



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell

VICE PRESIDENT: Ted Staley

TREASURER: Joe Greene

Meeting Minutes from January 26th, 2017

Call to Order: Karen welcomed all and our only guest Doug Holland; he's attended several of our meetings (friend of Walt and Penny)

Attendance: 19

Elections: Karen asked if we had voted in officers during our Christmas party; Ken Orndorff volunteered himself for President, but still needed to be voted in. George Crutcher had been nominated for Vice President and had accepted. Joe Greene is staying in place as our Treasurer and Penny Esplin will remain Secretary (and Editor).

By a show of hands, all were in favor of Ken Orndorff as our new President for 2017.

For the Record
OFFICERS for 2017

President: Ken Orndorff

Vice President: George Crutcher

Treasurer: Joe Greene

Secretary: Penny Esplin

So with her two years as our president served, Karen hands over the role of president to Ken Orndorff. She was applauded for her ongoing knowledge of our legal mining disputes, her enthusiasm for mining and a job well done! Thank you Karen!

Ken was not present to take over the meeting, so Vice President George Crutcher presided over the rest of the meeting.

Karen mentioned that we still have raffle tickets for sale for the ½ pound of gold drawing, which will be held on June 2nd, this year! The preliminary drawing was held on Dec 2nd, and quite a few members of the Willamette Valley Miners were winners in that drawing!

George asked if anyone had any personal stories or news to share. Penny told about Marlea's upcoming surgery and the fact that we wouldn't be seeing her for a while, as her recovery will be lengthy. Penny bought a card for Marlea from all of us. She will send it to her ASAP. Marlea, we all wish you well with 100% recovery and sooner the better!

Legislative Update: Karen told us of several bills, mainly the Courtney Bill SB3 ("The Ghost of Bates Bill") which is far too restrictive and prohibitive to mining. It is much more severe to small scale miners than SB838 and is being put forward as a tribute to Senator Bates (recently deceased) for his fervent crusade against miners.

There is the "Boquist Bill" SB472 in which Senator Boquist is trying to soften the blow of SB3, by creating a "Bates Memorial Site" along a stretch of the Rogue River where it would be off limits to suction dredging or mining of any kind.

MMAC Update: For those who don't know what MMAC is, the main goal is organizing and modernizing mining districts employing the full power of the federally granted 1872 mining law, and coordinated alongside BLM under an M.O.U. (Memo of Understanding). This would sidetrack any state interference seen as materially and economically harmful to mining.

MMAC now has 5 people in Washington DC gaining support for its pro-mining bills, but they need the funds to move forward! (One of the bills would have been passed last year had there not been a wrench thrown into the works by "miners screwing miners").

Joe mentioned that it would be very good for all miners working on federal land when the bills MMAC is presenting have passed the U.S. legislature. He also explained that Under federal law, every 10 years the government is required to hire a geologist, state or federal, to go in and reanalyze all closed areas (Wilderness, monuments, natural habitat areas etc.) for mineral content, and they will have a year to submit the report.

Claudia said the North Santiam and Quartzville Mining District is now organized and MMAC assisted, as well as, five in eastern Oregon. The push now is to get all the mining districts organized and ready for when these bills pass.

-The state won't be able to materially effect mining without agreement of the Mining Districts and neither will the forest service. The BLM is the only entity we will answer to, because of our MOU with them.

Penny restated the importance of "consistency" concerning the bylaws in each mining district. They need to show uniformity with each other to prove we are all on the same page, responsible, respectable and reliable. This consistency is of utmost importance.

Joe replied that consistency between the mining districts is what the government wants to see and that is the very reason why MMAC is there; to monitor and assist in the uniformity of the mining districts as they organize themselves.

The name "**Minerals and Mining Advisory Council**" really says it all.

MMAC Conference Call Q & A session-Jan. 11th: George recorded this. It was approx. an hour long, with about 200 callers. George has that recording available if anyone is interested in hearing it.

-Here is a list of some of the topics discussed:

-MMAC's Plans for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

-Where MMAC's Bill's and Amendment's are at.

-What you need to do.

-MMAC becoming the lead group for Mining Districts in the United States and how it's going to work.

-What the MMAC Assisted Mining Districts, ranchers, off-roaders, and outdoorsman are going to get out of this.

George spoke of the last meeting of the **North Santiam Mining District** held at Don Esch's place on Dec.8th (bad weather, nobody else was able to come), so there was only him and Don. -They began writing up some of the bylaws for the district. George made a recording of the meeting and submitted a hard copy to Claudia and Joe/MMAC for advisement.

-He wants to get the by-laws ironed out at the next district meeting; which will be at the end of February when Don gets back.

-He said he would like to see more miners from the district become members. So far, he has calculated there are 7 other mine owners we need to reel in as district members. Trouble is, figuring out what and how to collect membership fees so our district can effectively operate.

- Also he would like to have more executive officers, (with a sergeant at arms, to keep the meetings under control). He said he made up a newsletter format for the district. He set up an email address (gmail) for the district. He wants the district members to be able to communicate mining district business and include updates through that venue.

The NEXT MEETING for the North Santiam Mining District is on on Feb 27th @ 6:00 and will be held at Don Esch's house. *If you are a member of the Millennium Diggers Association, you are also claim owners in the N.S.M.D. with 2 claims; our Jeeter claim and our new Golden Crown claim. It is in your best interest to attend the mining district meeting!*

Secretary's Report: Penny asked if everyone had received the Christmas newsletter and the minutes from November 10th. Everyone said they did.

Claudia had a correction that needed to be noted: In November we voted that our new **2017 membership dues would be \$30.00.** She asked if we all remembered that. We said yes, and Penny will make that correction in the minutes.

She also got an email from Barbara Parker Ferguson (new last name), who is our website host, and she said she will be bringing our website up-to-date; naming the new officers, she will include the new membership application with Joe's address and the \$30.00 membership

fee, and all the wording that reads "club" she will change to "association", because we are an association. -So if any members go onto our website and see anything that doesn't look right, get a hold of Claudia so she can make sure it gets fixed.

Claudia made a motion to accept the minutes, Joe seconded. George asked if we needed a discussion.

-Penny mentioned that "*all meeting minutes are amendable and can be changed and/or corrected at the following meeting.*"

All were in favor and accepted the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Joe took over treasury in August 2016. To date we have only spent money on the mining claims filing fees with county and BLM and location fees for the 2 new claims, Christmas Party expenses and a check for \$100.00 was donated to the church in thanks for letting us continue to hold our meetings there. Claudia and Penny both had receipts for expenses and were reimbursed.

So our bank account looks good for 2017.

-A motion was made to accept the treasury report; it was seconded and approved by all.

Claims Report: Claudia has located 2 more claims for us, one is on the Little N Fork river in the North Santiam Mining District and is called **The Golden Crown** (20 acres). Its located just below Three Pools. The other is in the Quartzville Mining District in Dry Gulch area and it is called **Golden Digger** (20 acres). Claudia has a map of each of them, but has not calculated the mileage yet for precise directions, that will come as soon as weather conditions improve. Once we get this completed we will send out claim information to all our membership.

Penny praised Claudia for her diligence and perseverance in locating these 2 claims for us. We are truly fortunate! She said she wanted to find a couple claims close by and with easy enough access for our members to use, and she did it! YAY!

We just received our ORMC #'s from BLM, and Penny has made signs for both claims, now each with their own number.

Claudia said when we have our outing at Miner's Meadow in June; we will have 4 days to play, so we will most likely make a trek up to our Golden Digger claim, which is just up the road from there.

Tammy said that if any of us were members of the WVM, then our Miner's Meadow trip would be extended, because they have it reserved just behind us!

Claudia said she found really pretty wire gold at both our new claims. The Golden Diggers creek is mostly dry, but there are still places that aren't. A pick and shovel may be the best bet for recovery there. She found good color on both of our new claims, and she was just test panning surface material along the banks and side slopes.

-As soon as all the information with the maps and directions to both claims have been established, we will send them out in an email and will be included as part of the members claim packet.

Karen made a motion to accept the claims report. Penny seconded. Questions? No. All in favor? Unanimous "Aye".

Break (Doug and Terrie had left to go pick up some snacks for our break) -Table raffle. 1/2lb gold raffle tickets for sale. Membership applications filled out and turned in to Joe.

Resume Meeting: George stated that we wouldn't do a table raffle this time; there just weren't enough items on the table to cause the mob effect, throwing all their mad money at the table in hopes of winning the best prize on the table. But there was no best prize, just a sad empty table.

-Penny has an idea! *Let's focus on it ahead of time and bring in some loot for the raffle table this next meeting? I know I plan on it! (This next round, the table raffle is going to cause a stampede!) So bring your neat stuff and all the mad money you can muster!*

Old Business: T-Shirts? David said he got the image of the logo from Joe in his computer, and when he went to enlarge it, it got so distorted it can't be used (not enough pixels), that's where he is at this time. Karen said it must not be in the proper format.

The logo still has not been changed as yet; the diamond needs to be a gold nugget. Penny originally was going to do this, but she declined saying, "I can't see the gold nugget looking like anything but a yellow blob in the gopher's hand. Sorry". (At this point, everyone is focused on the vial of gold Joe is passing around.) "Ok, so nobody agrees or disagrees?" We'll table this discussion for the next meeting.

Claudia said Delmon actually had a T-Shirt made once, and how did he go about doing that? It was in 2000, he said he just took in his membership card; they scanned it, exploded it and put it on a T-Shirt. (at a print shop in Portland, name undisclosed).

Claudia has the answer, her husband Daniel has his own print shop and can handle making a usable copy for making t-shirts. She will pursue the issue of the T-shirts logo file format etc.

As far as the location for this year's Christmas Party, it looks like the church has a lot of Christmas programs scheduled and the Fellowship Hall won't be available for us to use. George will reserve the clubhouse where we just had our Christmas Party; it is big, it has all the amenities we need, and we had a great time using it for our party. George said he will reserve it for the second Saturday in December, the 9th @ 12:00. Thanks George!

Future Outings: During February's meeting, we will come up with a solid schedule of events, and welcome any ideas and prospects. Terrie suggested we include some "Metal Detecting" outings in our events plan.

-Wes and Tammy host 2 outings to **Beverly Beach**. The first one is on **April 8th**.

-IMPORTANT TO COMMIT! Memorial weekend- May 26th thru May 29th: Sunstones –contacts?
Chuck asked if we could send out a map of where we will be camping. More info on this is pending.

-Claudia has reserved **Miners Meadow on Quartzville Creek for June 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th for all Millennium Diggers** members to get together for a **camp out and potluck**.

-Please email any and all ideas for outings to our email address, we can really use your input: milleniumdiggers@yahoo.com (note there is only one 'n')

Rocks or Treasures "A and B": Evette brought Amethyst from her collection, some polished some not, some agates she polished, and some frosted beach glass, in green, brown, white and aqua. She said she sold some on eBay, and did really well. Lots of buyers looking for beach glass.

-Delmon brought in a relic: an old washed up dredge motor that was found on the Yuba River years ago by his dad and/or his uncle.

Good to the Order: Penny said she will send out reminder emails the day before our meetings. -Also, this next meeting (Feb 23) we should start again with our letters "A and B" for our *Rocks and Treasures show and tell* (since we weren't quite prepared or notified prior to).

Meeting Adjourned

OUR NEXT MEETING IS Thursday February 23rd @ 7:00pm Be There!

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Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

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