



NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Fourth Quarter 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Mayors! Where has the year gone? I can't believe this is my last President's Message.

First and foremost, I would like to thank you, my fellow mayors, for allowing me to

represent our organization. It has been a pleasure to work with you and make new and lasting friendships. I have no doubt that your expertise, experience and approachability will serve the next president equally well. I'd also like to thank the wonderful staff at the OMA and League of Oregon Cities, who do so much to support the mission of our organization.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new and continuing Oregon Mayors Association board members – new President

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City Spotlight: NORTH PLAINS

CITY SPOTLIGHT: NORTH PLAINS

Submitted by Mayor Teri Lenahan

The next time you are cruising west along Highway 26 on the way to a weekend getaway on the coast, take a little detour about 20 minutes west of Portland to see a community straddled between “was” and “will be.” Look around. You have arrived in the city of North Plains.

North Plains is a small rural town located in the heartland of western Washington County’s agricultural area with a population of roughly 3,000 people. With close proximity to the booming Metro area, this community has seen a considerable amount of recent residential growth, which has sparked an interest to improve the commercial and industrial service areas of our quaint town. Our city leaders have been working to update the city’s comprehensive plan to reflect our vision of a well-connected, independent community that maintains its small-town charm. We have plans to restore our downtown area in order to bring commercial and service growth in line with our rapidly expanding residential development. Our residents enjoy annual events such as an old-fashioned ice cream social, a chili cook-off and the infamous Elephant Garlic Festival.

In the early 1900s, the electric train and the steam engine made periodic stops in North Plains to carry people and freight in and out of this aspiring community. North Plains was a transport center for agricultural vendors and fur traders. Over the years, the bustling hub grew quiet and people moved to larger towns. The remnants of the past such as the corrugated, metal grain storage buildings that sit in the heart of town were sometimes seen as an eye sore to the community. A group of citizens, with the help of the urban renewal agency, chamber of commerce and the Washington County Visitors Association, worked with the building’s owners to revitalize the structures through a mural project. This group wanted to bring the past to the present so future generations would have a greater appreciation of the town.

Building off of that project, the city set out to commission a local artist who used the collection of old photos from the North Plains Historical Society to paint murals on several downtown buildings. These visuals depict a vibrant



and detailed version of the rich past of North Plains. The murals give onlookers a colorful display of the historical train station, a stagecoach, the band stand, local grocer, and the agricultural lifestyle of days gone by. One such mural on the Abbey Creek Winery building depicts an array of neighbors interacting and enjoying a large bounty. We are building on a community which respects its roots



all the while celebrating our growing diversity and willingness to embrace change.

The North Plains area is also home to many talented quilters. Similar to the murals, these textiles combine stories and images to create an intertwined fabric which binds our community. Our hope, and our intention, is to create a warm and inviting city that welcomes the changes the future will bring, while also honoring the qualities that made those folks in the murals attracted to North Plains all those decades ago.

If you are fortunate enough to drive through North Plains in another 50 years, you may recognize today's landscape captured in the murals of the future. What will they look like? Well, we're just getting started on that next chapter in our history...

2019 OMA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Brian Dalton, Dallas

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Steve Callaway, Hillsboro

PAST PRESIDENT

John Cook, Tigard

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mike Cully, LOC Executive Director

DIRECTORS

Christine Lundberg, Springfield

Beth Wytoski, Dayton

Hank Williams, Central Point

Allan Duffy, Elgin

Andrew Otte, Mt. Angel

Jennifer Spurgeon, Weston

SAVE THE DATE for the 2019 OMA Summer Conference

August 1-3, 2019

Inn at the Commons, Medford

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2019 OMA Summer Conference in Medford. In addition to an excellent education program being planned by the OMA Board of Directors, host Mayor Gary Wheeler and city staff are planning fun and informative events.

Watch the OMA website and future newsletters for more information.



OMA Annual Membership Meeting and Fall Workshop

By Brian Dalton, Mayor, Dallas; Incoming OMA President

If they knew how much fun we have together as mayors, the Oregon Public Meetings Law folks might well want to ban our large gatherings. But until they discover our productive and entertaining meetings, we'll at least temporarily be able to bask in their glow.

Our last great mayor's gathering occurred in quiet times at the beginning of the last LOC Conference in the leafy city of Eugene at the Hilton in September. At this OMA Annual Membership Meeting and Fall Workshop, we devoted a short time to internal business, then the obligatory deep dive into the legislative and legal entanglements we all relish, followed by the crowd favorite, our Mayors Roundtable.

Sparing you the wonders of the aforementioned legal briefing, our Roundtable was highly engaging and was, as usual, a splendid heads-up as to what's bubbling up in our communities. Here is what I captured:

Leading off, a lament was raised at the cost of municipal construction followed by concerns – widely shared – of the shrinking pool of volunteer EMTs and firefighters, in part due to the increasing demands of training. Then there was ongoing talk about the convolutions in our much-maligned property tax system, doubtless a setup for more work. Following that was considerable discussion on the intertwined vexations regarding homelessness and mental illness to include various ameliorating approaches, especially the concept of “housing first.”

Voiced also were observations regarding various infrastructure and funding issues such as the dire possibility of losing control of our rights-of-way and the considerable dollars



Above: LOC's Scott Winkels and Craig Honeyman gave an overview of legislative priorities for the 2019 session.

Left: Prineville Mayor Steve Uffelman shares with the group during the popular Mayors Roundtable.

associated with our franchise agreements. Positively, there was a good suggestion to make use of the expertise of the Energy Trust of Oregon for an energy analysis of our communities. Less positively, there was mention made of the importance of climate change and what that holds in store for us.

It was a great group, great meeting and the cool room kept us lively. Surely there will be many more exceptional forums like this in our future.

Call for Session Ideas for 2019 Summer Conference

In Florence in 2018, we heard about hazardous material shipments via rail and highways, transient lodging taxes, budgeting, making your city's urban forest an asset, setting council priorities, cross laminated timber and what women can bring to the role of mayor.

What do you want to hear this year? Visit www.oregonmayors.org to submit your session ideas for this next year's conference. Submissions are due by February 8.

President's Message

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Brian Dalton from Dallas, President-Elect Steve Callaway from Hillsboro and new Directors Jennifer Spurgeon from Weston, Andrew Otte from Mt. Angel, Beth Wytoski from Dayton, Christine Lundberg from Springfield, Hank Williams from Central Point and Allan Duffy from Elgin. I'm very happy to see such a great blend of mayors from urban and rural cities coming together to work on policy that benefits everyone, regardless of population.

When I came into office in 2013, we were on the precipice of enormous changes and new challenges. As I leave office, I think some of the complex challenges still exist and there are some new ones to face, but I believe that the strength and tenacity of Oregon's mayors working together has helped shape stronger cities. I'm proud that we were able to find common ground to discuss important issues facing our cities without partisan argument. There is strength in unity and I respect your dedication to working with your fellow mayors to build communities that reflect the values and amenities that draw people to our cities.

Despite the malice plaguing national politics, I firmly believe that mayors remain focused on real priorities in the community and we're addressing the tough issues that matter to our constituents.

Oregon cities are experiencing real progress thanks to your dedication to building strong communities. Residents are able to deepen neighborhood bonds and connect with each other in new ways, commerce is thriving, the workforce has access to stable employment and Mayors are seeking solutions to the lack of affordable housing. All of these contribute to a safe and happy place for residents looking to raise their family, age in place and flourish for years to come.

I challenge you to seek opportunities to make your voice heard and impact public policy. With another legislative session approaching, it's important to be knowledgeable about the issues that will be debated - some may extensively affect our cities, regardless of your population:

- Tax/Revenue reform
- Broadband small cell technology and FCC authority to regulate the right-of-way
- Homelessness and Affordable Housing
- Aging infrastructure (transportation, water, sewer) replacement costs

I'm not alone in my concern that the cost of doing business is growing at a faster rate than revenue does. The best way to address that concern is to discuss it with your Council and legislative representatives to find solutions.

Lastly, none of these monumental challenges can be addressed without cities working together. Tigard has been successful in forging partnerships with non-profits, the faith community, the Chamber of Commerce and county

agencies to engage with our homeless population. In 2017 we were able to bring Project Homeless Connect day of service to Tigard. We also sought under-served populations for community engagement. That resulted in Council Outreach events, a Latino Festival and Hispanic Open House, a number of Budget and Brews events to help residents learn more about Tigard's budget, and neighborhood ice cream socials to gain feedback from residents about planning, goals and connecting with neighborhoods and their city.

Looking to 2019, important work lies ahead. We're going to need creative ways to ensure we maintain core services while providing a safe community with a sound future for our residents. That will take a lot of thought, effort and input from Oregon mayors, so please be a part of the conversation. Even though the challenges will keep coming (that's life) I know the new board is invigorated and motivated to begin working!

As I approach the end of my term as your OMA President and Tigard's mayor, I want to thank you, my fellow mayors, for your generous support, friendship, and knowledge sharing. I'm also a bit sad to be leaving a position that has consumed the greater part of my daily life since 2013. This reminded me of the words farmer Nelson Henderson shared with his son on the occasion of his graduation, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Serving as the mayor of a city is a unique and fulfilling job; one that allows us to begin projects and adopt policies that will continue to help our communities long into the future.

Embrace the role of mayor. I've met so many people that impacted me and today I see big and small changes in my city that I will proudly remember as my legacy. Even the challenges taught me something about myself and strengthened my belief in the importance of public service. Anyone who is willing to put in the time and dedication required to be an elected official, does so because they love the community they call home and want to make it the best place to live. This has been a great experience for me and throughout it all, we banded together and that made the difference.

Highest regards,



John L. Cook
OMA President
Mayor, Tigard

Engage Your Students in your Community! Participate in the 2018-2019 “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest

The “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest has started! Each mayor is encouraged to promote a local contest by the same name over the course of the school year so that local entries can be submitted to the statewide competition in May. The OMA Board of Directors encourages you to speak with your local school district and youth to encourage students to submit entries in three different categories:

- **Elementary School** (grades 4-5). Students in these grades are encouraged to submit posters detailing what they would do as mayor.
- **Middle School** (grades 6-8). Students in these grades are encouraged to submit essays detailing what they would do as mayor.
- **High School** (grades 9-12). Students in these grades are encouraged to submit a digital media presentation (video, PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) detailing what they would do as mayor.

Submissions to the statewide competition are due **May 10, 2019**. Only one submission in each of the three categories is allowed per city.

Mayors should have received a packet of information on how to participate via email. To assist students in creating their entries, the OMA Board of Directors created educational materials outlining the role of a mayor and listing the services typically provided by cities in Oregon. These materials, along with an entry form for use in local contest, can be found on the OMA website at www.oregonmayors.org.

Judging for the statewide competition will take place in June. First-place winners will be invited to attend the awards luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in Medford, August 1-3, 2019, where they will receive their prizes – an iPad.

For more information and examples of previous entries, please visit www.oregonmayors.org. Questions about the contest can be directed to Debi Higgins at (503)588-6550 or dhiggins@orcities.org.

OMA Membership Renewal

The time is approaching for us to renew our membership in the Oregon Mayors Association for 2019. Membership forms will be arriving at city halls throughout Oregon in late December and are also available on the OMA website – www.oregonmayors.org.

Encourage your neighboring mayors, especially those who have been in office for a short time, to enroll if they are not already members of OMA. It’s their opportunity to join over three-quarters of their fellow mayors in Oregon in making the OMA a strong voice for their city and a collaborative resource for mayors. Remember, one of the most valuable benefits of the OMA is the opportunity to meet and network with your fellow mayors. Sharing ideas, problems and issues with others can lead to solutions that work for your community.

Submit your membership application by **January 25** to be included in the OMA Directory

Keep Up-to-Date with the OMA Website
www.oregonmayors.org



- Conference Info
- OMA Newsletter
- Board of Directors
- Upcoming Events
- Student Contest Information
- And more!



Pilot Program in Eastern Oregon – LOC Provides Limited Free Legal Advice

In June, the League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) Board of Directors authorized a one-year pilot program in Eastern Oregon, wherein LOC attorneys may provide participating cities with limited free legal advice. Each participating city will receive no more than ten hours of free and direct legal advice during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The legal advice will be limited in scope by three core parameters: (1) the legal advice will not include litigation; (2) the LOC's attorneys will not engage in, advise, represent, or insert itself into disputes among member cities; and (3) the legal advice will not relate to or impact employment issues. Legal advice will be tracked in 15-minute increments. The LOC will send participating cities an accounting of the number of hours used and the number of hours remaining during the months of October, January and April.

Any city located in the LOC's Regions 11 or 12 who wishes to participate in the pilot program must adopt a resolution and enter into a professional services agreement with the LOC. Cities located in Regions 11 and 12 are identified

below. The professional services agreement requires the city to identify no more than two city representatives who may contact the LOC seeking legal advice. Additionally, each city must advise their city attorney of its participation in the pilot program and are encouraged to have their city attorney review the professional services agreement before signing it.

Region 11

Adams, Athena, Boardman, Cove, Echo, Elgin, Enterprise, Helix, Heppner, Imbler, Lone, Irrigon, Island City, Joseph, Lexington, Lostine, Milton-Freewater, North Powder, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Summerville, Ukiah, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Weston

Region 12

Adrian, Burns, Canyon City, Dayville, Granite, Greenhorn, Haines, Halfway, Hines, Huntington, John Day, Jordan Valley, Long Creek, Monument, Mt. Vernon, Nyssa, Prairie City, Richland, Sumpter, Seneca, Unity and Vale

If your city is located in Region 11 or 12 and you wish to participate in this program, please contact Patty Mulvihill, General Counsel for the LOC, at pmulvihill@orcities.org for additional information.



Calendar of Events

January 24, 2019 | 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

City Day at the Capitol
Salem Convention Center/State Capitol

February 8, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Local Government Center, Salem

April 29, 2019 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Call

August 1, 2019 | Time TBD

OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Inn at the Commons, Medford

September 25, 2019 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend

September 26, 2018 | 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

OMA Annual Membership Meeting
Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend



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