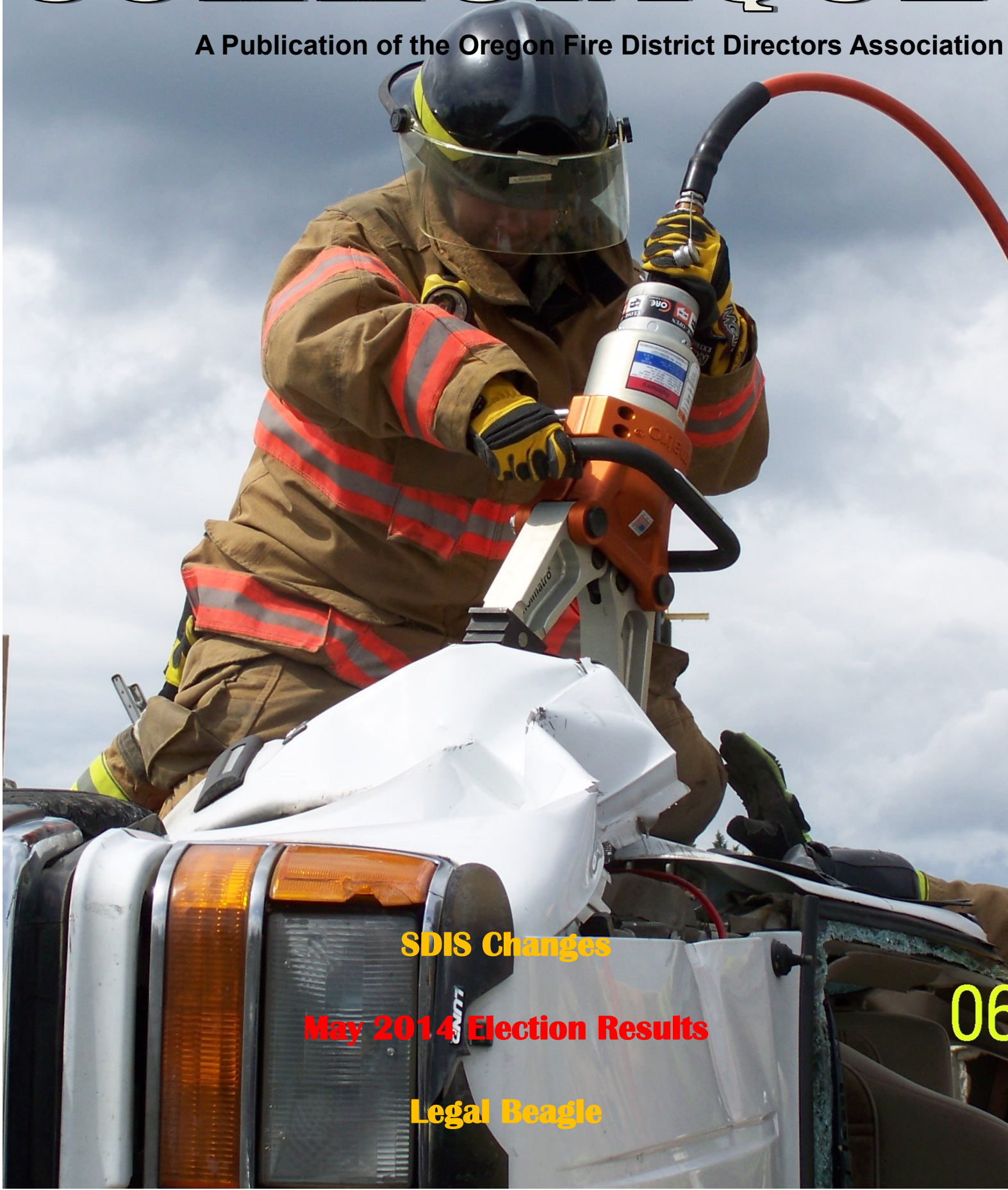


The

Summer 2014

# COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association



**SDIS Changes**

**May 2014 Election Results**

**Legal Beagle**

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# The COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of the  
Oregon Fire District  
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Summer 2014  
Volume 4 — Issue 3

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## Mission Statement

To serve and strengthen through the provision and coordination of timely information, education, and legislation.

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# CONTENTS

- 3 President's Message
- 3 SDIS Changes
- 4 May 2014 Election Results
- 5 Legal Beagle
- 6 Save The Dates



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## OFDDA President's Message



Summer is here, a time to enjoy the sunshine and for us to continue working toward meeting the goals and objectives of our 2014 Strategic Plan.

One of those objectives is to ***Develop and present training programs and workshops identified in the member survey at various locations within the state and at the Annual Oregon Fire Service Conference.*** Our conference committee is meeting monthly to plan this year's conference which is November 6-8 at the Sunriver Resort. Since this is a fire service conference, our committee includes representatives from the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA), the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), and the Oregon Fire Service

Office Administrators (OFSOA) to help identify training and workshop topics and speakers. The conference committee and our executive committee continue to coordinate with the Special Districts Association of Oregon to plan training programs and workshops at various locations throughout the year. So far this year, six workshops have been completed, four are scheduled and several more are being finalized. More information on both the conference and other training opportunities will be available on the OFDDA web site in the near future.

Another Strategic Plan objective is to ***Increase collaboration with other organizations to accomplish mutually identified goals.*** As noted above, we are working with several organizations to help plan training and workshops. OFDDA is also collaborating with OFCA on studying two critical issues for the fire service. We have a board member on their Volunteer 360 Task Force and another on their Fire Insurance Task Force to provide input and to ask questions. We are also collaborating with the OVFA. One of the ways we have done so was by honoring their request to send a letter to Senator Ron Wyden's staff in support of NVFA proposed amendments to a U.S. Senate tax extension bill.

While we are moving forward on meeting these two objectives, we are also continuing to prepare for the upcoming legislative session and are in the final stages of making revisions to the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) which OFDDA administers. Information on these issues will be posted on our web site.

Take care, enjoy your summer, and plan ahead by marking your calendar for the 2014 Fire Service Conference November 6-8 at the Sunriver Resort.

## Important Changes for Special Districts Insurance Services

### *SDIS Trust Agreement*

Recently, the Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) Board of Trustees amended the SDIS Trust Agreement to take into account changes to federal tax and state laws over the past 28 years since the Agreement was first created. Because the Agreement is an intergovernmental agreement, all participating members of SDIS must have their Boards adopt and sign the Joinder of Trust Agreement. This agreement is necessary to protect the Trust's assets, which all members have helped build over the past 28 years. Please make sure a signed copy of the Joinder Agreement is signed and returned to SDAO by the following dates:

Districts participating in the new self-insured employee benefits program: 6/1/2014

Districts participating in the self-insured workers' compensation program: 7/1/2014

Districts participating in the self-insured property and liability program: 10/1/2014

You only need to submit one signed resolution regardless of the number of programs that your District participates in.

### *SDIS Employee Benefits Program*

On June 1, 2014, SDIS converted its fully insured employee benefits program to a self-insured program for health, vision and dental coverage. The goal of the conversion is to eventually bring the same rate stability and superior coverage that other SDIS self-insured programs have been able to provide. Rates charged to the members no longer include a profit margin for the insurance carrier or many of the premium taxes that were charged in the past. If the program had stayed fully insured, the new regulations imposed by the Affordable Care Act would have required drastic rate changes. Any surplus earned which will allow for the ability to stabilize rate increases.

Today, SDIS is one of the strongest self-insured public entity pools in the country and it is our goal to continue to build on this legacy. If you would like more information, please contact SDAO at 800-285-5461.

## Fire Districts Fare Well in May Election

A total of 16 fire districts proposed ballot measures for the 2014 Oregon May Primary Election. While the Oregon Secretary of State's Office won't post official election results until later this month, as of this writing it appears that most of the fire district ballot measures were approved by local voters.

District	Ballot Measure	Passed	Failed
Aurora RFPD	24-367 General obligation bond		✓
Banks FD #13	34-218 Renewed five-year local option levy	✓	
Cannon Beach RFPD	4-171 General obligation bond	✓	
Columbia River Fire	5-237 General obligation bond		✓
Deschutes County RFPD #2	9-97 Five-year local option levy	✓	
Douglas County RFPD #2	10-130 Annexation of the City of Sutherlin (City of Sutherlin Ballot Measure 10-131, approving annexation to the Douglas County RFPD #2, Failed)	✓	
Gaston RFD	34-217 Renewed five-year local option levy	✓	
Gearhart RFPD	4-172 Five-year local option levy	✓	
Harrisburg Fire/Rescue	22-127 General obligation bond		✓
Idanha-Detroit RFPD	24-357 Five-year local option levy	✓	
John Day RFPD	12-53 General obligation bond	✓	
Lake Chinook Fire & Rescue	16-72 General obligation bond	✓	
Molalla Fire District	3-443 Construction and equipment bond	✓	
Polk County Fire District #1	27-111 Five-year local option levy	✓	
Polk County Fire District #1	27-112 General obligation bond	✓	
Rogue River Fire District	15-123 Ten-year local option levy	✓	
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	34-211 Replacement local option levy	✓	

## Additional Election Results



Official results of the May 2014 Primary election will be certified by the Oregon Secretary of State on June 19. For additional information on the election results (including county-by-county reporting), visit the Secretary of State's voting results website at <http://www.oregonvotes.gov/results/2014P/index.html>.



### A Few Thoughts About the Budget Process

By Carolyn H. Connelly  
Local Government Law Group, PC

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of several statutory requirements which arise around this time every year for local governments. First, budget season is in full swing. Remember to make a copy of your proposed budget available for public review immediately after the budget officer releases that document to the budget committee. Also, be sure you meet (or met) your primary dual notice requirements. Your budget officer must publish notice of the first budget committee meeting, at which the proposed budget and budget message are provided, and the budget hearing.

The notice of your budget hearing must include a summary of the budget approved by the budget committee. This financial information contains the approved budget, the current year budget, and the proceeding years' actual resources and expenditures. Both notices can be published in one of four ways. The most common is to publish notice twice for the budget committee meeting and once for the budget hearing in a newspaper of general circulation, at least 5 and not more than 30 days prior to the budget meeting and hearing.

Once the budget hearing has been held, your district is still able to make changes to the budget approved by the budget committee. Changes could reflect information introduced at the hearing, which should be carefully considered prior to budget adoption. Changes to the budget after adoption generally require district board action and sometimes require additional publications and public hearings. For this reason, all available information should be collected and considered during the budget process.

In thinking about your district's needed budget, consider what projects and purchases are planned for this upcoming year. Not only will this process assist your board in projecting your district's expenditures and revenues, this level of planning will also allow you to provide required notice of planned improvements to the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). At least 30 days prior to budget adoption, your district must submit to BOLI a "WH-118 form," listing each public improvement your district plans to fund in the upcoming budget period. This form is available on BOLI's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/boli/WH/PWR/docs/wh118.pdf>. Along with describing the project, its location, and estimated costs, please indicate on the form whether your district plans on performing the construction itself or engaging a private contractor.

If your district annexed any new territory within the past year, hopefully those annexations were finalized and the proper forms filed with the Oregon Department of Revenue prior to March 31. If not completed by that time, your district will not receive the revenue anticipated from those properties until the 2015-2016 tax year.

As you move through this process, remember that you are a member of a team. We caution individual board members from promising any specific expenditure in the upcoming budget year to individual constituents or employees. As individuals, each of you possess no special authority outside a public meeting, except as delegated by district policy or specific board action. Such delegation will not run to expenditure guarantees, however.

As always, if you encounter any legal issues through your budget adoption cycle, or thereafter learn of information or receive additional revenue requiring a change in your adopted budget, please contact your legal counsel as early as possible. Consistent with that old cliché, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, it is much more cost effective and efficient to consult with your legal counsel *before* a problem develops.

Looking for additional information and resources related to Oregon Budget Law? Visit the Department of Revenue's Property Tax web page at [www.oregon.gov/dor/ptd/pages/localb.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/dor/ptd/pages/localb.aspx).



## Save the Dates

2014 Local Events			
Dates	Event	Location	Add'l Info
June 16	SDAO/OFDDA Workshop: Board Duties & Responsibilities	Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue, The Dalles	info@ofdda.com
July 12	SDAO/OFDDA Workshop: Board Duties & Responsibilities	Baker City Rural FD, Baker City	info@ofdda.com
August 9	SDAO/OFDDA Workshop: Board Duties & Responsibilities	Klamath Co FD #1, Klamath Falls	info@ofdda.com
2014 Statewide Events			
June 18-21	Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference	Chinook Winds Casino & Conference Center, Lincoln City	www.ovfa.com
Sept 15-17	International Association of Arson Investigators, Chapter 31 (Oregon) Training Conference	Seaside Conference Ctr, Seaside	www.oregoniaai.org
Oct 15-17	Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators Conference	Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond	www.ofsoa.com
<b>Nov 6-8</b>	<b>Oregon Fire Service Conference</b>	<b>Sunriver Resort Sunriver</b>	<b>www.ofdda.com</b>
2014 Regional & National Events			
August 13-16	Fire Rescue International (FRI)	Dallas, TX	www.iafc.org
August 21-24	Firefighter Combat Challenge	Los Angeles, CA	contact @ontargetchallenge.com
Sept 22-23	National Association of Elected Fire Officials Conference	Las Vegas, NV	www.naefo.org
Nov 6-9	Volunteer & Combination Officer Section Symposium in the Sun	Clearwater Beach, FL	www.iafc.org

## Interested in Hosting an SDAO/OFDDA Workshop?

You supply the meeting space and we provide the rest! Topics include: Board Duties & Responsibilities, Cultural Drift, Risk Leadership, Safety Committee Training, Accident Investigation, and Driving Emergency Apparatus Safely. Additional training is available and can be customized to fit your district's needs. Contact the OFDDA office at 503-378-0896 or info@ofdda.com for additional information.

## 2014 Oregon Fire Service Conference—To Strengthen & Serve

Mark your calendars to join us in Sunriver, November 6-8, for the 2014 Oregon Fire Service Conference!



### Conference topics include:

- ★ *Winning Ballot Measures*
- ★ *Labor Management Trends*
- ★ *Rural Fire Chief Roundtable*
- ★ *National Perspectives on Volunteer Firefighters*

Resort guestroom rates start at \$99 (plus taxes and fees). Room reservations can be made through October 15, 2014, by calling the Sunriver Resort at 800-547-3922. Let the reservations desk know you are with the OFDDA conference to get the discounted guestroom rates.

## Help Plan the 2016 Oregon Fire Service Conference

Planning is already under way for the 2016 Oregon Fire Service Conference, and the Planning Committee is asking for feedback on the possibility of changing the timing of this event. The conference is traditionally held during early November and often coincides with Veteran's Day. **Although dates for the 2014 conference (November 6-8 in Sunriver and 2015 conference (November 5-7 in Seaside) are already secured, the dates and location of the 2016 conference are yet to be determined.**

Responding to concerns that the conference conflicts with Veteran's Day events as well as hunting season, the Conference Planning Committee is conducting an on-line survey to **determine member interest in changing the timing of the conference from early November to late October (coinciding with Fire Prevention Month)** as well as changing from a Thursday through Saturday timeframe to a Friday through Sunday timeframe.

Attendees for both the 2013 and 2012 conferences should receive an email invitation to complete the on-line survey, but all members are welcome to provide their opinions. A link to the survey will be posted on the OFDDA website soon. Please take a few moments to visit us at [www.ofdda.com](http://www.ofdda.com) to share your thoughts about the 2016 Oregon Fire Service Conference.



## Hot Sheet Coming Soon to an Email Box Near You!

As a companion to quarterly issues of *The Communiqué*, the Oregon Fire District Directors Association will soon be publishing an electronic newsletter to provide timely, time-sensitive updates related to the fire service statewide. The *Hot Sheet* will be issued to *Communiqué* subscribers who have email addresses on file with the OFDDA office. If you would like to subscribe, please contact the OFDDA staff at [info@ofdda.com](mailto:info@ofdda.com) or 1-800-223-9708. Publication of the first electronic newsletter is anticipated for late July 2014.

***Interested in submitting an article or advertising in The Communiqué?***

***Contact the OFDDA office at [info@ofdda.com](mailto:info@ofdda.com) or 1-800-223-9708.***



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