

7th Step Club January Re-Cap

February 1, 2020

Hey there,

Our January 23 meeting was great, Tracey Schlapp, from Oregon Bridgeworks hosted a TED talk on Power poses and the impact of body language on our brain chemistry, (Amy Cuddy). The members are excited about all of the classes beginning again in the new year and look forward to all of the community interactions throughout the year.

Our new year is off to a fast and busy start, just how busy, you might ask, can one club be? Well this is how 7th Step pulled off 7 events in 5 days.

It all began months ago when, our club submitted the calendar of events for 2020, we asked for many of the usual club functions but added a few additional dates for University of Oregon events in January. Not expecting everything to fit or be approved we waited anxiously for our calendar of approved dates. Wouldn't you know it; all of our dates were approved for January. I was at the same time, happy and a bit worried; I really hadn't expected every date to be approved. It began on Monday; we hosted a Juvenile Justice Inside-Out class with Professor Alltucker, a 10-week class with 12 inside and 12 outside students from the University of Oregon. Ms. Lans did the turnouts, Garret did the visitor authorizations, Courtney did the transport memos and club members set up the room. On Tuesday we had our Math 105 class with 22 inside AIC, this is a great way for men to get caught up with their college math requirements that are not eligible for Chemeketa, in Activities we also had our monthly PEP (Prison Education Program) meeting, for this event we had 29 AIC sign up, and 6 advisors and interns from the University of Oregon meet and develop a plan for AIC to complete their degrees, one man actually told me it was the best event he had been to because he now had a path to getting his degree! Now came Wednesday, now this is where we all came together to pull off a great night. We had our Environmental Justice class on the education floor, 10 AIC and 11 college students with Professor Carey, at the same time, we hosted a lecture on the activities floor with 58 AIC. Our speaker was Professors Mr. and Mrs. Durant with an introduction from Professor Shankman; in addition we had 3 interns accompanying them. This is where some things just need a bit of help to get done. Earlier that day we discovered that staffing was going to be low, Ofc. Banta would open the floor; Floor Sgt. Emerson would assist with getting the visitors across the Control floor, 7th Step would set-up the room ahead of time, and the Education floor officer would escort the visitors through Master Control. This one event would need 3 different staff members to coordinate together to make it happen and they did! Even Mike Yoder our Assist Supt of General Services attended the lecture! But that wasn't the end of the week. Again, on Thursday we had our second Math 105 class with 22 inside AIC. Finally came Friday night, we were hosting our first ever Art Expo, we had 85 inside artists and guests from OSP with an additional 14 guests from the community and the University of Oregon on their way, when our staff advisor for the evening Mr. Finster was called away on an emergency, Nicole stepped up to supervise, the event went off great and everyone had an enjoyable evening.

In summary this week was a wild one, at one point I believe we had every staff advisor in the office working on one aspect or another to pull it off. Under normal circumstances some of these

events would have had to be cancelled but there is nothing normal about the Activities floor, time and again staff and clubs find a way to make the impossible happen. This difficult and full week is a testament to the Oregon way. 7 events, 6 Activities staff, 3 security staff, 44 outside guests, and 253 AIC participating!

If you haven't heard we are working hard for 2020. Besides our monthly meetings on Thursday nights our next large event will be our Resource Fair April 18th. If you want more information about anything 7th Step is doing feel free to ask, we are always looking for guest speakers and events to impact the lives of the residents of OSP.

All my best,

Kyle