**Susan C. Petrey Clarion Scholarship Fund (Petrey Fund)**

History

After Sue’s death in December 1980, members of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFiS) raised funds for flowers at her funeral. Flowers were not welcomed at the funeral. Paul became the new PorSFiS Treasurer in 1981 and thus became in charge of the funds. We lived three blocks from Sue and took charge of her literary estate. Sue had been accepted to attend the Clarion Writers Workshop (Clarion) and had intended to attend but lack of funds meant that did not happen. PorSFiS decided to continue fund raising with the intent of sending the money to support an attendee at the 1981 Workshop. That did not happen. We continued fundraising with the first Petrey auction at OryCon in 1981. The first Scholarship was awarded at Clarion in 1982 and has continued to the present. With the revival of Clarion West in 1985, Scholarships first alternated between the two Workshops until enough funds were available beginning in 1992 to provide a Scholarship to each Workshop in the same year. Starting in 2005, the Fund also funded a Susan C. Petrey Fellow at Clarion West. The Fund currently awards two Scholarships & one Fellowship in the amount of $2,500 annually, for a total of $7,500.

The Petrey Fund was originally organized as part of PorSFiS, but we moved it to OSFCI because it had 501(c)(3) status with the IRS and thus donations to the Petrey Fund became tax deductible with this change. Originally the monies in the Petrey Fund were commingled with other monies in the PorSFiS checking account. With the failure to award a Scholarship in 1981, and to take advantage of the high interest rates, they were moved to a separate Money Market Account with a Savings & Loan institution. After several takeovers and reorganizations, the Fund is currently with Bank of the West. With interest rates falling, it was decided to move $15,000 to a dedicated account within the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) in the 1990s. A further $5,000 was invested at a later date and a final $15,000 was invested in OCF when Renovation donated $20,000 to the Petrey Fund in 2012. Presently OCF makes an annual disbursement of about $3,000 to the Petrey Fund, leaving a need to raise $4,500 annually unless capital is removed from OCF, which to date has never happened.

Clarion & Clarion West

These workshops are intensive six-week programs for writers preparing for professional careers in science fiction and fantasy. Clarion began in Pennsylvania in 1968, has moved several times, and is presently located in San Diego. Clarion West has always been located in Seattle. Both are non-profit tax-deductible organizations.

Fundraising

Initially, an auction at OryCon was the major fund raising event. OryCon provided a table in the Dealer Room to display the auction material, scheduled the auction as a program item on Saturday afternoon and provided credit card support. Since the auction was programmed against multiple other events, it wasn’t a great success. (This compares to WisCon, where the Tiptree/Sideways auction is **the** Saturday night event). The auction ended and was replaced by the selling of Egg Prizes (a raffle) in 2007. A smaller auction has been held in the Art Show in recent years. Auctions have also been held at Portland WesterCons and other regional conventions.

Included are income statements for the five years ending in 2019 which show the Petrey Fund source of funds before the onset of Covid. As can be seen, the chairs of various OryCons, Gamestorms & WesterCons have all donated portions of their surplus to the Petrey Fund.

In 1990, OSFCI Press published the hardcover **Gifts of Blood** by Susan C. Petrey and after publishing costs were recovered all further sale income was invested in the Petrey Fund. The retyping and type-setting of the stories was provided gratis by members of Portland area fandom. We edited the material and provided an introduction. Baen Books published a paperback edition for which the Petrey Fund received a $3500 advance. Baen also provided us with a case of the paperback to promote the Scholarship.

Some of Sue’s story have been reprinted since their original publication in F&SF. Most recently, “Spidersong” was reprinted in **Lightspeed Magazine**.

OSFCI involvement with the Petrey Fund

OSFCI provides the Fund with 501(c)(3) status and has sponsored Petrey Guests of Honor at OryCon 10 & 20.

OryCon involvement with the Petrey Fund

Originally, OryCon provided a table to display the auction items in the Dealer’s Room, a room to hold the auction and use of a credit card processor (from Registration) to process the payments. OryCon paid the credit card fees and passed the full amount onto the Petrey Fund. They then provided a space in the Dealer’s Room to sell Eggs. With the revival of Auction, the Art Show provided space to display Auction Items. The Art Show originally continued providing credit card support. In recent years Wrigley-Cross Books has processed the credit cards since OryCon had none available for the Petrey Fund to use.

In addition, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Petrey Fund, OryCon 29 made available a suite used to host an anniversary party. Various OryCons have made available the Fan Lounge to host beer tasting fundraising events.

Our involvement with the Petrey Fund

It was not planned. If Sue had died a year earlier or later, we probably wouldn’t have been involved with it. As described above, Paul becoming PorSFiS Treasurer and living close to Sue were determining factors. Once we did become involved, we tried to make it a great success.

Earlier on, we decided that all funds donated to the Petrey Fund would be used to support Clarion & Clarion West. So all incidental costs have been paid by us, Wrigley-Cross Books and as described above, OryCon.

Prior to Covid, most years we would travel to Seattle to meet the Clarion West Petrey Scholar & Fellow at the final Clarion West Friday night party.

We have organized four two-night beer tasting fundraising tours around the region.

We liaise with the management of Clarion West & Clarion to ensure the Scholarships & Fellowship are awarded. We contact the winners of the Scholarships to make them aware of the history of the Petrey Fund and to give them a copy of Gifts of Blood. We send checks to pay for the Scholarships & Fellows.

We liaise with the OCF and provide quarterly Income Statements to the OSFCI Board.

In the 1980s & 1990s, Wrigley-Cross Books catalogues were used to advertise items for sale at the OryCon auction & to facilitate absentee bidding. Excess Wrigley-Cross Books stock has provided many signed 1st edition books as Egg Prizes.

**We fundraise.**

Alternate Futures 1: Closing the Fund

Our preferred option. Previous attempts to find a replacement for us have not been successful. Most people associated with our most recent fundraising (Auctions, Egg Prizes, beer tasting tours) are our personal friends. They are not getting younger. The authors who have supported the Petrey Fund are dying. Wrigley-Cross Books is not around to support the Fund.

We propose to transfer the balance in the OCF account back into the Petrey checking account and distribute the balance, 2/3rd to Clarion West & 1/3rd to Clarion. Paragraph D of the Agreement between OCF & OSFCI describes the annual disbursements to OSFCI. Paragraph E states in part “OCF may make distributions from the Oregon Science Fiction Endowment Fund to OSFCI in addition to those required by Paragraph D herein (even to the exhaustion of the Fund) upon a majority vote of all the directors of OSFCI”.

Alternate Futures 2: Continuing the Fund

The Management of the Fund cannot continue in the present form and should be organized in a more professional manner. The new Management cannot be expected to pay all the incidental expenses and the annual trip to Seattle.

We propose a three person board similar to that used by Endeavour & Clayton. Members would be elected for a three year staggered term with the member in their last year making the financial reports to OSFCI. The first election would elect board members for one, two & three year terms. Changing of the person making financial reports on an annual basis would enhance financial security. The OSFCI Chair would appoint an OSFCI representative to the Petrey Fund.

OSFCI would budget to pay the incidental expenses for the Petrey Fund and a new management agreement between OSFCI and the Petrey Find to reflect these new arrangements would be negotiated.

Future Management Agreements between OSFCI & OryCon would require OryCon to support the Petrey Fund, providing space as requested and providing credit card processing (if needed) at no cost to the Petrey Fund.

**Job Description**

* Each year contact both workshops to remind them to award scholarships.
* Once scholarships have been awarded, send scholarships checks to workshops and contact scholarships winners by mail and send them a hardcopy copy of **Gifts of Blood**.
* Send Petrey Fellowship check to Clarion West
* Keep financial records and submit quarterly reports to OSFCI BOD.
* Optional – attend Clarion West party and meet Petrey Scholar/Fellow.
* Coordinate with both Clarion workshops – note that the person with whom you coordinate may change annually.
* Raise funds to continue scholarships/fellowship. Previously this has been done with auctions/eggs sales at OryCon and donations from other conventions.
* Update the Petrey Fund presence on the internet as needed.

**Needed Skills**

Motivated self starter with strong financial, organizational and communication skills willing to dedicate the time to work on the new Board of the Petrey Fund for a minimum of three years. Preferably someone who has worked in a major position on an OSFCI sponsored event for a least five years. Having as one of the new Board members someone who had been either a Treasurer or Chair of an OSFCI sponsored event would be a plus.

The Petrey Fund attracts potential donations of books/magazines. Having some knowledge of the used book business would be another plus.

The ability to organize and advertise fund raising events.

**Questions for Applicants**

The Petrey Fund has a need for approximately $4,500 on an annual basis to continue at the current level. Other fellowships at Clarion West give at least $5000, which is the minimum to start a new fellowship. It would be desirable to increase fundraising so that the Petrey Fellowship could be increased to that amount, raising the annual payout to $10,000, and a need to raise $7,000 annually. How would you fill this hole?

The Petrey Fund page on the OSFCI website is boring. Would you be comfortable in providing input on updating it?

The Petrey Fund has no presence on FaceBook, Twitter or any social media site. How would you proceed to correct this?