

Kumoricon / Altonimbus Entertainment
General Meeting of the Membership on Nov. 17, 2012
Hilton Vancouver Washington – 301 W 6th St, Vancouver, WA 98660

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31pm by TJ Stinson.

At the opening of the meeting, 51 members were present out of 320 total, with 34 needed to reach quorum. Quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the annual meeting of the membership of Sep. 29, 2012 were approved without objection.

Reports

TJ Stinson, Chair

- The board voted to abolish staff dues.
- Continuing Beau's tradition from the last two years of staff dogtags. Will get rolling by January meeting.
- After meeting, if you've never been a staff member before, join me for a new member orientation.

Jason Tewksbury, Vice Chair

- Vice Chair department is taking over Member Services, which includes VIP, and staff badges.
- Vice Chair taking over Registration. Facilitating with Chris, Registration Manager, and Brian, my Assistant.
- Purchased three new badge printers, which are working.
- Zo will be Member Services Manager.

Jeff Tyrill, Secretary

- Staff registration process changed slightly. Quiz on staff form which covers attendee policies and staff policies. Answers can be accessed online after staff membership is ratified. Parent permission form required for staff under age 18. Can upload custom badge image or personal profile photo throughout entire year.
- Coming in the next week or so, managers and coordinators will be able to pre-approve staff reporting to them, for some positions. Pre-approvals are not final until the director makes the decision.

- Working on attaining 501(c)(3) status. Project will take some time. Tax-exempt non-profit status. Reduces taxes that we owe, and also means that companies can tax deduct donations to us. Process will take many steps, and we're still in the beginning of it.

Barbara Hunt, Treasurer

- Working closely with Jeff on attaining 501(c)(3) status.
- Next meeting is holiday party. Will be sending email asking for RSVP, so we know to have enough for everyone. We supply food, but you can bring dessert. If have allergy, please respond so we can take it into consideration. At Phoenix Inn Suites.

Ally Fields, Facilities Liaison

- Looking for couple of staff. Pretty rigorous application process. My staff have to do a lot autonomously.
- Pipe and Drape Coordinator is big one. Want to get good deal on carpeting garage, and pipe and draping for Exhibitors Hall and Main Events. If interested in working with our companies, come talk to me. Pretty small department.
- Will have staff positions to help with talking to city of Portland, and city of Vancouver.

Wes Cox, Director of Operations

- Big changes to Operations this year.
- Maid Squad now under Operations. Vice Chair department took Registration.
- Rebuilt directorate. Management tree for Yojimbo now called Kumoricon Attendee Services. If interested in being Yojimbo staff, or in being a higher rank this year, talk to me. Jason Pollard is Assistant Director for KAS and Yojimbo. David Reynolds is Assistant Director for Logistics. Will announce the third Assistant at a later meeting when he is present.

Jaki Hunt, Director of Programming

- See me if interested in helping with content at con—including Video Gaming, Tabletop Gaming, and Panels. Lot of manager and coordinator positions are set, with maybe one or two openings. Always looking for staff at con.

Teph Williams, Director of Publicity

- Flipped over website to 2013. Looks fantastic. Opened staff registration. Attendee registration is also open.
- Already been to two events. Time Travelers' Ball and Exposition. OryCon. Went quite well at both. Couple of other events coming up. Newcon on Dec. 29-30. Will need volunteers, but not signing them up yet. Mochitsuki on Jan. 27. Selling tickets for that at special pre-reg prices. Adults \$10, students \$7, children \$4. Those are \$2 off from prices at the door. Available today, at December meeting, and at January meeting if not sold out. Will need volunteers. Taking sign-ups today through December.

- Social media. Mostly, social media interaction is on Facebook. Like us, comment on our statuses. Starting to do monthly announcement videos on YouTube, released on the 1st of each month, starting Dec. 1.

A meeting participant asked about attending RadCon. Teph replied that she would check to see if it's something we might attend, or make contact with them.

Sarah Paige, Director of Relations

- At Annual Meeting, announced Todd Haberkorn as guest of honor. Great to have him back.
- If have any contact info or suggestions for local businesses that you think would like to get involved with Kumoricon, please talk to me.
- Most of my management positions are filled or earmarked at this time, but we're looking for entry level staff for Exhibitors Hall, Artists Alley, and Charity Auction.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

New Business

No new business.

Good of the Order

Guy Letourneau reported: Had biggest AMV contest ever. Tie for first place in Intensity category, and after poll of judges and vote counters, awarded twin prizes. Have submissions coming in for next year. Tweaking one category, "Not What This Anime Is About". Will discuss during breakouts. Category was for videos where if you saw only the AMV, and had not seen the anime, you would be completely misled.

Jon Bressler stated concerns about the staff quiz. Great for new staffers, but for those staffing the convention for many years, seems kind of insulting, and implies that don't know the policies.

Ally replied that there were several attempts to do staff training, but that there were concerns with many staff knowing things that were not quite correct, or close to correct, and that we want all the staff to know everything the correct way. Good way to get temperature on what long-time staff know, or might be a little weak on, and we can get you more information on it.

Guy stated that organization is protecting itself against "contributory negligence". Get on the record that training staff properly.

Ally said she took test herself, and there were answers she got wrong. Yojimbo get more detailed training, but sometimes other staff need to do Yojimbo shift.

Jeff added that quiz not meant to be tyrannical, and that scores aren't saved in a database, but that we just check to see that you completed it. Forces you to think about each question. Wrote

test, and needed to refresh memory on some of them. Designed to bring attention to issues you may not have explicitly thought about.

Jeff reviewed the points on the staff quiz:

- Parent involvement for those under age 18: One policy for ages 12 and under, another policy for ages 13-17. For ages 12 and under, must be accompanied by parent at all times. For ages 13-17, no parent accompaniment required, but parent permission form must be on file. Attendees age 5 and under have different cost to attend con, but parent policy is the same as for ages 12 and under.
- Curfew and adult content policies: Curfew policies and policies for adult content events are different, but may get confused in attendees' minds.
 - Curfew applies to anyone under 18, and anywhere in convention space, not just certain events. Curfew goes from midnight to 6am. Being with guardian does not exempt from curfew. Just need adult badge for curfew, not hand stamp. Curfew does not apply to personal hotel room. Curfew is our own policy; not any city or state law.
 - Events marked as 18+ only: Based on event, but not time of day. Could be 18+ event in the middle of the day (though usually late evening or night). Rule is stricter. Need age hand stamp, plus badge. Enforce to higher standard. People can swap badges. We can't prevent that for curfew, but can for hand stamp. ID is checked when get hand stamp, but not accepted at the door to an 18+ event.
- Basic costume, prop, and weapon policies:
 - Can wear masks, but not in hotel lobbies, and also not in places where cash handling is occurring. Elsewhere in convention, can wear masks as part of costume.
 - Projectile weapons includes both toy-type weapons, and real, functioning weapons. If a toy gun can fire a foam piece, not allowed, even peace-bonded. Actual firearms not allowed, even if have a concealed carry permit. For toy projectile guns, must be made permanently non-functional.
 - Bladed items with a dull edge are ok, but must be peace-bonded.
- Photography basically allowed at convention. However, specific events may disallow photography. If an attendee says they wish not to be photographed, don't take photo of them. Same rules apply to photos or video. Do not need a press badge to take photographs at the convention. However, staff taking photos cannot identify themselves as "official" Kumoricon photographers unless they are Photography Staff.
- Staff can compete in contests, as long as it doesn't interfere with duties, and as long as the event allows it.
- Staff can cosplay on duty. The costume must not interfere with movement or on-duty work. Evaluated position-by-position.
- Staff need to get 18+ hand stamp also. Exception is emergency or work performed as on-duty staff for a specific event. But if just have a staff badge, and attending an event like an attendee, then need hand stamp. Good idea for all staff over 18 to just get the hand stamp.

- Staff registration covers attendance to convention. Don't need to register as attendee also.
- Spending and reimbursement: Can only spend money with prior approval from director.
- What can do as a staff member who represents the organization: Important when organization works with an outside business, entity, or person, that we have a single point of contact. As a staff member, you shouldn't initiate contact with outside companies unless authorized to do that as part of your staff roles. Outside companies may include business, industry, a potential guest of honor, a company to cross-promote with. If a company contacts you, for example, asks to be a guest, you would need to say, can't answer that question, but you can contact relations@kumoricon.org. However, you can talk about general information about the convention from publicly available information, such as dates, locations, attendance levels. For private information, point them toward the appropriate contact person instead. Exception is can distribute flyers, because designed for promotional distribution, and publicly available information.

Ally reiterated that all staff need to be prepared to handle any situation at the con. If unsure of policies, or gray areas, ask us, and we can do the research and find the answers.

Teph added that attendees don't distinguish in their mind between people like Yojimbo, and Publicity staff, and will ask any staff questions and expect them to know the answers.

Ally clarified that if an attendee upgrades to staff, they can get a refund of their attendee cost.

Wes reported in response to a question that Operations will be working heavily to increase communication between staff at the Hilton and at the Red Lion.

TJ reminded to talk to directors at breakouts, or to attend the new staff orientation during breakouts for new staff.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm by TJ.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Tyrrell, Secretary