

## **COMMUNIQUÉ**

A publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association.

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



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## It was a Great Year. Thank you!

By David Jones

Wow, I can't believe this year is almost over. At first, I thought it was just me, but at the Joint Conference, OCFA President Chief Branch made the comment that it seems like I have only been your President a few months. It does seem that way, but when I look back, it has been a busy year, starting with the Fire Service Summit, local Fire District Board visits, recognizing long term board members, representing OFDDA at numerous meetings and association conferences, updating and renewing contracts, strategic and long range planning, new fire station dedications, legislative meetings... I guess it really has been a full year. And, to top it off... a great conference in Seaside. !!

This past year has been a great transition year for me after retiring as Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, after some 28 years of full time fire service. My career and volunteer time has overlapped through the years. Prior to starting in 1983 at a paid fire fighter for the City of Klamath Falls at Kingsley Field, I spent six years as a volunteer with Keno Rural Fire Protection District, and now, I will continue as

a volunteer with Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District in my third elected term as a fire district director. My tenure with OFDDA, particularly as your President, has been a rewarding experience that I will look back on with pride. Also, this year, my peers and colleagues with the Oregon Fire Marshals Association surprised me with a Lifetime membership. I am both proud and humbled to receive that recognition.

OFDDA is moving forward and has had a great year. A legislative year is always exciting and we had a positive year. We didn't get everything we wanted, but was able to stop some unfavorable legislation and do some damage control on public safety budgets. Residential sprinkler systems remain a top priority along with stable 9-1-1 funding.

One of my top priorities this year has been team building with our fire service partners, particularly the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, who are the "backbone" of the fire service, and the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators, who are truly the "unsung heroes" of our fire districts. I would also like to recognize



David Jones, OFDDA President 2011

the partnerships OFDDA has with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Oregon Fire Marshals Association, Oregon Special Districts Association, just to name a few.

I wish to thank the 2011 OFDDA Board of Directors, our executive director, Genoa Ingram, (aka my personal chauffeur), and to Mary Tucker, our premier office administrator, for your support, encouragement, and confidence.

Now as I join the ranks of OFDDA Past Presidents, I again thank you, the fire district directors statewide for allowing me the privilege and honor of being your 2011 President. I have had fun.

One more thing. There was this rumor at Conference (something about my beard) that I have a retirement job. Check it out www.Santa97352.com



# 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.

## ISFCA Conference News

By Mark Kreutzer

I have just returned from Boise, Idaho where I attended the Idaho State Fire Association, Commissioners (ISFCA) conference. Outgoing President, Jim Olson, and new President, Joe Stear, were very gracious hosts, as were all attendees. This was NAEFO's first time to attend the ISFCA conference. ISFCA is going through some growing pains, but I believe they are on the right path. The Board authorized the hiring of an executive director to spearhead the organization. The executive director's position will allow ISFCA to focus on legislative issues and membership enrollment.

The D Block Legislation has run into a roadblock. Representative Greg Walden from Oregon is the chair of the Commerce Committee where the bill sits without his approval. It now maybe up to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to decide the fate of D Block. With enough pressure from the fire service, the legislation may still come out of the Commerce Committee.

The W2/1099 IRS issue also was dealt a setback. New legislation was introduced

in Washington D.C. to allow the use of IRS form 1099 or W2 for volunteer compensation. Unfortunately the National Volunteer Firefighters Council has opposed this bill. The NVFC opposition to the bill has basically killed the legislation. The Western Fire Chiefs and Oregon Fire Chiefs are looking at State legislation to address this issue. While in Boise, I learned that the IRS told the Idaho Fire Commissioners a few years ago, that they must use the W2 form to document volunteer compensation. So far, Idaho has not had any negative impacts on this ruling.

I attended the OFDDA conference in November. This was another well attended and informative conference. Fire Chief Bill Metcalf gave a somber, yet informative, presentation on the national economy and the effect on the fire service.

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



Mark Kreutzer NAEFO President

update attendees on the political climate in Washington D.C. We are working to get speakers to address the conference regarding national fire service issues.

Finally, January 7th 2012 is the next NAEFO Board and General Membership Meeting to be held at the Clark County Public safety building. We are working on getting Congressman Riechart from Washington, the Republican Co-Chair of the Fire Service Caucus to join us.

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. •

## VOLUNTEER'S CORNER

# In Memory of Tyler Hoffman Family in Need of Assistance

Tyler Randall Hoffman, 19, of Reedsport, Oregon died August 19, 2011 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 101, north of Coos Bay. Tyler was a sleeper and an active volunteer with the city of North Bend Fire and Rescue at the time of his death. His father, Jason Hoffman, a paramedic/firefighter, was also injured.

Jason Hoffman provided the following account: "On the night of the accident, Tyler was driving us home at approximately 0100 after the death of my grandfather and his great grandfather and we were involved in a head on collision with a loaded semi-truck. I attempted extrication and found that he was pinned in the driver seat unresponsive. I administered CPR until EMS arrived 15

minutes later. I pronounced his official death before I was transported as a trauma to the hospital by ambulance. Tyler's goal was to be a paramedic/firefighter like myself and was enrolled in school to do just that."

Tyler Hoffman was born on November 12, 1992. He loved to camp, hunt, fish and be around friends and family, including his four step-brothers and one step-sister. Tyler graduated from Reedsport High school this past June. Since he was a little boy had always aspired to become a paramedic like his father. He joined the North Bend Fire Department before graduation and was moved in as a sleeper in June.

Tyler loved to make people laugh and was a hard worker. He was very excited to join the fire department and was never seen without his



Jason Hoffman and his son Tyler Randall Hoffman.

fire department shirt and pager. He was well respected by his colleagues at North Bend Fire and will be missed by all.

Tyler was an avid duck fan and loved attending games with his dad.

The family is in need of relief funds to pay bills and student loans for Tyler in the amount of \$22,000. Contributions may be sent to the OVFA, 1284 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. Please indicate "Tyler Hoffman Fund" in the memo line. ◆

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## Three Elected to OFDDA Board

Three new Board members were recently elected to the OFDDA Board of Directors during the OFDDA/OFCA Conference in Seaside: Dennis Rogers, Sheridan Rural Fire District and Mark Kreutzer of Columbia River Fire and Rescue will join the Board in January while Carol Smith of North Lincoln Fire and Rescue retained seat.

Dennis Rogers
has served on
the Board of
Directors of the
Sheridan Rural
Fire District since
April of 2004,
served three years
on the Yamhill



County 911 Budget Committee and has been a member of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee for seven years. His career included three years in survey work for the Oregon Department of Transportation, working on the Interstate Highway system in and around The Dalles, Oregon and forty years in commercial agriculture lending.

Rogers has served his community through The Dalles Chamber of Commerce where he served on the Governmental Affairs Committee, three years as Chair. He also served on The Dalles Budget Committee, serving one year as Chair. ```He has been a member of the Lions Clubs International for approximately 45 years, where the main focus has been on sight and hearing and youth scholarships, and is involved in church activities in Salem.

In his spare time, Rogers enjoys wood projects in support of charity fund raisers as well as personal pleasure. He owns a small acreage raising beef and a family garden and enjoys fishing and travelling when his schedule permits. Rogers has been married to his wife, Carol, for more than 46 years. They have two grown children and fourteen grandchildren.

Mark Kreutzer of the Columbia River Fire and Rescue rejoins the Board after previously serving from 2007–2010. Kreutzer started his public safety career in 1979 as a firefighter for



the City of Beaverton Fire Department. e transferred to Washington County Fire District #1 in 1981 where he retired in 2009 as a Station Captain with what is now Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue. n 1996-2000 he served on the Board for Rainer Rural Fire District. In 2002, he moved to St. Helens where he served on the St. Helens Fire District's Budget Committee. In 2003 he was elected to the Columbia River Fire and Rescue Board of Directors where he has served since. Columbia River Fire and Rescue was the result of the merger of Rainier Rural Fire District and St Helens Rural Fire District. Kreutzer is currently serving his second term as President of the National Association of Elected Fire Officials (NAEFO).

Carol Smith
was re-elected
to the OFDDA
Board, having
been elected by
the Board to
fill a vacancy
in Director
Position #6 in
January of this
year. Smith is a



third generation firefighter/EMT, having served over seven years as a firefighter/EMT with Devil's Lake Fire District/North Lincoln Fire & Rescue, and nine years as a Board Member for North Lincoln Fire and Rescue. She says that the fire service has always been in her family's blood. It

has been at the heart of her family since 1937. The biggest issues she sees for the fire service and public safety in general are budgetary issues. The ability for districts to keep current on new technology and keep buildings and equipment up to date are some of those concerns. She also sees the legislative process as a challenge. Smith noted that there are many associations with which she could choose to be affiliated, but believes that OFDDA is among the best.

Also elected in November were *Bob Reeves*, Hoodland Fire District #74 who will serve as President in 2012; *Roy Palmer*, Calapooia Fire, who will serve as 1st Vice President; and *Don Trotter*, Clackamas Fire District #1 who will serve as 2nd Vice President. Director Trotter's advancement left a vacancy in Director Position #2 which will be filled at the January Board meeting. If you are interested in serving on the OFDDA Board of Directors, you are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and Board Application Form which is available at www.ofdda.com under the "Forms" tab. ◆



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT



www.ofdda.com

# DPSST Submits Budget Cut Proposal to Legislature

By Genoa Ingram, OFDDA Executive Director

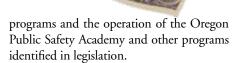
The Legislative Fiscal Office has requested that all General Fund/Criminal Fines and Assessments (CFAA) agencies prepare and submit a 10.5% budget reduction proposal in three phases (3.5% each phase) for the February 2012 legislative session. Money in the Criminal Fines and Assessment Account is derived from fines and assessments against those who commit traffic offenses or more serious crimes. One of the recipients of these funds is the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).

During the 2011 legislative session, the CFAA structure was modified under HB 2712. The new account, Criminal Fine Account (CFA), is larger than CFAA and will be responsible for funding many more services. The priorities for allocation of these funds have been in place for several years; however, the legislature can choose to increase or reduce allocations. In recent years, the trend has been to treat CFAA funding the same as General Fund dollars. If allocation to priority services can be

reduced, it allows more dollars to move to the General Fund.

According to Director Eriks Gablicks, the impact of a 10.5% budget reduction to DPSST is approximately 2.6 million dollars. While DPSST is not a general fund agency, some in the legislature consider CFAA a "different color" of general fund dollars. DPSST programs funded by dedicated taxes or fees (Fire Training, Traffic Safety, 9-1-1 Training, and Private Security/Private Investigators) are not included at this time.

On November 10, the DPSST 10.5% proposal was shared with the Executive Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (BPSST). The Executive Committee reluctantly approved the proposal. The reluctance was due to the belief of the Executive Committee was that, like 9-1-1 funds, CFAA funds are not general fund dollars; that the CFAA was created many years ago to support DPSST's criminal justice training and certification



Following is a summary of the proposed 10.5% DPSST budget reduction that was sent to the Legislative Fiscal Office:

Phase I: Eliminate Child Abuse Training Program (advanced classes and seminars), Lay off Training Support/Inventory Control Specialist (1 position), Lay off Range Master/Armorer (2 positions), Lay off Training Development/Scenario Coordinator (1 position), Lay off Health & Fitness Coordinator (1 position), Lay off Public Safety Training Specialist/Part-Time Trainers (1 position), misc. services and supplies. Total for Phase I: \$879,602

Phase II: Lay off Skills/DT Instructor (1 position), Lay off Safety Coordinator (1 position), Lay off Public Safety Training Specialist/Part-Time Trainers (1 position), Lay off Skills/EVO instructor (1 position), Lay off Tactical Training Supervisor, Lay off Curriculum Clerical Support Specialist

## Ophir Fire Department Celebrates 50 Years

Ophir Fire Department celebrated its 50th year of service on October 15, 2011. An Open House was held at their hall giving the public a chance to visit with the fire fighters, enjoy food and pick up useful fire safe information. Historic displays of past fire fighters, Burn-to-Learns and actual fire scenes were put together by Captain Becky Brotton.

Originally the fire department was started as a result of a serious fire that claimed the lives of several children. The citizens of Ophir realized that depending on a response from Gold Beach, 7 plus miles away was not adequate. Currently the district is protected by 12 volunteer firefighters lead by Fire Chief Adam Brotton. Chief Brotton came to service in 1997 and took over the Chief's

position in September 2010. It is one of the largest districts in Oregon by square miles covered.

Ophir firefighters hosted the OFDDA Board of Directors, as well as Representative Wayne Krieger from Gold Beach. Also in attendance was the very first Fire Chief from Ophir, Mr. Lyn Chandler. A special feature of the day was the cake made by Colleen Krieger, Keegan Krieger and Jasmin Brotton. It displayed a Maltese Cross with cake figures of one of Ophir's first fire apparatus along with its most current apparatus purchased 3 years ago.

OFDDA Board Members offered congratulations and discussed issues of particular concern to small rural fire protection districts. Not surprisingly,



Ophir Fire Station near Gold Beach, Curry County, Oregon.

according to Chief Brotton, training opportunities continue to be an issue for small rural districts. Those districts often feel disenfranchised due the cost involved with sending firefighters and EMS staff out of town to receive training. Locating volunteers to respond to emergencies is also a recurring theme in small rural communities.

Ophir Fire looks forward to serving the district and its firefighters and staff excited about the possibilities for the next 50 years. •

(1 position), misc. services and supplies. Total for Phase II: \$ 768,262.

Phase III: Lay off Scenario Coordinator (1 position), Class Coordinator for Parole and Probation (1 position), Lay off Public Safety Training Specialist/Part-Time Trainers (3 positions), Lay off Compliance Specialist/DOC Audit Program (2 positions), Lay off Administrative Specialist/DOC Audit Program (1 position), misc. services and supplies. Total for Phase III: \$ 973,827.

If the above reductions are taken, DPSST will not have to reduce the training schedule that is proposed for the 2011-2013 biennium. No basic training classes will be lost as a result of the proposed reductions. There are, however, significant impacts that will occur if these reductions are taken. Some of the impacts include: restructure of DPSST Training Division, reduction of skills specific training specialists to generalists, limited back-up for certain classes, increased staff/student ratios, loss of dedicated safety coordinator may lead to increased risk of injuries to students and staff, no audit of DOC Basic Corrections Training Program, loss of dedicated training coordinator for

# With Thanks—and Some Gentle Reminders

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

At the just-ended joint conference, I was honored by receiving the President's award for outstanding contributions to the Fire Service. I am deeply grateful for receipt of such an award. A truth I have recognized over my 30-plus years of working in the Fire Service is that each of you are the proper recipients of an award like this.

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As some of you know, I and the Local Government Law Group have limited our practice to representing only government entities. I have been extremely fortunate to find a group of people who care about their communities to the extent that you donate thousands of hours to the betterment of the Fire Service. I find myself extremely fortunate that I have been able to combine my vocation with what has become my avocation.

I have just a couple of reminders as you enter the new calendar year. Neither the May nor November elections require the "50/50" majority for passage of any money measures. If you are contemplating such measures, the mid-March filing deadline can sneak up

on you quickly. It is also a good time to review your budget documents, in terms of your expenditures and revenues. This will enable you to forecast how your budget is performing, versus your expectations of six months' ago.

Lastly, use the new year as a time for your Board to discuss civility. At meetings, avoid arguments or hostile cross-examination of people presenting materials for your consideration. Also (no matter how boring), give a presenter your full attention. If you are having difficulty controlling meetings or participation by the audience, discuss an audience participation section for your meeting, and also if and how the Board will respond. This should then be reduced to a District policy. It is important to have policies like this in place before there is a crisis, so you can get comfortable in how you operate under the policy.

For those of you who are curious after seeing my picture (below), I will be Santa Claus for the grandkids.◆

## Ken Jones Honored

Ken Jones, Attorney at Law, was honored by OFDDA President David Jones during the 2011 OFDDA/OFCA Joint Conference, receiving the President's Award for the second time, having first received the award in 2003 by then-President Gloria Storey.

Ken, a member of the Local Government Law Group with Speer Hoyt PC, Attorneys and Counselors at Law in Eugene, Oregon, has represented over a hundred fire districts and units of local government over his career. Ken lobbied in the legislature for legislation favorable to fire districts, and wrote a chapter on fire districts and other special districts which was included in one of the Oregon State Bar's legal publications. He was also coeditor of the original Oregon Fire District Directors Handbook and authored chapters in subsequent editions, has authored a chapter on special districts for the Oregon Law Institute, and is a frequent lecturer at conventions, government law conferences, workshops, and seminars.

But above all, Ken is a friend to the fire service, often donating his time to instruct fire district directors and other fire service professionals, answering difficult questions and advising the fire service on legal issues affecting the public safety community. In his presentation, OFDDA



Pictured left, Ken Jones, Attorney at Law receives the President's Award for the second time. Presented here by OFDDA President David Jones.

President David Jones noted that "Ken's loyalty and commitment to the fire service is unquestioned and he is truly deserving of this recognition."

## FIRE CHIEF, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) in Reno,

**Nevada**, is currently recruiting qualified applicants to fill the Fire Chief position. This is a new position that affords the successful candidate the opportunity to build a fire department from the ground up. The Fire Chief reports to the five-member County Board of Commissioners who also sit as the Board of Fire Commissioners.

The District covers a service area of 732 square miles and has been established under provision of Nevada State Law. A total staffing level of 65 personnel will provide full fire and EMS services to a population of 80,000 from five career and eight volunteer stations. The established budget for the 2012 fiscal year is nearly \$13 million.

The successful applicant for this position must possess the following minimum qualifications:

• A Bachelor's degree in Fire Science, Public Administration, or a closely related field; and eight (8) years of full-time, progressively responsible fire protection experience at a chief officer or command level in an all-risk agency responsible for fire prevention, suppression, and medical emergencies; or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training, which demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the essential functions of the position.

**Salary Range:** \$101,400- \$134,867 annually depending on qualifications. Excellent Benefits Package

## TO OBTAIN A RECRUITMENT PACKAGE OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
C/O Emergency Services Consulting International
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 3 • Wilsonville, OR 97070-9616
800-757-3724 • info@esci.us

All application materials are available for download at www.esci.us under the "Employment Opportunities" tab

Application Deadline: 4:00 PM (PST) Friday, December 16, 2011



The Communiqué Reaches More Than 1300 Fire Service Professionals Including Board Members, Chiefs, and Volunteers.

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