

The COMMUNIQUE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association



Jerry Heater
REMEMBERED

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A publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association.

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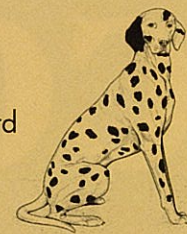
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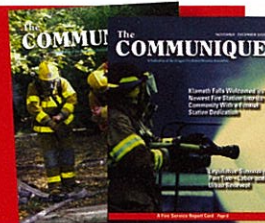
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A Time for Reflection...

By *Connie L. Barton*

As I prepare to transfer the OFDDA gavel to newly elected President Dave I have to take a step back and reflect on my service on the OFDDA Board. These past two years as President have flown by especially fast. Some of the things I set out to accomplish have come to fruition; but other tasks and goals I leave to new Board members and new leadership. It has been wonderful to serve you and I remain honored, blessed and humbled for the opportunity.

One of the things I wish I had been able to accomplish is the need to have all area of Oregon represented on the Board. Eastern Oregon, we need you! With such resources available as Skype and teleconferencing, the major obstacles to serving have been removed. For all members throughout the state, if it is at all possible, please don't miss

the opportunity to serve on the OFDDA Board.

When I was initially recruited I certainly did not feel worthy to be on the state Board, much less President. But I found that serving on the Board was an unforgettable opportunity to learn, to grow and to see the larger universe of the fire service in Oregon. I found there were things I wanted to change and I hope OFDDA is better for my having served. So if you have the chance, please don't pass it up. You will make lifelong friends and have one of the richest experiences of your life. I know I have.

And finally, I want to remember the Fire Service Memorial and Learning Center, now doing business as the Oregon Fire Service Education and Heritage Center. I, like many of you, was shocked



OFDDA President Connie L. Barton

and saddened by the death of our friend Jerry Heater following Joint Conference. OFDDA's home in the Fire Service Center where Jerry and the museum staff shared space won't be the same without him there. In his memory, I would love to see completion of the Memorial and Learning Center and to that end I challenge each of you to volunteer or make a contribution. The address is the same as OFDDA: 1284 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon.

In closing, I would just like to thank each and every one of you for your support these last several years as I leave you with one thought. For all our fire service organizations in Oregon, let's work together, communicate better, and accomplish more. Thank you. ♦

David Jones Elected OFDDA President

David Jones has been elected OFDDA President for 2011. Dave has served on the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District since 2003, serving as Board President from 2007 to 2009. He has served on the OFDDA Board of Directors since 2008.

Dave started his emergency services career in 1973 as a Charter member of the Lake County Sheriff's Search & Rescue Team. From there, he worked as an EMT and joined the fire service in 1977 as a volunteer firefighter. He became a career firefighter at Kingsley Field Fire Department in 1983. Dave promoted to Lieutenant, then Captain, and to Fire Marshal in 1996. In 1999 he

was appointed as a Oregon State Deputy Fire Marshal where he has served for the past 12 years. Dave served as field deputy until 2004 when he was promoted to Supervising Deputy for the North West Region. He is a member of the Marion Polk Fire Investigation team, the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, and the Mid-Willamette Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Dave's priorities while serving as OFDDA President include protecting funding for public safety programs during the 2011 legislative session, implementing sound public policy relating to public safety and managing the Association with emphasis on educating and training Oregon elected fire officials. ♦



David Jones,
OFDDA President Elect 2011



NAEFO Update Annual Membership Meeting Set for January 15

By Mark Kreutzer

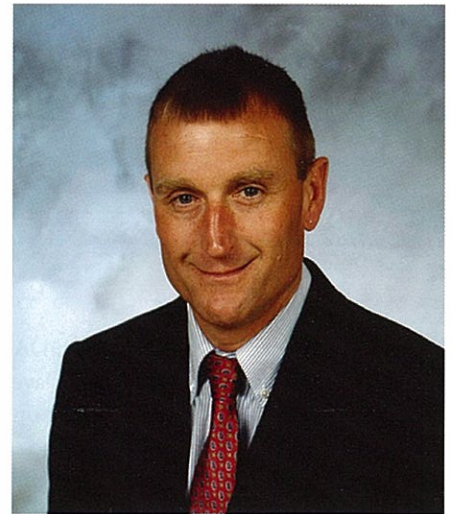
I have just returned from Las Vegas where Conference Committee Chairman Monty Olson and I have booked the Orleans Hotel as the 2011 NAEFO host hotel. We are still working on the location for the actual conference, but are confident that the Clark County Fire Training Center across from the Orleans Hotel will be able to accommodate NAEFO's needs. I encourage our members to review the Email Blasts and register early to reduce your cost and allow NAEFO to determine attendance so our members receive the best value for their dollar. NAEFO is working to make this conference an educational experience as well as an opportunity to interact with other Elected Fire Officials, determine common issues and solutions to resolve these issues that we as Elected Fire Official deal with on a daily basis. The selection of speakers for this year's conference reflect a broad base of categories that I am sure will be of value to all attendees.

NAEFO is proud to announce that the Idaho Fire Directors Association has joined NAEFO. Idaho has communicated

that it has encountered issues on cost reimbursement as well as EMS certification and recertification hours. NAEFO will assist Idaho to resolve these issues.

The General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting will be on January 15th, 2011, from 9am until 4:30pm at the Clark County Public Safety Complex in Vancouver Washington. The facility is located off of Interstate 5 north of Vancouver next to the Clark County Fairgrounds. Retired Fire Chief Jeff Johnson from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue is schedule to address the membership during lunch. NAEFO Committee's will caucus later in the afternoon and then report back to the membership with a report. Registration prior to December 15th will cost NAEFO members \$25.00 and non members \$35.00. After December 15th, a \$10.00 charge will be added to all registrations. Registration includes speakers, lunch and breaks. Go to www.naefo.org to register.

I will participate in a unique Oregon Fire Service Summit, sponsored by NFPA



Mark Kreutzer
NAEFO President

on January 6-7, that includes 15 different state and national organizations, who will sit down and discuss common issues facing the Fire Service in Oregon. Hopefully a consensus on many issues can be reached but more importantly a frank discussion involving key fire service organizations, will allow a united front to resolves key fire service issues in Oregon.

This past month in Oregon, we have seen several dedicated members of the fire service pass on. If your state has a fire service member who has passed away, please pass this information to NAEFO so we can recognize the individual and their accomplishments that our dedicated members have done.

As always, keep your firefighters safe and implement the "best practices" to keep your fire department on the cutting edge of service delivery and fiscal responsibility ♦

Gabliks Receives President's Award

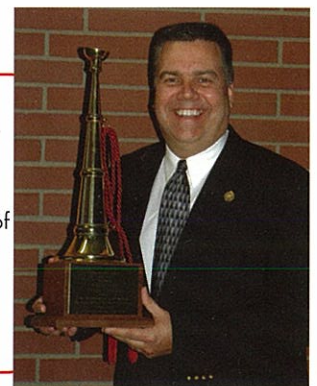
Eriks Gabliks, Director of the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), was honored by President Connie Barton during the November Joint Conference when he was presented the President's Award, the highest honor awarded by OFDDA.

In making her presentation, President Barton noted Eriks' experience from both

fire and police backgrounds, enabling him to comprehend the needs of all public safety factions and respond accordingly. She added that Director Gabliks has become a trusted and respected friend of Oregon's public safety community and an indispensable resource.

OFDDA congratulates Eriks Gabliks. ♦

Eriks Gabliks,
Director of
the Oregon
Department of
Public Safety
Standards
and Training
(DPSST)



Volunteer Association Agreements not 'One Size Fits All'



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

First, on a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your kind wishes relating to the death of my mother. It confirms that the fire service clearly is a family.

In the last Communiqué article I

is a significant manner as relates to tort claims, limitations and insurance liability coverage.

It simply does not seem like another year has passed, but it is time to start thinking

option, bond, or other tax related purposes, based upon a recent legislative change, the May and November elections of 2011 do not require a double majority.

This coming year is when board members will be elected. If your county does not routinely provide you a notice as to the positions up for election, you should verify that information. The election is the third Tuesday in May of 2011. The filing deadline for candidates is 60 days prior to that date. I often get calls and see ballots where board members intended to run, but in fact, the ballot shows no one running for the position. Please make sure those interested in your district are aware of the upcoming deadlines.

Alas, I recommend that all of you during this holiday season concentrate on the big things life and move everything I've referenced to add to January's to do. ♦

Any agreement's goal is to clarify what everyone believes their relationship and respective obligations and responsibilities represent.

made reference to agreements between districts and their volunteer associations. In the interim, I have received requests from several people for a sample or draft agreement. This is one of those areas where it clearly is not "one size fits all." Every district has a different type of relationship with its volunteer association. Areas that would need to be considered in such agreement would be liability, transfer of funds, use of funds, control of funds, the organizational status of the volunteers, use of district property, and process for interaction between the association and the board of directors. This list is just an example of things that may or may not need to be covered depending upon a district's relationship with its volunteer association. Any agreement's goal is to clarify what everyone believes their relationship and respective obligations and responsibilities represent. The purposes of the comments were not to make recommendations as to any wholesale changes in your relationship. The purpose was, in writing, to clarify the relationship as it exists. Just one example is whether or not a volunteer function is an approved function by the district

about your budget for 2011-2012. If you have had any boundary changes, you want to make sure they are filed with the Oregon Department of Revenue prior to March 31st so that those properties will be listed as subject to taxation by your district. If you may be planning an election for local

Free Workshops:

Did You Know?

Did you know there are free workshops available on "How to use Census Data to Support Grant Proposals"? The workshops are three hours long, with a minimum requirement of eight attendees. **For information, contact Linda Clark at 425-908-3060.**

Private Rural Bridges

By Dave Campbell – WHA Insurance, Retired

Several Oregon Fire Districts have seen hazard issues with private rural bridges. We are raising this issue again to stimulate interest from districts because public, and firefighter life safety issues are what we are all about!

Many private bridges were installed years ago and have had little or no maintenance or inspection by bridge engineers since installation. Fifty or sixty years ago fire engines weighed about 12,000 to 15,000 pounds and the bridges were better able to handle that.

Firefighter life safety issues of needing more equipment to do extrication, ventilation, suppression etc. results in many current fire engines weighing about 40,000 to 50,000 pounds and aerial apparatus 80,000 pounds or more. It becomes critical the bridge weight limits are posted based on current engineered data – within a year or so. Some examples of deficient bridges:

Fire District #1 was involved in a private bridge collapse rescue/recovery event about 2008 which killed the driver of a tow truck. An ambulance had crossed the same bridge a day or so before that event and made the crossing without incident.

Fire District #2 responded to a bridge collapse involving a propane truck falling several feet to the creek bed. Due to the hazard of trying to remove the truck with propane still on board, the truck was

allowed to burn off the tank contents to reduce the risk of explosion during the truck removal. (It took a week to burn off the propane!)

Fire District #3 had a fire engine fall through a private bridge during a field fire response in July 2010.

Fire District #4 had a bridge nearly collapse in late 2010. Wooden portions of the bridge partially came apart when their 30,000 pound engine went across the bridge.

Jackson County Board of Commissioners is adopting an ordinance that any new rural bridge needs to support 50,000 pounds. Any property owner applying for a land use or building permit must also have their bridge reevaluated to determine if it will comply.

The objective here is to encourage Oregon Fire Districts to work with their county administrators and building departments to require public and private bridges, and roadways which are useable for general public safety as well as fire/rescue response needs. Jackson County has taken a long needed step in the right direction.

Adair Rural Fire & Rescue District would like to hear from other Oregon Fire Districts that have experience concerns about rural bridge safety. You may contact Fire Chief Chuck Harris at 541-745-7212 or email to adair@adair-rural-fire.com.

Remember everyone goes home safe! ♦



Volunteers' Corner



Scott Mullen,
OVFA President
Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Association

With the holiday season upon I would like to extend the best holiday wishes to everyone from the Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Association (OVFA) and hope that all goes well for you and your families. The OVFA has just finished next year's budget and I am sad to say things do not look any better this year. Again we were forced to make some very hard decisions, and cut more benefits to our members. When we went through the budget the first time we found ourselves with a \$36,000.00 deficit, we made cuts to programs like our scholarships, equipment & training grants, board expenses ect., and were able to finally balance our budget. Our members can expect not to see these programs available to them next year but we are hoping and confident that this is a short term problem and will turn around in the next couple of years.

The good news is we are seeing the trend of bad numbers making a turn for the better. With the new financial plan, and strategic goals we have seen a slight increase in our membership numbers, conference attendee's and we are seeing more involvement and interest with from other districts around the state. Our message has been the same and that is: we need to increase our membership. Out of the 294 combination/volunteer fire departments in the state OVFA had 137 as members; our goal is to reach 100 percent of those departments. We feel if we can do that and increase the conference attendee's numbers OVFA will be able to restore all the benefits we have had to cut over the past 3 years. So again we are asking that if your department/district is not a member to please consider becoming one. The OVFA is the only voice of the volunteer firefighters in Oregon and in the past we have been able to represent and supplement benefits that districts may not be able to provide and to lose that would be a tragedy for our community's heroes. ♦

Fire Service Museum Loses Staunch Advocate



Jerry Heater

Jerry Heater, most recently known for his enthusiastic and tireless support of the Oregon Fire Service Museum and Learning Center, passed away suddenly after attending the OFDDA/OFCA Joint Conference in November. He was 66.

Valley. In the fall of 1968 he was hired at Tualatin Fire District as a Battalion Chief in charge of training. In 1972, Jerry married his wife Colleen. The two lived in Tualatin with their two daughters while Jerry worked for Fire District.

At the young age of 15, with his mother's written permission, Jerry joined the Sublimity Fire district.

Jerry was born in Salem, Oregon, on April 2, 1944, the youngest of three sons born to Maurice and Lucille Heater. He grew up on the family farm just outside of Sublimity. It was during his childhood that Jerry developed a love for the fire service. At the young age of 15, with his mother's written permission, Jerry joined the Sublimity Fire district. This began his 50 years dedication to the fire service. Jerry graduated from Silverton Union High School in 1961.

He passed his passion for the fire service on to new recruits in various teaching positions at Sublimity Fire District, Salem Tech (currently Chemeketa Community College), Portland Community College, and other departments in the Willamette

In 1978, Jerry resigned his position as Battalion Chief and moved back to the farm with his family, where he purchased a small business, Cruise Master Engraving and built a home. His business specialized in service to and recognition of other fire service members. His youngest daughter, Susan, will continue on with the business and Jerry's legacy of quality service. Jerry also rejoined Sublimity Fire District as a volunteer, first as a captain, then Assistant Chief, and eventually led the department as Chief.


Jerry loved donating his time to Peoples Church, the Sublimity Fire Department, as well as the Oregon Fire Chiefs' Foundation, Oregon Fire Service

Museum, and Antique Powerland Museum.

His family provided the following statement: "Dad loved family, and we adored him. We all love to hang out at the "farm". To Mom he was her faithful companion, facing the challenges of life together. To his daughters and son-in-law, a shoulder to lean on, always ready to fix any problem or give words of wisdom. To his grandkids, he was "Papa" quite simply adored."

Jerry is survived by his wife, Colleen; children, Barbara (Scott) Voll of Silverton, and Susan Turner of Sublimity; five grandchildren, Grace, Isaiah, Jillian, Gabriel and Malachi; brothers, Jim (Shirley) Heater of Sublimity, and John Heater of Salem; and nieces, nephews and extended family.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 20 at People's Church, 4500 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, Oregon. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Peoples Church or the Oregon Fire Service Museum, 1284 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. ♦



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