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NOTICE: DECEMBER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Potluck

Date: DECEMBER 11, 2016
Time: 1:30 pm Potluck, 2:00 pm Program
Program: Holiday Show and Tell
Location: Heritage Center, Hwy 18 & Durham Lane, McMinnville

ON THE WEB:
♦ Visit our Website now at yamhillcountyhistory.org
♦ Join our Facebook Group yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb
♦ Email us at info@yamhillcountyhistory.org

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Springbrook Telephone Company 1906–1969

The organization of the telephone system at Springbrook, Oregon, northeast of Newberg, began on December 4, 1906. It spanned the years as an independent organization, a co-op with stocks sold for $5 per share, until advancements in technology deemed the equipment obsolete. These small telephone companies were referred to as farmer lines.

Disbandment took place on December 19, 1969. There were 55 stockholders at the time service was taken over by General Telephone Company which served the area. Springbrook was the last private company of its kind and size left in the area.

According to Daisy (Newhouse) Reed’s book “Springbrook: A Cooperative Community Then and Now” her father had a phone installed in his Springbrook store in 1895, apparently served by the Newberg office. Springbrook Telephone Company did not have their own switchboard but went through Newberg”s operator for a monthly fee.

Newberg Mutual Telephone Company submitted a proposal to allow the Springbrook patrons of line #19 (Springbrook Branch) to organize as a branch company. The proposal was accepted by both and “Springbrook Branch of the Mutual Telephone Company” was created at a 7:30 pm meeting on December 4, 1906. The meeting place was not stated in the minutes, but most business gatherings were held in the schoolhouse.

At this time the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. They stated the annual meeting

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Christmas Tree Fun Facts

They are a holiday staple, but you might not know these fun facts about Christmas trees.

1. Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.
2. In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lighted except for the top ornament. This was done in honor of the American hostages in Iran.
3. Between 1887—1933, a fishing schooner called the Christmas Ship would tie up at the Chicago Clark Street bridge and sell spruce trees from Michigan to Chicagoans.
4. The tallest living Christmas tree is believed to be the 122-foot, 91-year-old Douglas fir in the town of Woodinville, Washington.
5. The Rockefeller Center
President’s Letter

A loud round of applause is in order for the Activities and Events Committee and all who helped decorate, hold and clean up this year’s Night at the Museum. Not only were the Halloween decorations great, they may have been the best in the entire County. Same for the activities that evening for both kids and adults. Games, movies including 3-D, live (or maybe living dead) actors to scare everyone. It was a lot of fun, but also extremely informative and directly served our mission to preserve and promote history. Did you know for instance that today’s big screen movie extravaganzas are a direct descendant of your great grandmother’s stereoscope? Those who watched the 3-D movies in the conference room now know thanks to the efforts of the Rogers family. Everyone involved did an outstanding job.

The A&E Committee also managed to greatly increase attendance for that event, so much so they ran out of popcorn and balloons at least three times and had to run out to find more. While there was not a head count at the door, it appeared to be at least double, maybe a triple increase from last year. And all free except for a requested YCAP food donation.

A similar round of applause is also in order for the Veteran’s Day displays and the presentations at November’s monthly general meeting and potluck brunch. Once again the A&E volunteers rounded up some excellent visual aids and in the process reminded everyone that history does have to go all the way back to the 1800s and it is not just artifacts. Sara Miller’s presentations brought in some living history in the form of member vets who attended the meeting and shared their experiences so we would not forget. It was yet another free event so long as you are a member. Almost every month brings another interesting presentation at those meetings.

And, don’t forget those that are helping keep the buildings and assets looking good. Those bathrooms don’t clean themselves. Those tractors don’t oil themselves or shift themselves around to make space. The incoming cars don’t get parked in the right places without attentive guides. Without the behind the scenes workers, the public events would not be nearly as successful or attract as much favorable attention.

Which brings up the next point. Applause is deserved, but such activities take more. They require money, manpower and dedicated, concentrated management. Every event needs planning, marketing, bringing together volunteers, supervising operations and cleanup. Some of the larger multi-day events require even more of each than other small scale events. The committees have been doing it so far and doing a great job, but the events are getting to be so many and of such a size that they cannot be effectively managed with just an all volunteer crew. It’s too big a job. Those who do it get burnt out because there are so few doing what is needed. After all, we only have 350 or so members.

We are at a critical juncture. Just to keep at the same level, we need more leaders and more volunteers. Thanks to a combination of health issues, job commitments, family needs, by coincidence we are faced with the need to replace several critical Chair positions at once including the critically important A&E Committee and the Heritage Center Operations...
Board Meeting Recap ~ November 9, 2016

The following recap is a condensed version of not-yet approved minutes from the board meeting. All committee reports are filed in the record book with the minutes at the Lafayette Site.

Committee Reports:
- **Activities and Events Committee**—Sarah Miller reported that the Night at the Museum Halloween Event was a success. There was an increase in attendance from last year. Upcoming event to end 2016 is Handmade Holiday.
- **Blacksmith Shop Committee**—Dale Turner reported that the Blacksmith now has two forges on line and operating. This allows for four smiths working at a time. Currently there is a core group of six smiths with others interested in joining the committee. The committee will be focusing on obtaining one more anvil and rebuilding of an additional vice.
- **Education Committee**—Cynthia Christensen reported that 213 kids attended the Fall Pioneer Days.

**President’s Report:**
- Charles Hillestad reported that he, Sarah Miller and Cynthia Christensen appeared in costume on Ken Moore’s Community Cable TV program. A tape of the program may be put on the YCHS website. Charles also added that a standardized format for committee reports should be used.

**Secretary’s Report:**
- Jo McIntyre recommends that all committee reports be submitted within the body of the email. Report with no news can state that in the subject line. The subject line should include the name of the committee and the date of the report.

**Treasurer’s Report:**
- Todd Holt provided the treasurer’s report which is on file in the record book in Lafayette.

**Unfinished Business:**
- Watts’ committee chair replacement—search is ongoing.
- Ad for Events & Rental Coordinator—in process.
- New website—in process.
- Fireproof storage facility for the Miller Museum—Todd is researching.

**New Business:**
- Winter hours for the Heritage Center will be in effect from December to March 2017.
- The board will be reviewing the Society’s 20011 policy for submission of grant applications at the December board meeting.

**Other Business:**
- The board accepted Ken Rogers resignation with thanks and appreciation for his service.
- Polling Church physical condition—earlier estimates for the cost of fixing the building came to around $500,000. A special meeting needs to be held to discus the Polling Church as the repair amount might be closer to $1 million. A grant may be needed for this issue. A special meeting will be held in January 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo McIntyre, Secretary
Submitted November 15, 2016

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7th Annual Handmade Holiday

Proceeds to Benefit the Yamhill County Historical Society

Saturday
December 3rd
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

50+ VENDORS
LOCAL ARTISTS
HANDMADE POTTERY
SOAPS ♦ TEXTILES
JEWELRY ♦ WOOD CARVERS

Sunday
December 4th
Noon to 4 p.m.

MUSIC ♦ FOOD
SILENT AUCTION
SANTA’S WALK
DECORATED TREE AUCTION
A GREAT HOLIDAY TRADITION

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
11275 SW Durham Ln., McMinnville
(Intersection of Hwy. 18 & Durham Ln.)

FREE ENTRY
WITH FOOD DONATION
FOR YCAP

Help those in need this holiday season by bringing non-perishable food to donate to the YCAP Food Bank.

For more information, call Karen Sitton-Saxberg (503) 434-2189 or go to www.yamhillcountyhistory.org
Join our Facebook group: yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb
DECEMBER 2016

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2016 Annual General Meeting
SHOW & TELL

On December 11, YCHS will have its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The program will be Holiday Show and Tell. Bring your favorite holiday keepsakes and tell us about its story. Or have people guessing what your holiday item is. We would like to see everyone bring at least one holiday item. Dig deep, surprise us.

Winter Hours

Heritage Center
December — March 2017
Saturday: 10:00am — 3:00pm

Lafayette Museum
The museum will be closed on December 23, 24, 30 and 31.
Ways to give back this Holiday season

Here at YCHS, we know that sharing and giving is something that is in the hearts and minds of all members during this special time of the year. Please read below on the many ways you can help the Historical Society this holiday season.

Upgrade Your Membership
Become a Friend, Supporter, Community Builder or Community Benefactor. Memberships range from $15 to $500. Or donate additional funds with your membership.

Monetary Donations
We always accept donations of cash or checks. Monetary gifts may be donated to the YCHS’s General Fund, a specific fund, special project, event, activity or displays. Gifts may be made in person or by mail. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent that the IRS allows.

Bequests
Name the YCHS as your beneficiary in your will. A bequest may be tailored to address individual needs and interests so that the donor gains a unique opportunity to provide for the YCHS and its future.

Annual Membership Gifts
Annual memberships are great gifts for family and friends. We invite you to consider the YCHS in your 2016 gift-giving.

Buy Some Books
The Lafayette site has a great collection of local history books that would be appropriate for Christmas presents.

Volunteering
Donate your time. Sign up to volunteer at one of our many events. Do you love books? Consider working in the research library. Love visual displays? Help design new and interesting historical displays. Do you know the difference between a Locomobile and a Model T? If so, we could use you. The help list is endless, volunteer today.
would be the first Monday of each year. This was later changed to the third Monday of January since it fell on the holiday.

The rules further stated that the elected directors would choose their executive committee which included, besides the usual officers, a Superintendent. He would oversee construction and repairs and receive “reasonable compensation” for work done.

Each stockholder would own his telephone and connections and keep them in repair, all paying equal shares in the cost of maintaining the lines.

New members’ shares would be sold at $5. He must furnish the poles needed from the company lines to his home. The annual assessment varied each year and in 1907 it was $1.

There were 24 original patrons the first year as follows: Alpheus Mills changed to Axum Newby, Zimri Mills for whom Zimri Drive is named, Seth Mills, Lewis Hoskins for whom Hoskins Street is named, Mr. Perkins, John H. Rees chairman of the Springbrook Cannery Board, Christopher and Young who would have been the Springbrook store and post office owners, then their membership was changed to M.C. Markell who had the store next, Levi Lewis, Paul Macy, Justin L. Hayworth, Hayworth Street’s namesake, John Rush, father of Mable Rush Elementary School is named, Thomas Miles, A.P. Wallen, C.E. Newhouse the cannery manager, E.W. Whitlow, Mr. Grover, E.C. Baker, Milo Elliott, the Springbrook Cannery, Steven Hoskins, Charles Calkins, L.M. Carey and John Hayworth.

The first Directors were: Ray Newby, Zimri Mills, Paul Macy, Justin L. Hayworth and J.H. Rees. Alpheus R. Mills was President, J.H. Rees was Secretary, Ray Newby the elected Superintendent and Miss A.L. Christopher served as Treasurer.

Seth A. Mills offered his line outfit of climbers, safety belt, connection clamps and wire stretchers for which he was paid $9, half then and half at the next assessment.

The second year of operation Zimri Mills was President and Justin Hayworth Secretary. Also in 1907 the company decided to construct a second line and by 1917 there were three. The annual assessment per household fluctuated between $1.50 and $2.00. In later years the average fee was $20 but to buy into the company it was still $5 per share.

Records of January 1915 show that the Secretary was authorized to sign the company up for workers insurance with the State Industrial Accident Commission of Oregon. Receipts from the commission state that the fund was established by the Workers Compensation Law of 1913.

At one time the phone lines of the Gibbs community to the northeast of Springbrook were strung on Springbrook’s poles to connect with Newberg’s switchboard.

In 1921 a copy of the company’s By-Laws was typed up containing additional legal language and some small changes. The letter was postmarked March 2, 1921 at the Springbrook Post Office and was sent by Ellis A. Winters, Sherwood, Oregon, he being a resident of Gibbs. The five page document was mailed for 2¢.

The first Superintendent/Lineman was Ray Newby. Then shortly Foster Mills took over with the work help of his brother Dennis. This was in 1910. Dennis gained the title in 1914 and served for 25 years until Myron H. King took over when he moved to the community in 1940.

There were no written records in our possession for the years following 1917 so we must rely on memory of personal knowledge.

We think Donald C. Landauer took on the Lineman’s job when Myron King passed away in 1944. Don was President when the company was sold in 1969. Don’s Springbrook Garage, which opened in 1948, had a small loft serving as the telephone supply storage.

Over the years, though the Lineman took care of most things, he would have volunteers from among the stockholders for work parties to set poles and other heavy jobs.

Many of the cedar poles were donated or were bought from members of the company. They were usually hauled by Ray Garland of Parrett Mountain on his log truck. When old growth cedar became hard to get, in about 1963, treated poles were bought from the Portland firm of McCormick and Baxter at their yard on the east end of the St. Johns Bridge. The price: $20 a pole.

Wall telephones with an oak cabinet were in use in the early days. They contained two 1 1/2 volt dry cell batteries. There were 10 people on a party line. Each party had their own combination of long and short rings, heard by all parties on the line. The small hand crank on the side of the phone was rotated to ring the bells on the front of the cabinet, thus contacting a neighbor.

For instance, if the number was 10F05, this indicated they were on line 10. The 0 meant they had no line rings, the 5 stood for 5 short rings. There were different combinations of rings and numbers for each party on each line.

A party line could be a very good thing in an emergency, as a long, long ringing could alert all the parties that their help was needed. Also, the central operator was familiar with most patrons and could alert the right people to come to one’s aid. Springbrook resident, Arden Butler, remembers when a car slipped off the jack and pinned one of the Arp family on Crestview Dr., his father, Asa, was summoned to the rescue.

Now, since all rings sounded at each house on the line, it presented the opportunity to pick up the receiver and listen in on someone else’s conversation. In most homes, courtesy made this an absolutely forbidden practice. For a very few this proved too much temptation, but word got around and all the other neighbors knew who the guilty parties were.

When making a call to anyone not on your line, one long ring was used to contact the central switchboard operator. Usually a woman, she was commonly called Central. She attached the correct wire to connect you to your party. She was

Continued on Page 10
**YCHS Job Opportunity!**

**Events & Rentals Coordinator**

The Yamhill County Historical Society is seeking an independent contractor to act as Events & Rentals Coordinator. The Society puts on numerous events at its museums. Two are quite large and the job will necessitate organizing, marketing, volunteer recruitment, coordination with other committees, set-up, clean-up, and supervision of the events. The Society also allows its space at the Heritage Center to be rented by outside groups. Consequently, the job will include marketing, signing up and monitoring the rentals.

While events and rental use are the priorities and principal focus of the job, it may also include keeping the Society website updated, seeking grants for operations and development as well as expanding membership and revenue. The Coordinator will report to the Board of Directors, but must be a self-starter, well organized, good with people, talented in PR, plus willing to handle the customary paperwork for what is becoming a growing 501©(3) entity. It is not anticipated it will be a full time job with regular hours since by its nature hours will spike in the Spring and late Summer for the two largest events.

Compensation is negotiable, but as a charitable organization, the Society has a limited amount of liquid assets and the applicant will be expected to assist in raising the necessary funds.

If interested, email charleshillestad@cs.com or write Attn: C. Hillestad—President, Yamhill County Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, McMinnville, OR 97128.

This listing terminates December 10, 2016.

Charles Hillestad, YCHS Interim President
Phone: (503) 687-1730  Email: charleshillestad@cs.com

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**A Bit of Christmas History**

by the disenchanted classes often occurred during the Christmas season. In 1828, the New York city council instituted the city’s first police force in response to a Christmas riot. This catalyzed certain members of the upper classes to begin to change the way Christmas was celebrated in America.

In 1819, best-selling author Washington Irving wrote *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. The sketches featured a squire who invited the peasants into his home for the holiday. In contrast to the problems faced in American society, the two groups mingled effortlessly. In Irving’s mind, Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing groups together across lines of wealth or social status. Irving’s fictitious celebrants enjoyed “ancient customs,” including the crowning of a Lord of Misrule. Irving’s book, however, was not based on any holiday celebration he had attended—in fact, many historians say that Irving’s account actually “invented” traditions by implying that it described the true customs of the season.

Also around this time, English author Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The story’s message -the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind—struck a powerful chord in the United States and England and showed members of Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday.

The family was also becoming less disciplined and more sensitive to the emotional needs of children during the early 1800s. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention and gifts on their children without appearing to “spoil” them.

As Americans began to embrace Christmas as a perfect family holiday, old customs were unearthed. People looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated. In the next 100 years, Americans built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards, and gift-giving.

Although most families quickly bought into the idea that they were celebrating Christmas how it had been done for centuries, Americans had really re-invented a holiday to fill the cultural needs of a growing nation.

Written by History.com Staff
And found on [www.history.com](http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas)
Christmas Tree Fun Facts Concluded

Christmas tree tradition began in 1933. Franklin Pierce, the 14th president, brought the Christmas tree tradition to the White House.

6. In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the White House lawn.

7. Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and first family.

8. Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet.

9. In 1912, the first community Christmas tree in the United States was erected in New York City.

10. Christmas trees generally take 6-8 years to mature.

11. Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

12. 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry.

13. 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms.

14. More than 1,000,000 acres of land have been planted with Christmas trees.

15. 77 million Christmas trees are planted each year.

16. On average, over 2,000 Christmas trees are planted per acre.

17. You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace. It can contribute to creosote buildup.

18. Other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past.

19. Thomas Edison’s assistants came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees.

20. In 1963 the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.

21. Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.

22. In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.

23. Tinsel was once banned by the government. Tinsel contained lead at one time, now it’s made of plastic.

24. In 1984, the National Christmas Tree was lit on December 13th with temperatures in the 70s, making it one of the warmest tree lightings in history.

25. 34 to 36 million Christmas trees are produced each year and 95 percent are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms.


27. The best selling trees are Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, and White Pine.

Written by history.com Staff
And found on www.history.com
http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees

A BIG thank you to the McMinnville Self-Stor for their generous promotion of the Yamhill County Historical Society!

We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for our wonderful community and their support!

THANK YOU!
exposed to all sorts of information, but prudently kept it to herself and didn’t spread tales.

This early type of equipment was replaced by dial phones in about 1965.

For quite some time, Harmon K. King, son of Myron, served as the company’s Secretary/Treasurer. When he had to move away in 1960, the bookkeeping chores fell to Winifred, wife of company President Don Landauer. This was added to her bookkeeping for their Springbrook Garage. She wrote in a letter that she didn’t think it would be hard, but would need one easy lesson in the “Harmon King” bookkeeping system. The responsibilities included State Industrial Accident payments and reports. She was receiving $1.50 per hour for the job.

Starting in the 1950’s, Donald R. King, son of Myron and Son-in-Law of Don Landauer, was the last Lineman for Springbrook Telephone Company. He was responsible for installations, repairs and troubleshooting and coordination with General Telephone Company. He served until their closure in 1969.

By the 1960’s, people were beginning to request private lines. Springbrook’s small system was unable to fill this need. The only private line was for the Springbrook Cannery. The General Telephone Company announced the closure of its Newberg switchboard, so the little company was absorbed by General and brought up to their standards. General’s District Engineer complimented the company for being “remarkably well preserved”.

Fees naturally went up with improvements but General Telephone agreed there would be no equipment rental charges because Springbrook’s patrons all owned their own telephones.

The co-op which served the community so well for sixty three years is but a pleasant memory. Fallen to modern technology and a demand for privacy and instant service, its change was inevitable.

Going forward is generally good but the loss of community closeness and the spirit of volunteerism which kept the little company ticking is to be mourned and recalled with fondness.

Compiled by Donna Jo (Landauer) King, daughter of Donald C. and Winifred (Curtis) Landauer, wife of Donald R. King.

A brief history on Springbrook: Springbrook was an unincorporated community now within the city of Newberg. The community was originally named “Hoskins”, after pioneer Cyrus E. Hoskins, who settled in the area. When a post office was established on June 30, 1893, the name was changed to Springbrook (after Cyrus Hoskins’ farm), since there was already a Hoskins, Oregon in Benton County. Most of Springbrook was eventually incorporated into the eastern part of Newberg. Many of the businesses, streets and housing developments in that area are named after the former community, including Springbrook Plaza, Springbrook Oaks and Springbrook Road.

President’s Letter Concluded

Committee. Plus, a Website Coordinator is desperately needed. Almost all the committees need more people. Please pick one and start attending meetings. If you can’t, encourage someone you know who can.

The Board has stepped in with some stop gap measures which probably would have been needed ultimately anyway. For example, a cleaning crew contract has been signed with MV Advancements to relieve at least some of that need. And the Board is looking to hire an Events & Rentals Coordinator. It would not replace the A&E Committee or even its Chair. The job is not full time and will be an independent contractor, but will help the Committee perform some of its functions, especially in the marketing of rentals and the nitty-gritty of supervision. Hopefully, that person will also assist the Website Coordinator and the Grants and Membership Committees. That person’s primary function will be insure we have successful and profitable events and rentals.

If you know someone or want to apply yourself, see the job description posted elsewhere in this newsletter.

Charles Hillestad
YCHS Interim President
Phone: (503) 687-1730
Email: charleshillestad@cs.com

Submitted: November 15, 2016
2016 Membership Dues Renewal Notice

Dear Members,

THANK YOU for being a Yamhill County Historical Society member! Your contribution to the Society goes directly towards our activities, events, educational programs, building improvements and daily operations, all of which greatly benefit our community. We ask for your membership in the YCHS so we may continue with the valuable activities and events to increase and support our existing membership, and to foster potential visitors and new membership in our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the YCHS. You are important to us! It’s members like you that make all the difference.

RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Members receive The West Side newsletter (10 issues per year), free admission to the Lafayette Museum and Library, access to genealogical and historical files, access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, monthly potluck and program for members, invitations to special programs and events, and 10% off photo orders and gift shop purchases.

The membership year runs from January 1 (or date of new membership) to December 31.

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I AM A NEW MEMBER

I AM A RENEWING MEMBER

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City: ____________________________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: _________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

☐ I would prefer to receive the YCHS newsletter via: ☐ Email ☐ Postal Mail

☐ I would like to volunteer to help with activities of the YCHS. Please contact me.

☐ Please click here if you do not wish to have your name and contact information released to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition and/or for the purpose of obtaining grant funding. Member information will never be sold or released for any other purpose unless written consent is provided by the member.

Please make checks payable to YCHS and return with this printed form to:
YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Carlene Kadell (503) 474-0480 or email: amity1956@yahoo.com