

Oregon Fire District Directors Association
January 25, 2014
MINUTES

President Don Trotter called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present:

Present:

Don Trotter, President
Darrell King
Dennis Rogers
Roy O. Palmer
Eldon Marcum
Don Thompson
Mark Kreutzer
Roger Edwards
Carol Smith

Guests:

Allen Forster, Lebanon FD & OFDDA Past
President
Dave Jones, Jefferson FD & OFDDA Past
President
Connie Carter, OFDDA Past President
Elise Brown, AT&T
George Grainger, AT&T
Mark Wallace, State Fire Marshal
Chief Ted Kunze, OFCA & Canby Fire
District*

**via telephone*

Staff:

Genoa Ingram
Jessica Carpenter
Laureal Williams

Guest Reports

Guest Report: Elise Brown and George Grainger, AT&T, provided a brief background surrounding the issue of collecting 9-1-1 tax revenues on pre-paid cell phones. Noting that all participating parties agree that it is time to collect taxes on the prepaid service in Oregon, disagreement appears in determining how the revenue should be collected—‘provider pays’ or ‘point-of-sale’ (POS). Elise summarized the difference between the two collection options and noted that all states that have implemented POS transactions over provider pays for revenue collection have seen a marked increase in 9-1-1 revenues. George underscored the fact that all the participating carriers are here to support public safety. POS has proven to be most lucrative and provides greater transparency and accountability than provider pays systems. Noting that there are currently two related bills slated for consideration in the upcoming legislative session, Elise and George reported that AT&T has been meeting with potential stakeholders to encourage support of the POS-related bill.

Guest Report: Oregon State Fire Marshal Wallace reported that January 27 is Fire Service Appreciation Day at the capitol. Chief Wallace also noted that the Governor’s Fire Service Policy Council will conduct its next meeting on January 28 at the capitol in order to present the Senator Paul Sarbanes Fire Service Award to Governor Kitzhaber.

Chief Wallace reported that the state was experiencing a number of rare red flag warnings with regard to wildfire. As of January 24, there were ten wildfires on private forest land, mostly in the coastal range. All appeared to be the result of re-ignited slash burns. He noted that the Oregon Department of Forestry had taken the lead in battling the wildfires since they were currently located on ODF lands.

Chief Wallace indicated that he had been invited to represent the Oregon fire service as a participant in a recent panel discussion to talk about rail trains carrying Bakken oil (from North Dakota). He noted that the oil is like light crude oil and likely to burn if there is a derailment. OSFM is working with DPSST to train first responders about the types of rail cars that are being used to transport the product and how to extinguish those fires (traditional resources such as water and foam are not effective).

Guest Report: Fire Chief Ted Kunze (Canby) provided an update on the 360 Taskforce report, noting that the taskforce had a productive meeting with PERS recently. President Trotter asked what the taskforce needs from OFDDA in terms of ‘signing off’ on the process.

MOTION: It was moved by Darrell King and seconded by Don Thompson that OFDDA join with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association in partnership to support and move forward with the 360 taskforce and its report. **Motion passed.**

Chief Kunze indicated that he would continue to pass along any progress and updates to the board as they occur. Mark Kreutzer will continue to serve as the OFDDA representative on the taskforce (with Carol Smith serving as alternate as needed).

Oregon Fire Service Conference Review

Financial Recap – Jessica Carpenter provided a summary of the conference financials to date, highlighting the following:

190 attendees total; approximately 65% were directors and 35% were chief officers

Gross income is approximately \$77,000 (83% of budgeted amount)

Gross expenses are anticipated to be approximately \$39,000 (78% of budgeted amount)

Net income is forecast at approximately \$38,000(89% of budgeted amount)

OFDDA net profit is approximately \$14,000 over last year as a result of being sole host of the event

Conference committee action is still required for the donation amount (opted in lieu of conference giveaways) and any contribution to be made to the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators for their representatives’ assistance at the registration desk

An invoice from the on-site catering firm is still under dispute

Evaluation Recap/Comments – The board reviewed and discussed the summary of the evaluations completed by the conference attendees. Two elements of the conference generated some negative comments: the on-site sound system and the event catering. The board members noted a few other areas of concern, including visibility in smaller classroom areas, vendor location, and distance of conference center from available lodging. Darrell King noted that the conference center staff were very accommodating while noting that the experience with the on-site caterer was not satisfactory. Staff noted that concerns about the on-site sound system and the caterer would likely keep the facility from being a viable option for future conferences.

2014 Conference – The board discussed the 2014 conference (November 6-8, Sunriver). Dennis Rogers noted that the 2013 schedule inadvertently created an excessive amount of ‘dead time’ in

the schedule when the OFDDA board meetings were briefer than anticipated and asked that the planning committee address this issue for the 2014 conference.

Allen Forster expressed concerns about the 2014 location, noting that in the past the restaurant options on-site have been limited and that in inclement weather the road between Sunriver and Bend can be pretty treacherous. The board discussed the possibility of moving future conferences to October rather than November; the possibility of a survey of the membership was also discussed to help identify interest and any potential conflicts created by such a move.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 6, 2013, meeting. With no corrections or additions noted, the minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Report

Jessica Carpenter reviewed the FY 2013 and FY 2014 financial statements, noting that the conference income/expenses were added in mid-year. She noted the following highlights:

Gross revenue for the year totaled \$282,000 (95% of budget)

Gross expenses for the year totaled \$230,000 (92% of budget)

The addition of two years' worth of conference revenue (2012 Joint Conference and 2013 Oregon Fire Service Conference) created an anomaly; the 2014 budgeted income has been adjusted accordingly to reflect only one source of net conference revenue

Little financial activity has occurred for FY 2014

Jessica concluded by noting that the 2014 dues statements have been issued; the total dues identified currently represent \$18,000 more than what has been budgeted for 2014

MOTION: It was moved by Mark Kreutzer and seconded by Dennis Rogers to accept the financial report as presented. **Motion passed.**

President's Report

President Don Trotter provided a brief summary of his recent attendance at the Oregon Fire Service Summit. He also reported that he has been working with staff this month to send out dues renewal notices and to reach out to non-members to ask them in an effort to increase association membership beyond its current level. Don noted that he recently attended the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators board meeting on behalf of the association. He will be attending the Special Districts Association of Oregon Conference next month to serve on a panel discussion, "The Art of Chairing a Meeting".

Staff Report

LOSAP – Laoreal Williams provided an update on LOSAP, noting the following highlights:

Annual maintenance fees of \$11,050 were collected in 2013

40 fire departments currently participate in the program

Current value of all participant accounts is in excess of \$7.3 million

Two departments have started the enrollment process: Jackson County Fire District 3 and South Lane Fire District

Offering three-year vesting in addition to five and ten-year is likely viable; a final opinion from legal counsel should be available soon
Staff is researching the impact of a reduced annual maintenance fee for OFDDA members

Laureal noted that the VALIC regional representative, Michael Hart, had received notice from the organization's underwriters that VALIC would be limiting the number of new enrollments in 2014 to three departments. While the organization will continue to service the existing OFDDA LOSAP participants, no new participants would be accepted after the next three. VALIC will be re-examining the program at year end to determine if it will accept any new participants past 2014. Mr. Hart has indicated that the underwriter's concern is with the profitability of the individual LOSAP accounts. An increase in the number of participating departments offering other VALIC products to its career personnel may improve the likelihood that the organization would be willing to accept additional LOSAP accounts after 2014. Laureal asked the board to consider encouraging existing LOSAP departments to consider adding VALIC products to those benefits currently extended to career personnel. Dennis Rogers asked staff to provide him with additional information about the program and offered assistance in locating acceptable alternative providers.

Legislative – Genoa Ingram provided a summary of the legislative review provided electronically to the board. After discussion and requests for additional information from staff, the board provided the following direction:

SB 1521 – remain neutral at this time.

SB 1518 – continue opposition of the bill

HB 4024 – monitor to determine if the bill has any impact on the fire service

HB 4080 – support the bill

Board Outreach – Genoa Ingram reported that she has been working to assist a southern coast district in the development of an internal succession plan, noting that Chief Charlton of Clackamas County has been generous in his assistance as well.

Other – Genoa reported that SDAO's proposed contract had been received and approved by the Executive Committee. It will go to SDAO's Board on February 7 for review and approval. No issues are anticipated.

Genoa Ingram reported that the Red Knights have expressed interest in advertising in the Communique. Genoa had conveyed that OFDDA would accept ads so long as any bikers pictured would be in compliance with Oregon's helmet law.

Committee Reports

NAEFO – Mark Kreutzer provided a summary of NAEFO's national efforts with regard to volunteers and the IRS.

DPSST - Dave Jones provided a summary of his written report. Noting that he has been invited back to serve a second term on the *DPSST* board, Dave expressed his interest in accepting that invitation on behalf of OFDDA.

New Business

2014 Meeting Schedule – The board reviewed the proposed 2014 meeting schedule. It was the consensus of the board to change the July meeting date from July 19 to July 26.

2014 Committee Assignments – After reviewing the current committee assignments, the following changes were made:

Nominating Committee – remove Don Thompson. The Committee Chair will select a third committee member (who does not have to be a board member, just an OFDDA member in good standing).

Oregon Life Safety Team – Mark Kreutzer appointed to serve on behalf of OFDDA

DPSST Board – Dave Jones was asked to continue his representative of OFDDA on the *DPSST* Board. Staff was directed to assist Dave with the related application materials.

MOTION: It was moved by Don Thompson and seconded by Darrell King to accept the committee assignments as proposed. **Motion passed.**

Strategic Plan Review – The board reviewed the current strategic plan and discussed was to improve its usefulness and a living document providing benchmarks and guidelines for organizational growth and development. After much discussion, President Trotter asked the board to contact him by February 8 with suggestions relating to improving the strategic plan. The revised strategic plan will be reviewed by the executive committee and then submitted to the full board for consideration and adoption.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, President Trotter adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.