



OMUG



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

News

Vol. 18, No. 3

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

March 2010

OMUG Elections Coming Soon Near You

By Paul Braget
OMUG President

Well, it has been an interesting year for all of us involved with the Executive Board. I have served as President for the Olympia Microcomputer User Group for almost a year now. It's been a pleasure working with the Board, plus the fact I have become closer to all of you. I have learned more about how this organization works, and coming up is the next round for those wishing to help us achieve the changes we started and those that want to help see these changes to completion.

The Executive Board Elections are coming up in April, so all of you will again have the chance to make OMUG a better organization than it is today. We have come to the awareness that any volunteer organization needs people willing to take on these positions. Most of the committee chair (person) *duties only last a month and require a few hours of your time: Some only one meeting.* In the past we have had approximately 40 positions to fill. Last year we were able to complete this with less than 30 very busy members. That includes officers and members to plan the other events we participate in or hold for our own social gatherings.

We all benefit from the information presentations we have at the general meetings and the personalized help offered by the SIG leaders and other willing members. Think about offering a few hours to keep OMUG going. "Build it and they will come."



From the OMUG Standing Rules: Section III. A. 4. "Nominations of qualified candidates for any office may be made from the floor at the February and March meetings. As additional nominees are accepted, the Secretary adds them to the list of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee. Nominations are closed at the end of the March Business Meeting. Write-in candidates are allowed at the election."

What this means is that you have three ways to become an OMUG Officer candidate.

1. Contact a member of the Nominating Committee and let them know for what office you are interested in being a candidate.
2. Be nominated at the General Meeting this Month, March 11, 2010 or at the Business Meeting on March 18, 2010.
3. Become a write-in candidate at the April election.

Nominating Chair is Arlene Kapner. She would appreciate people stepping forward to be part of this committee, this week. The greater the number of people in the committee means fewer people each of us need to call. Presently we have 120 active members and 7 people on the Nominating Committee. Which means we will be calling 17-18 people each.

Members of Nominating Committee are as follows.

Arlene Kapner, Chair 360-455-0180
akapner@comcast.net

Paul Braget 360-413-6932
paulbraget@comcast.net

Kathy Evans
laceykathy@comcast.net

Ann Mataczynski 360-358-5360
annmatt@reachone.com

Glenda Reed 360-705-8958
olyreed@comcast.net

Sr. Dorothy Robinson 360-438-1771
srdorothy@gmail.com

Noral Baughman 360-491-4193
n.baughman@comcast.net

Please contact one of the Nominating Committee. We appreciate your willingness to participate!

To the best of my knowledge at this writing, candidates for the OMUG officers are as follows:

Continued on page 4...Nominations

General Meeting:

March 11

Virtualization: Hosting a Guest Operating System (OS) on Your Computer

Do you miss Windows XP? Want to run XP or some other OS on your Win 7 machine, your Mac or your Ubuntu machine? You can do that with a virtual machine (VM) package. Join Jess Lantz as he guides us through the how-to.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Paul Braget
omugpresident@olymug.org 413-6932
Vice-President: Huldah Martin
vicepresident@olymug.org 486-4531
Secretary: Nancy Moss 439-1609
Treasurer: Bill Smith 539-7131
treasurer@olymug.org
Newsletter Editor: Sr. Dorothy Robinson
newsletter@olymug.org 438-1771
Webmaster: Conrad Schuler
webmaster@olymug.org
Director at Large: Arlene Kapner
omugdirector1@comcast.net 455-0180
Director at Large: Vivian Forrester
director2@olymug.org
Director at Large: Noral Baughman
director3@olymug.org 491-4193
Past President: Shirley Bellinghausen
pastpresident@olymug.org

KEY MEMBERS

APCUG Representative:
Conrad Schuler, co.schuler(at)gmail.com
Audit Committee Chair:
Wim Verhoef
Budget Committee Chair:
Kym Davis
Database Manager:
Bill Smith
Elections Chair:
Don Hertzog
Historian: Available
Membership Chair: Available
Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:
Phil Vogel
Nominating Committee Chair:
Arlene Kapner
Public Relations Chair: Available
Scholarship Committee Chair:
Bob Wing
SIG Coordinator: Jim Wiest 357-9001
Jlwiest2(at)yahoo.com
Special Activities Coordinator: Pila
Laronal 481-0225 kaloaina(at)gmail.com
Visitors Coordinator: Available

The Olympia Microcomputer Users Group is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping computer users improve their skills with computers.

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“Town Hall” Generates Ideas

By Nancy Moss
OMUG Secretary

President Paul Braget welcomed everyone and opened the General Meeting on February 11. Twenty-one members were in attendance.

Paul reviewed accomplishments: Mac, Windows, and Digital Imaging SIGs will continue; GNU Linux is being well-attended; and the website has been changed to HTML.

Upcoming events were announced: May 18-19, IPMA; July 17-19, Scattercreek Rest Stop fundraiser; August 14, Annual Picnic. Huldah Martin asked members to start baking cookies now and freeze them for the Rest Stop fund raiser.

Arlene Kapner asked members to consider running for office. Paul and Arlene have agreed to run again, for president and at-large board member, respectively. Positions without candidates include vice president, secretary, treasurer, webmaster, and two at-large board positions. Sr. Dorothy will run if there are no other candidates.

During the Town Hall forum, a variety of topics were discussed and suggestions and recommendations were offered.

- Update website: include content to make folks want to go back, need a button to click on for more information and links that work.
- Use Reflector and SIGs for tutorials and to answer questions; need to teach fundamentals; need members to come forward and share what they know.
- Surveying members was suggested to find out what they want to learn. Paul will follow up.

- Need SIGs to teach everything from the latest technology or how to do a mail merge, to how to purchase a new computer or record old vinyl records.
- OMUG needs new members of all ages.
- Remember OMUG’s goals and objectives; continue to be a self-help group for PC users.
- Making house calls is an excellent way to help members; they must be OMUG members to get help at home. Knowledgeable members could form a pool and respond to members who need help, based on the problem and their location.

The presentation at the March General Meeting will be on Virtual Box.

Noral Baughman won the door prize.

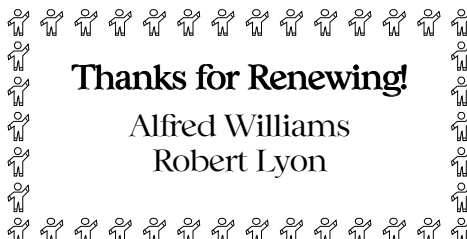
Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. ☐

Smart Computing Magazine

Did you know? —that with a subscription to Smart Computing Magazine you get free tech support? Absolutely true. You can get a web-only subscription or a print subscription.

But best of all, if you attend the March **OMUG** General Meeting, you can enter the drawing for a FREE 12 month print subscription. And who knows, the winner just might be **YOU**.

In any case, **OMUG** members who attend meetings are winners. If you need a ride, email srdorothy@gmail.com and we will try to set you up! ☐



Thanks for Renewing!

Alfred Williams
Robert Lyon

OMUG Can Save You Money

By Sr. Dorothy for Nancy Moss
OMUG Secretary

President Paul Braget called the February 18 OMUG Business Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Vice President Huldah Martin, Secretary Nancy Moss, Treasurer Bill Smith, Assistant Treasurer Gary Bigger, Newsletter Editor Sr. Dorothy Robinson, and Directors at Large Vivian Forrester and Noral Baughman. Absent: WebMaster Conrad Schuler and Director Arlene Kapner.

Bill reported on the Income and Expenses for January. Total income was \$191.45, total expense was \$250.06, with a net decrease of \$58.61. We have 120 primary members and 48 associate members, for a total membership of 168 as of February 18.

Vivian reported on the public relations work she has been doing. She took brochures to several places—the Senior Center, the Olympia Timberland Library, and Olympia Computer Central. Staff at the Olympia library were very happy to see the new, colorful brochures. Vivian also talked to someone at Fred Meyer. Due to store policy, they cannot place the brochures in a stand for the public, but were glad to put them in the employees' lounge as well as one on the public bulletin board. She had given some to Sr. Dorothy for the Lacey library, and those were placed also.

Vivian also talked about the annual source book put out by The Olympian and the regular "What's Happening" column in the paper.

Bill suggested that River Jordan Computer Services in Tumwater might take some brochures and newsletters.

Paul will talk to Jim Anderson about a free booth for IPMA in May. Someone suggested we print some extra May newsletters so we can give them away at IPMA.

Gary reported on a free software offer by Microsoft through Tech Soup. We had lost our qualification because our address changed, but Gary got us re-qualified, so now we're again eligible to order software. Gary described the free Microsoft offer, a Windows 7 upgrade for which we would have to pay a small administrative fee for each license (see Gary's article on page 5 for more details).

Gary proposed that we make this offer available to our membership, and we decided to do that. We will have a period (through the end of March this year) when members can sign up for as many licenses as they need (one license per computer). These may not be sold and must be used on the member's computer(s). Members would need to sign a



receipt when the software is distributed that states his/her understanding of the terms of the software.

Gary mentioned that Microsoft gives a "product assurance guarantee" with these licenses which states if an upgrade for the product becomes available within a specified time, the license holder would be eligible for it.

Paul said that we have some free subscriptions to Smart Computing available, so we will begin giving them away by having a drawing at the March General Meeting for one of them.

After some discussion, we voted to rescind our 2009 decision to continue paying for the Meetup.com account. We did get a few people who visited from there, but not many.

Sr. Dorothy said she will drop the updates on Greengiving.ning.com since they are so labor-intensive.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. 🖨

OMUG Income & Expenses December 2009

Income: \$191

(Membership Dues \$140, Bank Interest, Coffee and Snacks \$41, Raffle Sales \$10)

Expenses: \$250

(Sr. Center Donation \$50, Bulk Mail Permit \$185, General Meeting supplies \$10, Secretary supplies \$5)

Net Decrease: \$59

OMUG Treasury as of 2/17/2010

Savings Account Balance:	\$2,676
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$2,539
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 477
To Be Deposited:	\$ 49
Less Outstanding Checks:	\$ 0
Treasury Total:	\$5,741



Continued from page 1...**Nominations**

Candidates at this time, continued:

President – Paul Braget

Vice-President – None

Secretary – None

Treasurer – None

Newsletter Editor – Sr. Dorothy Robinson

WebMaster – None

Director at Large (3) – Arlene Kapner, None, None.

Remember, more than one candidate for each position is acceptable and highly encouraged. No need to be shy, the current Board is dedicated to making sure that new office holders are provided the information and help they need to be comfortable in their new positions.

In addition, you may have noticed in the Key Member lineup on the second page of this newsletter that many of these positions are vacant. There are two committees that are vital:

Membership Chair – Performs varied duties related to the OMUG membership. Currently, these duties are done by an overworked Treasurer.

Special Activities Chair – Coordinates special activities for fund raising, membership drives, and OMUG social events. Currently held by Pila Laronal, who is unable to continue as Chair at this time. OMUG activities for 2010 have been scheduled, with the exception of the Information Processing Management Association (IPMA) Forum (<http://ipma-wa.com/>), which is still tentative.

These events are fun and well supported, as Vice President Huldah and I found out. (A big thanks to Gary Bigger, Don Hertzog, and Sr. Dorothy Robinson for their experience, guidance, and reassurance!) We look forward to briefing our new Chair on all we learned about each activity.

At this time we have no candidates for Vice President/Program Man-

ager, Treasurer, Secretary or Webmaster, and no volunteers for Membership Chair and Special Activities Chair. Sr. Dorothy will run for Newsletter Editor if there are no other candidates. All of these positions are essential to OMUG. The Board and committees are the key to making OMUG a better organization. There are many people in OMUG who are well qualified to hold these positions. If you want OMUG to remain a good and viable organization, now is the time to step forward and accept the opportunity to become one of the OMUG officers/officer assistants, a committee chairperson, or committee member.

Here are some brief notes about what OMUG leaders do:

President –

- Presides at monthly General and Board Meetings.
- Appoints Special Activities Chair to oversee Event Chairs.
- Approves Special Interest Group (SIG) Leaders.
- Appoints Key Members and other positions as needed.

Vice President –

- Presides at General and Board Meetings in President's absence.
- Arranges informative, interesting programs relating to the use of computers for each General Meeting.
- At least a week prior to the presentation, establishes what AV equipment will be needed and reports it to the AV chair.
- Greets and helps presenter set up; does an introduction.

Secretary –

- Takes minutes at the General and Board Meetings.
- Maintains archive of past minutes.

Webmaster –

- Responsible for design and maintenance of our website.
- Maintains and assures that

the Reflector list is current.

Treasurer –

- Collects monies.
- Pays OMUG's bills
- Maintains records.
- Submits reports.
- Provides access to OMUG's financial records for the Audit Committee.

Newsletter Editor --

- Collects, edits and formats material relevant to the purpose of OMUG for the monthly newsletter.
- Responsible for the production and distribution of the newsletter.

Directors at Large (3 positions)

- Duties assigned by president & approved by the board. ☞

The Editor's 2¢

By Sr. Dorothy Robinson
OMUG News Editor

A few years ago, I became the editor of the St. Placid Priory newsletter, which was being done in MS Publisher. I had never used Publisher before, so the former editor showed me the basics and turned me loose. I soon found I needed a bit more help, so I took a one-day course and began to get a grip on it.

I think the best way to learn a new program is to try to figure it out while doing a real piece of work. But it's also very nice to have some personal instruction!

Although I'm partial to free and open source software, I have to admit that Publisher is, in *my* experience, just about the best desktop publishing application around, with the exception of Serif's PagePlus. PagePlus works very similarly to Publisher. There is a free (but not open source) version of Serif's PagePlus which I've tried, and I like it.

Continued on page 5...2¢

Continued from page 4...2¢

So there *are* choices about which program to use for newsletter editing. I've been working on an OMUG template (a newsletter which contains only the information that is usually the same) in Scribus, which is free and open source software. It may take a while, but I think once it is done, anyone who uses Linux, or Windows for that matter, could use Scribus to edit OMUG's newsletter. It would also be easy to make a PagePlus template.

A lot of what I do with the current newsletter, using Publisher, is based on the past month's issue: I delete and replace information, using last month's issue as a template.

Have you ever thought you wouldn't mind being an OMUG officer or key member except that you just don't know how to "do all that"?

While it's nice to have experience of a certain kind when running for an office, there are some positions that require mostly willingness to learn and some creativity.

For anyone who uses a computer with a fair amount of ease, this would be true of the Newsletter Editor position. It helps to have a bit of experience with writing, but really, most of the writing is or can be done by others.

In addition to what our members submit (and we have some talented writers), we also have available to us articles of varying length from APCUG. These articles are mostly written and submitted to APCUG by people like us who want to share with other user groups—and they are usually good.

My greatest fear when I became the News Editor for OMUG was that I wouldn't be able to fill up all the pages! Believe me, that wasn't the problem. The trick is finding space for all the information we want to print; but that's kind of a fun challenge.

Here's another challenge: If you've been wanting to learn something about desktop publishing, but you're like me and would rather learn "on the job," how about running for the Newsletter Editor position this year? I guarantee you will learn a lot! I will also commit to being your Assistant and helping you learn the ropes, not to mention writing the occasional article. An assistant is very important in other ways too: to help by proofreading the newsletter, and to substitute for you when you need to be out of town.

In addition, we welcome as candidates for Newsletter Editor those

who have previous newsletter experience. For these, too, I will commit to being an Assistant for the coming year.

Call me, Sr. Dorothy, at 360-438-1771 if you're interested in talking more about running for Newsletter Editor.

Last but not least, I have had so much fun being editor that I really hate to give it up. But I hope to put those few hours a month to good use by cleaning my room and my office! By this time next year, with your help and no more excuses, both of them ought to be spick and span. ☺

OMUG Has a Deal for You!

By Gary Bigger
Assistant Treasurer

How would you like to upgrade to Windows 7 for only \$10?

For a small handling fee of \$10, OMUG has the opportunity to offer its members an upgrade to Windows 7 Professional. That's right, just \$10!

Why us? Microsoft has a Software Donation Program. They have selected software they make available to libraries and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. OMUG has been a registered 501(c)(3) since 2003.

OMUG can order either 32 or 64 bit upgrades for use on **members'** computers, with the ordinary restrictions. Each licensed copy can only be installed on one computer. If you have more than one computer that you want to upgrade, you must acquire a separate license for each and pay the \$10 handling fee for each computer. *The computer(s) must belong to OMUG member(s).* The software cannot be sold. Each participant will be required to sign a release acknowledging and agreeing to these requirements when the software is distributed.

You can determine whether or not your computer can be upgraded to WIN 7 by downloading and install-

ing the WIN 7 Upgrade Advisor from the following site: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=1B544E90-7659-4BD9-9E51-2497C146AF15&displaylang=en>

When you run the Advisor program, it will verify if your current computer can be upgraded. It will also advise you on which programs and peripherals may not work with WIN 7. *Review these results carefully.* It is your responsibility to determine whether or not an upgrade is workable on your machine(s). OMUG is not able to make this determination. There can be no refunds.

Gary Bigger is coordinating the project and will be available to accept your \$10 per upgrade until March 30th. At that time this offer will be closed and the software will be ordered. Make all checks payable to OMUG; they can be mailed to OMUG, 3701 Pacific Ave, PMB 225, Olympia, WA 98501. You will need to specify (1) how many copies you require and (2) whether for a 32 or 64 bit machine. The version must be the same as your current OS or it will not load properly. ☺

SIGnals

DIGITAL IMAGING SIG ...John Gerecht

I was really bad (read "late") getting the reminder out the morning of the meeting (both sloth and a mail problem combined) so only one person showed up for dinner. But we had 8 at the meeting, including one new young woman who wants to be a professional photographer. Remember, this is for *all levels*, from beginner to advanced to professional; so if you've got an interest please drop by and see how it works.

MAC SIG ...John Gerecht

OK, I'm bad this month. In January, we had a volunteer who said he knew a good location and wanted to take it over from me. And I haven't heard from him since. So, I guess we'll have to see if either he'll come through for March, or I'll have to do it again. I'm sorry, all you Mac-heads out there.

WINDOWS SIG ...Bill Proffitt

We demonstrated several browsers; Firefox's still my favorite but Safari has some nice features. We continue to help people with Comcast wireless issues; explained cable modems, cable routers, and switches for home use. Brought an Acer Netbook for a 'Skinny Laptop' demonstration. The 10.1 inch netbook has many features, but lacks a CD (that is the point). It depends on USB ports for more options. Mine has the Intel Atom processor, dual core, and 1 GB RAM with Windows XP. It has a built-in camera/microphone and wireless, and runs Skype as well as any other computer I have worked with. We also talked about laptops vs. desktops when buying a computer—and of course the answer is, It depends.

Editor's Note: SIG leaders, thanks for letting us know what's happening in your meetings! 📧

OMUG Supporters

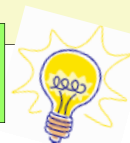
We are thankful for the many people, organizations and businesses who support OMUG.

Below is a list of a few who have given back to the community by assisting OMUG in its mission to help computer users help each and their community.

Our 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.

Senior Services for South Sound
Olympia Computer Central
IPMA
Adobe
Microsoft
Cartridge Care, Inc
Ubuntu
Canonical, Ltd.

**Idea for a new SIG?
Tell any OMUG board member!**



MEETING LOCATIONS

Capital High School:
2707 Conger Ave NW
in Olympia. Follow the signs to the computer lab from the lower parking lot.

El Sarape Restaurant:
1200 Cooper Point Road
in West Olympia near Staples and the Post Office.

The Olympia Center:
222 Columbia Street NW
in Olympia.

Note: The computer lab at the Olympia Senior Center is on the second floor behind the boutique.

