

**General Meeting of Altonimbus Entertainment Membership**  
**Saturday, August 14, 2011**  
**Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay**  
**Vancouver, Washington**

Meeting called to order at 1:23pm by the President, Beau Gentry.

At the opening of the meeting, 73 members were present out of 174 total. Quorum was met.

## **Reports**

### **Chair, Beau Gentry**

- This is last meeting for staff sign-ups. If friends want to sign up for staff, must do it before meeting is over.
- Making list of content suggestions for Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- Staff dog tags are delayed. If signed up and lower than number 23, have them available now.
- For every two new staff members that you bring in, get a Staff Recruitment achievement button. There are achievement buttons for locker load-in and loud-out. Both together make a set.
- Special surprise during Opening Ceremonies.
- (Spoken after Vice Chair report) If you're a brand new staffer, please see me for the new staffer orientation during breakouts, if you haven't previously.

### **Vice Chair, Dawn Hewitt**

- Chair covers in progress for VIPs, disabled people, and guest liaisons. (A sample chair cover was shown in the meeting.) Different designs for different reserved seating types.
- Working on many small details.

### **Treasurer, Barbara Hunt**

Nothing to report.

### **Secretary, Jeff Tyrrill**

- Looking pretty good on staff. 174 members prior to this meeting. Received 10 additional this meeting already. Expecting a lot more during breakouts. Likely a good deal over 200 staff.

- Today is the staff registration deadline. Talk to director if there are extenuating circumstances.

### **Director of Operations, TJ Stinson**

- Today is last day for pre-registration.
- Pre-registration count is 2183, which is pretty good.
- Con Suite and Info Booth need more people. Need staff across the board, but especially these.
- Need people for load-in and load-out. Talk to Wes Cox to sign up.

### **Director of Publicity, Ally Fields**

- Katherine has been working on a quilt for the charity auction. Quilt features "8-bit" (pixelated-style) version of our mascot. (The quilt is shown at the meeting.) One-time item.
- Mostly working on con book; also banners and signs.
- Bag stuffing may occur at con instead of the last general meeting.

### **Director of Relations, Sarah Paige**

- No new guests as of now. Tickets book, panels scheduled, and expecting fun and exciting content from this year's guests.
- Still accepting suggestions for local businesses who would like to partner with Kumoricon. Can email suggestions to [relations@kumoricon.org](mailto:relations@kumoricon.org).
- Still accepting donations for charity auction. Deadline to be recognized in con book is today, but donations will continue to be accepted up to and during convention.
- New this year, we're having a silent auction. Running Saturday and Sunday of convention at Red Lion. Provides opportunity to relieve stress from live auction, and also to allow more people to participate.
- Would like to thank everyone for their patience regarding the Exhibitors Hall. List of exhibitors on website. Currently full. Can answer questions or concerns about exhibitors hall at breakouts.

### **Director of Programming, Jaki Hunt**

- Schedule is done. Sent to Publicity for prepping for website and pocket guide.
- Judging for AMV Contest is done.
- Fanfic contest is closed. Entries will be posted for Kumoricon attendee choice will be up next week.

- Still accepting applications for Cosplay Chess, Cosplay skits, Karaoke, and Fan Art.
- Andie Letourneau, Cosplay Coordinator: Have 12 skits. Time for 35. Half are traditional, half are dance. Obscene number of costume entries (exact count 23). Close to cap. Limit is 35. Encouraging more skits because makes more interesting event. More than just fashion show. Looking for stage ninjas and ushers (may use Yojimbo).
- Cosplay skit portion will be judged by voice-acting guests: Todd Haberkorn, David Vincent, and Chris Cason.
- Last call for Video Gaming Staff, Tabletop Staff. After this meeting, will still accept volunteers.
- (Spoken after Facilities report) Guy Letourneau, AMV Coordinator: Received 124 entries. Judges worked about 8 hours to thin them down to 35-entry show in 6 categories. Total show is 85 minutes. (Reads lengthy list of US states, Canadian provinces, and countries that entries have been received from.) AMV Editors dinner Friday before convention will be at Red Lion restaurant.

### **Facilities Liaison, Phillip Koop**

- Hilton is full. May possibly be isolated one-night openings. Red Lion is full. We have filled both hotels.
- Staff rooms:
  - People who originally email me have staff rooms. A few bugs in that, but we'll be working to resolve those on Monday. Your names are on list and bookings do exist.
  - If in second batch of people who asked for rooms after opening the staff rate more broadly, those rooms have not necessarily been moved over yet. If staff, don't have a room, and still need one, please email me at [hotel@kumoricon.org](mailto:hotel@kumoricon.org) with name and names of other roommates. The more people who are staff, the better. Will try to get you staff rate at Hilton.
  - For staff who need to resolve issues with staff room with hotel, will ultimately need to speak on the phone to front desk person at this specific Hilton (not automated system or headquarters). Will send update on the specific needs once we work out details.
  - If have an attendee room and want staff rate, email me to be switched over.
- If I haven't responded to an email, will eventually respond. If don't by end of this week, can pester me (but please wait until end of week).
- Red Lion walkthrough during breakouts. Most areas accessible directly from lobby.

Beau Gentry: If don't sign up at staff, can volunteer. Contact David, Volunteer Manager. Less time commitment. For example, 2 hours, or something in between panels.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Beau Gentry: At last general meeting, suggestion was that pre-registration list would be compared against national sex offender registry. Lawyer reviewing suggestion, but busy at moment. Topic discussed on Anime Conventions Mailing List, and almost every response suggested that it was a bad idea. Large potential for liability. Won't be checking registry this year. If an attendee claims that another person is an offender, report it to a high-ranking Yojimbo. They will get as much information as possible. Then, one of the executive-level staffers will call the police, and if action needs to be taken, then the police will come and take care of it—not us. Will deal with issues when they are brought to our attention.
- Beau Gentry: Proposed suggestion to change the election format to have candidate stay in room during full comment period. We decided to not change elections format. Still send candidate out of room for portion of comment period. Another suggestion was opportunity for anonymous comments. Not needed since person will not be in room anyway.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Good of the Order**

Dawn Hewitt: I have a manager/assistant director who has worked on Maid Squad. Have good Maid Staff this year. Will have Maid Handbook that Fox has been working hard on. Looking for additional Maids and Butlers. Person of either gender can be either role. Maids will be headquartered from Volunteer Office. Can be Maid either as volunteer or staff.

Andie Letourneau: Co-worker of mine who pre-registered said received two badges. Please be on lookout for double badges. Don't know how widespread this problem is.

TJ Stinson: We've been in contact with people with erroneous issues. Have error-correcting system in our database. If do have multiple badges, will catch it at registration at con. Very difficult to duplicate or edit badges due to our unique process.

## **Rant and Rave**

Kate Fletcher: Sarah and Koop and Ally have been helping with lots of work. Thanks to executive board for doing lots of awesome work up until con.

Ally Fields: Kate has done way too many jobs that aren't her job. Doing maps and other graphics for Publicity. Thank you to staff who do additional work that isn't their job.

Comment from new staff member to thank directors for responding quickly about issues.

Comment about Exhibitors Hall. Was debacle. No word until month before con, even though some people have been asking since December. People were waiting for applications to be posted. Then, told that initially inquiry with shop descriptions was actually the application itself, even though that wasn't previously stated. Narrowed down to 20 spots. Chibi Chibi Con had 100 attendees, and had about 20 dealers there. Unreasonable for convention of this size. Were told from beginning that would be small, but difference between small and infinitesimal. Also, there is difference between rejection and outright dismissal. Questions not answered in timely manner. Some of answers on forum contradicted answers given by email. Very unprofessional and does not speak well of organization, which know from history can do better.

Beau Gentry: Amongst 20 vendors, almost 40 tables of merchandise. Not huge, but not all that tiny. From beginning, Relations team was trying to minimize how many vendors were selling the exact same stuff. There is a higher selection for a smaller space. Smaller space is because 99.9% of people did not want to return to parking garage [location of Exhibitors Hall in 2007]. Some people ok with it, but the parking garage was awful—muggy, sweaty, and Artist Alley people were leaving tables instead of staying there. We have a larger space that nobody wants to use, so we're using it for other stuff.

Sarah Paige: A lot of time and energy has gone into Exhibitors Hall this year. Hope to be able to apply what has learned to fixing stuff that has gone wrong this year, because definitely some stuff that has gone wrong. But is what it is this year. Would like to move on, and put our energy towards con that is coming up in three weeks, and make criticisms constructive, so that can make something better next year.

Ally Fields: Artists Alley is in its own place and has its own space, which is not done by every con. Have own handmade stuff, and doesn't have to compete with what dealers are doing. Last couple of years has been in out-of-the-way location. Artists Alley features items from local artists from convention circuit doing themselves; drawings and crafts.

Phillip Koop, speaking as Tabletop Gaming Manager: 20 listed vendors, but there is also a tabletop gaming vendor in Tabletop Gaming area. One more vendor, and a really good one. Not ready to release name yet. Also, trying out fan tables this year. Not in Exhibitors Hall. Some of guests of honor have fan tables. Exhibitors Hall is not only place to spend money. Also Artists Alley, Tabletop Gaming, Charity Auction, which will be keeping hours similar to Exhibitors Hall, and Art Show; similar to Artists Alley. Think people will be pleasantly surprised by what is available this year.

An off-the-record comment is made.

Jaki Hunt: Garage is being used for Video Gaming, registration, and Tabletop Gaming. Exhibitors booths block airflow in garage. Also, allocating garage to Exhibitors Hall leaves the space unused for large part of convention outside of Exhibitors Hall hours. Every bit of space is used for convention activities.

Beau Gentry: Original idea was for garage to be attendee hangout place, which is indoors.

Sarah Paige: We reviewed every possible way to make a bigger Exhibitors Hall. Considered off-the-wall ideas like portable blowup tents or pods. Centennial Center was best possibility that balanced out all needs.

Beau Gentry: Reason that most of you just now hearing this, is that we have a long-standing tradition of not releasing information until it's finalized. So, if information changes, we don't have to track down all the people who we previously talked to about changes.

Original commenter: Love Artists Alley, but not an alternative to dealers' room. It's like if want to buy a bicycle, being told about an auto dealership.

Charles Mitchell: In response to that analogy, you can go and buy a bicycle, but won't have two dealers selling bicycles. We've minimized the amount of overlap so that more availability given the smaller space.

Comment is made that competition is not so much for bicycle vs. automobile, but for cash. Artists should have a place where they don't have to compete next to a dealer, whether selling same thing or not.

Ally Fields: In the end, all want the same thing. Dealers want space. Attendees want items. Staff want attendees. As long as doing those three things to the best of our ability; trying to please most amount of people, and we have happy staff, attendees, and dealers, and having convention, that's the most anyone can really ask for.

Question asking if there will be a ball next year?

Jaki Hunt: Guests are doing more activities this year. Very full schedule. Didn't have space for a ball this year. We have two dances; considered having one be a ball, but that has been fiasco in the past. Shortening one dance removes time for under-age-18 attendees to participate. Two dances have completely different DJ lineups. Already, cosplay pushed back two hours, and AMV one hour, to accommodate guest content this year. Can't commit to ball next year until know programming needs.

Jesse Cranston: Yojimbo tend to stay up and watch things overnight. Will have lockdown for garage at night?

Jaki Hunt: Electronics will be behind chain-link fence, which should be locked down. Still need security because elevator inside fence. But fencing will reduce Yojimbo needs.

TJ Stinson: Wes and I working on robust schedule so that those watching garage will be rotating fast, like 1-hour shift back-to-back. No 8- to 10-hour shifts.

Aaron McPherson: Glad that executives this dedicated, but would be nice if ask staff who are sitting around twiddling thumbs waiting about what they can do to help.

TJ Stinson: Need load-in, load-out, setup help. Logistics can assign people at any time during the convention.

Ally Fields: Regarding pre-con work, Publicity is mostly pre-con work. Next year, will have more of a plan with calendar with pre-con plans for Promo-Force Staff.

Amanda Roberts: Appreciate staff working for me and Ally. Staff have been diligent. Hoping to improve plans with Ally next year for dividing work between us. Thank you to Press Staff for amazing job. Thanks also to Programming and Relations.

Beau Gentry: Publicity biggest pre-con workload. Next year, at general meetings, would like to make bigger announcements about what is needed and where.

Aaron McPherson: My comment also aimed at Relations, as well as Publicity. This is fourth year I've been involved in charity auction, and felt like been asked to do very little. In past, been in coordination with people above me.

Jaki Hunt: Some staff positions are primarily at-con, others have more pre-con. May want to move to staff positions that better fit type of thing want to do.

Comment is made that a pre-registered attendee has still not received their badge, and that it was sent to the wrong address 4 different times; been in contact several times.

Beau Gentry: I am contact person on registration process. People call my personal cell phone asking registration questions. Phone calls have been the smallest amount since been chair, so good job to registration team.

Amanda Roberts: Also try to contact assistant directors, or managers, if can't get ahold of director. May be able to assign jobs.

Ellen Klowden: Next year will be decade anniversary. Was at meeting where Altonimbus was founded, and so amazing to look back and see how has grown.

Beau Gentry: Many of us have been around since beginning, and were members of anime club at U of O—TUNAC—where Kumoricon formed.

Ally Fields: Without promising everything, next year will be so sweet.

Kate Fletcher: Sarah and Ally and I have been plotting evil wonderful things for 10th anniversary next year.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Tyrrill  
Secretary  
Kumoricon / Altonimbus Entertainment 2011