

Kumoricon / Altonimbus Entertainment
General Meeting of the Membership on Aug. 18, 2012
Hilton Vancouver Washington – 301 W 6th St, Vancouver, WA 98660

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30pm by Beau Gentry. *[Secretary's note: Exact time was not recorded]*

At the opening of the meeting, 82 members were present out of 281 total. Quorum was met. 39 needed to meet quorum. (Later, during reports, this count was determined to be four too high. Quorum finding unaffected.)

Approval of Minutes

The attempted approval of the July 15 meeting minutes during the August 5 meeting was reported to be invalid because the then-current date was accidentally read instead of the date of the meeting.

The minutes from the general meetings of the membership of July 15, 2012 and August 5, 2012 were approved without objection.

Reports

Beau Gentry, Chair

- This is the last general meeting before the convention. Con is in two weeks.
- There will be a hotel walkthrough after the meeting for those staff who don't know the hotel layout.
- Introducing Peter and Duncan, two Kumoricon founders in attendance.
- If ordered staff dogtags, have them here.
- Staff recruitment specialist buttons are available, one per two new staff you bring to the con.
- Loading in to hotel Thursday. Friday morning, big setup work starts happening. Need people Thursday, and as many as possible Friday. For staff, this isn't a 3-day con, but a 5-day con. Attendees go home Monday, we still have work on Tuesday.

Brandon De Vore, Vice Chair

- Finishing up badge issues for registration.
- Maid Squad Staff will meet during breakouts.
- Talk to me if you have questions about the VIP program.

Jeff Tyrrill, Secretary

- Staff sign-ups are closed unless you are completing an incomplete staff registration that you have already begun, or in other special circumstances.
- Some people have incomplete staff registrations outstanding.
- Staff count has grown significantly this year. Was 226 last year, and is 278 now.

Barbara Hunt, Treasurer

- Need help with load-out and load-in. Dead-dog party will be Monday night after clean-up.

Phillip Koop, Facilities Liaison

- Walkthrough of hotel later after meeting. Won't go into rooms, but will go by rooms. Are other events today, so be respectful.
- Overflow hotels probably won't be posted on website due to complicating issues.
- Yesterday, about 15 reserved rooms at the Hilton were released back into availability.
- Will send confirmations and instructions tomorrow for requested staff rooms.
- We didn't have enough contracted room-nights at the staff rate, so the convention will be subsidizing the difference for the extra room-nights. As a result of this limited availability, the staff rate is being preferentially given to rooms with more staff in them.
- Requests for staff rate are now closed.

TJ Stinson, Director of Operations

- We've broken 3000 for pre-registrations.
- Can sign up to volunteer at the convention.

Jaki Hunt, Director of Programming

- Convention schedule is on website.
- Forms for various contests and events remain available at the website.
- If you are staff, need to start talking about scheduling for con.

Ally Fields, Director of Publicity

- Printing things.
- Thanking various Publicity staff for help during book preparation.

Sarah Paige, Director of Relations

- Excited about Lauren Landa, Sonny Strait, and The Slants as guests to our convention.
- Pretty cool industry: FUNimation coming back. Dark Horse returning with Oreimo promotion going on: 100 advance copies of vol. 1 of Oreimo manga. Dark Horse encourages cosplayers of Oreimo or any Dark Horse property to get photo taken at their booth, to put on their website. Back of con book is Dark Horse ad featuring Belldandy.

The reason that Carl Horn chose that is that this is the 25th anniversary of the Ah! My Goddess manga, the longest running English manga in the United States.

- Charity Auction very much in need of donations. Accepting donations up until Live Auction. Talk to friends, people you know. Have fantastic partner, Sunshine Division. Provides food for families in need in Portland Metro Area and also Clark County. We don't take any cut at all; all money goes directly to Sunshine Division. They're a fantastic charity, and Kumoricon is proud to support them.

Good of the Order

The Directors of each department introduced each of their Managers and Coordinators.

Ben Riker, "Yojimbo #2" (Assistant Day Yojimbo Manager) gave a presentation on staff enforcement of convention policies:

- As staff, it's up to us to enforce con policy wherever we are. If see an indecent costume, call Yojimbo. Only a staff of the same sex can approach an attendee with an indecent costume. For question mark cases, buddy up or get a higher-up. Costumes are one of biggest enforcement issues.
- Yojimbo are wearing red haoris or sashes. Or approach an assistant. Myself, Josh, or Tank.
- Fire safety: This is a large convention with two buildings. Hallways have to be at least 50% clear with a clear path through all of them. If we violate fire code, the fire marshal could shut down the convention. If running a panel, know the capacity of the room. If a room is over capacity, we have to get people out of room to bring it to capacity. Abiding by fire code or fire marshal is one of the most important issues.
- Props: This year, allowing stage steel. Stage steel is not live. Stage steel means nothing you can cut with, defined by bevel greater than 45 degrees on edge. Not allowing anything that can poke. Must have rounded tip. If it can take an eye out, it's not allowed. If can draw blood, no go. Refer to peace-bonding table for questionable cases.
- How to approach attendee with a non-peace-bonded prop: "Have you had that peace bonded? Let me walk you to the peace bonding table." If not, they won't do it. Info Booth will also work. If see what appears to be a real firearm, contact hotel security.
- Nerf guns, airsoft guns must be completely bricked. This means internal components glued or otherwise immobile. Cannot operate in any form or be made to operate again. Unless insides don't work, not allowed. If strip insides out, must fill it with glue.
- (Question asked if peace-bonding table can disable an airsoft gun.) Odds are, won't have that service.
- (Question about water guns) No water guns, unless non-operational. If we see something we don't like, we'll ask you to leave it in car or room.
- (Question about water balloons.) No water balloons.
- No projectile weapons in general. Includes bows, crossbows. Cannot be strung, as capable of firing or could be made so.
- (Question about confiscating disallowed props) We will ask you to leave in your car or room. If we see you again with same item, this is the last warning. If see it again, your

badge is getting pulled. If it's a prop that could be mistaken for a real weapon, will cut even less slack.

- One year, we had somebody bring in folded steel. Weren't allowed to keep on premises.
- (Question about bubble guns) No bubble guns either.
- If bring compliant prop-like firearm, tip must be painted orange. Not just con policy, but state and federal law. Believe law only pertains to airsoft or Nerf guns. In this case, will defer to local law enforcement.
- (Question: Last year, somebody brought live ammunition.) No live ammunition of any sort. Incident last year was with a bandolier.
- Costumes, fire code, props are big issues for staff at large to worry about.
- (Question about masks.) Masks are cool, part of people's costumes. (Beau clarified that the mask rule is that masks are not allowed in hotel lobbies and especially near any cash handling.)
- (Question about eye masks) (TJ said to stay on safe side.)
- (Question about face paint.) Face paint fine.
- (Question about boffer weapons.) (Jaki said boffer events are happening and will supply own weapons. Outside weapons disallowed. Event description says that.)
- (Beau said that nobody below an exec level can pull an attendee badge. Only one of the 9 can do it. Take them to Operations Office, we will handle it for there. Not even Managers or Coordinators can.) (TJ said that the Operations Office is on the third floor.)
- (Beau said that our attendees are some of nicest, best, that he's seen among conventions. Have seen conventions where it's chaos. Not like that here. Attendees are pretty good about following rules.)
- Code Adam System: For situation of a lost child. A parent will report a lost child. Guide the parent to the Info Booth, or Operations Office if situation escalates. Get name, description, costume, and as many details as can. Somebody will call on radio Code Adam. People who can leave post do so. After 10 minutes, if child not found, will call police and get them involved. Most incidents resolved pretty quickly. What make sure not do to is state in a public manner or that others overhear that there is a missing child.
- (Brandon clarified that you don't need to leave your post necessarily, but to leave that to people who are roaming. Critical thing is for roaming Yojimbo to move to exits.)
- (Beau said that when the child is found, call on the radio that the missing child for the Code Adam has been found.)
- (Ally explained the situation for checking children at doors: If you see a child with any adult, or by themselves, ask the child—not the adult—if the adult is their parent or guardian. You cannot physically stop them from leaving space. Can observe, and make a description in your head of the person who is leaving, and give information to higher-ups. Will give that information to hotel/security and police.)
- (A meeting participant suggested to ask the parent of a missing children for a description of their shoes. A kidnapper won't be able to change shoes.)
- (Question about radios) (TJ said that our radios are much more comprehensive and the goal is to have radios within a dozen feet of any staff walking around. Code Adam should be conducted much more efficiently.)

- (In response to a question, TJ said that checking rooms systematically and clear zones will be coordinated by Dispatch.)
- (Jon B pointed out that because the convention is in two different buildings, staff should remember that the space between hotels is not convention space and policies are not enforced there. If see something relevant to a Code Adam in this space, tell an executive or manager immediately.)
- (Beau said that a Code Adam does not happen often. 1 last year, 3 the year before. Children under 13 must be with guardian per policies.)
- (Beau clarified that age category of attendee can be told from the color of the badge.)
- (Beau said that when child is re-united with adult, watch the child's reaction to make sure they know.)
- (Brandon said if the child protests, get hotel security involved.)
- (Guy said that cannot use force or be hands on. But have eyes and ears, can record all pertinent information. Can follow person, record event, get license plate number.)
- (Dawn cautioned regarding previous suggestion that the more pressure you put on the situation, the more likely it is that something bad will happen to the child.)
- (Ally and Jaki advised to use discretion, and Ally advised to only get involved to do what is comfortable to you.)
- (Ally cautioned to only discuss emergencies or situations with other staff and in a place where attendees don't overhear, because news can spread and cause alarm or be exaggerated.)
- No pedobear. (Many of the meeting attendees cheered.) Not allowed in con space.
- (Beau clarified that swastikas are not banned as it is part of certain anime costumes, and potentially offensive content is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.)

Jeff said that if you are unsure of your staff registration or membership status, can check against the printed membership lists up front.

Jeff reported that this is the last meeting before the elections meeting, and encouraged staff to attend the elections meeting to elect five of the directors. Staff have voting rights in this election. Quorum will be higher due to higher total staff count. Election is tentatively planned for September 29. Has not been formally scheduled or announced yet. Formal notice will come later.

Brandon reported that basic supplies for cosplay repair will be at Info Booth, and more supplies will be available in Operations Office.

Ally reported that events will be happening at the Kiggins Theatre, with Pocky and Ramune for sale during movies.

Ally encouraged people to follow Kumoricon on Facebook and Twitter, and to re-post and like things.

Teph informed that as you're watching Facebook and Twitter, can answer questions from attendees. Ally clarified to please make sure you know the correct answer, and that if the answer is on the Kumoricon website, please link it. Ally also advised that if there are angry

rants, please let Publicity staff know to respond to avoid feeding trolls. Ally said we'll be posting YouTube videos and Tumblr posts.

Amanda thanked people who attended the last two parades, and reported that we got second place in parade at Crawfish Festival. There is a parade planning panel on the last day of the convention. Planning Avatar theme for next year.

KumoriQuest developers gave an update about their AR game. Destinations will be food places. Link will be posted once live. Contact at kumoriquest@gmail.com.

Ally reported that we will be doing more with CCTV this year. Some staff will get opportunity to be featured on it. Be prepared to introduce yourself by name and position. "CCTV" means in-hotel TV channel. Phillip clarified that we won't be showing full anime content like in certain previous years because permissions for this have been getting harder to obtain.

Beau reported that a Rant and Rave session will be held at the end of con. After that are nominations for elected positions. Elections scheduled for end of September. As staffers, you get to pick who is running the show next year.

Devin, Main Events Manager reported: Help setting up Main Events, 6pm on Thursday. Looking for dedicated Yojimbo people, with their manager's approval, for Cosplay Contest, Slants Concert, Slants autograph session, and Closing Ceremonies.

In response to a question, Phillip reported that we don't have detailed parking advice yet, but that street parking is free over Labor Day weekend. Red Lion parking is free for Red Lion hotel guests, but others should not park there. Might be able to announce more parking information on the website right before con. A meeting participant advised not to park in the middle of the farmer's market, because you will be towed.

Chris reported that there were lots of attendee badge mail-out returns. If know your friends haven't received badges, have them email us. Lots of invalid postal addresses.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm by Beau.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Tyrrill, Secretary