

# The COMMUNIQUE



Winter 2012

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

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THE FIRST ANNUAL  
**OREGON FIRE SERVICE CONFERENCE**

HOSTED BY OFDDA

**November 7-9, 2013**

**New OFDDA elected officials** *Pages 4 & 5*

# The COMMUNIQUE

A publication of the Oregon Fire  
District Directors Association.

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Winter 2012  
VOLUME 31 – ISSUE 4

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** To serve and strengthen  
through the provision and coordination of timely  
information, education, and legislation.

**SK2R**  
Publishing

6700 SW 105TH, Suite 213  
Beaverton, OR 97008  
503-941-9513

Publisher  
Ken Raddle

Senior Graphic Designer  
Teresa I. Gilmore

Published bi-monthly, The Communique is the official  
newsletter of the OFDDA. Complimentary subscrip-  
tions are provided to member districts and boards.  
Annual subscriptions may be purchased for \$3.  
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# Thank you for a great year



Bob David Reeves,  
OFDDA President 2012

First I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President during the 2012 year. As I have said this has been one of the highlights of my career and it's been a real honor being President. We had a great year thanks to a great board and staff.

Some of the accomplishments during the year were the continuation of updating OFDDA policies. Director Trotter chaired this committee. As always, good job to all who served with Don. This year the office was refurbished with new windows, insulation, and Hardie Plank siding.

Thanks to the past Presidents who helped with the process. A special thanks to Bob Hill who helped with the bid process and Bob Miller who was our project manager. Great job to all! During 2012 we reached out to our Fire Service Partners and hope to continue a strong relationship.

I want to thank everyone who was involved with this year's conference in Bend. I think it was one of the best ever and I am glad that the Fire Chiefs Association will still be involved with the planning of next years conference.

Next year will be a great year as we move forward with Roy Palmer as President.

The First Annual Oregon Fire Service Conference in Pendleton looks to be an exciting event.

It was a real honor to be able to present this year's President Award to Bob Miller. He and his family's dedication to the Fire Service is well documented. Bob was unable to attend so I am looking forward to presenting the award at our next Board meeting in January.

As I move forward and join the other Past Presidents it's a bitter sweet feeling, part happy to join such a remarkable group, part sad that my time on the OFDDA will soon end. I leave knowing OFDDA is in good hands and I stand ready to assist if needed.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Have a happy Holiday and stay safe.

## Aumsville Fire Requests Assistance

### *A Message from Chief Isaak*

The Aumsville Rural Fire District has a firefighter that needs your help.

Ryan Bishop has committed forty (40) years of service to the Aumsville Fire District and to the Aumsville Community. He joined the Fire Service in 1970, volunteering for Corvallis Fire while attending college. Ryan started his volunteer career with Aumsville Fire District in 1972. He worked his way through the ranks to Division Chief.

Ryan Bishop suffered an aneurism on

Friday, November 23. An aneurism is not a predicable illness and most people do not survive. Ryan is currently at OHSU in a coma. He has been the volunteer firefighter who answers the call in the middle of the night, at weekends and during the holidays. He responded to a neighbor's house one day prior to his illness. You will know Ryan Bishop if you attend our Annual Turkey Shoot. He has been calling the winning numbers for years.

We are seeking help for Ryan Bishop and his family. He is a self-employed farmer without health insurance. As a result of his illness the family farm will close. His son, who is also a volunteer firefighter, is now looking for work.

Ryan, who is 62, is facing a difficult recovery both physically and financially. He will be unable to work following his recovery. The family needs any assistance you may be able to provide to help with their medical bills. The Aumsville Fire District has set up an account at Riverview Community Bank in Aumsville under the name of Ryan Bishop. We thank you in advance for any assistance you can offer to this family.

**Contributions may be sent to the Ryan Bishop Fund and forwarded to the Riverview Community Bank at 112 Main Street, Aumsville, OR 97325**



# Roy Palmer Elected OFDDA President

Retired Fire Chief Roy O. Palmer was elected OFDDA President for 2013 during the November Conference in Bend.

Chief Palmer began his career with Douglas County Fire District #2 in the early 70's and spent 24 years there working through the ranks to Assistant Chief / Fire Marshal. He left District #2 to become the Fire Chief for Polk County Fire District #1 where he spent the next five years until his retirement. Throughout his 39 + years in the Oregon's fire service, Chief Palmer managed all elements of the fire department, including budget, administration, human resources, operations, training, fire prevention, as well as support services.

Chief Palmer's involvement in the Oregon Fire Service has been continuous throughout his career. He currently is serving as 1st Vice President of Oregon Fire District Directors Association. In addition, he has served on the Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association board, including a term as President, as well as the Oregon Fire Marshals' Association board, including a term as President.

After retirement Chief Palmer has continued to serve the fire service as a highly respected and much sought after Interim Fire Chief; having served West Valley Fire District, South Lane County Fire & Rescue, Sutherlin Fire Department, Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue (which involved the creation of a new fire district), and Pendleton Fire

Department. He is currently serving as the interim Fire Chief for Pleasant Hill Fire District. As interim chief his responsibilities, in most cases, have included involvement in the search for, and selection of, a permanent fire chief. Because of Chief Palmer's experience as both a Fire Chief and a Director he has developed a unique prospective regarding the relationship between their respective roles.

Roy is well known for his passion for the sport of golf. If he is not working, you will find him on the course. He has been involved in high school football and baseball officiating for the past 38 years. He currently serves as the football commissioner for Douglas County. Roy and his wife Janet love spending time with their four grandchildren.



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# Thompson Elected to OFDDA Board



Don Thompson

Don Thompson of North Bay RFPD has been elected to the OFDDA Board of Directors.

Don grew up in North Bend, Oregon, graduating from North Bend High School in 1974, and Oregon State University in 1980 with a B.S. in Construction Engineering Management. He started working in the family's commercial construction business as a teenager, and then full time after graduating from OSU. Don joined the North Bay Rural Fire Protection District as a volunteer firefighter in 1985.

In November of 1993 he was appointed to an open seat on the board, and

has served continuously since the appointment. Don and his wife Carol have been married for 36 years and have two adult children, Brian and Karen. Along with the Fire District, Don is involved with his church, the North Bend High School Stadium Committee, North Bend Schools Foundation, and Rotary.

Don has also served intermittently for over 20 years as the South Coast Area Representative to the Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter board of directors. Don and Carol enjoy traveling, whitewater rafting, hunting, camping, and hanging out with family and friends.

## [LEGAL BEAGLE]



## Election Reminder

*By J. Kenneth Jones*

*Local Government Law Group, a member of Speer Hoyt, LLC*

It was great seeing everyone at the conference. Thank you for attending.

This is just a reminder that Director elections are held in May. That date this year is May 21. The filing deadline for that election is March 21.

If you have ballot measures, the filing deadline is the same. The May election does not require a 50/50 vote; just a majority of those voting.

Have a wonderful holiday season.





# Are Your Vehicles Properly Valued?

*The SDAO 2013 Property Casualty renewal process is well underway.*

*We recognize that not all fire districts within the State are members of SDAO. However, for those that are, the article below gives you a basic understanding of how to properly value your districts vehicles over their useful life.*

*Following an auto accident, the purpose of Auto Physical Damage Coverage is to try to get our members back to normal as soon as possible. Accurately listing the values of vehicles will help expedite the process and get the most benefit for the premium dollars.*



## **The SDIS Trust provides coverage for vehicles listed on the auto schedule at Functional Replacement Cost or Replacement Cost.**

In order to properly value a vehicle, the district must understand the difference between these valuations and how each will respond in the event of a loss. In both cases, the most the Trust will pay for a loss to a covered auto in any one accident is the lesser of these three options:

1. The cost to repair the damaged Covered Auto
2. The cost to replace the entire Covered Auto
3. The value listed on the schedule for a Covered Auto

**Replacement Cost and Functional Replacement Cost** respond in the exact same way if the covered auto is damaged and just needs a repair. The Trust will pay the cost to repair the damaged Covered Auto without deduction for depreciation. In a total loss situation, Functional Replacement Cost provides a comparable used auto with the same functional use and of like kind and quality when compared to the damaged covered auto, Replacement Cost provides a comparable new auto of equal quality and usefulness. The difference is a comparable used versus a

comparable new. A general rule of thumb is to have higher values for autos covered at Replacement Cost and values a little lower for autos that are at Functional Replacement Cost.

**Eligibility for Replacement Cost** valuation is based on the age of the Covered Auto. Vehicles that are less than seven years old or not more than 15 years for Emergency Services Vehicles are eligible for Replacement Cost valuation. Any vehicles older than these will switch to Functional Replacement Cost at renewal. It is important to adjust these values at this time, typically they would trend downward.

Let's assume a vehicle can be replaced with a comparable used vehicle for \$20,000. If the vehicle is at Replacement Cost Valuation then it is recommended the limits be set at the cost of a comparable new vehicle or say \$25,000. On the other hand a similar older vehicle at **Functional Replacement Cost Valuation** can be replaced with a comparable used vehicle for \$10,000, so it is recommended to set the values around \$10,000.

Due to the differences between Functional Replacement and Replacement Cost valuation, members should annually review their auto values with their agent. An accurate assessment of a vehicle's value compared to the available coverage can save the member unnecessary premium and speed up the claims process by preventing unexpected surprises.



**ANNOUNCING**

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**OREGON FIRE SERVICE CONFERENCE**

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