



Highlands Creative Economy Council
Monthly Meeting
February 23rd, 2023, at 10 am
[Link to Recording](#)

Thursday, February 23rd at 10 am (ZOOM)

Agenda:

- Welcome!
 - Welcome to AFNHA AmeriCorps Members Roberta Grey (Elkins Depot Welcome Center) and Danny Helmick (AFNHA Pollinator Initiative)
- Eastern updates
 - Workforce Education short term trainings- apply by clicking [HERE](#)
 - Subscribe to Workforce Newsletter by clicking [HERE](#)
 - FREE Drone Training: email Melissa.Shockey@easternwv.edu & learn more [HERE](#)
 - Free Monthly Marketing Training Videos available, by clicking [HERE](#)
 - 2023 Agritourism Summit SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, March 15th 10:00 - 3:30 at the Misty Mountain Event Barn
 - Panels include: Resources for Improving Your Agritourism Enterprise; Hospitality in Food & Drink Agritourism; Innovative Ideas to Enhance Tourism to the Potomac Highlands; Pros & Cons of Agritourism & Seasonal “Pick-Your-Own” Models
 - Register [HERE](#)
- AFNHA updates
 - AmeriCorps Site Applications open for 23-24 term - Email chrissyh@afnha.org or visit <https://www.appalachianforestnha.org/amicorps-positions>
 - Stakeholder Meeting – May 22nd in Lewisburg
 - Tourism Summit – will likely take place in western Maryland or northern WV. Open to suggestions for venues, topics, or speakers.
 - Alex Fliegel – Would like advice on how to start from the ground-up for small, rural CVB?
- Guest Speaker
 - Jennie Williams - [West Virginia Folklife Program](#)
 - Statewide program of the WV Humanities Council since 2015 that assists with documentation and presentation of folk traditions. Programs include [Apprenticeship program](#), partnerships with Goldenseal and WVU Archives ([WV Folklife Collection](#)), Mid Atlantic Arts, AmeriCorps.

- Contact Jennie at Williams@wvhumanities.org with questions about these programs
- Pomeroy Foundation [Legends & Lore](#) markers – tourism opportunity, promotes what is important to a community but not necessarily historical. Next application period opens March 13 and due May 1st. Local examples in Greenbrier, Barbour, Webster Counties.
 - Amber Higgins (Barbour Co Development Authority) - good reaction to Philippi marker. Lots of people take pictures, and it draws people to the Museum and other attractions besides the Covered Bridge.
 - Rob Burns – Would something like Grafton Monster or Frosty the Snowman qualify? It could, depending on the framing or organization.
- Attendee Discussion / Extended Networking –
 - Amber Higgins - Upcoming Barbour County events: Race to Lil' Moe's (WV MBA XC 2023 - Race #1) Philippi, Sunday, April 2nd; Philippi Art Stroll - Friday, April 14th, 5-8pm; Alderson Broaddus University's Philippi Day 5K Color Run, Mon, Apr 24; Artefaktual Comics and Games Free Comic Book Day, Saturday, May 6th; Barbour Community Yard Sale, Saturday, May 6th; Blue & Gray Reunion, Thu-Sun, June 1-4; LurchFest, Saturday, August 5th (Our third year, already a top WV one-day festival! See the Philippi Mummies while you're here!); The Golden Rule in Belington is now hosting artisan markets every Friday from 10am-6pm, and potential business operators are invited to visit to see the kitchen expansion in process, projected to be ready spring 2023 for a possible coffee shop/eatery
 - Anne Beardslee - Ramps & Rail Festival will be April 29th in Elkins. Winter excursion train running until St. Patrick's Day. 4th of July weekend car show (June 30th & July 1st) with music and fireworks. Free concerts in Town Square every 1st/3rd Thursday this summer. Elkins area is now part of the Ascend remote work program.
 - Alex Fliegel (Webster County CVB) – Webster County events: Wild Water Weekend April 1st open to kayakers. Camp Ceasar Ramp Dinner in April. Woodchopping Festival on Memorial Day weekend. All Webster County Event can be found here! <https://www.visitwebsterwv.com/events/>
 - Ben Duvall-Irwin – Please send info on all ramp events to me at ben@afnha.org
 - Tracy McCoy (Summersville CVB)- Events in Nicholas County: March 18 St Patrick's parade in Mt. Nebo, Nicholas co Strutbusters Heritage Hunting Banquet also March 18, WV Woods & Water Expo March 24-25, Feast of the Ramson April 22nd in Richwood.
 - Lindsay Kazarick (Future Generations University): Mountain State Maple Days-statewide-March 18, still time to register if you'd like to participate. To register visit <https://wvmspa.org/maple-days-entry-form-2/> A list of all Maple participants is available at www.wvmspa.org/maple-days-participants-list/

- Anne Beardslee – Pickens Maple Syrup Festival will take place on March 18-19 <http://pickenswv.squarespace.com/maple-syrup-festival/>
 - Mike Jones (WV Rivers) - we are collecting information about Earth Day events anywhere in the state, so we can share/promote. Feel free to send me information about your local Earth Days events mjones@wvivers.org
 - Maria – Our Town Inc is hosting the Sprout Into Spring expo on March 18
 - Ben Duvall-Irwin – Are there any topics you would like us to cover in future meetings or at the Tourism Summit?
 - Amber- Youtubers helped promote LurchFest. How can we attract more youtubers/influencers?
- Other announcements-
 - Jonathan Bellingham (Capon Springs & Farms)- Capon Springs will host the first ever World League FlingGolf (WLF) [regional event](#), April 27-30.
 - The new West Virginia Film Office is putting together a location directory to attract filmmakers to the state: “Put In Your Locations: Do you have a farm, a restaurant, a hotel, an Apocalyptic abandoned building you think would make a cool zombie film location? There is no cost to add your locations to our directory. Better yet get with your local Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Authority, to help load up every great site in your region. The more sites in your area, the easier it will be to lure in filmmakers from everywhere to come create and spend \$\$ in your backyard. Be sure and see our photography tips before you take pics. https://wv.reel-scout.com/loc_add.aspx
- Save The Date! The next meeting is **March 23rd, 2023**, at 10 AM on Zoom.