



Oregon & SW Washington Chapter

May 19, 2021, 11:30am - 1:00pm

via Zoom

Meeting Notes

Announcements and Updates

President – Jodi Tanner Tell

Jodi introduced herself and shared that the scholarships will be announced online.

Scholarships:

Local Scholarships:

Our locally funded Michael Wells Memorial conference scholarship for Oregon and SW Washington members will be open June 1 – July 31, 2021.

<https://grantprofessionalsfoundation.org/conference-scholarships/>

National Scholarships: The Grant Professionals Foundation offers three types of scholarships.

- Conference scholarships are accepted from June 1st-30th.
- Grant Professionals GPC Exam are accepted May 15-June 30th
- Membership Scholarships - offered two times per year in the Spring and Fall (dates TBD)
- See here for more info: <http://grantprofessionalsfoundation.org/available-scholarships/>

Treasurer's Report

Maggie Bonjean shared that the balance is \$5,720, including expenses on the website and leadership conference

Breakouts for Introductions

Darcie Spar led the breakout meeting session. Meeting participants introduced themselves in breakout rooms and shared their main grantwriting challenges. Common themes included how to make apps great on a short deadline/procrastination/federal grants complications/how to update existing applications for returning funder.

Vice President – Lisa Kron

Bite-size Volunteer Opportunities!

Lisa encouraged meeting participants to get involved in a variety of volunteer activities: With these bite size opportunities, members and non-members alike can find ways to work in small ways, get to know other members, and see if volunteering is right for you.

Examples of the opportunities include: New member survey, design process for scholarships, website update, grantwriting bingo.

Lisa will email out list to everyone. You are welcome to email gpanorthwest1@gpa.com for more info or to volunteer!

Membership

Jenny Lind thanked all meeting participants, and shared that we are now at 55 members!

Program - Special Speaker Maryn Boess

Darcie introduced Maryn Boess, founder of GrantsMagic U. Chapter members were invited to complete the **Power Writing for Grants - and More** online class before the meeting.

Over her 35+-year nonprofit career, Maryn Boess has been an on-staff grantwriter; a grants consultant (winning \$42 million for her clients over 10 years); a grants trainer; a grants reviewer, author, speaker, mentor and coach; and – starting in 2006 - even a grantmaker. Maryn may be the only person holding membership in both Grant Professionals Association (for grantseekers) - and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (for grantmakers). In 2020, Maryn became just the second inductee into the Grant Professionals Class of Distinguished Fellows.

Maryn provided a high-level overview of the class and writing concepts using both the knowledge that we can't do it all at once, and seeing the writing from the grantmaker's perspective.

She highlighted:

- what makes writing easier for us and more effective
- how can we write more quickly and confidently
- focus is on clarity -- not just concision

High-level points are below

- We want our message to be understood. how can we shape our writing so the intelligent reader (or busy, distracted) can't misunderstand the message.
- Brain science tells us that our brains can't do it all at once. Writer's block is almost always because we're trying to do it all at once.
- Separate out the what and the how.

12-12-12 Example

Think through the grantmaker's eyes. Assume that the review will happen under worst circumstances:

- 12 midnight; reviewer just had 12-hour workday; your proposal is 12th out of 20. What choices can you make that will keep reviewer so engaged that she'll champion your proposal?
 - Page limit – how to bring in enough info but not make her scream, but keep her engaged.
 - Keep reviewer's mental energy in mind – biggest challenge. They're sorting puzzle pieces together given the funding allocated. What can we do with all of this? They may look for those that all reviewers agree are/aren't fundable.
 - Fuzzy language vs. utterly clear
 - Opening line in first paragraph using the Vision bridge: *nothing you say will make sense until you give context – connect what we aspire to, and what we have.*

How do you jump between projects using the 3 buckets?

- Composing brain vs. editing brain.
- 5-minute break gives you a reset.

The How of writing

Use the Tools in the online course to apply these keys.

Organizing – the “what” of writing: how to structure the info for best results.

- Put bottom line first – exactly what the request is about.
- Mind mapping as preferred form of outlining.
- Editing and proofreading for professional polish.

Golden Rule: Write unto others as you would be written unto.

- No scavenger hunting or decoding.
- Write to express, not to impress (ego-first perspective), using strength of your idea and clarity of your thinking
- Writing should be invisible, clear. Make it easy to unpack deliverables.

Writing to 5th grade level – but that’s insulting?

- Grade level never meant that, but mental energy that’s required for decoding foggy writing.
- Length of sentences/passive voice.
- 5-7 level – means writing is **transparent**. Not correlated to education.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Jodi Tanner Tell
Vice President: Lisa Kron
Secretary: Jenny Lind
Treasurer: Maggie Bonjean

CHAIRS

Programming Chair: Darcie Spar
Regional Conference Chair: Arthur Davis
Social Media Chair: Heather Ellis
Membership Chair: Jenny Lind
Former President: Jennifer Mangieri, Heather Ellis

GPA Advisory Board - Arthur Davis, Heather Ellis, Rick Horton, Jennifer Mangieri, Darcie Spar and Karen Warr

Upcoming 2021 Chapter Meeting Dates

Chapter Meetings <i>11:30 am - 1:30 pm</i>	Executive Committee Mtgs <i>3:30 - 5:00 pm</i>
8/18/21: General topic (exact title TBD): Data/Metrics	7/15/21
12/1/21: Highlights from the GPA National Conference	10/15/21

COST: \$15 for non GPA members

Interested in joining the program or social committees? Contact us at gpanorthwest1@gmail.com.