



NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

First Quarter 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year and Welcome 2023! I hope you had a nice holiday surrounded with family and friends. As we move into 2023, we hope to strengthen our message of unity

for all mayors in Oregon.

First, let me congratulate all the mayors who took office in 2023. Whether you are a newly elected or a re-elected mayor, your unique perspective, experiences and commitment to your communities is very much appreciated.

Over the last year, the OMA Board of Directors and the OMA Resource Committee has worked very hard to ensure many of you are provided with

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CITY SPOTLIGHT: NORTH PLAINS

North Plains, Oregon is a small, semi-rural city of just over 3,400 residents north of our friends in Hillsboro. Formerly known as Glencoe, the community has existed for over 100 years. It started out as a destination on a bustling passenger and freight train line which transported agricultural, animals and timber. The city of North Plains was formally incorporated in June 1963. We are excited to be celebrating our 60th anniversary of incorporation with an Ice Cream Social and concert on June 1, 2023.

North Plains' gradual growth over the years has maintained a small-town atmosphere where residents enjoy the benefits of the well-managed infrastructure of improved streets, parks, and water systems, as well as easy access to major employers, recreation, entertainment, and nature. We pride ourselves on the small-town charm and character.

Employment

Located in the heart of Oregon's Silicon Forest, North Plains is part of a thriving tech scene and is within a short drive to the Portland metro area's larger cities. Our residents have access to jobs at multinational employers such as Intel, Genentech, and Nike, along with diverse industries including education, healthcare, agriculture, and craft beer brewing. Oregon Canadian and Jewett Cameron are two of North Plains' larger employers.

Community Events

The City of North Plains along with our community partners, the North Plains Events Association and the North Plains Chamber of Commerce, produce ten annual events to bring our community together. Our world-famous Elephant Garlic Festival (www.funstinks.com) attracts more than 18,000 people the second week of August and we pride ourselves on the small town charm with events such as the annual Ice Cream Social and the Chili Cookoff. The City Library is a gem which provides incredible programming for our children and a diverse array of classes and programming for our adults.



Recreation and Entertainment

North Plains has nine City parks, two trails and a community garden offering opportunities for recreation, enrichment, and wildlife viewing. We are on the route for Cycling in the Tualatin Valley. Cyclists can be seen on the rural roads in and around our community every day, rain or shine. North Plains Gliderport provides unique glider and sailplane experiences and Pumpkin Ridge Golf course is only a stone's throw away. While we are the City to the



Sunset, we are a gateway to the beautiful Oregon Coast, which is only an hour away.

Major City Initiatives

Our community has experienced considerable residential growth, which has sparked work to improve the commercial and industrial service areas of our quaint town. Our City Council adopted three key goals in 2022 to drive City priorities to best serve the needs of our growing community: Community Engagement That Brings People Together; Intentional and Managed Growth; and, City Services Aligned with Community Growth.

We are striving to break free of the bedroom community label. A major initiative in progress includes an urban growth boundary expansion to increase available land for our economic development efforts in order to strengthen existing businesses and attract new businesses for more employment, shopping, and services. A Downtown Improvement Plan is also nearing completion and focuses on strengthening and enhancing our downtown through streetscape improvements and retail business development in order to draw more residents, visitors, and businesses to this special area.

In 1963, the *Hillsboro Argus* wrote a story stating we were a new town grown out of an old dream. The community responded on June 25, 1963 saying they were in favor of incorporation. I'm glad they took that step. While it took us years to become a town, today, we are well on our way of becoming the town we aspired to be. It's home. So, the next time you're headed to the Oregon Coast, please feel comfortable reaching out to me, I'd love to show you around.



Workshops Held Around the State for New Mayors

By Rod Cross, Mayor, Toledo

Frankly, I had no idea what to expect as a volunteer trainer for the Oregon Mayors Association training session. How many years of council experience would our new mayors have? How much background did they have in local government in Oregon? How receptive would they be to the training?

I was pretty lucky when I was a first-time mayor. I had 10 years on our council, two as Council President. I had been on several boards and commissions as a councilor and had also served on the executive board of our local Council of Governments. My college work was in political science, economics, planning and history, so I had a good grasp of the framework of institutions that were farther up the hierarchy. However, there was no training, and as a result, my first term as mayor wasn't very successful.

I was determined that new mayors shouldn't have to push the rock uphill both ways. I wholeheartedly welcomed the opportunity the OMA gave me to be a trainer. I was not disappointed!

Most of the new mayors at the training had some council experience, but others were brand new to local government. The best part of all of them was their love for their communities!

We went through our PowerPoint presentation, noting things that had been very prevalent in my time as mayor and how we as a council dealt with the myriad of issues that have arisen over time.

That's where the fun began. Q & A. Oh my, the amount of questions was not only surprising, but very broad-ranging in the topics covered. Everything from dealing with City Recorder/Administrator/Manager issues to how to conduct negotiations with outside entities were queried.

I was lucky to have LOC/OMA staff with me at both sessions, but it was great to have a fellow mayor with me at one of them. Councilor (and Former Mayor) Carol MacInnes of Fossil was able to bring the VERY small town



New Mayors Workshop attendees in Hillsboro



New Mayors Workshop in Island City

perspective (staff of ONE) to our discussions and reassure our new mayors that, yes, you can do this!!

Networking is vital to doing this job, and this provided myself and those in attendance the opportunity to expand our list of partners and resources in this very demanding role we have all stepped up to undertake. Thank you to all who attended and your willingness to serve your communities!



Trivia Question:

How did North Plains world-famous Elephant Garlic Festival get its name?
Answer on back page.

New OMA Board Member – Tamie Kaufman

By Teri Lenahan, North Plains Mayor and OMA President



It is my pleasure to welcome the newest member of the OMA Board of Directors, Mayor Tamie Kaufman from Gold Beach, OR. Mayor Kaufman is a natural leader who has a willingness to help others develop their skills and learn from others.

Mayor Kaufman was elected mayor in 2020. She has served on several committees for the City of Gold Beach, including serving as a City Councilor for eleven years. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Oregon University (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) and an Associates

Degree from Southwestern Oregon Community College. In addition to her role as Mayor, she also volunteers on the Citizens Review Board, the CCD Business Development Board and she is the Chair of the Oregon Coast Community Action Board. In her 'work life', Mayor Kaufman owns a small business handling property management for manufactured housing cooperatives all over Oregon.

Among her professional and volunteer experience, Mayor Kaufman will bring her optimistic attitude to the Board. She is a strong believer in banding together with a strong, unified voice. Her perspective working with housing cooperatives in Oregon will be needed as the OMA Homelessness Task Force continues to work towards a solution to address the needs for all cities in Oregon.

Please join me in welcoming Mayor Tamie Kaufman. Her email address is tkaufman@cityofgoldbeach.org.

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

the training and resources you need in order to succeed as a mayor. These trainings are a great way to network with your peers and learn more about what it means to be an effective leader. If you need any resources, please go to www.oregon-mayors.org.

Another function of the OMA is to advocate for our cities with our state leaders. One prime example is the OMA Taskforce on Homelessness. This group has made tremendous strides in educating local and state elected officials about the OMA Funding Proposal. I am not an expert on homelessness, but this humanitarian crisis knows no boundaries and it is critical for us to work together to find real sustainable solutions to help those in need. It's what mayors do! If you are not familiar with the proposal, I encourage you to review it [here](#) and please feel comfortable contacting any of your OMA Board members with questions.

One of my main reasons for running for mayor six years ago was to bring people together with the hope to better understand and prepare my city for future growth. Many Oregon

cities are feeling the growing pains and facing enormous challenges. Although you might think you are the only city to face these things, you are not. The Oregon Mayors Association is a place for mayors to come together and learn from each other. Why reinvent the wheel, when you have 241 mayors in Oregon who are willing to share their stories and best practices?

As the new OMA President, I want to say thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I want to continue to bring mayors together so we can work collaboratively to solve issues that affect all of our communities.

I hope to serve you well and look forward to seeing many of you over the next year.

All the best,

Mayor Teri

2023 OMA Committees

The OMA has six committees that support the efforts of the OMA Board of Directors and act in the best interests of the OMA members. During the January 26, 2023, OMA Board of Directors meeting, the 2023 committee appointments were made.

Conference Planning Committee

This committee plans the annual summer conference while also awarding scholarships for members to attend the conference. For 2023, the Conference Planning Committee is comprised of:

- Mayor Henry Balensifer, Warrenton
- Mayor Rod Cross, Toledo
- Mayor Cecelia Koontz, Monmouth
- Mayor Teri Lenahan, North Plains
- Mayor Meadow Martell, Cave Junction
- Mayor Tim Rosener, Sherwood
- Mayor Dean Sawyer, Newport
- Mayor Kathy Sell, Eagle Point
- Mayor Jim Trett, Detroit

Mayors Leadership Award Committee

This committee reviews nominations for and determines recipients of the Mayors Leadership Award. For 2023, the Mayors Leadership Award Committee is comprised of:

- OMA Past President Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove
- Mayor Chas Jones, Philomath
- Mayor Cecelia Koontz, Monmouth
- Mayor John McArdle, Independence
- Mayor Lucy Vinis, Eugene
- Mayor Susan Wahlke, Lincoln City

Nominating Committee

This committee reviews applications for and recommends a slate of candidates for the 2024 OMA Board of Directors. For 2023, the Nominating Committee is comprised of:

- Mayor Steve Callaway, Hillsboro
- Mayor Cathy Clark, Keizer
- Mayor Bryan Cutchen, Oakridge
- OMA Past President, Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove
- Mayor John McArdle, Independence

Student Contest Selection Committee

This committee is responsible for determining the state-wide winners of the If I Were Mayor Contest. For 2023, the Student Contest Selection Committee is comprised of:

- Mayor John Hughto, Malin
- Mayor Tamie Kaufman, Gold Beach
- Mayor Randy Lauer, Troutdale
- Mayor Stan Pulliam, Sandy
- Mayor Kathy Sell, Eagle Point
- Mayor Debra Ann Simmons, Manzanita
- Mayor Tom Vialpando, Vale
- Mayor Malynda Wenzl, Forest Grove

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

The committee is responsible for reviewing and proposing changes to the OMA's governing documents. For 2023, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee is comprised of:

- Mayor Henry Balensifer, Warrenton
- Mayor Cathy Clark, Keizer
- Mayor Bryan Cutchen, Oakridge
- OMA Past President Brian Dalton, Dallas
- Mayor Richard Mays, The Dalles
- Mayor Brian Quigley, Stayton
- Mayor Tim Rosener, Sherwood

Resource Committee

This committee assists the OMA Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibilities to serve as a resource and point of contact for new Oregon mayors. In 2022, they developed a new mayor orientation program that was hosted in conjunction with the LOC's Elected Essentials training program. For 2023, the Resource Committee is comprised of:

- Mayor Henry Balensifer, Warrenton
- Mayor Rod Cross, Toledo
- Mayor Tamie Kaufman, Gold Beach
- Mayor Scott Keyser, Molalla
- Mayor Meadow Martell, Cave Junction
- Mayor Richard Mays, The Dalles
- Mayor Brian Quigley, Stayton
- Mayor Jim Trett, Detroit
- Mayor Tom Vialpando, Vale

Gresham to Participate in NLC Opportunity Cohorts

The National League of Cities has selected the city of Gresham to be part of its 2023 Cities of Opportunity initiative aimed at working with local leaders to align and connect the many factors that affect health and life expectancy of residents and learn how to embed resiliency in their communities.



Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall

Gresham will participate in the [Mayors' Institute on Advancing Community Revitalization to Improve Health & Equity](#), one of two the NLC's capacity-building cohorts focused on promoting equitable community revitalization and reducing health disparities.

The Mayors' Institute on Advancing Community Revitalization to Improve Health & Equity brings together five local government teams to increase understanding and develop plans that address how infrastructure, planning, zoning and the built environment shape health inequities. The Mayors' Institute runs from January 2023 through February 2024.

The second NLC cohort, the [Action Cohort](#), convenes a group of five city teams to develop action plans and receive tailored technical assistance from NLC and national experts to help advance the city's efforts in reducing health disparities by addressing the root causes of social, economic, and racial inequities.

The 10 cities from across the U.S. participating in these NLC programs are:

| MAYORS INSTITUTE | ACTION COHORT |
|------------------|----------------------|
| East Point, GA | Austin, TX |
| Gresham, OR | Dearborn, MI |
| Houston, TX | Manchester, NH |
| Mount Vernon, NY | Montgomery, AL |
| Pasco, WA | Rancho Cucamonga, CA |

The Cities of Opportunity initiative provides a proven approach, customized process, practical tools, expert consulting and training to support city leaders and their communities in their efforts to identify and address the most important issues related to health equity. Cities of Opportunity is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

SAVE THE DATE



OMA Summer Conference

August 10-12, 2023

Best Western Plus Inn, Hood River

OMA Co-Hosts City Day at the Capitol

City Day at the Capitol was held in Salem on January 25 and saw record attendance. The event brought together 250 mayors, councilors, and city staff from across Oregon, representing every LOC Region statewide for a full day of advocacy and training. Attendees heard from Governor Tina Kotek and members of the state's new legislative leadership as well as the LOC Intergovernmental Relations Department. One attendee said the best thing about City Day was the opportunity to speak with the Governor unexpectedly and let her know the issues Malheur County faces. Other attendees loved the networking aspect of the day and being able to hear how other cities are handling similar issues their city is facing.

The LOC lobbyists walked the membership through the LOC's 2023 Legislative Priorities and provided a "Lobbying 201" session. In between meetings with their individual legislators attendees also participated in a deeper discussion on economic development incentives and heard a presentation on regulating public spaces relative to the current statewide homelessness crisis.

The successful day wrapped up with a legislative reception where LOC members mingled with more than two dozen legislators and their staff.



Gold Beach Mayor Tamie Kaufman and Brookings Councilor Ed Schreiber with Senator David Brock Smith (right) during City Day.

LOC Legislative Director Jim McCauley urges mayors to stay in contact with your legislators throughout session. Its critical that a grassroots lobbying effort be maintained throughout the year. Participation in City Day at the Capitol is a great first step, and contributing testimony is always helpful, but in-district follow-up with legislators is critical to advancing every city's needs and reinforcing the LOC's legislative priorities.

Legislator Discussions Highlight of My City Day at the Capitol Experience

By Carol Westfall, Klamath Falls Mayor

This year I attended City Day at the Capitol to further progress the issue of homelessness in Oregon at large, along with in my hometown of Klamath Falls. Throughout the past year I worked as a member of the OMA Homelessness Task Force (which was a group of 25 Mayors from every corner of the state), who specifically focused on an initiative to help all cities experiencing the homelessness crisis. Our main goal was to find a financial solution to address the burden that homelessness had added to our individual cities. In doing so, we created a bold proposal for the Governor to consider, and I felt that it was important to represent the City of Klamath Falls as part of the presentation.

I found a lot of value in attending City Day at the Capitol because it enabled me to make direct connections with many district and state representatives. I spoke personally with Representative E. Werner Reschke, Representative Emily McIntire, and Senator Dennis Linthicum. During these discussions I was able to speak about the issues that

affect and are created by homelessness in Klamath Falls and how these issues were currently being addressed on a local level versus the much-needed state level.

I consider the event a success because I was able to help shed some light on not only the homelessness issue but other important issues affecting Klamath Falls and how they may be able to help our city. I am glad to have been able to provide specific data relating to the costs incurred addressing specifically homelessness. Prior to this engagement, the representatives were unaware of how state policies were affecting small communities, and I feel confident that Klamath Falls has good representation and a strong voice at the Capitol through our many elected officials.

I would strongly encourage any local representatives that have been on the fence in the past about attending to do so, as getting involved and expressing our cities' voices are the only way to be heard and that is why, I believe, we all ran for office, so to affect positive change.



Lobbying Tips for Mayors

By Teri Lenahan, North Plains Mayor and OMA President

As a mayor, you are constantly building relationships, but did you ever stop and think about connecting with your legislators? Building relationships with your legislators will provide you with opportunities to work more closely on issues that affect your communities.

The OMA's Homelessness Funding Proposal is a prime example of the importance of connecting with your legislators. This is especially crucial for the cities who have signed on in support of the OMA's proposal. It is important you are sharing what is happening in your community and what you need to help address the homelessness crisis on the front lines. This funding conversation will be happening until the close of the legislative session, so please keep up your communication efforts with your legislators.

Recently, I spoke with Beaverton Mayor Lacey Beaty about this topic and she provided some very helpful tips that I thought you might find of interest when communicating with your state leaders. Mayors are here for each other, so please feel comfortable reaching out to any of us if you have additional questions.

Mayor Beaty's Top Five Tips for Lobbying:

- **Build Relationships.** The most important thing I believe in being successful is having good relationships. There simply is no shortcut to relationship building. It is something we Mayors have to do year-round. The first conversation we have with state leadership should not be an ask. While it's important to build a relationship with those who represent you, it's important to broaden the circle as often as possible. They need to know you are their local expert, and that you are always ready and willing to talk. Make a friend, before you need a friend!
- **Be Ready.** Know your stuff, because they or their staff will ask. No one is saying you need to memorize facts—but it's a good idea to keep a sheet of relevant

information. This means you likely need to spend time with staff to gain the information. On the same token—if you don't know, simply say so and ask if you can get back to them with information.

- **Know Your Why.** Be ready for the pushback—in particular with the mayors' ask, we have been hearing loud and clear that ongoing funding is challenging. Be ready with why we need certainty and ongoing reliability in funding to move forward with programs.
- **Tell Stories!** How have things impacted your city? It's not the size of your city; it's the ability to connect problems, people, programs, and services.
- **Know Beyond.** Be knowledgeable about the political landscape, and be aware of things happening beyond the ask itself.

2023 Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Location |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| April 24 | OMA Board Meeting | Seaside |
| April 25 | OMA Spring Workshop | Seaside |
| April 26 | LOC Spring Conference | Seaside |
| August 10-12 | OMA Summer Conference | Hood River |
| August 13 | OMA Board Meeting | Hood River |
| October 11 | OMA Board Meeting | Eugene |
| October 12 | OMA Fall Workshop | Eugene |
| October 12-14 | LOC Annual Conference | Eugene |
| December 5 | OMA Board Meeting | North Plains |

Mayors Leadership Awards

Nominations will soon be open for the Mayors Leadership Award.

The Mayors Leadership Award recognizes the invaluable contributions made by mayors throughout Oregon in their communities. This award is intended to acknowledge the mayors in Oregon who have provided consistent and continuing leadership which facilitates dynamic changes in their cities, mayors who dedicate their time and energy in the pursuit of helping their communities reach their full potential. Recipients are persons who have distinguished themselves from other Oregon mayors over the duration of their tenure in office.

To receive the Mayor's Leadership Award, recipients should have demonstrated a combination of the following essential criteria:

- The mayor is an active member of the OMA on the date the nomination for the Award is received.

- The mayor has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities as a mayor which have contributed to lasting benefits in their city and the community as a whole.
- The mayor has shown considerable involvement in community affairs and intergovernmental relations.
- The mayor has shown exceptional skill in helping to facilitate productive relationships between the governing body and city employees.
- The mayor has helped other Oregon mayors reach their full potential as community leaders.

Watch your inbox and the OMA website for nomination materials in April. Questions about Mayors Leadership Award can be directed to Angela Speier at aspeier@orcities.org or (503) 540-6599.

The "If I Were Mayor..." Student Contest Deadline Nearing!

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 April. 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 (formats allowed include: MP4 or online video format) detailing what they would do as mayor.

Submissions to the statewide competition are due April 7, 2023. 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 May. First-place winners will be invited to attend the awards luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in Hood River on August 12, 2023.

For more information and examples of previous entries, please visit www.oregonmayors.org. Questions about the contest can be directed to Angela Speier at (503) 540-6599 or aspeier@orcities.org.



2023 Spring Conference Registration Now Open

The **Local Government Spring Conference** will be held April 25-26 in Seaside. Hosted in a different part of the state each year, this two-day event will be a great opportunity for public officials from around the state to network and learn about issues impacting all cities.

The OMA is hosting a Mayors Workshop in conjunction with the conference on **Tuesday, April 25 at 8:30 am**. At this session mayors will learn from Ron Mock, Professor Emeritus of Politics and Peace Studies at George Fox University. Professor Mock will be discussing Active Civility and how mayors can help local political cultures heal. America is experiencing the highest levels of bitter political polarization in living memory, driven by unprecedented changes in society and technology. These dynamics affect residents at the local level too, with potentially devastating effects on quality of life in Oregon communities. This workshop will demonstrate how mayors can foster a healthier, happier, local political culture by:

- Looking at disagreements in a different light;
- Improving the "soil" of the relationship's ecosystem within our communities;
- Modeling a three-tiered approach to civility and the stewardship of disagreements; and
- Building the community's capacity to disagree without distrusting.

Register for the Mayors Workshop and Spring Conference on the LOC website, www.orcities.org.



Join LOC Fridays at Noon for the Latest Legislative News

LOC Executive Director Patty Mulvihill, Legislative Director Jim McCauley and the Intergovernmental Relations team provide the latest information from the Capitol as the 2023 legislative session continues.

When: Fridays at 12 p.m.*

**May 5 and May 12 webinars will be held at 1:30 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts with the President's Regional Roundtables. There will be no webinar held March 24 due to staff attending the NLC Congressional Cities Conference.*

Learn how to participate via Zoom on the LOC's website: www.orcities.org.

SAVE THE DATE

OMA Fall Workshop & Business Meeting

October 12, 2023

The Graduate Hotel, Eugene



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Trivia Question Answer:

A local farmer suggested that the festival adopt the elephant garlic theme and it's stayed that way since 1997.