



# NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Fourth Quarter 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



While this won't exactly be Washington's Farewell Address to the Nation, it is time for me to fade away as your Oregon Mayors Association President – a good year. You learn a

lot in this job, like we have cities here in the Beaver state such as Drain, Boring, Zigzag, Riddle, Greenhorn (population 2) and Remote. We used to have a city named Gravel Pit, since renamed something less colorful.

Thanks to your active Board and excellent LOC staff, it has been a great year for the OMA. We achieved record membership (211 vs. 183 last year) and we garnered

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# City Spotlight: YACHATS

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## CITY SPOTLIGHT: YACHATS

Submitted by John Moore, Mayor, Yachats

**Y**achats (YAH-hots) is a small and beautiful coastal city in Lincoln County. In 2007, *Budget Travel* magazine named Yachats one of the “Ten Coolest Small Towns of the U.S.A.” and Yachats was chosen among the top 10 U.S. up-and-coming vacation destinations by Virtualtourist. In 2011, Arthur Frommer, founder of Frommer’s Travel Guides, listed Yachats number seven among his ten favorite vacation destinations in the world. In addition, we were just notified that *Sunset Magazine* is considering Yachats as one of their 2020 Dream Towns.

The Little Log Church is a historical museum displaying many artifacts relating to Yachats’ past. The church, built in 1926, was designed in the shape of a cross. Sir Robert Perks, who owned most of Yachats at the time, provided the property; the logs were donated as well and the work was contributed by local citizens. The museum is now owned by the city.



**Government:** Yachats has a council-manager form of government. The mayor is elected every 2 years, and the four councilors are elected for 4-year terms, with 2 being elected every 2 years. The city has four commissions, as well as a Budget Committee, a Finance Committee and a Trails Committee that maintains the trails in and around Yachats.



**Demographics:** The population of Yachats is currently 760, although many of our citizens spend parts of the year elsewhere. The median age according to the 2010 census was 62.3 years.

**Geography:** Yachats is the southernmost city in Lincoln County. It is bounded by the Central Oregon Coast Range on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. It is located on US Route 101, 23 miles north of Florence, 8 miles south of Waldport, and 23 miles south of Newport. The city straddles the Yachats River and estuary. There are numerous trails in and around Yachats that offer some of the best scenery on the West Coast – starting with the 804 trail along the ocean where you can walk from the beach north of town all along the ocean to the Adobe Resort, then further along Ocean View Drive until you reach the State Park at the mouth of the Yachats River.

**Annual Cultural Events:** The Yachats La De Da Parade is held every July 4 at noon. It features anyone in town who wants to participate. Some of the regular entries include the Yachats Umbrella Drill Team, a belly dancing troupe, and a Yachats Fire Department truck. In recent years, the Mayor, City Manager and City Council have been leading off the parade, riding on a manure spreader, pulled by





a tractor. Starting in 2012, the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) have also marched in the parade. You might even see a group of Bassett Hounds all decked out for the event. For the past several years, the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) has run a rubber duck race in the Yachats estuary shortly following the parade. Then in the evening, an extensive fireworks display is launched out over the ocean.

Each October, Yachats is the site of the Yachats Village Mushroom Festival. Some of the world's leading experts in mycology provide exhibits, give talks, and guide forest walks. During the first weekend of November, the city hosts the Yachats Celtic Music Festival, with performances at several venues, including the auditorium of the Yachats Commons. Many of the world's finest Celtic musicians perform there, travelling from Scotland, Ireland, Canada and various regions of the United States. Every month, the Yachats Big Band entertains with swing music reminiscent of the big band era – not to be missed. Numerous other events happen throughout the year in Yachats – there's always something going on.

At the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, the visitor center hosts Whale Watching Weeks in winter and in spring. About 400 gray whales feed along the coast of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia in the summer. Generally, whales are in the Cape Perpetua area from July through

mid-November. These whales can be seen close to shore while feeding.

In 2017, Yachats celebrated its 50th year as a city, and 100th year as a community. Pretty much the whole town showed up and we all stood in the ball field to mark “50 / 100”, while a drone took our picture. Yachats is a fabulous place to visit any time of year – we hope to see you soon!



# OMA Fall Workshop Recap

More than 80 registrants attended the Fall Mayors Workshop in Bend and by every measure it was a very successful workshop and meeting. After all, what can be better than to network with fellow mayors from across the state, this time in beautiful Bend for half a day?

## Membership Meeting Details

We started the Workshop with our Annual Membership Meeting from 8:30 am until 9:00 am. Here are some takeaways from that meeting:

1. With net income for the year at approximately \$16,000 the OMA will finish the fiscal year in the black. Anticipating similar rates of membership, attendance, and sponsor support for 2020 puts us in a continued position of strength moving forward.
2. Response to OMA request for proposals for hosting the 2020 OMA Annual Conference led to interest from at least six cities. (Applications were due by Friday, December 13, 2019.)
3. The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate for 2020 for new officers and Board Directors which was approved by the members:
  - a. Beth Wytoski, Dayton - President-Elect
  - b. Allan Duffy, Elgin – Director
  - c. Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove – Director
  - d. W. John Moore, Yachats – Director

## Workshop Recap

### Cascadia – The Role Of Oregon’s Mayors

The membership meeting was followed by the main event which was a two-hour session entitled Cascadia - The Role of Oregon’s Mayors. Dr. Chris Goldfinger of OSU and Kimber Townsend gave presentations on Cascadia, Chris concentrating on the geology and Kimber on emergency preparedness. The presentations were accompanied by a 10-page handout of takeaway questions and references regarding the Cascadia event and its impact on communities.

The Cascadia presentations were well-received with lots



of interactions with the attendees to include both questions and good information from their experiences with emergency preparedness. Here are some important takeaways:

1. Roy Lindsay (Grants Pass) advised communities get the ham radio operators involved. He also mentioned that cities can get grants for mobile potable water supply production units.
2. Cathy Clark (Keizer) mentioned the importance of using work sessions for training City Councilors. She suggested finding out what the protocol is for social media in each city, who is the main point of contact regarding social media, and using it to spread critical, timely, and accurate information.
3. John Cook (Tigard) reminded the group of FEMA

classes levels 100 through 400 as well as statewide training being available.

4. Steve Callaway (Hillsboro) shared that emergency packs have been given to the mayor and councilors by his city.
5. Troy Gagliano (PGE) related that his company has plans in place for addressing Cascadia and that education (customers) and resilience (power supply) are a high priority for them.
6. Cec Koontz (Monmouth) noted that their Lions Club has grants that might apply to planning/preparation for Cascadia and encouraged us to check into local grants.
7. George Endicott (Redmond) noted that Redmond is the primary resilience site for FEMA. He suggests having contracts in place for fuel from those who have above ground fuel tanks (businesses and agriculture) that can be used to fuel critical city responses.
8. Bruce Jones (Astoria) reminded us as mayors we are to provide calm and logical encouragement and to remember recovery efforts are a marathon not a sprint, keep good records, and plan to operate for a considerable time without communications capabilities.
9. Christine Lundberg (Springfield) cited the importance of advanced coordination between districts, cities and the County. Lane has 26 different districts and all of them calling at once for County support could create a huge bottleneck.
10. The Cascadia session wrapped up with the group endorsement of the idea of holding regional training sessions for Mayors on Emergency Management focusing on Cascadia during 2020. The LOC was on board with providing support for these sessions.

The session proved once again that mayors are often the best support for each other in identifying problems and identifying solutions. Thanks to Mayor Brian Dalton from Dallas for all his work preparing for the workshop!

## 2020 OMA Board of Directors

### **PRESIDENT**

Steve Callaway, Hillsboro

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Beth Wytoski, Dayton

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Brian Dalton, Dallas

### **SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Mike Cully, LOC Executive Director

### **DIRECTORS**

Christine Lundberg, Springfield

Hank Williams, Central Point

Allan Duffy, Elgin

Jeff Growing, Cottage Grove

W. John Moore, Yachats

Jennifer Spurgeon, Weston

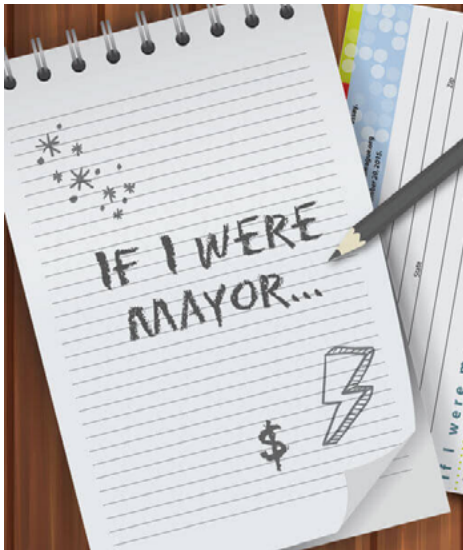
## OMA Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership in the Oregon Mayors Association for 2020. Membership forms are available on the OMA website – [www.oregonmayors.org](http://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 20** to be included in the OMA Directory





## “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest

The 2020 “If I Were Mayor...” student contest will soon be underway in cities across Oregon. The contest is designed to get students thinking about community needs, public service and to come up with creative ways to solve issues in their cities. The contest has categories for elementary school students (who submit posters), middle school students (who write an essay) and high school students (who submit digital media presentations). One first place and second place winner will be selected from each category. By participating in this contest, students learn about the role of the mayor and about services cities provide.

More details about the contest will be released in late February.

Questions about OMA Student Contest can be directed to Debi Higgins at [dhiggins@orcities.org](mailto:dhiggins@orcities.org) or (503) 588-6550.

## Your Help is Needed

The OMA Conference Planning Committee is seeking your assistance in identify ways to improve upon its summer conference. OMA wishes to ensure the conference is accessible to and enjoyable for all Oregon mayors.

In late December and early January, OMA will publish and distribute a short electronic survey regarding its summer conference. The survey asks a series of questions, which is intended to identify: the reasons why a mayor does or does not attend a conference; the preferred regions or venues to host the conference; the reasons why certain mayors continue to attend the conference every year; and how cost plays into a mayors ability to attend.

Your time is valuable, please rest assured that the survey will be brief – we expect you to spend no more than 10 minutes answering its questions. This survey should arrive in your email inbox shortly. OMA will use your feedback in planning every aspect of our future summer conferences.

Additionally, if you have ideas for sessions at the 2020 OMA Conference, please submit these ideas to LOC’s General Counsel Patty Mulvihill at [pmulvihill@orcities.org](mailto:pmulvihill@orcities.org) by **February 14, 2020**.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OMA SUMMER CONFERENCE**  
**August 6-8, 2020**  
**Mill Casino, Coos Bay**

## President's Message

*(continued from page 1)*

more Conference sponsorships than ever, some \$24,000, way up from our budget hopes for \$12,000 (several sponsors are already on board for 2020). We provided Conference scholarships for all who applied.

Beyond money and membership, we are now more consciously than ever reaching out across this gigantic state for Board members, for meeting locales and participation. Our Summer Conference was in Medford (a city on the right side of the California border) and our Fall Workshop was on the dry side in Bend. Next year, it will be down to Coos Bay on the south coast for our Conference.


Stealthily, we changed our tone a bit to make our communications more personal, ferreting out the passive voice and rather formal language that had crept into our lexicon over the years. I think this new informality better suits our general character as mayors – warm and welcoming folks, with a slight nod to good humor.

A delegation of four of us met with Governor Brown in her office this summer to reintroduce her to the joys of our organization and discuss some of our favorite topics. Our general pitch was that Oregon cities are highly subjective places and one size does not fit all – we aren't sure that the Legislature streamed this message but at least the Governor appeared attentive that day. And she seemed to like us, so we'll be back.

Rest easy that your organization has a lot of momentum going into 2020. The LOC administrative structure supporting the OMA is much stronger (better database, more commitment, our new listserv in place, a new position to support the affiliated organizations, etc.) and your Board is strongly committed to sustaining our momentum. Next year will be fine for us.

I could go on, but won't – brevity is the soul of wit. Just know that your OMA is advancing, vibrant and fun. Our great asset is the opportunity to network with each other. For that alone, it is worth the small price (membership for Gravel Pit would be \$71).

It was my great honor to have been of service to you.



Brian Dalton  
OMA President  
Mayor, Dallas

## Don't Forget About the OMA Listserv

Please don't forget about OMA's listserv. The listserv provides a means for support and information sharing between OMA members outside of in-person gatherings. Through email, members can access the expertise of our peers by simply posting a question or commenting on a previous post.

If you have any questions about the listserv, please contact Lisa Trevino at [ltrevino@orcities.org](mailto:ltrevino@orcities.org) or (503) 588-6550.



STRENGTH IN UNITY

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## Calendar of Events

**February 27, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Independence

**April 17, 2020**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Hillsboro or via Conference Call

**August 6, 2020**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
The Mill Casino, Coos Bay/North Bend

**August 6-8, 2020**

OMA Summer Conference  
The Mill Casino, Coos Bay/North Bend

**October 14, 2020 | 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Salem Convention Center

**October 15, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

OMA Annual Membership Meeting and Fall  
Workshop  
Salem Convention Center