

Northwest Festivals Hosting Association

(NWFHA)

HISTORY

The Northwest Festivals Hosting Association was formed in 1981 at the suggestion of Wenatchee Applarian Vice Chancellor Larry Frack that the festival hosting groups should get together to discuss problems and share ideas.

The first meeting was held in Seattle at the Camlin Hotel. Festivals remembered to have attended that meeting were from Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Spokane, Leavenworth, Olympia, Yakima, and Wenatchee. Main topics discussed were: (1) Packet prices; (2) recognition and acknowledgements; (3) housing; and, (4) transportation to and from events. The meeting was felt to be very helpful and it was decided from then on to continue meeting once a year.

For the next three years, the Association met in Ellensburg. In 1985, it met in Wenatchee; 1986, Yakima; 1987, Spokane; 1988, Portland; 1989, Seattle; and in 1990 in Spokane, after which many of the membership continued on to the Whitefish Winter Carnival. In 1991, the meeting was a joint venture co-hosted by the Leavenworth Royal Bavarians and the Wenatchee Applarians.

The Association has never been a dues-paying organization. Membership criteria has been set as guidelines, and new groups have been voted into the Association by the membership.

In 1989, the membership consisted of: Tacoma, Wenatchee, Spokane, New Westminster, Portland, Olympia, Seattle, Vancouver PNE, Port Angeles, Leavenworth, and Yakima. Whitefish, Everett, and Astoria were voted in that year as members; Port Orchard was added to the mailing list.

In 1990, Port Orchard was taken off the mailing list and Tillamook and Issaquah were added.

In 1991, the membership had grown from the original 8 members to 14, with an average annual meeting attendance of over 60. Port Townsend was added to the mailing list that year.

In 1992, Issaquah and Port Townsend were voted into membership at the annual meeting in Leavenworth.

In 1993, the annual meeting was held in Leavenworth, with over 80 people in attendance. Seaside, Oregon, was chosen to host the 1994 conference with Portland and Astoria co-hosting the event.

Seattle hosted the 1995 conference. Tillamook was welcomed into the association. Port Angeles and Whitefish remained on the mailing list, even though their hosting packets were in question. Sequim attended that year as guests.

New Westminster hosted the 1996 annual meeting, followed in 1997 by Wenatchee, and 1998 by Tillamook. Port Angeles and Whitefish were contacted by telephone, and both festivals stated they wished to be dropped from the mailing list.

The 1999 meeting was hosted by Spokane, followed in 2000 by Port Townsend. By this time, an average of 100 people attends the annual conferences.