



OMUG

<http://www.oly mug.org>

NEWS



Volunteers are at the heart of OMUG

By Bill Gortz
OMUG President

First off I wish to thank those who voted for me for President. I just hope I can fulfill a few of the expectations some members seem to have for the next year.

The elections are over and there have been several changes to the Executive Board. Some members simply changed jobs, such as Shirley Bellinghausen who is now the Vice President, John Marshall who is now a Director at Large, and me, now serving as President. We also welcome aboard two new members: James Gunnells as a Director at Large and Pat Sonnenstuhl as our Webmaster.

As has been stated many times before, the Olympia Microcomputer Users Group is an organization that is run by volunteers who do many things to keep OMUG a viable organization. This includes all the key members, consisting of the elected officers, committee chairs, SIG leaders and other positions not mentioned. Most important are the members who volunteer for the activities OMUG participates in such as the rest stop fundraiser, the booth at Super Saturday, the annual picnic, as well as our raffles, auctions, elections and other activities.

Probably the least recognized are those who come in before each meeting and help set things up and those who stay after the meeting and undo what we had done during the meeting. All of these people deserve the thanks of all members.



I can announce we have two new committee chairs. In addition to being elected as a Director at Large, James Gunnells has volunteered to be the Membership Committee Chair and will be assisted in these duties by Loren Freeman. The other is Betty Barber, who has volunteered to be the Audit Committee Chair.

There are still some OMUG positions

that need to be filled, which you can see on our website, <http://www.oly mug.org>, under the heading of key leaders. In fact, if you haven't done so lately, you should go to the website and see the changes our new webmaster has made. I am sure she would appreciate any comments you may have about the website.

Although all of the vacant positions should be filled, I feel the Special Activities Committee Chair is one of the most important, with several activities being planned for in the next several months.

The next is not a recognized volunteer position, but still takes volunteers to do. When I first came to OMUG several years ago, most of the articles in the newsletter were written by OMUG members. This has sharply declined in recent times. There is a vast range of knowledge, experience and expertise within OMUG and if the members are willing we could have enough articles written that the editor would not be able to get all of them in one or two editions of the newsletter. Trust me, an editor loves being in this position! These articles can be anything from hints and tips on how to do things better; they could be about some experience you had that may be good, bad, or funny and would be willing to share; it might be a review of some software program you liked or disliked and why; or anything else that is computer related. The editor asks only that length of any article be no

Now Appearing...

Our presenter this month is Chuck West, leader of the Linux SIG, who will give us a presentation and demonstration of the OMUG Forum, which is a web site he has designed to allow us to interactively deal with computer related issues and problems. This is not meant to replace the reflector but can be used to supplement it and is another method OMUG members can use to communicate with each other. Chuck will explain how to use this program and how it may be useful to you. You can get a preview of this forum by going to: <http://omug.chuckwest.org>.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Bill Gortz
president@olymug.org

Vice President: Shirley Bellinghausen
vicepresident@olymug.org

Secretary: Vivian Forrester
secretary@olymug.org

Treasurer: Max Whipps
treasurer@olymug.org

Newsletter Editor: Sandy Pishner
editor@olymug.org

Webmaster: Pat Sonnenstuhl,
webmaster@olymug.org

Librarian: Christie McCormick,
librarian@olymug.org

Director at Large: James Gunnells,
director1@olymug.org

Director at Large: John Marshall,
director2@olymug.org

KEY MEMBERS

APCUG Representative: Linda Mae

Budget Committee Chair: Bill Gortz

Database Manager: Max Whipps

Elections Chair: David A.C. Shephard

Historian: David Belles

Membership Committee Chair:
James Gunnells

Membership Renewal Coordinator:
Max Whipps

Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:
Loren Freeman

Nominating Committee Chair: Vacant

Scholarship Committee Chair:
Bob Wing

Special Activities Committee Chair:
Loren Freeman

SIG Coordinator: Shirley Bellinghausen

Visitors Coordinator: Elizabeth Ross
**SIG Leader names are listed with
their SIG descriptions**

The Olympia Microcomputer Users Group is a not for profit organization dedicated to helping computer users improve their skills with computers.

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Meet the OMUG crew!

By Sandy Pishner
Newsletter Editor

You may know their names and not their faces. Or, you may know the faces but just can't put a name to them. Either way, I would like to present to you the names AND faces of the OMUG Executive Board.

But folks, please, no dart boards!

Bill Gortz
President



Vivian Forrester
Secretary

Sandy Pishner
Newsletter Editor



Christie McCormick
Librarian



John Marshall
Director at Large



Shirly Bellinghausen
Vice President



Max Whipps
Treasurer



Pat Sonnenstuhl
Webmaster



James Gunnells
Director at Large



(Okay, not really but James' picture is not available yet and I already started putting this page together.)

Board covers many topics at meeting

By Vivian Forrester
OMUG Secretary



President Bill Gortz opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. in the computer room of the Senior Center in the Olympia Center. Other board members present were Shirley Bellinghausen, Vice President; Vivian Forrester, Secretary; Max Whipps, Treasurer; Christie McCormick, Librarian; James Gunnells and John Marshall, Directors at Large; Sandy Pishner, Newsletter Editor; and Pat Sonnenstuhl, Webmaster.

Minutes of the March 18 meeting were accepted as presented. Max reported a total income for the month of \$246.86 and expenses of \$325, for a negative balance of -\$78.15. The expenses included \$134.91 for domain fee (Olymug.org) effective for nine years as set out in the 2004 budget. A yearly domain fee would have been \$35. Bill reviewed the status of OMUG committees. James Gunnells accepted the Membership Chair and asked for suggestions for improving membership. Loren Freeman was suggested as an advisor to work with James. Betty Barber is the audit committee chair, with committee members being Bill Gortz and John Marshall. They met with the treasurer April 24 to conduct this year's audit.

Shirley Bellinghausen agreed to continue as SIG Coordinator and Software Review Chair. Bill will contact Deb Kime regarding Public Relations Chair.

The board reviewed and discussed OMUG brochures and the need to keep them updated and before the public. Sandy and Shirley will review the current brochure and present any recommended changes at the May board meeting.

It was agreed it would be a good idea to return to asking members to contribute articles to be published in the Newsletter. Sandy asked that the submissions be no longer

than one and a half pages, double spaced.

Shirley read the list of general meeting programs she has scheduled, or is waiting confirmation of, for the coming year. Certificates of Appreciation for 2003-2004 will be presented at the May general meeting. Small Form Factor Computers, originally scheduled for the April meeting, has been rescheduled for June 10, and Max will continue his series on computer security July 8.

Reporting on the Frankenstein Project, John announced that two desktop computers were given away this past month and another computer is nearly ready for placement. In addition two laptops were set up and given away.

Pat reported on the work she is doing updating the website and asked for board input on matters in question. Support and appreciation was expressed for the work she has done.

This year's annual picnic will be at Shelter 1 at Yauger Park on Olympia's west side. The picnic begins at noon and goes until 2:30 p.m. If you would like to help set up, contact any board member to set a start time.

The annual Raincoast conference has been postponed until 2005. There will be more details later.

Our thanks to Norman Gallacci for his donation to OMUG of an Access Point Transmitter and Brian Claeys for installing it.

VOLUNTEERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

longer than one and a half pages, double spaced, typed. Articles should be sent to: editor@olyumug.org.

Finally I would like to express thanks and appreciation to Norman Gallacci for donating a wireless router to OMUG for use with the Computer Lab and to Brian Claeys and John Marshall for installing it on the network and getting it working. This should be a great asset for many OMUG functions and for general meeting presentations.

OMUG Income & Expenses March 2004



Income: \$246.85

[Mbr Dues-\$240.00, Interest-\$2.85, Misc. Donation-4:00]

Expenses: \$325.00

[Newsletter Copying-147.97, 9-year Domain Renewal-\$134.91, Membership Committee Supplies-\$42.12]

Net Deficit: (\$78.15)

Account Balance: \$4922.32

4/25/04

To Be Deposited: \$0.00

OMUG Reflector, web site member benefits

By Pat Sonnenstuhl

OMUG Webmaster / Reflector Coordinator

One of the benefits of OMUG membership is being able to participate in the Reflector. The Reflector is a type of list serve just for members of OMUG.

The way it works is you send a message to the Reflector and it "reflects" the message back to everyone who is signed onto the list, in one e-mail. This becomes a great way of getting a question answered about your computer, or to discuss some issue related to computer usage.

If you want to sign up for the Reflector, follow the instructions below. These instructions can also be found on our website at: <http://www.oly mug.org/reflector.htm>

To subscribe (join) to the Reflector listserv:

1. Send an e-mail to info@oly mug.org
2. Please list your name, e-mail address, membership status.
3. Once we receive your e-mail, you will be added to the Reflector database.
4. Next you will receive a welcoming e-mail message. Once approved by the Webmaster, you will begin receiving e-mail addressed to the e-mail address omug@oly mug.org.
5. Remember you can also send e-mail only from that same e-mail address you subscribed with.

You also need to sign yourself off of the Reflector, or if you get a new e-mail address, request a change. Once you are on the Reflector, you can participate in OMUG discussions. Please remember to also send e-mail changes to our database manager: treasurer@oly mug.org

Below is a simple list of guidelines to follow when using the Reflector.

1. Please note, the OMUG Reflector is for members only.



2. Please sign your message and keep your signature short.

3. Please use only text for your message, no fancy e-mail. Some members use a simple, free dial up program and cannot receive files. This also keeps the possibility of sending virus' to a minimum.

4. Please do not send a file of any type to the Reflector as a whole. Some e-mail programs do not accept attachments. If you want to send a file to someone, send it to them specifically.

5. Please be respectful to others while using the Reflector. If you have an concern or take issue with something someone has written, correspond with that individual privately, not to the whole list.

6. If you hit "reply to all," your message will return to the whole group. Folks appreciate your suggestions. If you just want to reply to the single individual, just hit "reply," and the message will return back just to the person who sent the message out.

7. The members list on our website is

not complete with all OMUG members, but rather only folks who wish to have their name and addresses listed on our web site. If you have a concern about an e-mail coming from someone, please contact one of the officers, and we can check things out for you. We hope to maintain privacy with our membership. We will be providing a list of folks who are on the Reflector on a regular basis. Please realize this is for your personal use only.

8. The purpose of the Reflector is to share only information about computers and computer use. Other issues are off topic. E-mail someone specifically if you wish to discuss other subjects with them.

Also, when you get a moment, please check out our refreshed website. <http://www.oly mug.org/> is the address for OMUG's official website. If you see something that needs to be changed or clarified, please let me know. There has also been some changes in the links, so be sure to reset your Favorites to reflect the changes.

Welcome to our New Members

**SUSAN MURPHY
CECIL THOMPSON**

Thanks For Renewing

**Donna Reyes
Deb Kime
John James
Lixbeth Naber
Jacob Lehman
Gene Miller
Garrol Floe
Curt Walseth
Manfred Joeres
Edward Swan
Noral Baughman
Chuck West
Emily Brooks**

Fundraising a joint effort

By Shirley Bellinghausen
OMUG Vice President

Don't delete this until you give me a chance to get your ideas! Oh, that's right, this is on paper you can delete it! Okay, how about, "Don't throw me away until you give me a chance to get your ideas!"

We all agree that OMUG is a great organization and we all receive information and help when we need it. We also must know that everything we do or enjoy costs money.

And, even though OMUG is managed by knowledge (and sometimes by those who are just winging it), we are all **volunteers**.

We have managed to find a nice place to have our meetings and most of our SIGs for the unheard of cost of a monthly \$25 donation to the Senior Center.

However, we still need to raise some money from time to time for expenses. Because of Washington state rules, we must "sit out" this year; therefore there will be no coffee rest stop fundraiser to man and no extra money either. Money, buy the way, that we use to fund our college scholarship.

A few years back an enterprising volunteer came up with a raffle idea. For several years it was a tremendous success because so many of the software makers would donate expensive products to user groups like OMUG. Members would tell friends and co-workers about the chance for bargain products and we sold lots of tickets.

Sometimes as much as \$1,000 or \$2,000 worth.

Then times got more competitive and software makers started to cut back on donations to clubs. We now only receive a new item now and then.

Since we can't rely on many vendors to donate much these days, we need to find ways to supplement our annual raffle.

Some of us have connections to people in the computer business who, if asked, will support our non-profit organization with a donation to OMUG.

You and I, and every member, are volunteers and have all the same busy stuff to do at home and some of the same handicaps. But we all need to pitch in and do what we can, even if it's just a phone call now and then to a potential donor.

We could all think of who we might have a connection with in the computer industry and give them a call. Ask for a worthwhile donation to your club that has given you so much help and free computer knowledge. No one volunteer would be on the phone a long time.

It's not easy for a lot of us, but if you know your contact or trade with them, they are usually real nice when asked for a donation. If you just can't bring yourself to ask, you can send your contact name to me and I'll get someone to do it.

Let's all put our efforts together to improve the success of our fundraising efforts; fundraising that goes back to you and the community.

OMUG Supporters

We are thankful for the many people, organizations, and businesses who support OMUG.

Supporters provide services and discounts, give of their time, provide space for OMUG activities, introduce OMUG

members to new products, share knowledge and expertise, provide OMUG with software and hardware, or provide educational opportunities. All of them are appreciated.

If you visit the OMUG website at <http://www.oly mug.org>, you will find a list of our supporters who have given back to the community by assisting OMUG in its mission to help computer users help computer users and their community.