

The

COMMUNIQUE

FALL 2013

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

OFDDA

at the threshold

OF A NEW ERA

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RENEW ON TIME

HOT INSURANCE DEADLINES

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The COMMUNIQUE

A publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association.

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Greetings Fire Service Partners

By Roy Palmer, 2013 OFDDA President



On behalf of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association, we are pleased to announce the first annual Oregon Fire Service Conference in Pendleton, November 7-9, 2013. OFDDA stands at the threshold of a new era and a new all-inclusive conference approach—an approach we hope you will embrace for future conferences.

This year's theme is "Together We Respond" and represents the philosophy of an all-inclusive Fire Service partnership. This philosophy will be prevalent in this, and future, Oregon Fire Service Conferences, as we reach out to include all Fire Service Personnel. OFDDA is honored to continue offering a fantastic training and networking opportunity to our members while including our partners the Chiefs, Administrators, Volunteers, and Fire Marshals so that we can all work together today to build for a better tomorrow. We are in an exciting time within all our associations, and hope to see this Conference grow in its value to all involved. We hope to see both new and familiar faces this year, and for years to come.

OFDDA understands that as stewards of your District funds, you want to yield

the highest return for your training investment. With that in mind, we have planned another strong program for 2013, aimed at providing the highest quality speakers on the most relevant topics, as well as options for concurrent sessions, to allow you to select what is most important for your district. You will also notice that we have reduced the cost of the Conference for all department or district personnel that are members of OFDDA. Additionally, we have worked to secure the best lodging rates available.

Here is just a sample of what you can expect this year in Pendleton:

Motivational speaker Bill Gallagher
Bill Gallagher has been counseling and professionally working with people for 30 years. His emphasis in the workplace is to help develop both relational skills and professional standards among administration and staff. Bill formed 'TeamWorks' in 2001 to help organizations achieve their goals for establishing high morale and client satisfaction. He has worked in multiple organizational settings; and of recent, has spent most of his time addressing workplace issues in Health Care and City Government. In addition to conducting a variety of workshops and in-services on workplace issues, he mediates conflict among partnerships and staff relationships, speaks at conventions, facilitates management retreats, and offers personal consultation and counseling for staff.

Oregon Department of Revenue Budget & Finance Workshop

The Budget and Finance Workshop is designed for board members and staff who are involved in the budget process for their district. It covers the basics to comply with Local Budget Law and some aspects of the property tax laws of the state, as they apply to preparing a local government's budget.

OFCA Toolbox # 6: Recruitment & Retention

This module addresses elements of effective recruitment and identifies factors that relate

to retention of quality personnel. Participants will be able to discuss a variety of issues regarding the structure of recruitment programs, job descriptions, selection processes, and topics related to management and motivation of exiting personnel.

Additional sessions of great interest include:

Surviving an Audit, ISO Overview, Volunteer Compensation 360 Report, Healthcare/ObamaCare, and Health & Wellness, just to name a few. Look for your options on the registration form.

In an effort to make this Conference affordable and accessible for all attendees, OFDDA is dedicated to moving the Conference around the state to allow for more participation. This year in Pendleton, Sunriver in 2014, and in 2015 we will be headed to Seaside.

We encourage you to reach out to those who have not had the opportunity to attend and share the importance of the training offered and the value of the networking available.

We encourage you to give this new concept your support and help strengthen our ability to Respond Together.

Nominations are being accepted for the OFDDA Board of Directors for consideration by our membership during the November Conference. Board Applications are available on the OFDDA website under the "Forms" tab.



Report from Washington, D.C. By Mark Kreutzer, NAEFO President



I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer. NAEFO has been busy tracking several bills that have been introduced in Washington D.C. Here is a quick summary of the more important legislation that could affect the fire service.

• **FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT**
S. 1163 was introduced on June 13, 2013 by Senator Thomas Carper (DE).

Summary: The legislation amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler systems as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler systems as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

• **CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION ACT**
S. 750 was introduced on April 17, 2013 by Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ). H.R. 1609 was introduced on April 17, 2013 by Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9).

Summary: The legislation establishes a grant program at the Department of Education to make awards to institutes of higher education for fire prevention and education programs.

• **THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT**
H.R. 1437 was introduced on April 9, 2013 by Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (OH-11).

Summary: The legislation directs the Secretary of Education to make competitive demonstration grants to institutions of higher education, fraternities, and sororities for up to half the cost of installing fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in student housing and dormitories owned or controlled by such entities.

• **VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT**
H.R. 1009 was introduced on March 6, 2013 by Congressman Peter King (NY-13). S. 506 was introduced on March 7, 2013 by Senator Susan Collins (ME).

Summary: The legislation modifies the federal tax code to make it easier for fire departments and local governments to provide recruitment and retention incentive to volunteer emergency response personnel through length of service award programs (LOSAPs).

• **VOLUNTEER RESPONDER INCENTIVE PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT**
S. 501 was introduced on March 7, 2013 by Senator Charles Schumer (NY).

Summary: The legislation exempts from federal income tax any property tax benefit and up to \$600 per year of any other type of benefit that a state or local unit of government provides to volunteer emergency responders as a recruitment or retention incentive.

As you can see there are several important pieces of legislation that could have an impact on the fire service. NAEFO will continue to update our members and State Associations on the progress of these bills.

The NAEFO conference is scheduled for September 23-24 in Las Vegas. We have a great list of speakers and some very good room rates at the Orleans Hotel. Online registration and conference information is available at www.naefo.org.

This will be my last update as President, as my term expires in September, and I will not be accepting another term as President of NAEFO. I would like to thank the members and State Associations of NAEFO for your support. It has been a great experience meeting the many members and State Associations. Hopefully, NAEFO has grown, not only in membership but as a partner and supporter of national fire service issues. I will continue to support NAEFO and fire service issues at the national level that are of a great importance to the fire districts across our country.

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Eligible accounts are provided for departments, public fire districts and EMS organizations, with the exception of federal and U.S. Military fire departments. Must be an active member in good standing.

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Property and Casualty Renewal is Fast Approaching

By SDAO Underwriting Department

Right now is the perfect time to meet with your agent and review your property and auto values, verify discounts, or start preparing to make changes to your coverage for the 2014 coverage year.

Here is what you can expect between now and the beginning of the new coverage year:

EARLY OCTOBER

Update packets will be sent to your agent for review. These include your auto, property and general liability schedules.

MID NOVEMBER

Your district will need to complete the Best Practices Survey online or via mail to SDAO in order to qualify for a contribution credit to your policy.

We will be looking for your agent to complete any policy changes online for the new coverage year.

END OF NOVEMBER

Once your agent verifies that all changes to schedules have been completed, they will receive renewal documents and invoices for your district.

Make sure you look out for these great ways to help your districts optimize your risk management programs and possibly qualify for significant contribution savings!

LONGEVITY CREDIT AND RATE LOCK GUARANTEE

SDAO is pleased to announce that the SDIS Trust is once again offering our members



potentially significant returns of contribution and rate lock guarantee as part of the Longevity Credit and Rate Lock Guarantee Program for districts that qualify.

BEST PRACTICES CREDITS

In an effort to assist your decision-maker's ability to develop and strengthen your risk management program, SDAO has created a risk self-assessment checklist to help determine if your district is following recommended risk management practices. The three (3) parts of the questionnaire focus on Board Policies and Procedures, Risk Management Practices, as well as Fire District specific supplemental questions. Not only will this checklist aid in risk management policies and practices, you may also receive a significant contribution credit if your district scores high enough.

SDAO Matching Safety and Security Grants Keep an eye out for the matching Safety and Security Grant applications, which will be mailed out by early September. The matching grant program is designed to fund new safety and security projects for our members. Please apply for any new safety or security project you may be planning in the next year. Last year 123 grants out of 157 applications were awarded,

which combined were worth approximately \$230,000.

Also keep in mind that SDAO offers members access to a variety of free online Risk Management Trainings.

As part of SDAO's ongoing commitment to safety, compliance with regulatory requirements, and containing healthcare costs, SDAO has partnered with MetroWorks to provide a series of Free Online Risk Management Trainings. SDAO members can complete certain safety and liability trainings through the MetroWorks online training system.

Here are examples of classes frequently completed by our Fire District members:

- Bloodborne Pathogens (369);
- Sexual Harassment – Employees (329);
- Discrimination-Free Workplace (207);
- Driver Safety (170); and
- Hazard Communication (155).

For more information, go to the SDAO website at www.sdao.com and follow the 'Online Training' link.

**The 2013 Legislature adjourned on July 8.
For your 2013 update, go to www.ofdda.com and click on the "Legislation" tab.**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

for the

Together We Respond Oregon Fire Service Conference

Hosted by OFDDA

November 7-9, 2013

Pendleton Convention Center

SCHOLARSHIPS

Conference scholarships available thru OFDDA

COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST

Breakfast will not be served at Pendleton Convention Center; hotels selected offer a complimentary breakfast.

TO REGISTER

Easy ONLINE registration at: www.ofdda.com

Or return enclosed registration form to:
Oregon Fire District Directors Association
1284 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Phone: (800) 223-9708

Fax: (503) 364-9919

Email: jessica@ofdda.com

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hampton Inn—541-276-3500

Red Lion—541-276-6111

Best Western Plus—541-276-2135

Oxford Suites—541-276-6000

Ask for the Oregon Fire Service Conference Rate at the time of your reservation.

CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS

Pendleton KOA—800-562-7560

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, the conference committee has decided that one hard copy of the conference brochure will be mailed to the Fire Chief at each department/district. Electronic copies have been sent to all emails that are on file and additional hard copies can be requested from the OFDDA Office if needed. Please share this information with your Directors, Chiefs, Administrators, Volunteers and Fire Marshals.

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*By J. Kenneth Jones,
Local Government Law Group, PC*



I hope all of you have had a glorious summer and not too many wildfires.

As you are getting started in a new fiscal year, I recommend each district consider three things.

First, “Where have we been? What did our service level look like five years ago? Our equipment? Our personnel? Our call volume?”

The second issue is “Where are we now?” Most of that information is probably in your budget message. It is useful to compare where you were with where you are now, and discuss any trends, especially in these economic times.

The third issue is “Where are we going?” This requires you to look into the crystal ball, one, three, and five years ahead, and discuss the same areas – service levels, projected call volume, needed equipment replacement,

schedules, and personnel, just to name a few. Analysis in those areas sometimes depends on whether your district is subject to annexations and, if so, you may be looking at a depleting model and a reduction in service levels. Alternatively, you may be looking at development growth in your district or area to be annexed to the district, which would also impact where you are going.

With each scenario regarding the one, three, and five year plans, break it down into things that need to be accomplished to complete a specific goal under each plan. This gives you something measurable, and you can proceed accordingly based on your priorities.

Now for the most important part of the end of summer

– Welcome back football and GO DUCKS!!

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- Getting Results: Elements of Successful Communication
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- Professional Boundaries in the Workplace



For more information, visit www.ofsoa.com.

T H E F I R S T A N N U A L

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