

Columbia County's Citizen Review Board Volunteers Recognized

The Oregon Judicial Department, Citizen Review Board (CRB) would like to recognize Ellen Lager and Nancy Bubl of Warren, Monica Cade of St. Helens, and Julie Hathaway of Clatskanie, for their collective volunteer service of 41 years as board members for the Columbia County Citizen Review Board (CRB). "Thank you for your commitment to the CRB and dedication to improving the lives of Oregon's most vulnerable children and families. You are invaluable to the CRB and the community that you serve," stated a letter of recognition to these valuable community volunteers.

The CRB is a program within Oregon's state

court system that reviews the cases of children in foster care. Citizens bring an independent, diverse, and common sense perspective to foster care cases. They provide transparency and public oversight to a system that is largely closed due to the confidential nature of the cases and a review environment that is typically less formal than a court hearing, often resulting in more meaningful participation from youth, parents, and foster parents.



Left to Right: Nancy Bubl, Ellen Lager, Monica Cade

CRB asks a lot of its volunteers. Prior to the review day, they must read through case materials to familiarize themselves with the circumstances leading up to a child's placement in foster care. During reviews, they are expected to confidently ask parties questions and apply an informed understanding of child welfare policies to make a series of legal findings about the services provided to families. And, they must do all of this in an environment where people are in crisis.

At each review, CRB volunteers assess whether the child welfare agency is complying with policies and laws that are critically important to the safety, perma-

nency, and well-being of children in foster care. For example, they verify whether caseworkers are visiting children in the foster home to ensure the home is safe, whether visitation plans between parents and children are appropriately updated to promote attachment, and whether children set to age out of the foster system have plans in place to navigate independent adulthood.

Because citizen review boards are only as strong as their members, CRB must find, recruit, train, and ultimately retain the skilled volunteers. If you are interested in joining Oregon's Citizen Review Board, please contact: Rebecca Regello at (503) 731-3206 rebecca.a.regello@ojd.state.or.us. More information is available at: www.courts.oregon.gov/CRB.

Dear Stranger

Connecting Oregonians, one letter at a time

Oregon is a big place, home to a great diversity of geography and experience. How can we hope to understand the experiences of people living in such different places? How can we work together for the good of all?

Dear Stranger, a letter-exchange project, sponsored by Oregon Humanities, that connects Oregonians from different parts of the state through the mail, strives to create a little understanding across the vastness of this place. For this year's edition of Dear Stranger, we're asking people from all over the state to consider some of the questions at the heart of Bridging Oregon, our ongoing cross-community conversation series.

Here's how it works:

1. Write a letter. Address it "Dear Stranger." Write about the place where you live or a community where you feel at home. What makes it unique or unusual? Is there anything about your place or your community that you feel is misunderstood by people outside of it? What might help people understand it better? Fill a page or two, or more if you feel inspired. If you'd like, feel free to include a photo or a drawing or a recipe—anything that will fit in

an envelope.
2. Print and sign the Dear Stranger release form. We cannot exchange letters without a signed release. (<http://oregonhumanities.org/programs/collaborative-projects/dear-stranger/>)
3. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Stranger c/o Oregon Humanities, 921 SW Washington St., #150, Portland, Oregon 97205. When you write to Dear Stranger, your letter will be swapped with that of another writer from elsewhere in the state. They will get your letter; you will get theirs. The exchange is anonymous, and you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like. Please keep in mind that photos, even ones without people in them, may contain information that could be used to identify you.

Letters will be mailed to participants on a rolling basis beginning in August 2018. Letters will be mailed at the end of each month. We will continue exchanging letters received through October 26, 2018. Instructions for replying to your stranger will be included in your letter.

If you have questions about Dear Stranger, contact Ben Waterhouse at b.waterhouse@oregonhumanities.org or (503) 241-0543, ext. 122.

Ridge Riders and Logging Show Results

Logging Show Sportsmanship award went to Mike Truong. He received a chainsaw that was presented by Pacific Tractor and Implement. The 1st place winner of the Logging Show was Shane Felton. He received a chainsaw donated by Bigsby Logging LLC. 2nd place was Mike Truong 3rd place was Andy Hodder

Vernonia Ridge Riders Jamboree Belt Buckle winners:
57 riders competed
9/under: Naomi Curtis
10-14: Natalia Frolov
15-20: Maiya Miller
21-39: Dani Howard
40/over: Sabrina Frolov
Belt Buckle sponsors:
R&S Market
Vernonia Hardware
Wauna Credit Union
Napa Auto Parts
Black Iron Grill

Owned and Operated by Don & Kim Wallace

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