



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

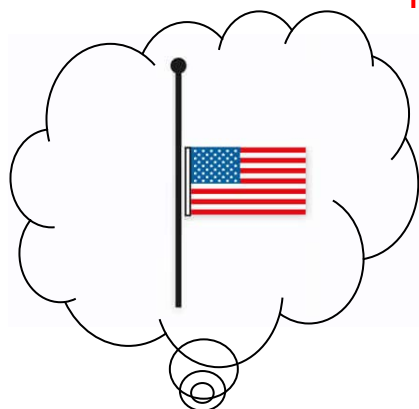
“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 90 October 2021

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But the United States have never made a public display of their own colors, except in their ships, and in their military establishments.

—Secretary of State Timothy Pickering, January 15, 1796

TEN YEARS AGO: Reprinted from Issue 30, October 2011

John Hood 1934–2011

The Portland Flag Association has lost its mainspring—John Hood, who died September 18 [2011] at age 77 after a battle with cancer.

He was a charter member of our Portland Flag Association, a group which grew from the organizing committee for the 1994 NAVA 28 meeting in Portland.

Years ago, after Harry Oswald moved to Texas, John took over the “central coordinator” role for the PFA, and created and published this *Vexilloid Tabloid* for 29 sparkling issues.

Everyone who drove on S.E. 39th Avenue opposite Laurelhurst Park knew the home John shared with Vivian Jackson as the “Flag House”. Passersby enjoyed John’s changing daily display of three flags from his collection of over 600 full-size flags, based on a database of flag-flying days he’d compiled over several years.

John was the first and most gracious host of our now-bimonthly meetings, catered with bountiful sweets baked by Vivian.

In John’s living room in 2002, we hatched a successful effort to redesign the 1969 flag of the City of Portland. After PFA members arranged political support, testified before city council, and watched the redesign ordinance pass unanimously, Mayor Vera Katz asked us to replace the council chamber’s old flag. John attached the newly-adopted flag to the pole, becoming the first person to raise Portland’s current flag.

We will miss his jovial spirit, expansive knowledge of flags, and commitment to inclusion and conviviality.



John Hood and Mayor Vera Katz with the first updated Portland Flag, 2002.

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or editor@portlandflag.org. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

September 2021 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our September meeting, held in person at the Legends conference room (thanks to Jessie Spillers) AND via Zoom, 14 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country!) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation. In the traditional role of the host, Jessie moderated the meeting.

We welcomed distance guest Ralph Bartlett (Melbourne, Vic., Australia); five local members joined via Zoom.



Michael Orelove explains the flag of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico.



Graham Houser shares the Ukraine presidential flag with both the in-person and streaming attendees.

Michael Orelove recounted his “write to ask for flags” efforts, including to Mexican states, sharing three flags he’d received.

Graham Houser brought recently-acquired flags, including those of NOAA and the president of Ukraine, a new flag for the U.S. South, and a flag for his family.

Larry Snyder described a yachting innovation called a “pig stick”, a small flagstaff hoisted on its own halyard to rise above the clutter at the top of a sailboat’s mast, and showed a 50-year-old photo of him raising one with his boat’s flag.



Ken Dale distributes staffless memorial flags for 9/11.

Ken Dale recalled the 9/11/2001 anniversary with his *Dear Abby* letter about caring for flags.



Jessie Spillers moderates the meeting.



Larry Snyder appears twice—50 years apart, with the flag made by his mother for his boat *Wyvern* (a legendary bipedal winged dragon), hoisted on a “pig stick”.



Ralph Bartlett points out the 1969 Portland, Oregon, flag in a photo of the 1984 Portland, Victoria, parade.



Ted Kaye holds the 1992–98 flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the John Wild collection, up to a laptop camera.

Ralph Bartlett unveiled a new image he'd found of the 1984 Portland, Victoria, parade with the 1969 Portland, Oregon, flag flying.

Ted Kaye passed around clippings with flag images, thanked PFA members for their help with the Wild collection (showing 10 examples) challenged members with last month's *VT* quiz.



David Koski considers proposing a flag-adoption effort for Tigard.

David Koski opined on the prospect of promoting an effort to adopt a flag in Tigard, Oregon, inspired by the FOTW list of Oregon municipal flags (with contributions from the late Oregon Flag Registry).

Max Liberman expanded on the concept of a flag-on-a-flag, identifying some examples of three-level, flag-on-a-flag-on-a-flag (such as the OAS flag), and shared one four-level example: the old South African ensign.



Max Liberman finds flags on flags on the OAS flag.

Joyce Gifford recounted her store's experience attempting to develop mini-banners for Mexican states, finding that many were non-vexilliferous.

Scott Mainwaring gave a field report from a recent Grand Canyon trip with his sons, highlighting the Salt Lake City and Navajo flags and noting the paucity of flags flown by the Hopi.



Joyce Gifford shows a "mini-banner" of Mexico; on the reverse is the Virgen de Guadalupe.



Scott Mainwaring shows the new flag of Salt Lake City, Utah—already fraying (Ted Kaye served on the committee that chose the design).

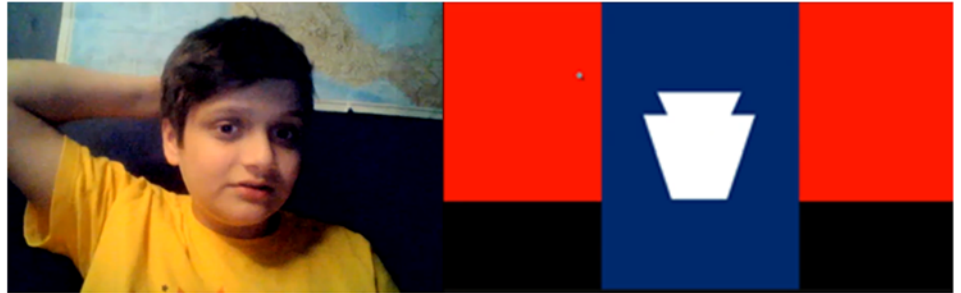
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Alex Zimmerman announces his next research topic: Nordic-cross flags.

Alex Zimmerman, whose mother is Swedish, announced his new research topic: Nordic-cross flags.

Kirin Cowell-Shah presented his initial concepts for 11 new U.S. state flags (MO, PA, HI, MN, WI, AK, SC, IA, MS, DE, & SD), seeking feedback.



Kirin Cowell-Shah explains his design for a Pennsylvania flag—one observer suggested the black panels could stand for the black horses from the arms.

Alden Jencks gave a detailed presentation on German flags through history, explaining how some are (mis-)used today by neo-Nazis and others because of their similarity (in color and design) to now-banned Nazi flags (see p. 8), then he presented Kirin's favorite flag, Antigua & Barbuda, to him.

We set the date for the PFA's commemoration of Vexi-Day: noon on Sunday, October 3 at Salmon Street Springs.

Our next meeting, on November 11, will be hosted in person, at the Iron Workers Museum in Lake Oswego, courtesy of Larry Snyder.

Ted retained the PFA flag to deliver it to him.

We expect to stream the meeting via Zoom again, so that we can welcome locals and distant guests even as we enjoy our in-person time together.



Alden Jencks delivers a multi-part presentation on flags of Germany.



Graham Houser again wins the prize for most-flaggy shirt.

Flags in a Video

PFA member Graham Houser joined a music collaboration to shoot a music video. He hung flags in the recording space.

The project supported a mentoring non-profit in Gresham: Family of Friends. A still shot from the video shows the Juneteenth, Portland, and Woman Suffrage flags backing the musicians.



Flags provide a colorful backup for a music video.

Flags in Miami Cuban Protests—July 2021

Cubans living abroad have caused controversy on social networks by supporting the creation and dissemination of a flag that they call “Cuban Anti-Castro and Anti-Communist”. It flew in events in the U.S. supporting the anti-government protests that began July 11 in Cuba.

The three yellow stars represent the “administrative political divisions that came together to abolish slavery during the time of the Spanish regime (West, Center, and East) which in turn were divided into 4, as is the total number of stars in this case would be: (Occidente, Las Villa, Camagüey, and Oriente), also remembering the heroes of the Homeland, (Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Ignacio Agramontés, and Salvador Cisneros Betancourt)”.

The yellow color of the three stars means “energy, joy, and happiness and the desire to see a Free Cuba without communism.”

Another flag flown reads “**J11**” in black on a blue-white horizontal bi-bar, representing the date of the first protests in Cuba, July 11. It appears to echo/reverse the design of the 26 Julio Movement flag common in Cuba: “M-26-7” in white on a red-black horizontal bi-bar.

See: <https://adncuba.com/noticias-de-cuba/actualidad/una-bandera-anticomunista-calienta-las-redes-sociales-todo-el-mundo>.



The Cuban anti-communist flag: a simplified version of the national flag (two stripes rather than five) with three small yellow stars added to the corners of the triangle. (For some, its design recalls the flag of the Philippines.)



The flag of July 11 movement, the national flag, and the Cuban anticommunist flag waved in Miami, Florida, in July. Images courtesy of Maikel Arista-Salado.

What's the Most Inclusive Flag?

By Alex Zimmerman

With Pride Month just past and the Olympics approaching, I began considering the inclusivity of various flags. What flag is the most inclusive? In my opinion, it would be a flag that has the most inclusive symbolism and one that is widely used, recognized, and known to the people it represents.

Perhaps it's a flag for planet Earth. However, the Earth flag commonly associated with Earth Day or the International Flag of Planet Earth by Oskar Pernefeldt have yet to become what I would consider common worldwide. (The number of flags produced could be an indicator of common use, however I did no such research in making my decision on the most inclusive flag.)

Pernefeldt explains the symbolism: Centered in the flag, seven rings form a flower—a symbol of the life on Earth. The rings are linked to each other, which represents how everything on our planet, directly or indirectly, are linked. The blue field represents water which is essential for life—also



**Flag of Planet Earth,
by Oskar Pernefeldt.**

as the oceans cover most of our planet's surface. The flower's outer rings form a circle which could be seen as a symbol of Earth as a planet and the blue surface could represent the universe.

With the many flags displayed for Pride Month, I found the efforts for inclusivity and flags an interesting study. Many variants of the rainbow flag have been introduced over the years. While it seems like an inclusive flag, it usually represents only a portion of the peoples of our planet.

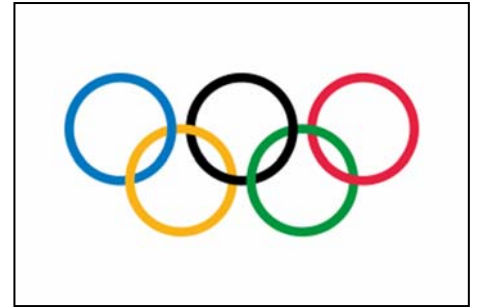
To that end the United Nations flag might be the most inclusive. Representing an organization of 193 member states, the light blue U.N. flag is very common and recognized in all parts of the world. It's had some updates to its design over the years that have increased its inclusivity.



Pride (Rainbow) Flag.



United Nations.



International Olympic Committee.

By extending the view to the 60th parallel south in 1945, the UN flag finally included Argentina, and the 1948 rotation from a view centered on the U.S. at 100° longitude to a view centered on the prime meridian made it more inclusive.

But I believe the most inclusive flag is that of the Olympics. Created in 1913–14, it was first hoisted at the 1920 summer Olympics in Antwerp. The five rings represent Europe, Africa, Asia, America, and Oceania. As the designer, the founder of the modern Olympics Baron Pierre de Coubertin, stated in the August 1913 edition of *Olympique*:

... the six colors including the flag's background combined in this way reproduce the [flag] colors of every country without exception... This, truly, is an international emblem.

The summer games gave us a chance to pause and consider the inclusive nature of the Olympics their ideals. They have what I would suggest is the greatest flag display—one that includes the most people, who for a moment all feel part of something special and grand, much bigger than ourselves.

Polish-Australian Solidarity...oops!

Reader Ralph Bartlett reports that last year, as bush fires raged in Australia, a giant Australian flag was unveiled by a crowd at one of Poland's largest charity events in a gesture of solidarity.

The gesture was accompanied by the Australian national anthem and a salute by uniformed students of a Polish maritime school.

The event, organized by the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (WOSP), drew thousands to Warsaw's Bank Square.



“We stand with you”: A giant Australian flag unveiled at Polish charity event signaled solidarity—with an inadvertent anachronism.

<https://tvn24.pl/tvn24-news-in-english/poland-giant-australian-flag-unveiled-at-major-charity-event-ra1000143>

A New Flag for Oklahoma, 2022?

By Dejan Mraović

This color poster explores the Oklahoman identity and consists of two parts, or two similar flags.

The upper part of the composition shows the first state flag, which was used from 1911 until 1925. Since Oklahoma was the 46th state to join the Union, the blue sans serif number 46 was placed inside the white star fimbriated in blue on a field of red. After the October Revolution in Russia, some citizens considered that design as too Soviet, as too revolutionary. The first, “red” flag of Oklahoma was replaced with the current, “blue” standard in 1925.

The lower part of the poster represents my humorous “proposal” for the new state flag of Oklahoma in 2022.



Although my “proposal” is not serious, it elegantly promotes the Oklahoman Route 66 and invites visitors to see it. The artwork’s purpose is to immediately catch the attention of the audience:

the “Mother Road” is larger than life in Oklahoma!

As are the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, and Hollywood, Route 66 is undoubtedly one of the most authentic American icons. It spans eight states, from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California. It existed from November 1926 until April 1985, when it was supplanted by the Interstate Highway System.

Route 66 has remained one of the major symbols of the American way of life and motoring. Its longest stretch in one state (375 miles) is in Oklahoma.

Prof. Mraović is Coordinator of the Graphic Design Program in the School of Fine Arts at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas.

Flag Re-Use and Mis-Use in Germany

By Alden Jencks

When neo-Nazi thugs spill onto the streets of German cities today for a session of groin-kicking and intimidation, they carry their flags with them. But they do not unfurl their beloved Swastika. The *Hakenkreuz* is today strictly forbidden in Germany; police stand ready to confiscate and arrest. Accordingly, these mini-Goebbels and Görings reach for 18th- and 19th-century royal and imperial flags, which they attempt to redefine and turn into latter-day symbols of hate. The three most popular of these are the Flag of Prussia, the Imperial German Flag, and the Imperial War Ensign.

In their endeavor, those modern brownshirts show a sense of history nearly as benighted as their appalling lack of morality.

No one could argue that the Prussia of Frederick the Great or the Reich of Wilhelm I were liberal democracies. But these nation-states were typical of their times and showed many positive qualities, all of which were decidedly antithetical to Nazi nihilism.

* * * * *

First as a principality and then as a kingdom, Prussia fostered a tradition of tolerance. Effectively a secular state, Prussia remained aloof from the wars of religion in the 17th century, while at the same time welcoming despised



Kingdom of Prussia
(*Landesflagge*) 1892–1918.

Anabaptist and Mennonite refugees. Then came the waves of Huguenots and desperate Jews from the Slavic east. Frederick the Great echoed England's Queen Elizabeth when he famously said, "Every man must be free to seek saintliness according to his own *façon*."

Immanuel Kant, a lifelong resident of Königsberg, East Prussia, was a loyal Prussian. His sublime Categorical Imperative is hardly compatible with the neo-Nazi world-view. And to Kant we may add other great Prussian humanitarians, such as Alexander von Humboldt and Georg Frederick Herder.

* * * * *

During the First World War patriotic Germans rallied to the *Schwarz-Weiss-Rot* (black, white,



German Empire 1871–1918.

red) as their national flag. But for our purposes, let us concentrate on the symbolism of this flag between the wars and then during World War II.

The Kaiser and his royalist followers staunchly opposed the Nazis, whom they considered to be dangerous upstart guttersnipes. Yet during Hitler's twelve years of terror, he had to grudgingly accommodate the old imperial banner.

Millions of Germans had fought and died under this flag—therefore it had always to be accorded a revered presence.

In this situation, as the years went by, the flag's significance expanded from being simply the sentimental old flag. It grew to become the one, tolerated, "Non-Nazi" flag . . . indeed, the "No-to-the-Nazis" flag.

In December 1939, Captain Hans Wilhelm Langsdorff of the ill-fated battleship *Graf Spee* famously ordered that his post-suicide coffin be draped in the old flag and that the sailors salute, not with the fascist salute, but rather with the traditional military salute, appropriate to their captain and to the old flag.

Back in Germany, families of fallen sons could likewise eschew the *Hakenkreuz* and turn to the old flag during funerals and other solemnities.

* * * * *



Germany, Imperial War Ensign
1903–1919.

The Imperial War Ensign boasts the Hohenzollern Eagle and the Iron Cross, which was struck as a medal in 1813 by Frederick Wilhelm III of Prussia as he called upon his people to throw off the yoke of Napoleon. Soldiers carried this banner into battle during World War I. But not all of these warriors were white men, whom Hitler and Neo-Nazis were later to call the master race.

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck (1870–1964), black colonial troops tied down British regulars in East Africa during four years of war. The colonel loved and respected his men, and they responded by waging a brilliant, honorable, and effective campaign.

As was the case with the black-white-red Imperial Flag, the War Ensign had its positive and humane role to play long after guns fell silent and empires crumbled. In this case, the very flag that neo-Nazis now carry shames neo-Nazi racism.

In the 1950s and 1960s, when Germany was taking dramatic steps to address and make amends for its appalling crimes under Hitlerian fascism, the venerable Colonel von

Lettow-Vorbeck took up the cause of righting a great injustice from World War I: his beloved African veterans had been ignored through the years and they had never received well-deserved pensions.

In response to von Lettow-Vorbeck's tireless efforts, the Bundesrepublik finally sent delegations to East Africa to put matters aright. These officials had the responsibility of locating and rewarding the now-aging African veterans. The search delegations used two principal tests to identify authentic claimants. Claimants were to respond smartly and correctly to German commands taken from the old Field Drill Manual and they were to sketch from memory the old battle flag and other flags associated with their units.

* * * * *

And so (and I am here addressing you neo-Nazi thugs, wherever you may be) the very flags you carry—the Prussian Flag, the Imperial German Flag, and the Imperial War Ensign—cry out *against* the sick depravity of your movement. Here's hoping that one day soon you will reject your loathsome, fascist ways and become decent, moral human beings!

And then you might want to learn some flag history.

Alden Jencks served as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa 1968–70 and taught for five years at Herzog-Wolfgang-Gymnasium in Zweibrücken, Germany, 1971–76.

Permanent Half-Staff



By Michael Orelove
(written on Memorial Day, 2021)

Kathleen Forrest flies the U.S. flag from a bracket on our house. On half-staff days she adds a black ribbon to the flag to indicate half-staff. When the half-staff days are over she removes the black ribbon.

Each year there are six official days to fly the flag at half-staff. In 2021 many other half-staff days honored various luminaries and victims of mass shootings.

To add or remove the ribbon Kathleen climbs a small three-step ladder to take down the flag to add or remove the ribbon and then climbs the ladder again to replace the flag in the bracket.

There seem to be more and more mass shootings and more and more half-staff days, so she decided to leave the black ribbon attached to her flag permanently to honor the victims.

Roundup



The ICU team at Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center in Gresham unfurls a COVID Defiance flag, designed by our Slovenian colleagues (see *VT* #81).



Alden Jencks learned that new PFA member Kirin Cowell-Shah's favorite flag is Antigua and Barbuda, so he procured one as a gift (shown at the September PFA meeting, as Scott Mainwaring and Ted Kaye enjoy the generous gesture). Graham Houser, who teaches at Kirin's school, offered to deliver the flag personally.



Stickers festoon a Subaru Impreza in N.E. Portland in August. They honor the Chinook Tribe (tribal logo) and the Saami People (reindeer on flag).



Reader Mike Thomas reports from Luxembourg: "With Covid restrictions easing, we popped across the border to Trier in Germany. I discovered the attached flag, but have no reason for it, as the hostelry flying it was still closed."



Michael Orelove models a flag-themed mask, a gift from his niece Eden and her fiancé Andrew.



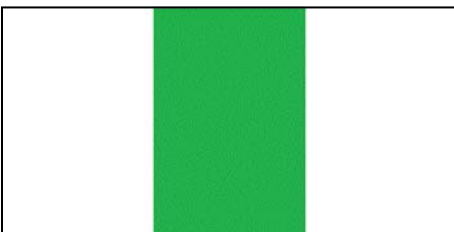
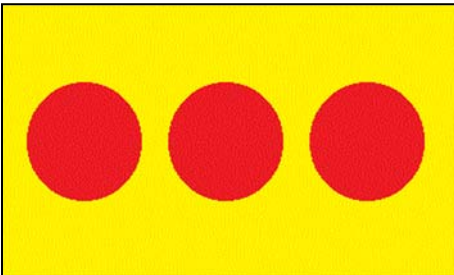
Stereotypical "flags on a pickup truck"?...

The American Thin Blue Line Flag flanks the U.S. national flag. This display of tattered flags was observed in September on I-405 in Portland (note the truck is from the state of Washington).

What's that Flag?

By David Ferriday

Transform these flags then identify them. Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By John Cartledge

These are flags of entities which emerged from the British empire/ commonwealth with federal constitutions.

Congrats to solvers Tony Burton, Nikita Dudko, Mike Thomas, and Larry Wentworth.



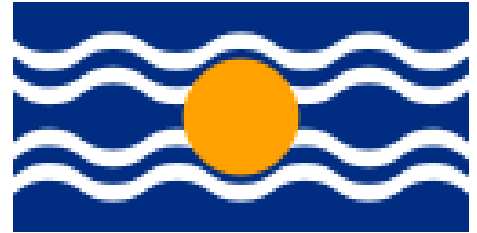
Australia



Canada (1922-57)



Malaysia



West Indies Federation (1958-62)



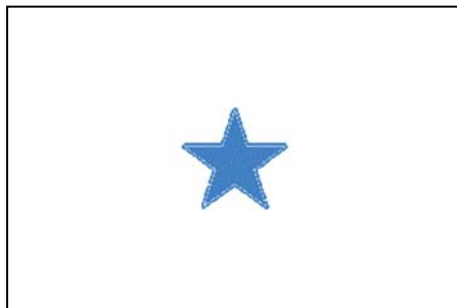
Rhodesia & Nyasaland (1953-63)



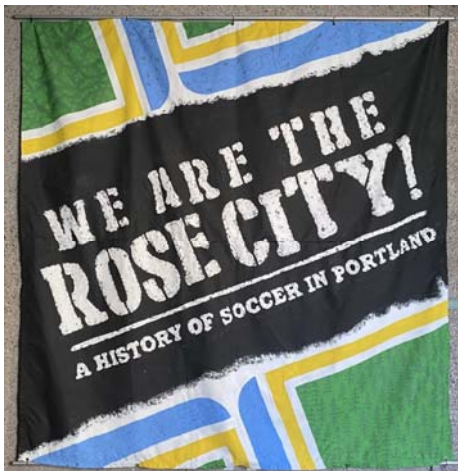
Federation of South Arabia [Yemen] (1962-67)



Nigeria (1953-60)



Portland Flag Miscellany



The Oregon Historical Society mounted the exhibit *We are the Rose City!, A History of Soccer in Portland*, July 2020–September 2021.

It explored the history of professional soccer in Portland and the cultural context of the game. Many of the displays show how local fans frequently wave the Portland flag and integrate it into designs for patches, scarves, and other ephemera.



In celebration of the OHS exhibit, the 107 Independent Supporters' Trust created a limited edition scarf for the 2021 soccer season, (The orientation of the Portland flags allows both hoists to remain at the top when the scarf is worn.)

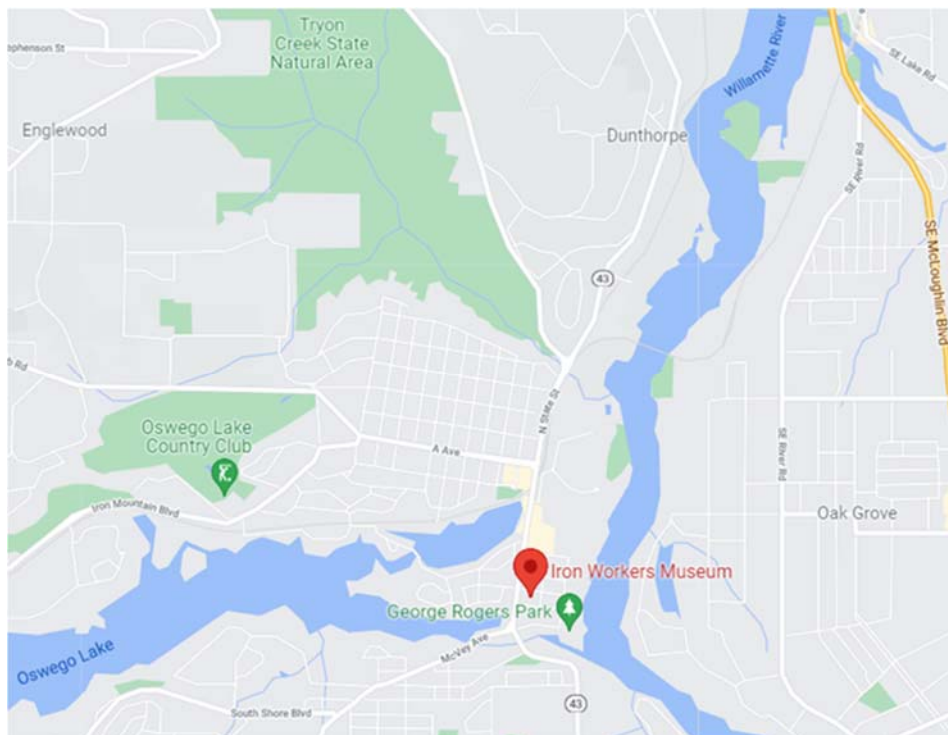
November Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, November 11, 2021, at the Iron Workers Museum at 40 Wilbur St., Lake Oswego, hosted by Larry Snyder. See map at right.

Those who cannot attend in person should watch for a Zoom invitation.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion.

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at www.portlandflag.org.