

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXV, Number 4, Winter 2018



Volunteers Make our Work Possible

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Many of you have heard me say time and time again that our 280 volunteers are the heart and soul of the work we do to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources in our State Parks. As we spent the past year successfully recovering from some financial hardships and staff turnover, the commitment of our rock-steady volunteers made it possible for us to maintain a consistent level of service to our parks. Volunteers accomplish heroic tasks in many different ways. Educating the public is a primary way—leading walks and hikes, conducting environmental education school programs, staffing our visitor centers and nature store, out at Bodega Head whale watching, and seal watching at Goat Rock. One of the newer ways volunteers provide this assistance is through our roving docent program, which offers opportunities for volunteers to schedule time to walk the trails providing information about the park's many features and wildlife. Citizen Science volunteers also provide a valuable service as they collect data used to inform policy decisions or comply with state and federal regulations. I am inspired by the many stories I regularly hear from volunteers who are struck by the response they receive from park visitors they encounter.

"Last spring, I accompanied a lovely woman who was experiencing the intertidal at Miwok beach for the first time. She was so enthralled that she returned from Napa the following week to shadow a classroom field trip to Furlong Gulch and remains on our mailing list for distribution of informative tidbits about intertidal animals and the changes in their environment due to warming waters. The ocean needs all the friends it can get and it's so rewarding to watch it making a new one."

~ Hollis Bewley, Tide Pool Docent

Beyond education, we have an amazing group of stewardship volunteers who are in the parks three times a month or more maintaining trails, reducing fuel load for fire prevention, building bridges, repairing cable steps at the coast, repairing and installing fencing and whatever is needed to assist State Parks where they don't have the people power to do so. We expect to be adding more State Park habitat and wildlife monitoring programs in the coming year. Stay tuned!

On Friday, December 7th we celebrated our volunteers and docents and the 10,000 plus hours a year of core services they give to their parks. Those hours equate to five full-time State Park staff positions! **Please consider a year-end donation that helps us continue supporting these dedicated park heroes!**

Cheers and thanks to each and every one of you!



Barbara Hoffmann received the prestigious State Park Volunteer Medallion from Kat Rawhouser and Superintendent Mike Lair.



Our fabulous Auction Committee members: Clara Else, Jan De Wald and Amy Racina (Left to Right)



Kat and Trail Crew Coordinator Bill Banbrick present Ken Lutter with a State Park Poppy Award.

Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores & Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the link between people and their parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

Contact

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(707) 869-8252 Fax
stewards@stewardscr.org
www.stewardscr.org

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District Superintendent's Corner

Terry Bertels, Sonoma Mendocino Coast District Superintendent

Greetings to all of you, my name is Terry Bertels and I am the District Superintendent of the Sonoma Mendocino Coast District (SMCD) of California State Parks. In an effort to develop improved communications and a broader understanding of the Sonoma Mendocino Coast District I will be writing what I hope is a relevant and interesting article for each newsletter.

This quarter I thought I would start with the basics. What is the Sonoma Mendocino Coast District? SMCD is one of 21 statewide park districts. SMCD has 23 park units split between two sectors, Mendocino Sector in the north and Russian River Sector in the south. The district spans from Westport-Union Landing State Beach in Mendocino County to Sonoma Coast State Park in Sonoma County a distance of 125 miles +/-.

We are fortunate in SMCD to have an abundance of natural resource, historic, cultural and recreation diversity in our units. We have 10 State Parks, 6 Natural Reserves, 2 Historic Parks, 4 State Beaches and 1 State Recreation Area.

As you might expect the great majority of our district is located within the coastal zone, approximately 82%. However, do not be fooled into thinking that we are all coast and beaches. We have some of the best redwood units in the state including Armstrong Redwoods SNR, Montgomery Woods SNR and Hendy Woods SP to name a few. I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to positively impact natural resources from the rugged Pacific north coast to iconic Coastal Redwoods remnant forests.

We cannot manage all of these units by ourselves. The fine folks of the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods are an example of several partnerships that we have across the district. Partners that help us manage specific units in the district. Besides Stewards at Austin Creek SRA we have the Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) at Fort Ross SHP, Mendocino Area Parks Association in Mendocino County (MAPA), Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association at Mendocino Woodlands SP and Point Cabrillo Light Keepers at Point Cabrillo SHP. These wonderful partners, and others, help us in providing quality parks for patrons from near and far to enjoy.

As I said earlier, I have the great fortune of working in a fabulous area and I do not take it for granted. I live in a corner of the world that countless travelers flock to every year to get away from it all and unwind for a while. To be a steward of 50,000 acres of beautiful ground and nearly 63 miles of Pacific coastline is an awesome, perhaps overwhelming, responsibility. I count myself blessed that I have a great district staff and super partners to help get the job done. You all know it takes time to turn a ship this size around but I believe that with your help and the commitment of our staff that we have begun to make that turn and that the future is bright for the district that we call home. Thanks for all you do. Happy Holidays.

Stewards was the Grand Marshal in the Parade of Lights



Families joined Stewards in the parade with children and pets.



Kat drove the Steward Ship and Scotty drove the Kubota!

CAL Report

Greg Probst, State Park Ranger and Cooperating Association Liaison

State Parks would like to congratulate all the staff, volunteers, and board members of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods on receiving the California League of Park Associations Park Partner Award for 2018. This was a much deserved award for all of your efforts at Sonoma Coast State Park, Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, and especially at Austin Creek State Recreation Area.



This week marks the beginning of our much needed rainy season and the end of a very difficult fire season for many California State Parks. State Parks in Sonoma County are currently in the process of both healing and rebuilding after the 2017 fire season. This year's fire season began at the beginning of July and did not end until the last week of November. Once again, California State Parks and their local communities were severely impacted by the many wildfires.

Leo Carrillo State Park, Malibu Creek State Park, Robert H. Meyer Memorial State Beach, Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, and Shasta State Historic Park all burned this year. These five state parks suffered significant damage due to the fires. Administrative offices, visitor centers, restrooms, maintenance shops, lifeguard towers, residences, and numerous historic buildings were completely destroyed. The natural resources in these parks will be healing for years to come. Fortunately, no lives were lost in any of these state parks.

Some parks that did not have active fires, along with thousands of our park visitors, were also impacted. Many parks were temporarily closed due to heavy smoke or rapidly changing fire conditions. These parks included Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park, Clay Pit Vehicular Recreation Area, Malibu Lagoon State Beach, Point Dume State Beach, Topanga State Park, Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Ajuhmawai Springs State Park, Clearlake State Park, Anderson Marsh State Park, Castle Crags State Park, and finally Mount San Jacinto State Park.

Waiting for Gray Whale Parade

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Coordinator

The southbound migration of Pacific Gray Whales will soon be passing by our Sonoma Coast.

Whale Watch at Bodega Head starts January 5th and 6th and continues on weekends from Noon to 4, weather permitting, though the end of May, except for Easter Sunday and Fisherman's Festival May 4th and 5th.

Whale Watch docents are available to interpret and help spot the Gray Whales as they travel south to their mating and calving lagoons in Baja. We look forward to seeing you at Bodega Head!



Mother and Calf in the lagoons of Mexico

Photo taken by Michele Luna

Volunteer Hours Due by January 1, 2019

Stewards collects volunteer hours for the State Park Volunteers in Parks Program. These hours are submitted annually and officially quantify the thousands of hours that volunteers and docents give to their parks. Stewards also uses these hours for grant proposals to document the value of volunteer time. In order for volunteers to receive their annual day-use passes, they must turn in their hours. There are a couple ways that you can do that: 1) the easiest way is to use our online system by logging into your account and selecting the program(s) that you volunteered for during the year and log your time. 2) you can also turn in a paper timesheet (available on our website) to the Stewards office and our staff will enter your hours for you. Stewards will be turning in your hours right after the first of the year so please log your hours online or turn in your paper timesheets no later than January 1, 2019.

Exploring the Tide Pools Safely

Hollis Bewley, Tidepool Volunteer Coordinator

Negative tides shift from the morning to afternoon hours following the equinox, so check your tide books for good opportunities to view intertidal life. Here are a few tips to ensure your safety as well as that of the animals you're visiting:

Keeping Yourself Safe

- Stay off the edge of cliffs - they are unstable and will crumble
- Watch the ocean before going down to the beach. Be aware of tides, swells & energy of the surf
- Note safety warnings on signs
- Never turn your back on the ocean
- Stay out of the water on open beach
- Leave backpacks above the high tide line
- Stay behind the rocks but don't climb them
- Algae-covered rocks are slippery so step on bare sections only!
- Rocks are sharp - wear protective footwear in the rocky intertidal
- Use three-point stance when bending down to view tide pools
- Keep it low - it's best to look at an animal in place
- Be aware of incoming tide so you can get back safely



Shy lined shore crab peeks at visitors

Tide Pool Etiquette ~ Keeping the Animals Safe

- Try to step on bare solid rocks (animals hide under algae & live under loose stones)
- Do not pull animals off the rocks - touch gently - don't poke or prod
- It's best to look at animals in place but if handling an animal, make sure your hands are wet so it doesn't lose precious moisture
- Place an animal in a container with sea water so others can see it and return immediately before the water warms
- Always return an animal to the exact place where you found it - do not leave them stranded on a rock or on the beach
- If you lift algae to look underneath, replace it as you found it
- If you lift a rock to examine what's living on it, carefully & gently replace it exactly as you found it. (Some animals can survive only on the bottom of rocks and others on top.)
- No collecting live or dead animals - live animals will die when removed from this environment & dead animals provide food and homes for others



Sea star and anemones keep cool



Chiton clings to his home

Beneficiary Designations are a great way to support Stewards

Jeff Edmonds, Board Member and Financial Planner

A beneficiary designation is available to everyone who has a retirement account, life insurance or an annuity. It may sound like a complicated term but the Beneficiary Designation makes it easy to pass these assets to the people or entities of your choice.

The beneficiary designation is used from complex estates to simple financial situations. The beneficiary designation will pass these assets to your desired beneficiary without a will, trust or any involvement from the court system including probate. They can be set up without fees, lawyers and are totally private. They are rarely challenged in the court system and offer the account owner tremendous flexibility.

Selecting a beneficiary is simple to implement and upon the opening or transfer of virtually all retirement plans like an IRA or 401 , life insurance or annuity you will have the ability to name your successors. There is flexibility using this approach and the owner can name as many or few beneficiaries as they choose. They can be combined with family, friends and charities in any percentage combination you desire. A Beneficiary Designation can be changed at any time by the account owner without notification to the beneficiary. They allow the owner ability to name a contingent beneficiary to ensure the easy transfer of these accounts in the event that the primary beneficiary is not available. If you fail to name a beneficiary the state you live in could name a successor for you and you do not want that to happen.

Most people who have these types of investment vehicles have likely named a beneficiary already, but did you know that you can name your favorite charity as a beneficiary too? This can be done very easily and all it takes is an updated beneficiary designation form to be completed and submitted to your financial institution. If you have a charity you would like to support you can include the organization in your succession planning by naming the group as a designated beneficiary.

A small percentage can go a long way when it comes to supporting your favorite charities and your support could be financially significant to many organizations. You can pass the bulk of these accounts to your family and reserve a percentage of the value to groups you support. So review your Beneficiary Designations periodically and think about supporting your favorite charities with this simple succession planning technique.

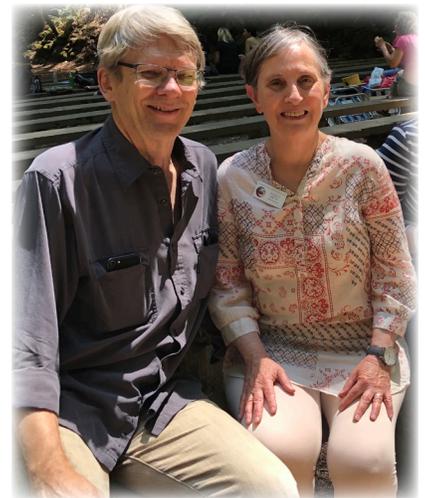
Featured Donors ~ Marcy and Jim Beck

Marcy Beck, Board Member and Grantwriter

I have been fortunate to serve as a member of Stewards' Board of Directors for the past 6 years. Throughout my tenure, my husband Jim and I have regularly been inspired by the myriad ways **giving** manifests itself in and around this special organization and the natural resources that we are entrusted to help protect:

- ~ the 10,000 hours per year given by our 300+ volunteers
- ~ the unflinching commitment of Stewards' staff
- ~ the close partnership between State Parks and Stewards to safeguard the ecosystems that comprise our parks and adjacent watersheds
- ~ the breathtaking beauty that abounds across the lands that we steward and serves as a timeless gift to us all.

Our annual financial support to Stewards is driven by gratitude and delivered with great confidence that the returns generated will far exceed the dollar value of our contribution.



*Wishing you and your families
a Blessed Holiday Season!*

The Board and Staff of Stewards

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a program?
Call Stewards at
(707) 869-9177 or email
kat@stewardscr.org!

PROGRAMS

Armstrong Redwoods/ Austin Creek

Visitor Center Staffing
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Crew/Maintenance
Pond Farm Docent Tours
Roving Docents/Public
Assistance
Lizzie Armstrong Welcome Ctr

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tide Pool Program
Watershed Program
Sonoma Coast Trail Crew
Willow Creek Trail Crew
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring
Roving Docents/Public
Assistance

Other Projects

Mobile Marine Van
Forest to Sea Nature Store
Office Help & Special Events

VOL. PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Vacant, Watershed
Greg Armstrong, Seal Watch
Joyce Bacci/Dori Heath, ARVC
Bill Bambrick, Trail Crews
Hollis Bewley, Seabird &
Tidepool Programs
Julie Cross, Seal Watch
Linda Fisher, JVC
Mary Follis, Seal Watch
Norma Jellison, Whale Watch
Rich & Colleen Draffin, Whale
Watch
Michael Murphy, AC Mounted
Assistance Unit
Keary & Sally Sorenson,
Marine Debris

Upcoming Events ~2019

Register & get details at stewardscr.org/upcoming-events-programs.html or (707) 869-9177.

[Our new Docent and Community Education Brochure is now available on our website.](#)

DOCENT ORIENTATIONS & TRAININGS

GENERAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

January 26, 9 am to 3 pm, Free
Learn about the many volunteer opportunities
in Russian River area State Parks.
Registration required.

SEAL WATCH DOCENT TRAINING

February 16, 1-3 pm, FREE
A training for the State Parks Seal Watch pro-
gram that gives you the opportunity to be a
part of the protection, preservation and drama
of the lives of these amazing marine mammals.
Registration required.

TIDE POOL ORIENTATION AND FIELD SEMINAR

February 17, 10 am - 4 pm, FREE
Hollis Bewley, Tidepool Volunteer Coordinator
Learn about advising the public on safe and
sustainable navigation of the intertidal zone
and how to model a respect for this fragile
ecosystem. Registration required.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SEMINARS AND CERTIFICATIONS

SNAILS, SLUGS AND SALAMANDERS

February 2, 9 -12:30, \$20/\$16 for members
Brian Lavin, Researcher SSU
This talk will cover the basics of the herpeto-
logical species of the Douglas Fir-Redwood
Forest ecosystem including what species can
be found. Registration required.

REDWOOD ED

February 2, 9 -12:30, \$20/\$16 for members
Mike Roa, Ex Teacher and Author
The workshop is especially useful for class-
room teachers, docents and outdoor educa-
tors. Registration required.

MARINE MAMMAL SEMINAR

February 16, 9 -12:00, \$20/\$16 for members
Dr. Sarah Allen, Marine Ecologist
This classroom seminar will cover topics
relevant to California's marine mammals
(harbor seals, sea lions, elephant seals, and
gray whales). Registration required.

POND FARM POTTERY TOURS

POND FARM POTTERY TOURS

Upcoming dates: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16
9:30 to noon, \$20/\$16 for members
Meet at the Stewards office/Vol. Center
Registration required

SEABIRD MONITORING TRAINING

February 25, 9 am - 12 pm, FREE
Hollis Bewley, Tidepool Volunteer Coord.
Stewards and State Parks community sci-
ence volunteers monitor nesting seabirds
along the Sonoma Coast. Learn what it takes
to get involved. Registration required.

PINNIPED MONITORING TRAINING

March 12, 9 am - 3 pm, FREE
Sonoma County Water Agency Staff
Volunteers collect data to ensure the protec-
tion of harbor seals during Russian River
estuary activities as they pertain to mandat-
ed work required by the Biological Opinion.
Registration required.

UC CA NATURALIST CERTIFICATION

February 23 to April 18
\$560.00, \$448 for members
David Berman and Meghan Walla-Murphy
This 40+ hour course combines classroom
and field experiences. Discussion topics
include geology, water, weather, soils, plants,
forests, wildlife, interpretation, environmen-
tal issues, and citizen science. Students com-
mit to weekly homework assignments and
complete a capstone project of their choos-
ing. Registration required.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

March 1, 5 - 7:00 pm, \$20/\$16 for members
Hollis Bewley, Seabird Volunteer Coordinator
Learn birding basics: how to spot birds,
places to go, finding the best field guides and
optics for taking up a new hobby. Registration
required.

[Download our Docent and Community Education Brochure for more offerings in 2019.](#)

In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders ~ 2017-2018

\$40,000 plus

Carmen J. Finley, Ph.D.
Estate of Josephine C. Marks

\$15,000 to \$25,000

California State Parks Foundation
Ocean Protection Council
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Marcy & Jim Beck
Sonoma County Vintners
Jacque Mielke
State Coastal Commission
Save the Redwoods League
County of Sonoma

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
CA Council for the Humanities
Clay And Glass Arts Foundation
Kristin Hite
PG&E Corporation Foundation
Redwood Credit Union
Russian River Recreation & Park
District
Angela Thompson
Westamerica Bank
Neil & Amelia McDaniel Charitable
Trust

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Clif Bar Family Foundation
Community Foundation Sonoma
County
Terry & Joanne Dale
Clare Dorfman
Euphrat Family Fund
First 5
Leonard A. Fisher & Risa Teitelbaum
Russian River Getaways

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Harold C. Appleton
Barefoot Wines
Rhonda Berney
Hollis Bewley
Big Indie-Beautiful Boy, LLC
Glen & Terri Blackley
Doug & Leslie Bowman
Evan Brown
Patricia & Michael Busk
The Campbell Foundation
Nancy Metzger Carter
Don Dickenson
David Faris
Gaffney Insurance Services, Inc.
Terry Grant
Michael Hofman & Janet Moyer
Eileen Keremitsis
Greg Lanctot & Jenny Lopez-Lanctot
Aileen Liu

Lennox Foundation
Jim Maresca
Laura Morgan & Jim Seward
Bill & Karen Nay
Old World Winery
Courtney Prather
Donna Roper
Rotary Club of Sebastopol
Mary & Christopher Szecsey
Dale Wannan
Wild Hog Vineyards
Zitrin Foundation

\$500 to \$999

Suzanne Abrams
Jeff & Barb Basham
Lauren Bayersdorfer
Jennifer Bice
Lori Bruhner
Orin Burgess
Art Carter
Dwight Cary
Creative Ceramics & Glass LLC
John & Ethel Cole
Margo Eachus
Karen Guenther
Hafner Vineyard
The Heck Foundation
Nolan & Darcy Hughes
Brittany Kelly
Beth Lamb

Sheralyn Listgarten
Ellen Matics
MJZ Productions
Mitchel Family Fund
Kathi Moore
Moshin Vineyards
Mark Nelson
Arthur & Judith Slater
Pacific Coast Trail Runs LLC
Diane & Paul Perry
Roland Pesch
Joe & Kathy Reidel
Betty Riess
Leslie Risbrough
Joe Rogoff
The Rotary Club of Russian River
Rick Royer
Heather Smith
Kat Stephens
Karin Trenkenschu
Keith Volkerts
Warren & Janis Watkins
David Westphal



Ways to Leave a Legacy ~ more info at www.stewardscr.org/leave_a_legacy.html

In the [Summer 2018 newsletter](#) board member Jeff Edmonds presented information about Donor Advised Funds and about Beneficiary Designations on page 5 of this newsletter. A Bequest example is also included on page 8.

Board member Dale Wannan would like you to consider these giving options as well:

Gifting Appreciated Stock - If you're fortunate enough to own stock that has gone up in value since you purchased it, you may consider a gift to Stewards. This will not only help a good cause, but enable you to reap substantial tax savings.

Designate Stewards as a Beneficiary on your IRA - These days, many people have a large percentage of their wealth in the form of traditional IRA accounts. Consider designating Stewards as one of the beneficiaries of your IRAs.

New Members ~ 4th Quarter

Gray Whale Patron

John Pendleton

Bobcat

Kimberly Holliday

Contributing Harbor Seal

Carol High

Otter Family

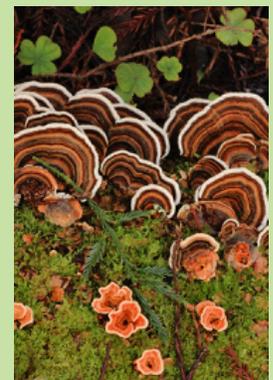
Lisa Clapper
Barbara Kobabe
Ginny Machak
Adela and Jeanie
Mongaraz-Fletcher
Meagan Porter-field
Scott Ramsay
Katie Rejaian
Todd Skelton

Individual Trillium

Nancy Burns
Rafael de la Guia Lopez
Mona Friedman
Darrin Martin
Bonnie Nedrow

Owl Senior & Student

Maureen Callaghan
Jean Cammcock
Jim Fullmer
Jean Gallegos
Chris Giro
Karen Lewis
Bobbi Noel
Mike Overly
Geena Ramirez



Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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Your Stewards Membership
includes a copy of this quarterly newsletter by email or mail, a 20% discount on retail items, special events & community educa-

TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION CALL: (800) 320-0476

For more info on how you can contribute to Stewards' Endowments, please contact:
Michele Luna
(707) 869-9177 X 4#
michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- RENEWAL
- \$25 Owl Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual Trillium
- \$45 Otter Family
- \$100 Contributing Harbor Seal
- \$150 Bobcat Business
- \$250 Gray Whale Patron
- \$500+ Osprey Circle

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV #: _____

Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

With your gift of a bequest, future generations will enjoy the State Parks in the Russian River District, including education and stewardship programs supported by Stewards. A gift to Stewards is a rewarding form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Example: *I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, (____) percent of my estate, (or) the sum of (____) dollars, (or) the following assets (____). Tax ID # 94-3039895*

For more information and other planned giving options, please contact Michele Luna at michele@stewardscr.org and your legal advisor.