



The COMMUNIQUE

SPRING 2012

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

**OFDDA
Conference
Update**

**FOCUS
on Safety**

**Eldon Marcum,
Stanfield,
Joins OFDDA Board**

NOW GET THE Communiqué as an email! Page 4

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A publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association.

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Incoming 2012 OFDDA President's Message

By Bob Reeves

First, I would like to thank the membership for electing your current Board for 2012. It is an honor to serve as your President. I also want to thank Past President, David Jones, for the hard work he did in leading us in 2011. Dave will truly be a hard act to follow. With Don

part of the State.

I have started visiting Fire Director Board Meetings and the OFCA Board Meetings. If you would like us to visit your Board, please contact our office in Salem and we will arrange for a director to attend one of your meetings.

One of our goals is to reach out to our Fire Service Partners and I am happy to report that at our last OFDDA meeting we had DPSST, OVFA, OFCA and OSFM in attendance.

Trotter being elected 2nd Vice President we had an open board position. The board received three great applications and elected Eldon Marcum from Stanfield Rural Fire Protection District. Please welcome Eldon to our board. He will be of great help in reaching out to our districts in the Eastern

One of our goals is to reach out to our Fire Service Partners and I am happy to report that at our last OFDDA meeting we had DPSST, OVFA, OFCA and OSFM in attendance. Past President, Bob Hill, gave us a report on the OFDDA building needs and we have requested



Bob David Reeves,
OFDDA President 2012

bids for the needed work. Many thanks to Bob and his committee for the hard work they have done. We hope to be able to call on our Past Presidents again in the future as they have a wealth of knowledge and history with our organization.

The Joint Conference Committee has started planning for this year's Conference. It will be held November 8 – 10 in Bend. In 2013 our conference will be in Pendleton. This will be our first conference as a Directors Conference and we would like to hear from you as to what programs you would like to have. We will be working to have programs for the Fire Chiefs and also have programs for other Fire Service Partners like OVFA.

Till next time be safe. ♦

2012 OFDDA Board of Directors and Officers



OFDDA Board of Directors and Officers for 2012 will be as follows: (clockwise from top right)

Bob Reeves, President;

Dennis Rogers, Director Position #5;

David Jones, Immediate Past President;

Mark Kreutzer, Director Position #4;

Oregon Fire Marshal Mark Wallace administered Oath of Office to incoming directors and officers.

Don Trotter, 2nd Vice President;

Carol Smith, Director Position 6;

Roy O. Palmer, 1st Vice President.



The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was organized in 1950 to serve elected directors of fire districts of all sizes throughout Oregon.

Full Agenda Planned for September Conference

By Mark Kreutzer

Washington D.C. is back in session and we hope more productive than in the past.

The D Block legislation is still a high priority for the fire service. NAEFO asks for your support of the Strengthening Public Safety and Enhancing Communications Through Reform, Utilization and Modernization Act, S-911 and H.R. 607.

The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act expired in 2010. S-933 and H.R. 2353 would reinstate the tax benefits for our volunteers and actually increase the amount from \$360.00 up to \$600.00.

Mark on your calendars September 24-25 for NAEFO's conference in Las Vegas. We currently have Bill Webb, the

Executive Director of Congressional Fire Service Institute Caucus, scheduled to speak to update attendees on the political climate in Washington D.C. Chief Bill Metcalf from Southern California will speak on the financial climate of the fire service across the United States and how long before we can expect to see significant improvement. Oregon's own Ken Jones will make a presentation on legal issues that have affected the fire service, not only from Oregon, but from across the country.

Finally, April 14th, 2012 is the next NAEFO Board Meeting to be held at the Clark County Public safety building. A review of NAEFO's strategic plan is



Mark Kreutzer
NAEFO President

scheduled to be held in the afternoon after the Board Meeting.

As always, encourage your Fire Chiefs and fellow elected fire officials to become members of NAEFO. Visit the NAEFO website for more information at www.naefo.org. ♦

Eldon Marcum, Stanfield, Joins OFDDA Board

Eldon Marcum, Stanfield Rural fire Protection District, was elected to the OFDDA Board of Directors during the Board's January 21 meeting. Director Marcum will fill Director Position #2, vacated by Director Don Trotter when he advanced to the position of Second Vice President.

Director Marcum recently retired from the railroad, freeing up time to serve on the

Board. He has been a volunteer firefighter for 38 years and for the past 25 years has served as Assistant Chief at Stanfield RFPD. He has been a Board member for over 32 years.

Attraction and retention of volunteer firefighters, balancing fire service needs, training and personnel issues were identified as some of his key priorities. ♦

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OFDDA Conference Update From the 2011 President

*By David Jones, OFDDA Immediate Past President
Director, Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District*



David Jones,
2011 President

Since the annual conference last November, when I announced the upcoming change to future conferences beginning in 2013, there seems to be some confusion and as such, even some disappointment. I recently received a letter from one of our rural fire districts expressing such disappointment because they (directors) value the interaction with their chief at conference. That need not change. Please allow me to explain.

OFDDA was formed in 1950 and has had an annual conference since 1951. In 1993, OFDDA and OFCA joined to make it a joint conference. Since then both organizations have put the joint conference together as an administrative team. Beginning in 2013, the administration of the conference will return to OFDDA, and as such will no longer be OFDDA/OFCA Joint Conference, but simply the OFDDA Annual Conference. The Conference attendees will continue to be both Directors and Chiefs, just like it has been for the past 19 years. I have personally been assured that OFCA will promote and encourage their membership to attend the OFDDA Conference. OFCA has asked to be released from the administration of this Conference, so that their Board and staff can concentrate on other endeavors to meet the needs of their membership,

Here is the bottom line for the local level district directors and chiefs, such as my own district: No real change. Both directors and chiefs attend, along with Administrative Assistants, other officers,

and whomever your board wishes to send. The change will be on the Conference administrative level with responsibility solely on OFDDA instead of jointly with OFCA. You may notice the notebooks smaller without the OFCA inserts, and a few other minor differences.

As for training, OFCA has requested a seat on the Annual Conference Planning Committee to assist with training needs for both directors and chiefs. For example, the Chief Toolboxes will still be offered, if

desired. So, Directors, continue to attend with your chief.

The interaction between fire chiefs and boards outside the monthly public meeting is indeed an important part of our success as a fire district. Many, many fire districts, including my own, rely on the annual conference for this informal interaction. OFDDA is committed to continue these networking opportunities along with meeting the training needs and desires of all rural fire protection districts. ♦

OFSOA 2012 Spring Workshop **Sisters-Camp Sherman FD Community Hall, Sisters, OR** **APRIL 19- 20, 2012**

Featuring:

- The Office Administrator's Role in Fire Chief/Board Conflict
Fire Chief Taylor Robertson
- The 3 Reasons Chief's Get Fired and How You Can Help or Hurt
Fire Chief Jeff Johnson
- Social Media Gone Wrong - *Paul LeSage*
- Travel Planning Secrets - *Fire Chief Jeff Johnson*
- Audits & Local Budget Law Changes - *Richard Donaca, CPA*
- Rescue Demonstration
Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department Personnel

Registration will soon be available at www.ofsoa.com

Focus on Safety

By Dave Campbell, consultant – WHA Insurance retired

January and February each year should be a time when Fire Districts reflect on their safety efforts for the prior year and look at where and how safety programs will be managed for the current year.

It is imperative – to Oregon OSHA – that you post the Summary OSHA-300 report where all district personnel can see the report. If you have more than one location there needs to be a Summary 300 form specific to each location. These forms need to be posted from February 1st to April 30th annually.

Special Districts Assn. of Oregon has two useful forms to help evaluate the current status of your safety efforts. The first is “Fire District Safety survey

Checklist” and the other “General Safety Survey Checklist.” These forms are free and have been updated for 2012. We encourage you to complete both survey forms and make specific plans to remedy the deficiencies. You may contact Loss Control at SDAO - 800-285-5461 or www.sdao.com.

If you need help with the survey forms, safety program or with the inspections, please contact Ryan Massey at WHA Insurance to schedule a visit to your district. 1-800-852-6140 or rmassey@whainsurance.com.

Ryan can also provide you with a copy of OSHA’s Top 26 Violated Standards report for Fire Departments. SDAO continues to offer free on site inspections too. Call

800-285-5461 or SDAO.COM for Loss Control.

Contacting a Safety Consultant at Oregon OSHA is another option for evaluating your safety program in detail. You may arrange worksite consultations and evaluations by calling 800-922-2689 or using the web: consult.web@state.or.us.

The Salem Oregon OSHA office has a library with booklets, posters and related materials. They lend videos and supply materials at little or no cost. Phone the Resource Center & AV Library at 800-922-2689.

The library web: tech.web@state.or.us.

Remember...No accident or loss is good stuff! You don’t need the alternative in your life! ♦

[VOLUNTEERS’ CORNER]

Everything But Time

*By David Butler – President,
Oregon Volunteers Firefighters Association*

There are several issues that affect volunteers in today’s fire service. There are legislative, financial, communication, recruitment and retention, and training issues, along with call volume and public relations. I think one of the biggest issues is time. We need to deal and handle all of the above mentioned issues but we need time to do so. Most importantly, we need to spend time with our loved ones. I have been married for 25 years and I don’t always spend as much time as I should with my wife and children. I am sure this is true for a lot of others in the fire service

as well. We want to serve our communities but forget about our families when a big winter storm blows in, or a commercial structure fire breaks out.

We sit down for a relaxing dinner and our pagers or radios alert. We leave our families and go do what we were trained to do. By the time we get home our loved ones are tucked into bed, sound asleep. Did you get to hug them or kiss them goodnight? Did you get to tell them that you loved them? As a volunteer firefighter, you spend your day at your “real” job,

you get home and might have time to get something to eat or spend a few minutes with your family and then it is off to drill or a meeting for several hours, if you don’t drop a call while you are there.

We always try to do things as safely as possible when on the training or fire ground but sometimes things can go wrong. We hope not, but it does happen.

Please, remember to tell your loved ones what they mean to you every time you leave for a call, you can never get time back. Be safe. ♦

Restrictions on Political Activities —and Other Reminders

By J. Kenneth Jones,
Local Government Law Group, PC, a member of Speer Hoyt, LLC.



This appears to be the annual time for reminders. If any of you are looking to submit measures for the May 15, 2012 election, the deadline for filing is March 15th at 5:00 p.m. I typically recommend filing a day or two in advance so if there are some clerical modifications that need to be made, you have time. Second, again, this is just a reminder that it is time to review the current year's budget and begin preparation of the budget for next year. It seems as articles roll around, that this is becoming a constant topic. I think that is based on two things: 1) the economy and revenue shortfalls; and 2) as I get older, time seems to move faster.

Next, as we are entering into a political climate, it is important to recognize both the obligations and restrictions on your District and your employees. The Secretary of State's office has issued a handbook entitled "Restrictions on Political Campaigning by Public Employees," which is available online. The information I am giving here is, of course, very abbreviated, but is designed to serve as a warning light so that your situation can be compared to the rules before there is a violation. No public employee (including volunteers) may be involved while on the job, during working hours, in political activity. The exception is directors. But even with directors, the rule about not using any public funds, equipment, property, etc., still applies. Further, a supervisor cannot direct public employees to be involved in political activity. Examples of restrictions include: collection of funds; receipt and distribution of advocacy materials; and preparation of correspondence on behalf of political action committees or candidates. While the list of examples is a couple of pages long, the key element is that nothing can be done on

work time or using any public equipment, materials, or support.

A public employee may generally use personal time, when the employee is considered off duty, for political activity. A key element is that participation has to be voluntary. If it is an issue being proposed by your district, public employees may participate in the planning stages before the item is certified as a measure to the ballot. Any information presented on a district measure must be accurate and not presented in a way that promotes or opposes a measure. Salaried employees must be careful during any appearances because it is difficult to determine when they are on or off the clock. All parties should make sure that it is clear they are not speaking on

behalf of the District and are only speaking as an individual.

If you are going to be sending out informational material to your citizens, it is good to have that reviewed by legal counsel or the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State's office has people available for the review. You can coordinate that through your local attorney or directly with the Secretary of State's office.

Lastly, I recommend each of you go check your district bulletin board. ORS 260.432(3) requires that the notice required by that statute must be posted in conspicuous places likely to be seen by employees.

For those of you involved, may the election season bring many happy returns. ♦

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED BY ORS 260.432(3)

Each public employer must have posted - in all appropriate places where public employees work - a notice about the prohibitions of ORS 260.432. A copy of this notice is enclosed. You may make copies of this notice to distribute and post if you have not already done so. It is the same language as the notice distributed in 2006.

ORS 260.432(3) states, "Each public employer shall have posted in a conspicuous place likely to be seen by its employees the following notice in printed or typewritten form:

ATTENTION ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:

The restrictions imposed by the law of the State of Oregon on your political activities are that "No public employee shall solicit any money, influence, service or other thing of value or otherwise promote or oppose any political committee or promote or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate, the gathering of signatures on an initiative, referendum or recall petition, the adoption of a measure or the recall of a public office holder while on the job during working hours. However, this section does not restrict the right of a public employee to express personal political views."

It is therefore the policy of the state and of your public employer that you may engage in political activity except to the extent prohibited by state law when on the job during working hours.

Save the Dates!

Mark Your
Calendars for these
**OUTSTANDING
Training
Opportunities.**

OFDDA/ OFCA Joint Conference

November 8-10

Bend Riverhouse

OVFA Conference

June 20-23

Charleston

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service and to the needs
of our membership.



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