

OREGON *Fuels Association Report*



Tracey Anderson
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T Greetings from Oregon!

There is nothing more beautiful than Oregon in the fall. The leaves on the trees are changing color, the crisp autumn air is refreshing, the rains have not yet fully begun and college football is underway! Yet, here at Oregon Fuels Association, we are still basking in the glow of what was our most successful annual conference to date this past July, thanks to the generosity of our amazing sponsors. Their support was integral to our ability to serve our membership and we are exceedingly grateful.

The convention's PAC fundraising tasting event, featuring Stoller wines, Heritage Spirits and beer from the local Deschutes brewery, brought in \$8,000. This event also welcomed back a friend and ally of OFA, Oregon's State Representative and Republican House leader, Vikki Breese-Iverson, who shared her vision and plans for the coming year. OFA members celebrated the return of one of the most beloved festivities, the Northwest Pump Sunday dinner, which drew a crowd of over 250 people. And the Monday business session gave our attendees updates from Oregon DOE and DEQ as well as a thorough legislative update from our lobbyists, Danelle Romain and Mike Freese of Romain Freese LLC. The session also featured a legislative panel discussion with Oregon Senator Lynn Findley and Kelsey Wilson, lobbyist for WSPA.

OFA members are passionate about their recreational hobbies and our convention features two of their favorites, golf and trap shooting. The golf tournament boasted over 90 golfers and trap shooting hosted 30 shooters, ranging in abilities from novice to expert. Special thanks to longtime OFA member, Mike Fitz, for raising over \$10,080 in trap-shooting sponsorships for our PAC.

OFA was also honored to be able to recognize several members of our association for their many contributions. Ron Tyree of Tyree Oil, Inc. and Mark Gram of Jubitz Corporation have served on the OFA board of directors for numerous years and have chosen to release their positions for the next generation. We are pleased to welcome Trent Tyree and Matthew Jubitz to our board of directors. Matt Truax was also recognized for his years of service as our Vice-President, Past President, and exiting EMA Director. And lastly, as one of his last official duties as President, Gabriel Zirkle had the tremendous privilege of presenting a Lifetime Achievement award to a beloved OFA member, pioneer and philanthropist in our industry and community, Lila Leathers of Leathers Fuel. Oregon is fortunate to be rich in men and women who subscribe to the highest standards of service and integrity.

Looking forward for Oregon, legislatively, this fall will be one of the most consequential elections in decades. Following redistricting and numerous legislative retirements, Oregon voters will be casting their ballots for many new legislators. We expect that nearly one-third of the legislature will be new and likely be new to many issues impacting Oregon Fuels Association members. Additionally, the Oregon Governor's race will be one of the most competitive in recent memory, where three prominent women in politics will be competing for votes; former House Speaker Tina Kotek secured the Democrat nomination, former House Republican Leader Christine Drazan captured the Republican nomination and long serving moderate Democrat Betsy Johnson is running as a non-affiliated candidate. All three campaigns are raising a lot of money, which will create a very interesting and dynamic governor's race leading up to November.

The outcome of these competitive races will also set the stage for the 2023 Legislative Session. OFA will continue to push for statewide self-service and oppose additional and costly mandates on our members.

Oregon Fuels Association is growing in active involvement and is looking forward to increased participation both statewide and on the national level. As Jeff Rouse of Carson Team has moved into the OFA presidency, and Joe Sacomano of Jackson Energy is the current vice president, past president Gabriel Zirkle became the newest Oregon EMA director and is actively planning OFA's return to Washington DC for the Day on the Hill in May 2023. Together, OFA's newest Executive team will work hard and fight for the issues that matter most to our membership.

We here at OFA are so thankful to our membership and value their involvement in all areas. We invite all to save the date to join us on December 8, 2022, for our traditional holiday celebration at the Portland Golf Club, details to follow.

We look forward to the second half of our fiscal year and the opportunity to report back next spring on the progress we expect legislatively.

Kindest Regards,

Tracey Anderson
Executive Director, Oregon Fuels Association