



Best Kind of Exercise—Run for Office!

By Shirley Bellinghausen
OMUG President

'Tis the time of Elections. We can't get away from hearing about nominations for this candidate or that. It's an exciting time for the U.S. with the possibility of electing for the first time a Woman or an African American. Each candidate is vying for your vote and spending millions of dollars to get it.

Not to be out done, OMUG will be asking for your vote also. The offices don't pay as much nor do our candidates have to spend money and time to run either. We don't even expect you to speak to every member but you may give as many speeches as you wish.

We join different organizations because we learn from others,



admire the community services they perform, the friendship they offer and for many other reasons. We want to be a part of the membership.

It's a strange phenomenon that if we want to or are asked to run for an office and take on responsibility as part of the officer corps we are ridiculed. With phrases from our fellow members like " ha ha you got stuck!" or " They got you in a weak moment HUH?"

These members who are elected by you, are probably just as busy with work, family or personal

projects as you are but are willing to see that our organization is managed efficiently and provides the help and interest for which we all joined.

We have a nominating committee chaired by Arlene Kapner. Arlene and her committee members will be calling you to give you information about officer's duties and which offices will be available.

Those of you willing to run for any office or chairmanship are urged to contact Arlene or any current officer. OMUG elections are held during the April General meeting, which this year falls on the 14th of April. That will allow February and March for you to convince your fellow members that you are qualified for an office of your choosing—and why! ☺

(un)Quotes from an (in)Famous Editor...

...to inspire us as we see OMUG elections on the horizon once again! (with apologies to the *truly* famous)

- Ask what OMUG can do for you...**and then** in gratitude, ask in what capacity you'd be willing to serve in OMUG's leadership team. (apologies to John F. Kennedy)

- You're not obligated to be the best officer OMUG ever had. You're obligated to **keep trying** to do the best you can every day. (apologies to Marian Wright Edelman)
- Everybody can be a great OMUG officer... because **anybody** can serve. (apologies to Martin Luther King, Jr.)

- There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow OMUGers as an officer or a key member...no greater **satisfaction** than to have done it well (or willingly; willingly might be enough!). (apologies to Walter Reuther)

Want to see the original quotations? Browse to http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_service.html and enjoy words of true wisdom.



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Database Manager:
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Elections Chair:
 Bob Steinberg
Historian:
 David Belles
Membership Chair: Open
Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:
 Open
Nominating Committee Chair:
 Arlene Kapner (see page 6 for phone)
Public Relations Chair:
 Vivian Forrester
Scholarship Committee Chair:
 Bob Wing
SIG Coordinator: Open
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Visitors Coordinator:
 Joanne Homolka

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Program Features Electronic Gadgets

By Gwen Stimmel
 for Larry Jensen, OMUG Secretary

President Shirley Bellinghausen called the Jan. 10 OMUG General Meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Shirley announced that Larry will be collecting any used ink cartridges as a money-maker for the group.

New member Kay Newman was introduced. Shirley presented a certificate of appreciation to Dave Savage, thanking him for his outstanding help to the group. In addition, a letter of appreciation will be added to his personnel file.

Discussion continued on the newsletter. Pat Sonnenstuhl explained the advantages of being on the Reflector.

Information on the following SIGs was announced:

Arlene Kapner's Beginner's SIG meets on four Mondays from 7-9 PM in the computer room using Microsoft Word. Dates are February 4, 11, 25 and March 3.

John Gerecht announced that his Digital Imaging SIG is meeting at 7:00 PM on the second Monday at Capital High School.

John Marshall reminded members that the Hot Topics SIG will be conducted by Larry Jensen on digital cameras for beginners on February 20. They are now meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the computer lab.

Vice-President Jim Wiest said that the Genealogy SIG will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at the computer lab from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The Laptop Basics SIG will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Olympia Library. Bring your laptop.

Jim introduced Daniel Cheney, the guest speaker, He is an Electronic Tech with Office Depot. Daniel presented an interesting program on the MP3 Player 1gb (\$39.98) and the Zune 30gb (\$199.99).

The drawing was won by Pat. Out of \$45.00 she received \$22.50. ☺

See *The Secretary Sector* for update on the Bylaws Review, page 3. —Ed.

Computer Lab Reminder

Vice-President Jim Wiest reminds us that the Senior Center Computer Lab is only open until 9 PM each evening. All meetings and SIGs need to be finished and out by then. Also, the SIG Leader(s) or Facilitator(s) must be the last person(s) to leave the Lab. (They are responsible for any/all that happens in the Lab) No Exceptions! ☺



Thanks
 for Renewing!

Harlin Baker
 Ed & Gaye Grindrod
 Sister Dorothy Robinson
 Lisa Bangs
 Phyllis Nation
 Jacob & Charmaine
 Lehman
 William Paynter



Welcome, New &
 Returning Members!

Kay & David Newman



Current Surplus May Help Future Need

By Sr. Dorothy, for Larry Jensen
OMUG Secretary

President Shirley Bellinghausen called the January 17 business meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also present were Vice-President Jim Wiest, Treasurer Gary Bigger, Newsletter Editor Sr. Dorothy Robinson, and Directors at Large Marilyn Hanna and Arlene Kapner. Bill Paynter, Don Hertzog and Dick Yunker were present as guests. Absent: Secretary Larry Jensen, Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl, and Director at Large Phil Vogel.

In Secretary Larry Jensen's absence, Sr. Dorothy read the minutes from December 2007. Gary moved to accept the minutes as published. Jim Wiest seconded and the board voted unanimously to accept them.

Jim reported that the February program had not yet been confirmed.

Gary's report showed that the total income for December was \$551.00. Total expenses were \$97.73, for a total net income of \$453.27. We had 169 primary members (11 fewer than last year) and 69 associate members (same as last year). Total members: 238 (11 fewer than last year).

Arlene reported that she is beginning to work on organizing the work of the nominating committee (for which she is the chair). Other board members had nothing new to report.

In old business, Jim Wiest withdrew his November 15, 2007 motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws presented at that time by the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee will be resuming work on this project aimed at bringing another proposal to the Board in February.

Jim said we have not yet found a person to do an online presentation of a topic interesting to members, although Pat understands how it could be done technically.

We had previously decided to discontinue use of a debit card, and Gary reported that we will be returning the debit card to the bank.

In new business, since we have been concerned about OMUG's income and expenses recently, Gary began a discussion about the Scholarship Fund and the surplus in it at this time. We have agreed to always have at least two years' scholarships in the fund, and at this time we may want to reserve one more year since we have no Rest Stop fundraiser in 2008, which is the source for most of our scholarship funds. Gary reported that we have three years' of scholarships plus a surplus. The Board agreed that we should leave the surplus in the Fund unless we have an actual need to move it to the General Fund at some point.



Gary requested to exceed by \$10 the annual amount budgeted for the postal bulk mail permit, because the permit has gone up in cost by \$10 to \$175. It is due February 2. The Board approved this request.

We continued our discussion on whether we should discontinue printing the paper issue of the newsletter and have an online version only. Newsletter printing is our largest monthly expense. We talked about the Reflector opinions that were generated by this question, and discussed various ideas. We will continue to consider this issue.

Jim passed out a Benefits of Membership Survey and asked that Board members fill it out and return it to him. He also said he discussed trying to get OMUG on Public Access TV (Channel 3) with Vivian Forrester, our Public Relations Chair, and he reported she has no objection to his to going ahead with that.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. ☞

OMUG Income & Expenses December 2007



Income: \$ 554

(Membership Dues- \$120, Xmas Auction \$372, Scholarship Donations \$59, Bank Interest \$3)

Expenses: \$98

(Senior Center Donation \$50, Xmas Meeting \$48)

Net Increase: \$456

OMUG Treasury as of 01/09/2008

Savings Account Balance:	\$1,993
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$3,529
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 548
To Be Deposited:	\$ 0
Treasury Total:	\$6,070

The New, The Best, and The Worst

Collected by Pim Borman

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Needles, Haystacks and Processing

Finding the needle in a haystack is the proverbial example of an impossible task. Wrongly so. Spread the contents of the haystack out over a large area and get 1000 helpers to each check a small amount of hay. The needle will be found in less than no time. It is a basic example of parallel processing.

According to WIKIPEDIA (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SETI>), as far back as 1960 astronomers were speculating that any intelligent life forms present in the Universe might be detected by electromagnetic signals reaching us from space. Some astronomers started a Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) on a limited scale that over the years grew to include multiple radio-telescopes searching more and more radio bands for significant signals.

It soon became clear that looking for intelligent signals amongst the enormous volume of recorded data was even worse than finding a needle in a haystack. Parallel processing to the rescue! With an untold number of personal computers worldwide, capable of Internet access and sitting idle most of the time, an enormous amount of potential processing power was going untapped. The University of California at Berkeley (UCB), with sponsorship of The Planetary Society, started

project **SETI@home** in 1999 to put many of those computers to work. They found many volunteers willing to download a small program on their computers, running in the background, to analyze small chunks of radio-telescope data for signs of intelligence and return the results. As of now there are some 3 million contributors, but nary a sign of intelligent life yet. In any case, the enormous amount of computer processing by this project far surpasses what the best super-computer might be able to do, at least until quantum computers will have been perfected.

The success of SETI@home inspired many other volunteer computing projects supporting worthwhile scientific causes. According to *The Economist* (12-8-2007) these include design of drugs against AIDS, search for new prime numbers, climate modeling and many others. It requires some snappy programming skills to send small chunks of a large problem to thousands of computers, provide them with the means to perform a set task, return the results, and combine the results for final evaluation before sending out a new crop of queries. That task has been made easier with a dedicated program, **BOINC** (Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing), made available by UCB. Over 40 BOINC projects are in operation, including many life

sciences, Help Conquer Cancer, and Discover Dengue Drugs.

Impressive as the computer power may be that is being exerted on these projects, there is still room for significant improvement. The short history of the PC not only includes a dramatic improvement in CPU processing speed, but also in auxiliary components that speed up graphics performance. In response to the extreme image rendition requirements of computer games, fast graphics cards have become available that use special processing chips and hardware to relieve the load on the Central Processing Unit. Rendering the millions of pixels that make up a screen image is perfectly suited to parallel processing, a task for which the graphics chips are optimized. Further adapting these chips to participate in general purpose programming may be a way to increase the parallel processing power of a desktop computer anywhere from 10- to 50-fold. NVIDIA and AMD, the largest graphics-card manufacturers, are working on it. Nvidia has already set up a product line for non-graphics applications and is developing a specialized programming language to go with it.


Next time you hear complaints that something is like finding a needle in a haystack, tell them it's easy: many hands make light work.

Continued on page 5: New, Best...

Continued from page 4: **New, Best...**

Foxit Reader for PDF Files

Acrobat Reader is now at version 8 and has been getting more powerful but also more cumbersome with each successive iteration. Steve Bass (*PC World*, January 2008) found a free program, Foxit Reader and Printer, that is compact, fast, and includes some nice extra features. I especially like that it allows searching all the PDF files in a directory for keywords. I tried that on a directory where I keep all the newsletter files since 2000 and got almost instantaneous results. Impressive! The print function works just fine. Foxit also has more sophisticated tools for annotating and writing PDF files and forms, but adds evaluation marks to the output unless you buy the Foxit Pro version (\$39). You may not need that, since there are several other (free) ways to create PDF files, including openoffice.org Writer and MS Office 2007 (with a special download from Microsoft). My Epson scanner can scan images and also output them as PDF files. But at \$39 Foxit is a bargain compared to Acrobat 8 Standard at \$299. Download Foxit Reader and Printer free from <http://www.foxitsoftware.com/>. Linux versions are also available.

 **Editor's note: Acrobat Reader is now known as Adobe Reader.**

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February 2

is **Groundhog Day.**

Take a look at

<http://www.groundhog.org>



Let's Clean "Start-Up"

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Does your computer boot-up or run slow? Maybe there are too many programs running in the back ground. Let us do the following check first.

Hold your CTRL & ALT buttons and press the DELETE button. Click on the PERFORMANCE tab, is your CPU Usage running more than 10% or is your Physical Memory being in total use?

Go to **START** then RUN, type in "**msconfig**" which stands for Microsoft System Configuration. In Windows VISTA you can find RUN in the ACCESSORY folder under PROGRAMS.

The System Configuration Utility windows will come up.

First go to the upper right tab labeled **STARTUP**, here you will see the list of items that load during startup. Of course some you want, some you don't. In the first column labeled STARTUP ITEM gives a very rough idea to what it is referenced too, but the second column labeled COMMAND, is much more useful. Too read it better, widen the column out by holding your mouse symbol over the vertical line located before the next column label. A double arrow will appear, then hold down left mouse button and move it to the right. This information tells

you where it is located and in some cases which program is using it. Uncheck those in question, you can put them back in later if you need too. Do not uncheck you Antivirus or Spyware programs.

Next go to the tab on top labeled **SERVICES**, this show all of the programs running now. You do not what to uncheck those labeled Microsoft under the MANUFACTURER column, so to start off, lets put a check mark in the box below labeled "Hide all Microsoft Services".

Now while you are reviewing the other programs running in the background note the forth column labeled STATUS. If it says STOPPED, then don't worry about it. We just want to stop the strange ones that are RUNNING. You can uncheck those that you are not familiar with, here again you may bring them back in later.

After un-checking all those items under tabs STARTUP & SERVICES, then click on APPLY and CLOSE.

The System Configuration Utility will now ask you to RESTART (or Boot) your computer.

After restarting a window will come up stating System Configuration Utility has been changed, be sure to put a check mark in the bottom left (labeled "Don't show this message or launch") before clicking OK.

If you improved your operation of your computer, you can put back in the items one at a time until you find the program that was slowing you down. 