



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 108 October 2024

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Affiliation with NAVA

By Ted Kaye

The PFA has a deep and long-standing connection with the North American Vexillological Association. Indeed, as the PFA began to coalesce in the early 1990s, NAVA members constituted the initial participants.

Of the several regional flag-studies groups in the U.S. and Canada, the PFA is likely the most active, with the largest membership, most frequent meetings, consistent publications, and a website.

As NAVA has instituted a program to recognize “Affiliates”, the PFA discussed this formal association. While such an affiliation involves no legal, governance, or financial connection between NAVA and the affiliate, it provides for 1) listing on the NAVA website, 2) events posted on the NAVA calendar, 3) use of NAVA’s Zoom account, 4) activities reported in *Vexillum*, 5) notice of new NAVA members joining in our geographic area, and 6) other benefits.

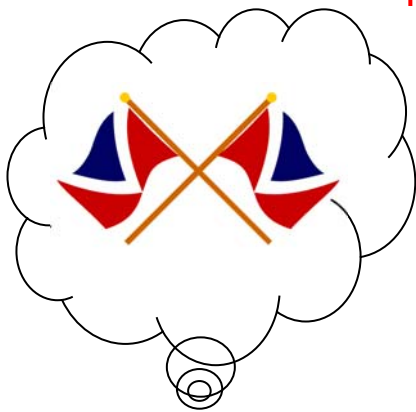
NAVA’s executive board has accepted the PFA as an affiliate. This formalizes the connections fostered by the roles of several PFA members in NAVA.

A consequence of our affiliation with NAVA may well be an increase in membership of both organizations—I count 15 NAVA members in the Portland metro area, compared more than 90 local members on the PFA mailing list.

Of interest is the history of Affiliates within NAVA.

I understand that in earlier years, NAVA explored the idea of “chapters”. However the founder, Dr. Whitney Smith, reportedly opposed the concept, fearing that meetings of regional entities would reduce interest in attending NAVA’s annual meeting (although some regional groups did form soon thereafter).

As time has passed, and NAVA has evolved, I think it is clear that regional groups advance, rather than detract, from NAVA’s mission.



VEXILLOLOGY: *The scientific study of the history, symbolism, and usage of flags or, by extension, any interest in flags in general.*

—Whitney Smith, founder of NAVA

portlandflag.org | facebook.com/portlandflag | instagram.com/portlandflag

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 2024 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our September meeting, hosted by Graham Houser on the patio of his home in NE Portland and streamed via Zoom, 11 members and guests enjoyed three and a half hours of flags and video conversation on a Saturday afternoon.

As host, Graham moderated the meeting with the PFA flag in the background; he had decorated his front and back yards with strings of international flags.

Graham shared several flags, including variants of his Rocky Butte neighborhood flag, a humorous Oregon state flag, and a vertical tribar he'd designed for his son Dorian's favorite show.

Max Liberman continued his practice of taking fastidious notes during every PFA meeting.



Max Liberman takes notes.



Graham Houser's son, Dorian (right), explains the flag his father (left) created for the YouTube show "PJ Masks" (about three friends who gain superpowers when they put on their pajamas at night).

Ken Dale commented on flag matters, then related how he'd once mowed the lawn of a Portland house that double-Nobel-Prize-winner Linus Pauling had lived in as an infant.

John Niggley brought flags to show (such as one he'd made for his alma mater, Furman University) and flag-related items to give away (a flag game and a deck of cards).



John Niggley offers to a flag game that he found too difficult.



Ken Dale offers a story.

Jessie Spillers commented on the now-obsolete flags included in the strings displayed across the Housers' yard.



Jessie Spillers shares his humor.



Joyce Gifford recounts the history of the CSS *Resolute* and its capture.



National flags adorn the front and back yards of the Housers' home.



William Gifford shows an image of the CSS *Resolute's* boat flag.

William and Joyce Gifford brought an image of an 8-star First Confederate National Flag, found by a friend in her husband's great-great-grandparents' attic in Nebraska; they'd traced it to the tugboat CSS *Resolute*, captured and destroyed in December 1864 in Georgia.

Ralph Bartlett joined from Victoria, Australia, in his early morning, and as a former FIAV officer described past international congresses.



Alex Zimmerman displays his new Stockholm city flag.

Alex Zimmerman showed a custom-ordered flag of Stockholm (he'd missed buying one on his most recent visit) bearing an image of St. Erik, then reported on the NAVA flags-to-teachers program that he coordinates.

Alden Jencks ruminated on the history of flag design, then explored the modern assignment of colors to the Republican (red) and Democratic (blue) parties, which seem to reverse their traditional/international meanings (red for the left and blue for the right).



Alden Jencks ponders the assignment of red and blue to American political parties, noting their recent advent and apparent reversal of tradition.

Continued on next page

Ted Kaye, just back from a month in China which had included 9 days at the 30th International Congress of Vexillology in Beijing, reported on the FIAV general assembly (to which he was the PFA's delegate) and his broad observations of flag usage across the country, then unfurled several flags he'd acquired during his trip, including those of Taiwan, the Kuomintang party / naval jack, the Democratic Progressive Party, Hong Kong, China, the Chinese Communist Party, and several Buddhist flags from Tibet; he promised field reports in future *Vexilloid Tabloids*.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, November 14, 2024, will be hosted by Larry Snyder at his residence in Lake Oswego. Ted retained the PFA flag for him. We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends.



Graham Houser debuts a “flying beaver” flag for Oregon, combining the state’s animal and motto:
Alis volat propriis
(She Flies with her Own Wings).



Ted Kaye (left) unfurls the flag of the 30th International Congress of Vexillology (ICV 30) held in Beijing and hosted by the Vexillological Research Center of China (it reverses the colors of the VRCC flag).



Ralph Bartlett comments on the history of International Congresses of Vexillology.



John Niggley displays the flag he made for Furman University.



Graham Houser and Alex Zimmerman unfurl an unusual variant U.S. flag (15 stars, 8 white and 7 red stripes) from the collection of the late Michael Orelove.

Minnesota Flag Thanks

To the editor:

Ted, I read that you were involved in replacing the Minnesota state flag. I'm writing to sincerely thank you for your help and assistance.

I'm seeing the new flags pop up everywhere—and even better, I'm seeing the basic design interpreted in very creative ways (as a banner, on a canoe paddle, and even as a hot dish) and it's always immediately recognizable. (I personally have a sticker on my Yeti bottle, and a T-shirt with the design inside the state outline.).

Thank you for helping us finally move from another terrible “seal on a bedsheet” to something truly iconic. I couldn't be more proud of us.

—Glenn Gilbert
Falcon Heights, Minnesota



The new Minnesota flag and its design elements see wide use already (*photos: Glenn Gilbert & internet*).

Double Standards in the U.K.—and Harps

By John Cartledge

I offer two observations arising from Max Liberman's article on *The King of Canada's New Standard*, published in the 100th issue of the *Vexilloid Tabloid*.

First, the flag he describes as the royal standard "of the United Kingdom" is used only in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales. In Scotland, the rampant red lion of Scotland replaces the three passant guardant gold lions of England in the first and fourth quarters, the English beasts being relegated to second place.

Keen-eyed observers of the journey of the late Elizabeth II's coffin will have noted that it was covered by the Scottish standard as it was taken on board the

aircraft in Edinburgh, but that flag had been replaced with the English standard when it emerged in London.

Second, the depiction of the Irish harp on the Canadian standard differs from the version used on both the English and Scottish equivalents. In the Canadian case it is a straightforward image of a conventional harp (and broadly accurate, except for the number of strings), whereas in the others it incorporates a buxom winged female.

This version seems to have come into use in the 17th century, and there are various unsubstantiated theories about who she might be. But as it is unlikely that any real harp was ever made which resembled this, she seems to have been no more than a flight of heraldic fancy (as is also true of the strangely misshapen lions, which in the English case were originally leopards).

Neither version is the more correct, because the heraldic blazon is simply *azure, a harp or*. In Britain, although the lady in question generally appears on flags, this is by no means the case with printed or painted images of either



Scottish royal arms with female harp.

the English or the Scottish versions of the royal arms, in which both types of harp may appear interchangeably.

During the decade of republican government that Britain enjoyed between 1649 and 1660, all of the royal lions disappeared, but not the harp—because there was no other symbol available to represent Ireland.

The harp continues in use as the symbol of government in the Republic of Ireland today, minus the lady—though she is still apt to crop up elsewhere, e.g., in the logo of Ireland's largest airline, Ryanair.



English Royal Standard.



Scottish Royal Standard.



Canadian Royal Standard.



English royal arms with normal harp.



Irish presidential flag.



Flag of Ryanair.

PFA Member Mike Funke Featured

September 2024

WWW.STAR-NEWS.INFO: SERVING NORTHEAST AND NORTH PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

THE STAR NEWS 9

★ STAR COLUMNIST

Flying high on Alameda

MIKE
on a
BIKE

Michael Wright | mgw1424@gmail.com

It's always best to keep your eyes level and your head on a swivel in order to be safe while cycling amid fast-moving vehicles that outweigh you by thousands of pounds. If you are a reporter, looking for your next interesting story idea, taking in everything around you is a must.

A brisk breeze was blowing last month as I headed home along Alameda Street. I could hear the loud flapping of flags above, so I slowed to have a closer look.

I was familiar with the magnificent, tall flagpole on the Shaver House midblock between Northeast 32nd Place and Regents Drive. I've often stopped to read the descriptions that the homeowner, Mike Funke, posted by the sidewalk that told the story of each flag that was flying that day.

I had noticed that the Ukrainian flag had been flying since the beginning of the war with Russia. The other flags that rotate in and out always seemed to have a story to them. I knew the Canadian maple leaf flew on Canada Day, the Stars and Stripes on July 4 and a Chicago Bears flag when the team won an NFL game.

On this day, a silver and gray flag was fluttering high above me. I didn't recognize it,



Mike on a Bike and Mike Funke display the five-ring Olympic Games flag.

(Photos by Mike Wright)

so I looked at the posting to learn it was the U.S. Space Force flag. It turns out Mike's neighbor Dwight donated the flag to him. I have a feeling many people will learn for the first time that we have a Space Force. Sounds like something out of a science fiction film.

When Mike and I met, he told me he was an avid history and geography buff and he just loved flags. In fact, Mike now has 300-plus flags and stores them neatly in file cabinets along with a laminated description of each flag and its significance. A very fun thing Mike does is ask future houseguests before they visit if they have a favorite flag and then he arranges to

have it flying atop the white pole to greet their arrival.

I thought it would be timely to see if I could buy an official Olympic Games flag and convince Mike to fly it the day of the closing ceremonies. I figured I would borrow a phrase from the Don Draper "Mad Men" days on Madison Avenue and, "Run it up the flagpole to see if anyone would salute."

When I visited him on the final day of the Paris Summer Games, I was sharing the disappointing news that I hadn't been able to get my hands on an official Olympic flag. Mike chuckled. "Well, you're just in time; let's run that baby up the flagpole right now," he said.

Mike disappeared, and when he returned he

was unfolding a gorgeous five-ring authentic Games flag. Minutes later it was fluttering above us against a bright blue sky.

The founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, famously said, "The Olympic Spirit is neither the property of one race nor of one age."

These flags that brighten the sky over our Alameda Ridge embody that spirit by reminding us that we are part of a global community. Indeed, as space exploration continues to evolve, the original Olympic motto rings true.

A salute to Mike Funke for that!
Citius, Altius, Fortius
(Swifter, Higher, Stronger)



Above: The Chicago Bears flag flies after a big win.
Right: The U.S. Space Force flag flies beneath the ever-present Ukrainian flag.

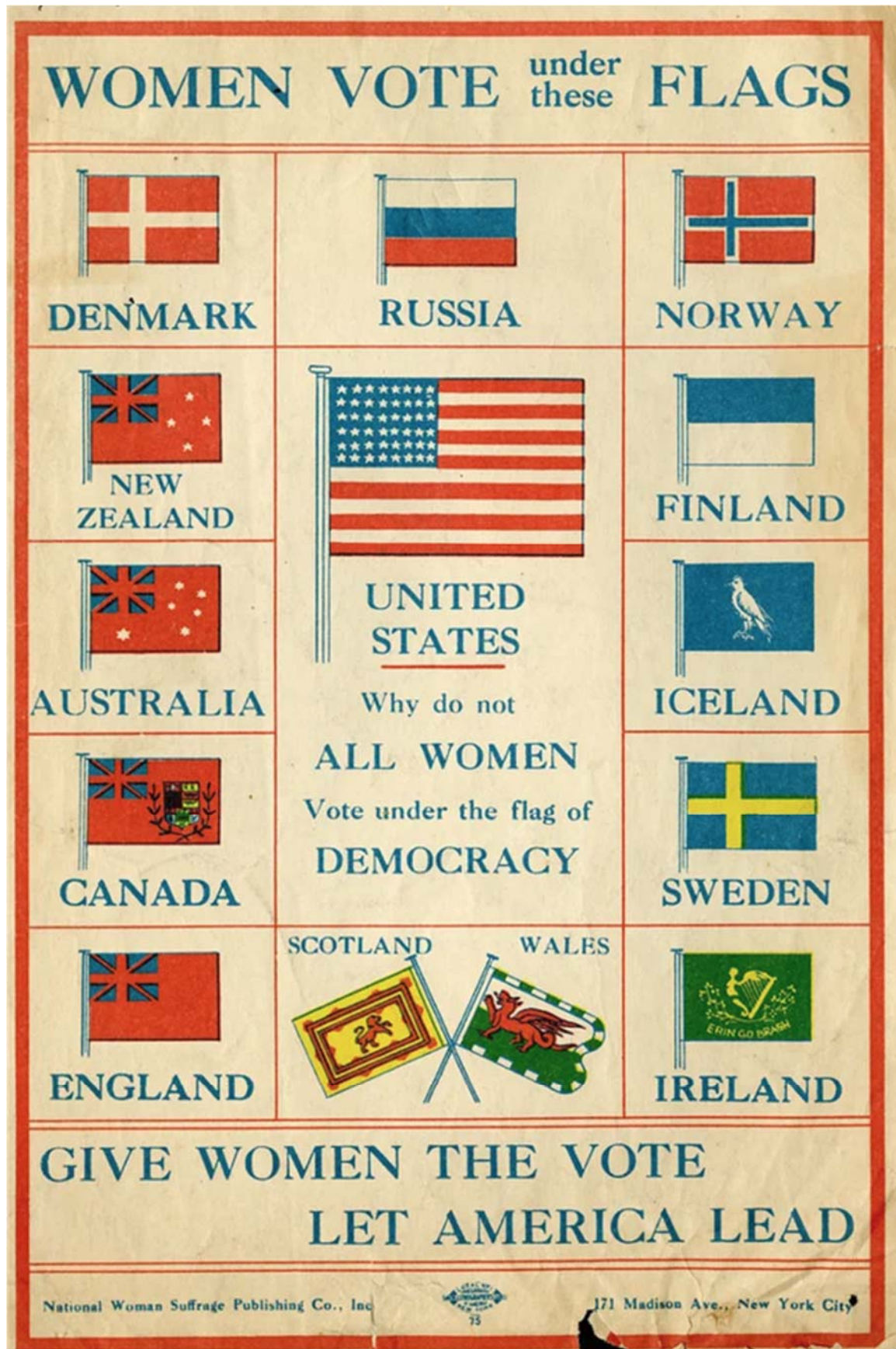
FLAG
FERVOR

With a
collection
growing to
more than 300,
Alameda man
runs a different
banner up the
flagpole each
day — and offers
a history lesson
at the same time.

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A neighborhood newspaper columnist noticed the flags flying at the home of PFA member Mike Funke and featured him in an article last month.

Election 2024—Flashback to 1918



Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/vexillology/comments/arsqyg/us_womens_suffrage_poster_showing_some/

The Flag Vigilante Waves Good-Bye

By Alden Jencks

With this final contribution (for now), I, your Flag Vigilante, take my leave of you, my gentle *Vexilloid Tabloid* readers.

I will conclude by citing four self-explanatory passages from the U.S. Flag Code and then round things out by giving a full-throated exhortation to everyone to read U.S. Flag Code in its entirety.

§8(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

§8(d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

§8(g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

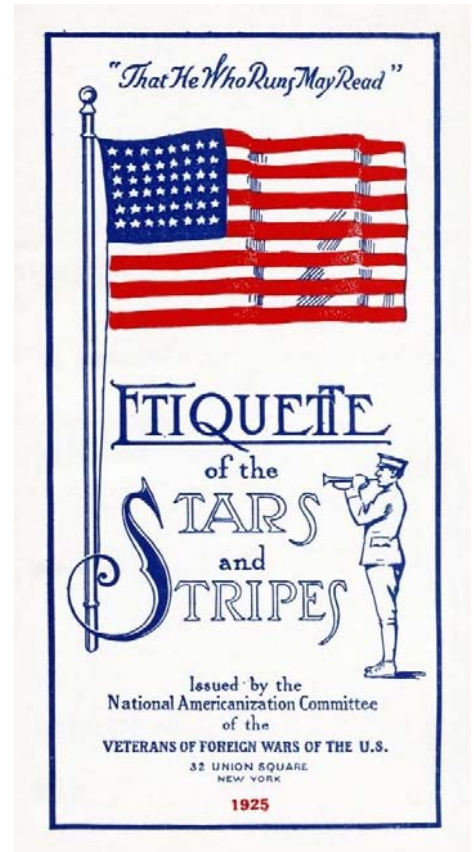
§8(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever.

Aloft and flying free; falling free from its pole; free from defacing; free from advertising... our flag represents us as a *free* people. And building upon this theme of freedom—we should all dedicate a few minutes to reading the U.S. Flag Code, because a knowledge of the Code has its own liberating and freeing effect.

By knowing and following the Code, Americans can enjoy the unrestrained certitude that their flag displays and rituals are appropriate, patriotic, and above any possible form of criticism or reproach.

See the full code here: legion.org/advocacy/flag-advocacy/flag-code

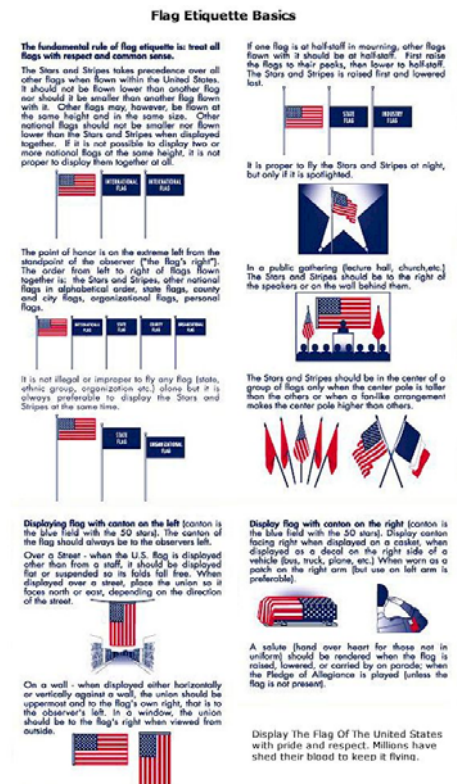
Previous contributions from the *Flag Vigilante* have appeared in VTs 103, 104, 105, & 106.



1925 Flag Code pamphlet.



TSA employees flout the Flag Code, §8(c), in Portland's Grand Floral Parade.



Modern Flag Code interpretation.

Roundup



PFA members attend NAVA 58 in St. Paul, Minnesota: above, John Niggley & Graham Houser; below, can you find them and Alex Zimmerman?

Jack Ohman, *The Oregonian*, 10/13/2024



A new “exclusionary flag”, this time with stars for swing states (note the fringe at the fly and the pseudo-Ukrainian-flag background).



Ted Kaye celebrates World Vexillology Day, October 1, with hundreds of flags.

What's that Flag?

By Matt Bray

Identify these flags and the theme that connects them.

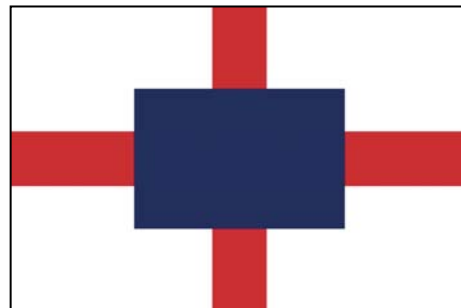


What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Bruce R. Stewart

These are house flags of shipping companies.

Congratulations to the solvers:
Matt Bray, John Cartledge, Filip
Andreas Fedøy, and Mike Thomas.



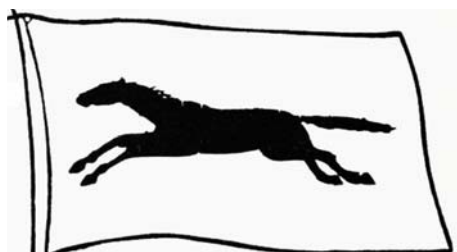
Federal Steam Navigation Co., 1895–1912.



Dutch East India Co., 1602–1630s.



Moran Towing & Trans., 1860–now.



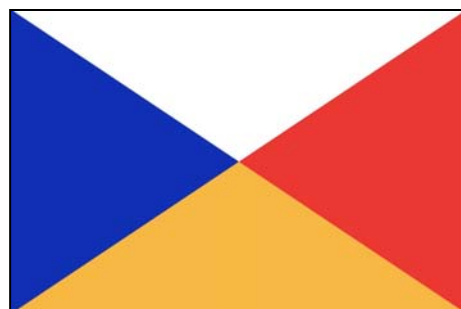
William F. Weld Co., mid-1800s.



American Export Lines, 1929–1962.



Dollar Steamship Line, 1900–1938.



P&O Line, established in 1837.



Portland Flag Miscellany



Portland, Oregon, and Cascadia Flags

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- 100% thick, durable nylon
- Double-sided = Double the fun
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- Designed in Portland, Oregon



grafletics.com/products/flags-multiple-colors

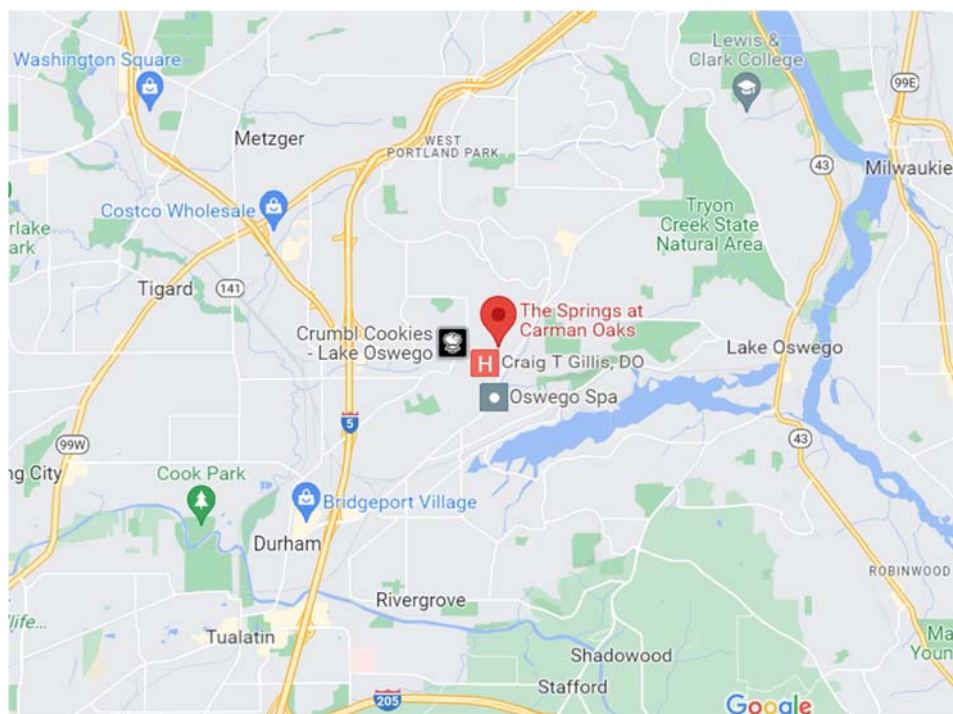
November Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, November 14, 2024, hosted by Larry Snyder at the Springs at Carman Oaks, 3800 Carman Dr., Lake Oswego.

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 portlandflag.org.