



Highlands Creative Economy Council
Monthly Meeting
March 23rd, 2023, at 10 am
View recording [here](#)

Thursday, March 23rd at 10 am

Agenda:

- Welcome!
- Eastern updates
 - Agritourism Summit update – Good turnout with a mix of 77 attendees, will send out info and slides from Dr. Knight, survey results forthcoming.
 - [Job Fair](#), April 11th
 - [Hospitality Training](#) April 17th in Moorefield on Hospitality Leadership, lunch provided
 - Beekeeping 101 April 6th
 - [Upcoming Agricultural Trainings](#) – beef quality assurance, stockmanship and stewardship
 - Drone Training – can offer another training in the future.
 - [Farm to Table Diner](#) - Save the Date June 28
 - Agritourism brochure out now – copies available, will be online later
- AFNHA updates
 - Annual Stakeholder Meeting - May 22nd at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg
 - AmeriCorps Site Applications open for 23-24 term - Email chrissyh@afnha.org or visit <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/ameri-corps-positions>
 - We are taking input on Tourism Summit and future of HCE and our next Benedum grant
 - Anne Beardslee (Elkins-Randolph County Tourism) - Could we consider having the Civil War Trails organization do a presentation. They might also help us by sponsoring something if we ask them to speak. I can check with them once we have a date since I sit on the board.
- Featured Topic
 - Phyllis Baxter - “America 250” in the Appalachian Forest
 - America 250 is national program to commemorate 250th anniversary of the USA. WV and MD have state commissions, and the American Association For State and Local History has recommendations. AFNHA will be doing our own initiative in our region on under-represented and significant local stories that

connect to our themes. Next interpretive committee meeting Tuesday April 25 10:00am. Email Phyllis at phyllisb@afnha.org to join our meetings or view documents and info from our previous meetings [here](#).

- How we will do it- multiple media: oral history, research, can be presented in multiple ways (audio, video, written, web, public presentations, exhibits). Can include section on AFNHA website with links to in-depth content. We expect this to be eligible for our next round of grants (research, interpretation, presentation, etc). Applications expected to open in May, would be due in July with awards in August. Scope of eligibility and award amount will likely be larger than previous round.
- Cara Rose (Pocahontas County CVB)- what is the appropriate year to participate? The big push will be July 4th, 2026, but we will be promoting up until then.
- Attendee Discussion / Extended Networking –
 - Samantha Peet (Elkins-Randolph County Tourism) – Ramps & Rail April 29th, National Speleological Society coming this summer, June 17th WV Celtic Festival & Highland Games. See the full calendar at <https://elkinsrandolphwv.com/events/month/2023-04/>
 - Tracy McCoy (Summersville CVB) – Nicholas County events: WV Woods & Water Expo March 24&25 with special guests, 84th Feast of the Ramson and craft show April 22nd in Richwood.
 - Alexandria Fliegel (Webster County CVB) – April 1 Wild Water Weekend (kayaking, canoeing), Camp Caesar Ramp Dinner April 29, Woodchopping Festival May 26-28, See <https://www.visitwebsterwv.com/events/> for all events.
 - Amber Higgins (Barbour County Development Authority) – Some events in Barbour County include a Career Fair, Small Business Solutions meetings hosted by Dev Auth, Chamber, and Woodlands, and new events in the Golden Rule. Other events: WVU’s BAD Buildings Training Session, 17 North Event Center, Philippi, Thursday, March 23rd, 6pm; Food Distribution and clothing giveaway, Golden Rule building, Belington, Friday, March 24, 4-8pm (find them on Facebook at Barbour County FSC or call 304-657-3938); The Golden Rule in Belington is hosting artisan markets every Friday from 10am-6pm; Open Mic Night, Molly’s Hand-Dipped Ice Cream, Philippi, Wednesday, March 29, 7pm; Glow-in-the-Dark Dodgeball, Camp Popeye, Friday, March 31, 6pm; Songs & Stories, 17 North Event Center, Philippi, Friday, March 31, 7pm; Race to Lil’ Moe’s (WVMBA XC 2023 - Race #1) Philippi, noon on Sunday, April 2nd; Small Business Solutions, 17 North Event Center, Philippi, Monday April 10, 5:30pm; Philippi Art Stroll - Friday, April 14th, 5-8pm; Alderson Broaddus University’s Philippi Day 5K Color Run, 4pm, Mon, Apr 24; Artefaktual Comics and Games Free Comic Book Day, Saturday, May 6th; Barbour Community Yard Sale, Saturday, May 6th; Career Fair, 17 North Event Center, Philippi, Friday, May 12, 1-4pm (vendors may register at hirepointllc.com); Blue & Gray Reunion,

Thu-Sun, June 1-4; 3rd Annual LurchFest, Museum Street in Philippi, Saturday, August 5th, noon-10pm

- Marti Jefferson – a bakery is interested in the Golden Rule space.
 - Brian Belcher (Greenbrier County CVB)- [Lewisburg Chocolate Festival](#) will take place April 8th
 - Cara Rose – Is anyone doing anything for National Travel and Tourism Week in May? We will have a tourism summit May 9th.
 - Tracy McCoy- We had our own successful event last year. Attendance was good but hard for small business owners, so we are looking at social media and other ideas to make it easier on local business owners.
 - Jessica Waldo (Tucker County CVB) – We are planning a tourism partner meeting week with some training on April 26th. Governor’s Conference will be September 10-13 at Canaan Valley Resort.
 - Robert Burns – [Potomac Highlands Producers](#) box with local produce and value-added products are available with pickup in Tucker and Hardy County. Eastern received a new Benedum grant for an additional PHP coordinator, now hiring. Looking for a VISTA to look at food insecurity on campus and in the region.
 - Logan Smith (AFNHA)– we will likely be looking for a program coordinator for NVUM and other short-term projects. We will put out a job description and RFP.
 - Danny Helmick (AFNHA) – Elkins Tree Board will be planning a planting of 50 trees sometime April 1-10, and he will be helping with another potential pollinator habitat planting sometime in April. Email pollinator@afnha.org if interested.
 - The Future Generations University Appalachian Program offers a monthly webinar series on the third Thursday of each month: 'Out of the Woods: Growing Income from Your Forest'. Folks interested in tuning in can register here: https://future-edu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bXoPssdyQbqiA8Wyvv0oVQ This webinar begins at 7 pm and lasts approximately one hour with a live Q&A session. The topic varies from month to month but generally focuses on a tree syrup or agroforestry-based subject.
- View full meeting recording [here](#)
 - Save The Date! The next meeting is **April 27th, 2023**, at 10 AM on Zoom.