



# Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum

Newsletter November 2017



## Welcome

Thank you for becoming a charter member of the Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum (now written as FSCM). All members are making history as we help preserve history.

Since FSCM was founded 5 months ago, we have a phone number, museum store, post office box, 501©3 organization status, bylaws, officers, and a bank account. We have great committees, and our events committee, under chair Kris Taylor, launched an outstanding event in "A Walk Through History."

You volunteers have been wonderful. Ask your friends to join FSCM and contribute to preserving history and making it come alive.

Sincerely,  
Mary Shaw, President



## Who We Are

 written by Secretary Gail Jenner

Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum became the vision of several volunteers working at the museum who saw the need for a group that could spearhead events, provide more volunteer service, solicit donations, and even offer a few ideas for new exhibits or pursue ways to encourage a broader community involvement in the museum. In discussion with Lisa Gioia, Director of the Museum, the idea took root. Why not a booster sort of organization that would be independent of, but work to support and enhance, the museum?

Fourteen interested people gathered together at the first "general meeting," held in June 2017 in the museum conference room. Ms. Mary Shaw acted as president pro-tem. At this meeting, the idea came about that anyone contributing \$10 (annual dues) before Dec. 31, 2017 would be considered as a Charter member. As a way to provide enough funds for organizing costs, a number of those attending put in an additional \$10. Those at the first meeting included: Mary Shaw, Idabel Crowell, Selma Schantz, Betty Carrier, Joanne Akana, Twyla Morford, Jean Krueger, Orsola Silva, Grace Bennett, Glenn Joesten, Gail Jenner, Nicole Peterson, Jill Livingston (not present) called in, and Lisa Gioia.

All attendees signed up and paid dues at the June meeting. Members Jill Livingston and Grace Bennett volunteered to pursue the group's nonprofit status as a 501(c)3. It was agreed that the Friends group would need a Post Office Box. More ideas were generated and the enthusiasm was contagious! What about a Gala event to encourage new memberships and draw people to the museum?

Since June, the membership has continued to grow and several exciting events are now lined up, including a January 2018 "Kick off" and Volunteer Appreciation Event! As of this date, FSCM membership now totals 80 members.





[Type text]

*(Photos from October 2017 General Meeting)*

## **A Walk Through History** written by member Nicole Peterson

The first even FSCM event was held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 in and around the Outdoor Museum. Envisioned and organized by our Event Coordinator, Kris Taylor, the event welcomed residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Demonstrations included mule packing, welding, basket weaving, baking, goat milking, quilting, spinning, traditional acorn soup, and a drum circle performance. An antiques appraiser evaluated items brought in by community members, and we had 6 entries for the pie contest. Board members Selma Shantz and Karen Cleland greeted and offered membership to each guest, informing them of the day's purpose and the mission of FSCM.

Members Jill Livingston

and Nicole Peterson served 77 bowls of chili to hungry patrons. The event earned a total profit of \$103.00.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event – we could not have done it without you! The board has agreed that the primary success was introducing FSCM to the community and providing a fun, family-oriented day to get the word out about our mission and goals. We plan to hold an annual fall event for the community, and we welcome feedback to help us improve this event in years to come.

## **The Museum Store is Now OPEN!**



FSCM welcomes Katherine O'Connor as our Museum Store Manager! Katherine has been working at the museum since 2014, where she began as a volunteer. The membership voted to hire her to run the store at the October general meeting. The store now features books, State of Jefferson merchandise, jewelry, and custom art pieces by Ralph Starritt. Katherine is currently going through images to be featured on post cards, and she is



[Type text]

adding new items all the time. The Museum Store is now able to take cash, check, and cards. Come by and begin your holiday shopping today!

### **A Message From Museum Director, Lisa Gioia**

I am so proud of this group of dedicated community members who answered the call to organize with the sole purpose of supporting the County Museum by volunteering, fundraising, and program development. As you all know, the museum is a vital and important cultural entity in the county, one that brings people from all over the world, country, and local region to learn about and see evidence of the long, rich history of Siskiyou County.

With the help of so many we have been able to reinvigorate the museum by providing great programs, installing new exhibits, and bringing visitors through our door. I could not do any of it without the help of the volunteers who show up day after day, taking time away from their busy lives to come to the museum and help out. And now they have taken on an even bigger role by creating a non-profit organization, the Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum (FSCM), to ensure we keep up the momentum to provide quality, entertaining, and educational experiences for the community.

The FSCM meets once a month, on the second Friday (except for holidays) and is open to members and the general public. The Board encourages community involvement in planning and support so please consider attending. Membership is only \$10.00 annually and if you sign up before the end of 2017, you will have the privilege of becoming a charter member! Membership fees and donations to the FSCM go to museum operations such as special programs, a volunteer and donor recognition event, and the Museum Store, to name just a few. The potential of all this group will accomplish is unlimited!

Thank you to all in the community that have, for the last three years I have been director, come to the museum and shared your stories, encouraged me with your comments, and let me know just how important your museum is. My goal is to continue the mission to preserve, protect, and share Siskiyou County's history with all.

Hope to see you soon,  
Lisa

## **FSCM needs YOU!**

Have you wanted to volunteer but are not sure where to start? Do you have special skills you can contribute? Are you reading this newsletter and thinking of ways it could be improved? Sign up to volunteer with FSCM **today!!!** Contact FSCM using the information below, call the museum, or come in and talk to Katherine or Lisa.

*Add us to your contact list!*  
*fscmuseum@gmail.com*  
*(530) 340-4944*