments culminated in a recounting of the many cultural creations from books to paintings, which would not have been possible without museums. And he spoke reflectively about the dilemma implicit in debates over the Parthenon frieze and the Ishtar Gate. He noted the likely destruction of the latter if it remained in Baghdad and not in Berlin, but described the retention of

the former by the British Museum as being akin to having half the Mona Lisa. It was a thought-provoking presentation.

AMERICAN MUSEUMS ARE CORNERSTONE OF LEARNING, SAYS BELL

"I look forward to working with an outstanding board of directors, a rock-solid organization and an exceptionally talented staff to create an even stronger platform for AAM to advance America's museums," said Bell, who will begin his new role on June 1. "Today, more than ever, museums are an integral part of the foundation of our civic life in America."

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Welcome and Introductions: President Julie Reese called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m. and welcomed members to the meeting and to Pendleton. She gave a brief explanation of the purpose and mission of the OMA. Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes: MJ Koreiva moved, Irene Zenev seconded to approve minutes as published. Carried.

Financial Report: Treasurer, Richard Engeman gave a brief update on our financial status. We have "oodles" of money he reported, which breaks down as follows:

Checking Account: \$15,450.61
 Savings Account: \$7,972.56

We are on target for our expense budget. Memberships are still down slightly, however, they have greatly increased from last reporting, due to a membership blitz by the membership committee on Super Bowl Sunday.

Program Committee Report: Vice President David Porter gave a brief report on upcoming meetings. The OMA will meet next in Astoria on October 21, 22 at the Maritime Museum. Dave will update members further on program themes and schedule in the next Dispatch.

Membership Committee Report: Membership Chair Ray Vandiver was absent. Richard Engeman gave the report in his absence. Our membership has increased by 140 since January. The membership committee recently contacted organizations and institutions that have allowed their memberships to lapse. We are now sitting "good" in regards to membership levels - which are essential to future development and growth of the organization in regard to the goals set by the board.

Marketing Committee Report

- ◆ **Dispatch:** Katherine Huit gave a quick report on the Dispatch. It is published four times a year with a different color for each issue relating to seasons. The purpose and focus of The Dispatch is timely information and summaries of meeting content for those members unable to attend meetings. Send articles to Katherine by June 1st for the next issue (Summer).

- ◆ **Website:** MJ Koreiva gave a report on the process that we have gone through to develop the new website utilizing Site in a Box / Project A. The website's design was based on the last publication of the OMA guidebook using the "seven region" design of the Travel Oregon. Website content is based on the last edition of the guidebook. Members are encouraged to meet with MJ during this meeting to look at design / content and usability. We are still in the learning process - full development will continue.

- ◆ **Museum Guide Book:** Connie Nice reported that the guidebook project will now begin and move forward based on content and input from the website. All OMA institutional members will be included in the 2008-2010 publication. These should be ready to distribute at the October OMA meeting. If you have questions or content revisions contact MJ or Connie.

Oregon Museum Survey:

- ◆ Kyle Jansson walked the members through the handout provided about the Oregon Museum Survey. This information can be utilized in a variety of ways including allowing OMA to develop future programs based on what is most needed statewide.

- ◆ Kyle also shared the current Oregon Museum Grant application form. This has been approved by the Oregon Heritage Commission board with minor revisions. The time frame for the grant process is still being looked at in relation to several other grant opportunities so that they don't all come due at the same time.

- ◆ Kyle mentioned the HB 3538 (copies on the table). This HB addresses the issue of decreased funding due to state timber revenues / county museum funding support. The bill allows museums and other heritage organizations to band together and form a heritage district that can pursue levy funding to continue operations and services. Susanne Warner, Southern Oregon Historical Society, also shared a brief comment of how the concept of this bill was developed and how it will potentially be utilized in Southern Oregon due to a total cut of funding in this county. A brief discussion followed on pros and cons of this HB in relation to other organizations and museums within the state.

- ◆ Julie Reese commended Kyle for the great job he did on planning the Heritage Conference and the OMA portion of the schedule and the program.

Western Museums Association Report: David Porter (President of WMA) gave a quick report on current activity within this regional organization.

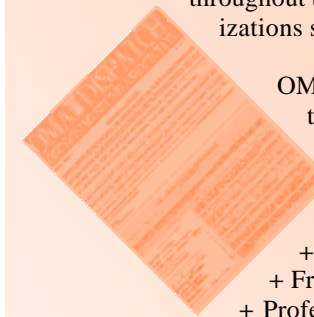
- ◆ He mentioned that there has been a big push by AASLH to look at the formula used for museum funding methods in relation to what libraries across the nation are receiving. The need for museum funding is huge - nationally.

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Membership with the Oregon Museums Association

Looking for information about museums in Oregon? Want to learn more about museum program activities? Join the Oregon Museums Association and start networking today!

OMA members network with museum professionals and participate in informative workshops at different locations throughout the state. OMA provides information to its members about legislative matters that effect museum organizations statewide and nationwide.



OMA is an affiliate of the Western Museums Association, and that affiliation is another good reason to join the Oregon Museums Association. Membership benefits include:

- + The *Dispatch* newsletter packed with helpful and timely information.
- + Listing in the *Guide to Oregon Museums*, published bi-annually.
- + *OMA Website* OREGONMUSEUMS.ORG.
- + Membership meetings in different regions of the state.
- + Free behind-the-scenes admission at area museums.
- + Professional training opportunities.
- + Support of a professional network.

Memberships in the Oregon Museums Association (OMA) expire at the end of each calendar year. If you have not renewed, or just have questions about your membership, please contact Ray Vandiver, Membership Chair, at 503/797-4540 or rvandiver@omsi.edu.

Join the Oregon Museums Association and start networking today!

**2007 OREGON MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

“ NEW	“ RENEW	“ 2007	“ 2008
TODAY'S DATE_____		DATE REC'D_____	
Individual			\$25.00
Student / Volunteer			\$15.00
Institutional (operating budget less than \$50,000)			\$75.00
	(\$50,000 - \$200,000)		\$120.00
	(\$200,000 and above)		\$180.00
Corporate / Business			\$75.00
First name_____	Last name_____		
Title_____			
Museum name_____			
Organization name (if different)_____			
Mailing address_____			
City_____	State_____	Zip_____	
Site address (if different)_____			
City_____	State_____	Zip_____	
Work phone_____	Home phone_____		
Fax_____	Cell phone_____		
E-Mail_____			
Website_____			

Please send completed membership application and check (payable to Oregon Museums Association or OMA) to: Oregon Museums Association, PO Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207-1718. Thank you.

All OMA memberships are on a calendar year and expire on December 31st. If you have questions, please contact Ray Vandiver, Membership Chair, 503.797.4540 or rvandiver@omsi.edu.

They help us understand each other, as well as ourselves, and in doing so allow us to face the challenges of the future, grounded in the lessons of our shared history."

Succeeding Edward H. Able Jr., who retired last year after 20 years of service, Bell has a longstanding relationship with the museum community. He helped raise \$103 million as a trustee of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts through its "Bring Art to Life" capital campaign. In addition, his grandfather, James Ford Bell, was a driving force in building and developing the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota, renamed in his honor in 1966. Certified as a veterinary oncologist, Bell credits his many visits to the museum with fostering a lifelong love of nature and science.

"I believe that America's museums are a cornerstone of learning and inspiration for all ages," Bell said. "My family and I have seen the value that museums provide for public education and their place as civic institutions and sources

of pride in our diverse communities. As our lives provide less time for leisure activities, it is incumbent upon us all to cherish museums as relevant and stimulating places to visit and enjoy. I look forward to strengthening our invaluable museums on a variety of critical fronts."

Bell has more than 30 years' experience as a nonprofit executive, board chair, donor, trustee, educator and scientist. A candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2006, he previously was president and CEO of the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, a prominent clinical cardiovascular research organization and one of the country's largest providers of community heart health education.

David Porter serves as Executive Director, Clackamas Heritage Partners, President, Western Museums Association, and Vice President, Oregon Museums Association Board of Directors.

If you are interested in submitting a 500 word article of professional, scholarly or political relevance to Oregon museums and museum professionals please contact the Editor. All submissions will be screened by the Editorial Board. Deadline for the Summer 2007 issue is August 14, 2007.

Western Museum Association Shakes It Up In Oakland

The WMA will host its conference this year in Oakland, California, making it an attractive conference for Oregon museum participants to attend. The theme, Shake It Up, not only reflects the quakiness of the area but also that Oakland and the East Bay area have long been the site of innovation, quirkiness, changes in the mainstream, and cultural ferment. The conference will aim to trigger that kind of response in attendees as well. Compelling presentations will include a keynote by Wavy Gravy, one of the original hippies who has been a philanthropist and clown for years. One entire set of sessions will focus on emergency preparedness and working with first responders, something that museums are beginning to realize is as important for them as it is for schools. Compelling sessions on a range of professional subjects will accompany events and visits to some of the great museums in San Francisco and the East Bay. For further information, visit http://westmuse.org/oakland_rfp.html.

♦ The next WMA conference is in Oakland, CA on October 10-14, 2007. The theme is "Shake It Up". One of the focuses at this conference will be a session with "First Responders" to discuss the EMS situation that is a potential issue with large numbers of children attending museum institutions at any specific given time.

♦ David also mentioned that there are scholarships available through the Wanda Chin Scholarship fund. Deadline for submission is the beginning of June. Dave commented that locally, the OMA board will be redefining the Rick Reed scholarship fund for use by members. Information will be provided at the next meeting. MJ Koreiva encouraged members to not lose this opportunity to attend WMA conference and utilize the scholarship funds available. Kyle Jansson mentioned that there are also other scholarships available - check the OHC website. It was suggested that we add a link to the OMA site that would direct members to scholarship options for these types of education opportunities.

Oregon Cultural Trust: Jim Cox gave a quick reminder that the current cycle of the Cultural Trust grant is now open - with deadline of May 15th. Jim is available to give some first hand advice and support to members interested in discussing project feasibility and techniques used for submitting strong applications. Jim also mentioned a new Non-Profit Association organization that is now being formed in Oregon. This will become a strong voice within the state providing support for non-profits in all areas. Membership fees will be nominal but will include many benefits. The Trust will be sending out information statewide on this soon.

Announcements: Julie Reese opened the floor for members present to share what is happening in their organizations and institutions.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Connie Nice; OMA Secretary

OMA Launches New Website!

www.oregonmuseums.org



Organizational Members learn about website access and updating during the spring meeting.

New Member Pages!
As a result of upgraded benefits, Member Organizations can now market themselves on the Oregon Museums Association website.
Based upon the popular *Guide to Oregon Museums*, the user-friendly site provides the ability to update & edit webpage information, link to home websites and attract visitors!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Oregon Museums Association website. It features a navigation menu with links for Home, Museums, About The OMA, and Contact Us. A sidebar contains a list of regional links: About the OMA, Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Mt. Hood & The Gorge, Oregon Coast, Portland Metro, Southern Oregon, Willamette Valley, and OMA Board of Directors. Below this is a search bar with a 'GO' button and links to 'site map' and 'advanced search'. The main content area includes a paragraph about the OMA's history and mission, a map of Oregon divided into regions (Portland Metro, Mt. Hood/The Gorge, Eastern Oregon, Central Oregon, Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon, The Coast), and contact information for the OMA at P.O. Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207-1718 or email info@oregonmuseums.org. There is also a 'Printer friendly version' link and a footer with 'Terms of Use' and 'Built using Print A's Site in a Box #2007'.



Enormous thanks to OMA Board Members Richard Engeman (pictured above, left) and M.J. Koreiva (pictured above, right) who invested many hours developing, entering data and testing the new site.

Thank you MJ and Richard!

Spring Meeting in Pendleton



The Oregon Museum Association held this year's Spring Meeting in conjunction with the Oregon Heritage Conference on the east side of Oregon in Pendleton. Featured speakers included (clockwise from upper right) Jim Cox, Roger Roper, Oregon's First Lady Mary Oberst, James Hamrick and Kyle Jansson. The spring weather was beautiful!



Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

The Oregon Heritage Commission recognized individuals and heritage organizations from around the state during its first annual Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards dinner. Several Oregon Museum Association members were among those recognized and receiving awards from Oregon's First Lady Mary Oberst and Oregon Heritage Commission Chairman George Kramer.



Tracy Buckley accepted the award on behalf of the Oregon Military Museum for growing Living History Day as an event that presents Oregon history in a hands-on, easy-to-understand fashion. Maureen Thomas accepted the award on behalf of Mission Mill Museum.



Julie Reese of the Umatilla County Historical Society and Heritage Station in Pendleton received recognition for her dedication, advocacy and vision.



Bobbie Conner received the award on behalf of Tamástlikt for the groundbreaking book *Wiyáxayxt As Days Go By Wiyáakaa'awn*, and Carol Samuelson received the award or outstanding assistance to the Southern Oregon Historical Society for more than 20 years.