

Kumoricon / Altonimbus Entertainment
General Meeting of the Membership on October 15, 2017
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Portland
1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:12pm by Phillip Koop.

At the opening of the meeting, 110 members were present out of 517 total, with 54 needed to reach quorum. Quorum was met.

Minutes

The minutes from the membership meeting of October 1, 2017, were approved without objection.

Reports

Phillip Koop, Chair

- Con is almost here.
- Many of you have questions about the staff hotel rate. We're not completely finished assigning the rate yet.
- We still have some rather alarming staff needs.
 - You are in the right place to register as staff.
 - Registration: Customer service, cash handling experience. Registration desperately needs help.

Brian added that we want to have 70 people to be fully staffed. Right now we have 36. We wanted to have 20 registration stations, but that's not possible right now.

- Main Events: Lights, sound, trussing, cool tools, gizmos. Fun, cool content, and you make sure it goes smoothly. Requires minor technical expertise that you can pick up on site.
- Craft department in Programming: We have one staff. We will train you. Make cat ears and other things.
- Autographs: Gigantic guest list. Only have 3 staff to run autographs. Entrypoint to other positions in Industry or Relations.

Ash Butler, Director of Infrastructure

Not present. No report.

Jessica Ulibarri, Director of Membership

- Registration closed Friday.
- \$65 at the door (or join staff to avoid it). General registration opens at 8:00am. We closed pre-registration with a record year, at 4516 pre-registered regular attendees. If the trend continues, we're looking at more than 8000 regular attendees.
- Have computers to run 20 registration lines, but we only have 10 people per shift. 16-hour minimum, and Thursday counts.
- Day 0 is pre-registered check-in only.
- To pick up your staff badge, bring government-issued photo ID. Can be school ID if under 18. We accept a 6-month grace period after expiration. No grace period at all for attendees.
- Staff check-in, in Registration Hall A:
 - Thursday: 12:00 noon - 9:00pm
 - Friday: 6:00am - 7:00pm
 - Saturday: 6:00am - 7:00pm
- Staff badge image upload is available. Please make sure your T-shirt size is correct. If the name on your ID is different from the name on your badge, make sure we have that, too.
- Con Suite: Free food! Thursday to Sunday. Need staff badge to enter Con Suite.
 - Thursday: Serving Dinner from 8:00pm - 10:00pm
 - Friday and Saturday: 8:00am - 12:00 midnight
 - Meal hours: 8am-11am, 12noon-4pm, 6pm-10pm
 - Sunday: 8:00am - 3:00pm
 - Meal hours: 8am-11am, 12noon-3pm
 - Will publish menu in Con Suite.
 - Dead dog: Staff appreciation dinner at the end of the convention. This will start very late, because we expect people to help with teardown and load-out, hopefully by 9pm. Jaki and Rob must sign off.

Jason Pollard, Director of Operations

Ben Riker, Assistant Director of Operations, reported:

- Desperately need staff (primarily for Registration). Please come help.
- Operations is not horribly understaffed. Things won't burn to the ground.
- Staff training will happen later this meeting.

Jaki Hunt, Director of Programming

- Schedule is out. May be useful for shift planning.
- Most contents are closed. Extending Cosplay Chess another week, to October 21.
- Seeking staff:
 - Mostly for Main Events.
 - Craft Staff: Everyone should make cat ears at least once.
 - Video Gaming is looking ok.
 - Panels is ok but could use more staff.

- Some other positions could use more staff.
- Department oversees content.

Samantha Rushford, Director of Publicity

- Finishing program book. Hopefully sending it to print tomorrow.
- Other staff planning is happening.
- Seeking staff:
 - Merchandise Staff: Selling things.
 - Press Office Staff: Print needs.
- There will be a merchandise staff discount, with a price list at the convention.

Sam Taylor, Director of Relations

- Guest announcements are mostly done. The DJ lineup includes Taku Takahashi and TeddyLoid. TeddyLoid works with Studio TRIGGER, and did the ME!ME!ME! music video.
 - Surprise DJ Saturday morning. Can't reveal until then for contract reasons.
- Need Autographs Staff desperately. 3 people isn't enough.
- Made a charity announcement last meeting for the food drive. Barrels will be labeled with anime characters. For the barrel with the most food donations, their English voice actor will receive an invitation to be a guest of honor next year.
- Also seeking Gopher and Driver Staff.

Jeff Tyrrell, Secretary

- Staff registration is still open.
- Staff badge image upload is active.

Rene Webb, Treasurer

- Money is up for the calendar year.
- Staffing situation is fairly good. Could use more Load-In/Load-Out Staff.
- Registration and Main Events are desperate for staff.

Phillip stated there was no Outreach report because the con is in less than 2 weeks.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Good of the Order

A meeting participant reported that the staff manual is out of date, with references to previous venue hotels. Jeff reported that the new staff manual is on the cusp of being finished.

A meeting participant reported on a showing at the Kiggins Theatre.

Brianna Shade, Multimedia Manager, reported that if you're the leader of a panel, let us know if you can't have photography at your panel.

Sam reported that when registration closed, we closed registrations for the Maid Cafe. We are going to do a 1-day "flash sale". Reservations will be opened for a 24-hour sale. Also, we are still taking walk-ins.

Sam reported that we need two additional Fashion and Music Staff members to help with the raves, bands, and Japanese DJs.

A meeting participant reported on the upcoming Distant Worlds Final Fantasy concert in February.

A meeting participant reported that the Portland Art Museum is having an exhibit about LAIKA.

Sam reported that the Hollywood Theatre is playing A Silent Voice on October 23.

A member of Video Staff reported that they are working on a documentary for pro-bending.

Robert Trotter, Quartermaster, reported that Load-In/Load-Out is taking staff. They are working Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, and finishing 8am Monday morning. Load-In/Load-Out areas are restricted to people over age 16, due to machinery around the floor such as forklifts. Must be age 18 to be Load-In/Load-Out Staff.

Devin Hunter, assistant to the Pro-Bending staff group, advertised that the Pro-Bending tournament still has spots open, and that more players are needed. There are also openings for referees. Players compete for a free membership to the next Kumoricon. Pro-Bending is a fantasy-based dodgeball game based on the Legend of Korra.

Jessica reported that we will continue giving out ribbons on day 0 for a Kumori kigu party. Both staff and attendees are eligible for a ribbon if they are wearing a kigu. Dad joke ribbons are also being given out. All ribbons have limited quantities.

Ben Riker presented staff training:

- Thou shalt eat at least two meals per day. Thou shalt not count if only eating Doritos and pounding energy drinks.
- Thou shalt drink water. Alcohol does not count.
- Thou shalt shower or bathe.
- Thou shalt sleep. If you do not sleep, you cannot function as staff.
- Know your direct supervisor.
 - If don't know, by end of this meeting, find out.
 - Ask fellow staffers, ask your boss.
- To get your badge, check in when you arrive.
- If need to miss a shift, please let us know. No-call, no-show sucks as much at conventions as it does at getting you fired at work. It can also get you fired here.

- We issue water bottles. You can decorate them and keep them. Use them.
- When wearing your staff badge or staff T-shirt, you're a representative of the convention. People will look to you as an example. That includes out of convention space. If you don't want to be in that position, and are not in con space, take off your badge and don't wear your staff T-shirt.
- Direct attendees to the Info Booth if you don't know the answer to a question.

Phillip presented staff perks:

- Free badge to Kumoricon
- Free lanyard to hold your staff badge
- Access to Con Suite to feed yourself (Inn at the Convention Center, across the street; staff appreciation dinner is at the same place)
- Voting member of Altonimbus
- Merchandise discount
- Staff T-shirt, black this year
- Free TriMet weekend pass (provided with badge)
- Water bottle. There are water filling stations.
- Some of you get the staff rate. We don't have enough this year.

In response to a question, Phillip reported that there is disabled parking in the convention center parking garage, but unfortunately on the other side of the convention center.

Jessica reported that the staff badge info card has additional reference information.

Phillip continued presenting staff perks:

- Staff signing; brief, after the VIP autograph session
- Staff getting into events: If you're going in for job-related duties, like to switch a projector, that's fine. If you're going in because want to see it, wait in line with attendees. Make sure you have the right things to get you in there, like a hand stamp for 18+ content, wristband for Sake Tasting, etc.

Sammi reported that Info Booths can answer questions, and their staff have radios.

Ben reported that if you need assistance more than just for answering questions, look for nearby Yojimbo. They are wearing a red haori or armband. They will have radios and can assist with problems.

Jaki reported that Main Events has moved from upstairs to where Registration was last year. Most other panels rooms are exactly the same.

Ben reported that the Member Services Office is in Registration, Hall A.

Ben reported that the default rule is that cosplay is allowable when you are on duty. For restrictions, see your own department, which means talking with your boss.

Jessica reported that masks are not allowed where money is being exchanged.

In response to a question about Nazi symbolism, Phillip reported that a swastika that is appropriate to a cosplay, such as a Buddhist monk (as a symbol in Japanese culture), or from an obviously fictitious character such as Rip Van Winkle from Hellsing, would not violate our policies. However, if you are just cosplaying a Nazi or Hitler, we would definitely find that

inappropriate and ask you to change or leave. You also cannot add such a symbol to a costume that doesn't normally have it. Also, be advised of how symbols may be perceived, even within the bounds of our policies.

Phillip reported that for unclear situations, find a Yojimbo and consult higher-ups.

A meeting participant asked if we could have a bag check.

Phillip reported that the OCC staff have exclusive rights to provide that service, and we are not prepared to pay that cost right now. Also, the DoubleTree may charge for bag check when checking out of your rooms. We are working with them on a solution, and tentatively planning to charge a dollar per bag.

Ben reported that for potential dress code violations, we ask that general staff not approach individuals over this issue. Appearance comments are sensitive subjects. We have special training on how to approach people in a sensitive way. Leave to Yojimbo.

A meeting participant asked for rules violations, how do you "keep" the person there? Phillip reported that you don't. You report where they went, and take a photo if possible.

Ben reported that prop guns must have an orange tip, and to be cautious when carrying highly realistic prop guns, including outside convention space. Any object capable of projecting another object, is not allowed, unless bricked.

Sam reported that there is a phone line for reporting bootlegs and other issues in the Exhibits Hall: 503-567-1204. Accepts texts and images.

A meeting participant reported a concern over a booth that has sold repeat bootlegs more than one year. Sam asked to report issues at the time they are happening.

Sam reported that maps are on the website, on the page with the schedule.

Phillip reiterated that although people report problems online after the convention, it's especially important for problems to be reported during the convention.

In response to a question, Leon Lewis, Facilities Assistant Manager, reported that Yojimbo can be located by going to the Operations Office, and Phillip added or by finding a staff member with a radio.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm by Phillip Koop.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Tyrill, Secretary