

Summer 2015

The COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

Inside This Edition:

- ★ **President's Message**
- ★ **2015 Conference Update**
- ★ **Congratulations from the Legal Beagle**
- ★ **NVFC Offers to "Share the Load"**
- ★ **Professionally Occupied on Personal Time**

The COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

Oregon Fire Service Center
1284 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
800-223-9708 503-378-0896
Fax: 503-364-9919
www.ofdda.com

Summer 2015

Mark Kreutzer President

Columbia River Fire & Rescue

—OFDDA Staff—

Genoa Ingram, Executive Director
genoa@ofdda.com

Jessica Carpenter, Member Services
jessica@ofdda.com

Christina Korkow, Admin Services
christina@ofdda.com

Laureal Williams, LOSAP
laureal@ofdda.com

Contributing Writers

Mark Kreutzer
Ken Jones

James Aldrich

Special Districts Assn of Oregon

Mission Statement

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

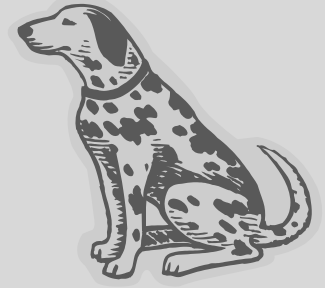
Published on a quarterly basis, *The Communique* is the official newsletter of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association. Complimentary subscriptions are provided to member districts and boards. Annual subscriptions may be purchased for \$3.00.

Some images courtesy of freedigitalphotos.net

© 2015 Oregon Fire District Directors Association. All rights reserved.

CONTENTS

- 3 President's Message
- 3 Oregon Fire Service Conference Update
- 4 Congratulations to New Board Members
- 5 Successful Renewal for SDIS Employee Benefits Program
- 5 NVFC Offers to "Share the Load"
- 6 Professionally Occupied on Personal Time
- 6 1990 Grumman Firecat for Sale
- 7 Museum Seeks Surplus Equipment



2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARK KREUTZER

President

Columbia River Fire & Rescue
270 Columbia Boulevard
St. Helens, OR 97051
H: 503-366-7854 C: 503-475-5496
mkreutzer@ados.net

DENNIS ROGERS

1st Vice President

Sheridan Fire District
PO Box 6
Sheridan, OR 97387
H: 971-240-4738 C: 971-241-7138
ddrogers@onlinenw.com

DON THOMPSON

2nd Vice President

North Bay RFPD
66341 North Bay Drive
North Bend, OR 97459
H: 541-756-0681 C: 541-404-7180
don@dwtinc.us

DON TROTTER

Past President, Position #1

Clackamas Fire District #1
11300 SE Fuller Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222
PH: 503-659-5678
dstrotter@msn.com

JOHN DUNN

Director, Position #4

Tangent Fire
PO Box 252
Tangent, OR 97389
H: 541-967-0405 C: 541-981-8400
terry8704@comcast.net

VACANT

Director, Position #3

ELDON MARCUM

Director, Position #2

Stanfield RFPD
33101 Stage Gulch Road
Stanfield, OR 97875
H: 541-449-3723 C: 541-571-1537
emarcum449@msn.com

GARY OLLERENSHAW

Director, Position #5

Redmond Fire & Rescue
1022 NW 51st Street
Redmond, OR 97756
H: 541-548-6627 C: 541-480-0100
lubie1981@msn.com

CAROL SMITH

Director, Position #6

North Lincoln Fire & Rescue
PO Box 200
Lincoln City, OR 97367
W: 541-996-2233 H: 541-994-3837
csboots@hotmail.com

STAFF:

Genoa Ingram, Executive Director

genoa@ofdda.com

Jessica Carpenter, Director of Operations

jessica@ofdda.com

Laureal Williams, LOSAP

laureal@ofdda.com

Christina Korkow, Administrative Services

christina@ofdda.com

Oregon Fire Service Center
1284 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
PH: 503-378-0896 TF: 800-223-9708
F: 503-364-9919

Ken Jones

Legal Counsel
Speer Hoyt LLC
975 Oak Street Suite 700
Eugene, OR 97401
W: 541-485-5151
kj@speerhoyt.com

OFDDA President's Message

Can you believe it is June already? Where has the year gone? Your OFDDA Board has been very busy the past few months. The Conference Committee has been working on the Oregon Fire Service Conference schedule for this November in Seaside. The Committee is working to confirm future dates and locations as well. Please plan to attend the Oregon Fire Service Conference this November 5-7. A different format will be tried this year. The conference will start on Thursday afternoon. We are excited about the change and look forward to your comments on the change.



The 2015 Legislative session is in full swing. Few Fire Service issues are involved this year. [HB 2818](#), the Volunteer Firefighter Check off, is slowly making its way through the Legislature. This bill is a priority and OFDDA will continue to monitor its progress. Genoa Ingram and I have testified to make sure that HB 2818 makes it to the Governor's desk. May 20 was Oregon Fire Service Day at the Capitol. Several fire apparatus and Fire Service personnel were on hand along with a Pipe and Drum band, which helped open both sessions.

I was back in Washington, D.C., to attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute Conference and Banquet. I met up with representatives from the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association. We had excellent face time with all of Oregon's elected officials. As usual, Washington, D.C., was full of excitement. V.P. Joe Biden was the key note speaker at the banquet. As usual he was very informative and entertaining. Not to mention the gyrocopter landing on the Capitol grounds or my ability to get an ax through two security checkpoints and into the Capitol building, but that is another story.

I attended the Oregon Fire Chiefs Spring Conference at Eagle Crest. OFDDA Board member Don Thompson from North Bay Fire District also attended to be present when North Bay Fire Chief Jim Aldrich was elected OFCA President. Congratulations, Chief Aldrich.

There is currently a vacancy on the OFDDA Board of Directors. If you are interested on being on the Board, please contact the OFDDA office for more information.

On a personal note, I was re-elected to the Board of Directors for Columbia River Fire and Rescue for my fourth term. A special interest group sponsored candidates to challenge all three incumbents running for re-election. Two of the three candidates unseated the sitting Board members, and I won by under 200 votes.

It looks like this summer could make for an interesting fire season. With continued drought and limited snow pack, this could be a busy summer for the Oregon Fire Service. Have a happy and safe summer.

Oregon Fire Service Conference, November 5-7, in Seaside

Planning for the 2015 Oregon Fire Service Conference is nearing completion. Scheduled for November 5-7 at the Seaside Conference & Convention Center, this year's conference theme is "Shaping Leadership for the Future". A full description of the program will be provided later this summer on the OFDDA website; however, consistent with the past two years, the schedule will be multi-tracked, offering ten separate training opportunities.

The Conference Planning Committee will be unveiling a new format for the conference schedule, with the program starting after lunch on Thursday, November 5, and concluding at noon on Saturday, November 7. The theory behind the revised format is to reduce registration fees (soon to be announced) and to potentially reduce lodging costs for some who will no longer need to arrive Wednesday night in order to attend a program that starts early Thursday morning.

Although official release of conference registration materials is still a few months away, the Planning Committee encourages booking accommodations early. As many of you know, there are a variety of lodging options available in Seaside. OFDDA has made arrangements for special room rates at the [Inn at Seaside](#) (800-699-5070), the [River Inn at Seaside](#) (800-699-5070, sister inn of Inn at Seaside), [Rivertide Suites](#) (877-871-8433), and [Best Western Ocean View](#) (503-738-3334). Each facility offers a continental breakfast and is within easy walking distance of the convention center. We encourage you explore the available options to find lodging that suits your own personal needs and tastes.

Please watch the OFDDA website (www.ofdda.com) for more information about the conference!

Congratulations to New and Newly Re-Elected Directors

By J. Kenneth Jones

[Local Government Law Group](#)

Congratulations to all of the new and re-elected Board Members. To help you get started in your position I have several recommendations:

1. I recommend a facilities tour. This provides Board Members with an understanding of your District boundaries. It also give you a good idea of your District's primary fire suppression or response issues, and should include review of the District's various apparatus and their uses.
2. Review the 2015-16 fiscal year budget. This gives you an idea of the magnitude of your District's spending, as well as where money is allocated. Any special programs or projects contemplated for the coming year will be noted in the budget. At the time the budget was prepared, the budget officer typically issues a written budget message to the budget committee. If available, review that document too. Remember, no matter how much you may disagree with the budget, it is adopted.
3. In conjunction with the budget review, review your District's spending policies. These vary widely from district to district. They range from significant board oversight and approval to the chief and staff managing all budgeted items and only reporting to Board of Directors. While there is no "right" or "wrong" approach, balance should be maintained between organization operating effectively and keeping the Board informed of expenditures and contracts.
4. Review a copy of [Oregon Revised Statutes \(ORS\) Chapter 478](#). Those statues authorize your fire protection districts operations and provide its basic authority. Unlike a city or a county, which is authorized to perform certain functions unless prohibited by statute, a special district can only provide those services specifically authorized by statute. Courts have interpreted this restriction on district activities narrowly.
5. Be sure to review past minutes, which provide insight into your District's most recent past issues and method of operation. When it comes time for you to attend meetings, be sure to review your agendas and accompanying material prior to the meeting so you are well prepared to make any decisions required. Understand underlying district policies, especially those which relate to direct communications with staff.
6. Last but not least, (and I've been accused of accepting payola from the Fire Chief's Association to include this information), [ORS 478.260](#) provides,
"the district board shall select a chief qualified by actual experience as a fire fighter and fire precautionist or otherwise and assistance, volunteers or otherwise and fix their compensation. The fire chief is responsible for the equipment and properties of the district. Under the direction of the board, the fire chief shall be responsible for the conduct of the department."



In other words, as an elected board member, unless you receive specific delegated authority from the board at a public meeting to act individually, day to day operations are the responsibility of the Chief and his/her staff. This sometimes proven a difficult concept for Board members to grasp. District policies should clearly explains how Board members and staff should interact.

I wish all of you the very best. I have been working with the fire service since 1977; working with people who care about their communities is by far the most rewarding part of my practice.

Oregon Fire Districts Fare Well in May Election

Of the 11 fire district-related measures appearing on the May 2015 ballot, **ten were approved by voters.**

Congratulations are in order for Clackamas County FD No. 1, Vernonia RFPD, Oakland Rural Fire, Depoe Bay RFPD, Stayton FD, Hubbard RFD, Silverton RFD, Irrigon RFPD, North Sherman County RFPD, and Yamhill Fire District.

Successful Renewal for SDIS Employee Benefits Program

The Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) Employee Benefits Program has long offered Oregon's special districts exclusive access to its health and dental plans. In the past year, the program has undergone dramatic changes including the transition to becoming self-insured and partnerships with new health and dental administrators. These changes have helped pave the way for a successful renewal season bringing an additional thirteen districts into the program.

This year, we were able to offer participants an average double-digit percentage **decrease** to existing rates. Rate decreases are rare for health coverage and we are excited that we could offer this to district members. Providing reasonable, stable rates and broad coverage to Oregon public entities has always been our goal.

145 districts are enjoying cost-effective coverage, broad provider networks, and great brand recognition. If your district is not a part of our program, request a quote today. Our program could save your district money while possibly increasing your level of benefits.

You can receive a quote by contacting your local insurance agent or by calling Chet Weichman, SDIS Employee Benefits Marketing Consultant, at 800-599-2387.

SDAO

SPECIAL DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

2015 Oregon
Fire Service
Conference
Title Sponsor

National Volunteer Fire Council Offers to “Share the Load”

In May 2014 the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) launched its “Share the Load” Program, an initiative designed to address a growing need to provide behavioral health support and resources for the nation's firefighters and EMTs.

Firefighters and EMTs respond to the worst crises, such as fires, traffic accidents, domestic abuse, shootings, and more. At the same time, they juggle the needs of the department, their families, outside interests, and for volunteers, full-time jobs. Add to that everyday stressors and often poor sleep and fitness patterns. It is easy to see that these factors will impact the behavioral health of many who answer the call.

Through “Share the Load” the NVFC hopes to break the stigma around behavioral health issues faced by first responders, open up the dialogue in departments, and provide the types of resources departments and emergency personnel can use to prevent tragedy. These resources include a free, confidential 24/7 helpline available to firefighters, EMTs, and their families. The helpline was created for first responders by members of the fire service. Callers receive compassionate, non-judgmental support for a variety of behavioral health issues, such as addiction, depression, suicide prevention, stress or anxiety, critical incidents, PTSD, relationship issues, or other issues affecting their work or personal life. The helpline is available at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473).

You can learn more about the Share the Load program and the resources it can provide for your department and its personnel at the National Volunteer Fire Council website, www.nvfc.org/help.



**SHARE
THE LOAD**
A SUPPORT PROGRAM
FOR FIREFIGHTERS
AND EMTs

Free NVFC Workshop Offered—Saving Those That Save Others

Attend a free two-hour workshop presented by NVFC, 9:30—11:30 a.m., at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Oregon. Sponsored by the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association and offered in conjunction with the OVFA Conference, registration for this workshop is free for all fire service personnel and elected officials—just RSVP to the OVFA office at 503-378-0896 or via email jessica@ovfa.org. For additional information, contact the OVFA office or visit the OVFA website at www.ovfa.org.

Professionally Occupied on Personal Time

*By James W. Aldrich, North Bay RFPD Chief
President, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association*

Working mobile. On the road. Not in the office, but available by email. These phrases are becoming more and more common in the world of today's leaders and the fire service is no exception. Remember prior to the technology age when leaders were tethered to their desk, telephone and office? I refer to those times as the Franklin Planner days when we all carried a large leather binder. That binder contained calendars, phone numbers and important information. If you were organized, you used a Franklin Planner. That is until iPhones and iPads surfaced. Fire Chiefs realized that electronic devices not only do everything the planner did, but much more; it allowed leaders the opportunity to be mobile. By being mobile you are not only able to accomplish "desk work" as in the office, but able to have your files and critical information with you all the time. We became able to attend meetings and work from remote locations rather than the office.

Laptops were a great transition from working the desk to getting more done and being mobile. If you were on the cutting edge, you upgraded from your planner to a laptop. You couldn't see anyone's faces at meetings because of the large screens and you had to show up early to ensure you had an electrical outlet to plug your computer in to. (It's a wonder more people didn't break their necks with all those cords). It was the beginning of the transition to an electronic world of fire service leadership.

Attend a meeting today and look around the table. Probably 95% of the people at the table are using an iPad and have their cell phone on the table as well. The other common thread around the table is that most of those leaders are multi-tasking during the meeting; able to participate while returning texts, checking emails and making appointments. The ability exists to get more done without being in your office. While this is ideal from 8-5, it can take a toll on your personal life if you let it; seeping into your evenings, weekends and family time.

Being tethered to electronic devices might improve productivity, but can also make it difficult for today's leaders to get a break. Time must be managed to ensure you are not polluting your family or your own personal time. It is important to set personal parameters that still allow you to check in while not corrupting your personal time. With our electronic and fast-paced schedules, families find they are busier than ever and sometimes find it difficult to even have dinner and spend quality family time. While it may be challenging to lead a Leave It To Beaver lifestyle, family time is an important time to discuss grades, friendships, challenges and just be together and enjoy each other's company. It is essential you budget time for yourself and your family.

While the electronic age has its challenges, if managed properly it can increase productivity and provides a necessary tool for today's leaders. The importance lies on making sure your governing body understands that while you may not be in the office, you are actually more productive and able to complete more by being mobile. Equally important is assuring your family that while sometimes professionally occupied on personal time, they are still your priority.

1990 Grumman Firecat For Sale

The City of North Bend is selling its 1990 Grumman Firecat Engine. Asking price is \$25,000; the City is the original owner, so all maintenance and pump records are included. Specifications for the apparatus include:

6-person cab with 4 SCBA seats; 300 Cummins, Allison automatic transmission; 1,250 gallons per minute Waterous

pump; 600-gallon water tank; 82,347 miles; 6,612 engine hours; factory installed Ward Diesel Filter System; full complement of ladders including, 24' extension, 14' roof, and 10' collapsible; hard suctions included.

Contact North Bend Fire Chief Meeker (541-756-8580 or mmeaker@northbendcity.org) or Assistant Chief Jim Brown (541-756-8581 or jbrown@northbendcity.org) for additional information.



Oregon Fire Service Museum Seeks Surplus Equipment

The Oregon Fire Service Museum is seeking surplus fire service vehicles to be donated, including fire trucks, ambulances, and staff vehicles. The Museum has been successful in its fundraising efforts by selling donated non-historical vehicles. Funds generated will benefit the fire museum’s phase-one construction efforts. Vehicles should run and be in reasonably good condition. If you have a vehicle you are interested in donating, please contact the Oregon Fire Service Museum via email at oregonfiremuseum@gmail.com or by calling 541-554-0669.

Save The Dates—Upcoming Fire Service Events

Dates	Event	Location	Addt'l Info
June 17-20	Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference	Pendleton	ovfa.org
July 8 July 14 August 4 August 6 September 2 September 14	Special Districts Association of Oregon Regional Event—Board Training <i>Registration for the Board Trainings is FREE to OFDDA Members!</i>	Salem Florence Grants Pass Bend Astoria Baker City	sdao.com
September 21-22	National Association of Elected Fire Officials Annual Conference	Las Vegas, NV	naefo.com (soon!)
October 14-16	Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators Conference	Klamath Falls	ofsoa.com
November 5-7	Oregon Fire Service Conference	Seaside	ofdda.com (soon!)

Attention All Firefighters

RED KNIGHTS

MOTORCYCLE CLUB

BECOME A RED KNIGHT

HERE IS AN OPEN INVITATION TO
THOSE OF YOU WHO OWN OR HAVE ACCESS TO A MOTORCYCLE
TO JOIN ONE OF THE MOST ELITE FIREFIGHTERS CLUBS
IN NORTH AMERICA SINCE 1983

For more information, contact Bill Snodgrass Executive Secretary
Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club, Inc. 1677 Jackson Rd.
Columbus, OH 43223 secretary@redknightsmc.com | visit our web site at: WWW.REDKNIGHTSMC.COM

“Loyal to Our Duty”

The NORTHWEST'S LEADING
RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE AGENCY
for
FIRE DISTRICTS

RISK MANAGEMENT

CLAIMS MANAGEMENT

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS INSURANCE

HEALTH
LIFE BENEFITS

SAFETY COMMITTEE TRAINING

PROPERTY/LIABILITY
INSURANCE

Our licensed service
Team Works With Over
300 Public Entities
Throughout
The Northwest

Our Field Service Team

JEFF GRIFFIN, CEO
Public Entities Account Executive
(541) 284-5852
jgriffin@whainsurance.com

STEVE SILVA
Loss Control Field Service
(541) 284-5116
ssilva@whainsurance.com

KIM NICHOLSEN
Employee Benefits Account Manager
(541) 284-5848
knicholsen@whainsurance.com

GORDON GROSHONG
CLU, ChFC, RHU, CEBS
Employee Benefits Account Executive
(541) 284-5829
ggroshong@whainsurance.com



CONTACT US AT (800) 852-6140 or www.WHAINSURANCE.com

Oregon Fire District Directors Association
1284 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
800-223-9708 | www.ofdda.com

SAVE THE DATE!

OVFA Conference
June 17-20, Pendleton

NAEFO Conference
Sept 21-22, Las Vegas, NV

OFSOA Conference
October 14-16, Klamath Falls

Oregon Fire Service Conference
November 5-7, Seaside!