

Autumn Magazine 2021

Oregon Original by OFA President Gabe Zirkle

I'm still high from July 25-27th!

Coming from Oregon, that could mean a multitude of things ... But coming from the President of Oregon Fuels Association, it's a reference to the amazing Annual Conference we just wrapped up in Sunriver! Our Association and Members at large were pressed with a Call to Action: To stay engaged and step into the conversation. Our Industry has a target on our backs.

What a blast to see everyone in person with smiles on their faces. A privilege to meet with friendly competitors from the strong and growing Industry of Gas and Oil. Were those dirty words I just said? Probably not in this magazine! But seriously, we need to stand tall and strong. We are the Petroleum Industry that keeps Oregon moving. I am proud to be a part of an energy sector that keeps making improvements and cleaning up the products we proudly sell through our outlets.

The event was a success by all measurements. Were there improvements to be made? You bet! But for a first event, bringing us back together, we did great. Yes, we ran out of food. Yes, we did not have enough seats available. But we also had a record number of Members show up. They came with their teams of industry personnel that make the everyday job look like fun! Families with the next generation of leaders came out in support for what is sure to be a grassroots movement in the making.

I am proud of the people that made this event what it was. Proud to have so many sponsors that held up their end of the relationship with not only 2020 moneys, but 2021 sponsorship dollars, and more. Our sponsors that ensure they are part of the history dating back to the 1950's when a group of people came together to fight a common enemy. If you missed the deadline to sponsor, you will want to get in touch with Tracey Anderson, OFA Executive Director before they are sold out for the Conference scheduled on July 17-19, 2022.

Members were introduced to our new logo, signage, and brochures that could and should be at each retail fueling location. The Oregon Fuels Association is the voice of Oregon's locally owned fuel stations, fuel distributors, and heating oil providers. OFA members are at the forefront of environmental stewardship within the industry as the leading suppliers of biodiesel and other low carbon fuels. Often multi-generational family-owned businesses, members fuel Oregon's economy by providing career opportunities to thousands of employees across the state. The association is a leading advocate for common sense regulations that balance affordable fuels and environmental stewardship.

Our PAC raised nearly \$93,000 in 2020 and gave away over \$60,000 to effect the change we desire to see from the political parties that often overreach with their power. Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson from Prineville joined us for our PAC reception that kicks off our event. She and people like her understand that it's not enough to run a small family-owned business with diversification, we have to take action and get involved. Like it or not, Politics is part of the program when it comes to running business these days.

Guests included recognition of our first ever Scholarship winner, Breana Erickson from Klamath Falls, Oregon who was featured in the last *WPMA News* magazine highlighting her accomplishments. Andrew Schpak gave us insight into employment law with rules like 'water is cool at 77 degrees, but it's an extreme weather condition at 80 degrees, (Thanks Marc!). Nicole Singh clued us into the clueless DEQ rulemaking for CPP. Mike Freese gave us the download on Legislative issues coming into view and the announcement of Self-Serve gaining momentum for a 2022 push into the entire state of Oregon.

Folks, if you are not a part of Oregon Fuels Association, don't you think it's time to stop missing out? Join us for these types of events, updates, and more! Be a Member of Oregon Fuels Association.

Stay Safe and Drive Often

Gabriel Zirkle, President OFA