



Oregon Fire Marshals Association

727 Center St. NE • Suite 300 • Salem, OR 97301

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OFMA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me start by taking the opportunity to thank you, the OFMA membership for your continued support of your Executive Board and its efforts to continue moving OFMA toward the next level of professionalism and leadership. I wish to also thank the Executive Board, especially Past President Doug Friant, for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm to the association and the vision of OFMA. That vision is to make our state the safest state in the nation by leading, serving, and supporting fire and life safety efforts in Oregon.

This past June your executive board went away for a 3 day strategic planning session. The topics were many and the discussion lively. We left that session drained but with a feeling of accomplishment and a plan for this next year. Yours truly was humbled.

The highlights of that strategic planning session include:

- A reduction from 3 to 2 conferences this next year. The Roundtable and the Annual Business Meeting. The ABM is being combined with our Winter School this next year and will be held in February, hopefully at Salishan. The board has listened to the membership and its requests to reduce the number of offerings because of budget reductions and the economy. Although election of officers will occur sooner, the current board would remain in office until the end of the fiscal year.
- By decreasing the number of conferences it was decided to offer up to 4, single topic, one day classes around the state. The idea is that OFMA would sponsor the training, hire the instructor, find a suitable host location, preferably a member department, charge a nominal fee and provide some excellent training. This will allow us to better serve the membership with needed training that is hopefully closer to home and more affordable. The education committee, chaired by Debbie McDermott and Michael Silva, is working on these and welcomes suggestions for topics the membership would like to see taught. Some suggested topics include Wildland Fire Investigation FI-210, NFPA 72 Alarm Inspection and Testing, Residential Sprinklers Plans Review, Dangerous Buildings and Safety Educators.
- Request for Proposal: Conference/Meeting Facilitator. For the past couple of years OFMA has retained the services of BOLA to assist the association with the facilitation of its meetings and conferences. This past year we have had others approach us wanting to offer their services. The board felt that an RFP process would be a fair and equitable way to address these requests. Director Tom Bohm was tasked with the creation of the RFP's. They were advertised on the Daily Dispatch with a closing date of July 19th. The board received six proposals but because of an error in the advertising we are going to hold the proposals and possibly re-advertise.
- Changes to our By-Laws and Policies. As we reviewed the current by-laws and policies of the association it became apparent that the current practices of the association are not always in line with these documents or we have no policy at all. An example is the elections process at the ABM. There is a proposed By-Law change to model it after the Oregon Fire Chief's Association where only the 3 year

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director and 2nd Vice President are nominated and elected each year. The nominees will have to be committed to a 3 year term for the 3 year director and a 4 year term for the 2nd VP. No more nominations for each and every position. Position vacancies would be handled case by case. The By-Laws, Policy and Resolutions Committee has their plate full with all the proposed changes and new policy recommendations. Stay tuned as the details become available, changes to the by-laws will require the vote of the membership at the ABM.

- A resolution showing OFMA's support of the Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition and its support of keeping the residential sprinkler code language in the code is being crafted and may be ready for adoption soon. Another resolution to support the OSFM fire prevention week theme, "Do the Drill" is also in the works.
- Budget! For the past several years the Audit committee has consistently recommended that an annual budget be developed. A balanced budget for the 2010-2011 year has been put together and was approved by the Executive Board at its July meeting. This increases our transparency and gives the board and its committees a "road map" to guide us financially through out the year. Treasurer Kate Stoller has done a fantastic job of organizing our finances in such a manner that greatly assisted the development of the budget. This lays out a strong foundation that can be built upon for years to come.

Other topics discussed at the planning session included updating the goals and objectives that were established by the association previously. Look for those goals and objectives to be posted on our website, www.ofma.net, in the near future. You will also want to keep an eye on the website for other changes and additions in the future. One exciting idea brought forward by 1st VP Troy Buzalsky is to provide a "Best Practice" page. The idea is to glean existing policies, ordinances, rules and other items that are being used or have been adopted successfully by various jurisdictions around the state and post them on our website as guides for other jurisdictions to research and modify for their use.

I want to remind you that our board meetings are open to all members of the association. Another change this year, in order to consolidate our meeting schedules, is to hold our business meetings the same day as the Oregon Fire Code Committee meetings. Our meetings, with some exceptions, will be held at DPSST. The board will meet at DPSST for lunch at 11:30 AM with the board meeting starting soon after. This change allows those who have to travel to Salem the chance to attend two meetings in one day instead of having to travel two different days. This will help with the budgets as well as commitments of our supporting agencies.

The aforementioned changes, residential fire sprinkler "debate," and board enthusiasm indicate to me that this should be an exciting year for OFMA. Please continue to communicate with the board, letting us know how we can serve the association better. A couple of ways I encourage you to do that is to reply to any survey the committees may send out as well as attend our board meetings. Check our website, www.ofma.net, for meeting date, time and location as well as for the minutes of past meetings.

Well, in those famous words of Director John Rinier, FM, City of Hillsboro, its time to, "Land the Plane."

Mark Wilson, President