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# CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter Edition  
2011

## Annual Meeting a Hit!

*The 2011 OTA/WITA Joint Annual Meeting took place on the Oregon Coast in Gleneden Beach at the Salishan Spa & Golf Resort.*

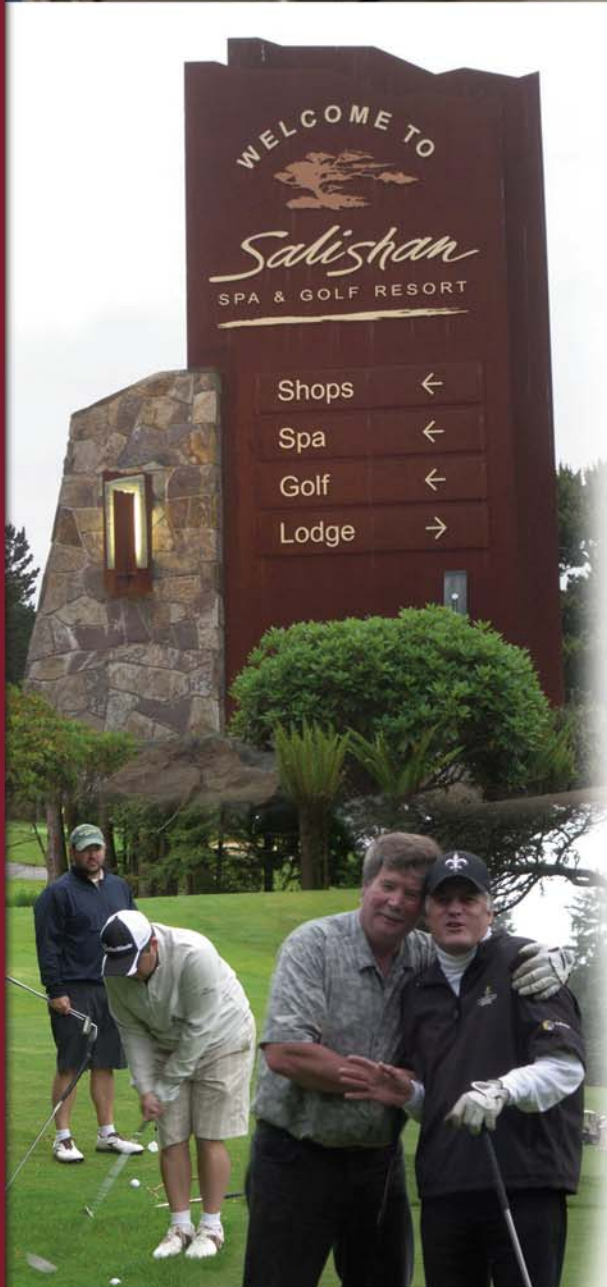
Sixty-nine golfers enjoyed 18 holes on the course kicking off this year's conference and twenty-eight vendors participated as exhibitors offering attendees all the latest technology in products and services.

The highlight of this year's conference was having U.S. Congressman Greg Walden join us from Washington D.C. State Association Board Members were invited to a reception with the Congressman on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday morning Congressman Walden addressed the entire conference with his keynote address.

Other speakers at the conference included **Robert Binder** from U.S.A.C., **Frank Gallagher** of Charlesmead Advisors, **Randy Tyree** from O.P.A.S.T.C.O., **Mike Romano** of N.T.C.A., **W.U.T.C.'s Commissioner Phil Jones** and **Geoff Feiss** of the **Montana Telecommunications Association**. Rounding out the final day of the conference was **Val Khomchenko** from **FishNet Security** and **Bernie Arnason** of **Pivot Media**.

The annual silent auction was a lot of fun and the raffle was very successful in generating funds for future scholarship awards.

**continued, see ANNUAL MEETING**



## Get informed 24 hrs a day!

Go to [www.ota-telecom.org](http://www.ota-telecom.org)

- up-to-date industry news
- event calendar
- seminar information
- member directory
- legislative updates

## Show off your stuff...

**Are you a new member? Would you like your fellow OTA members to notice your company and products? If so, this quarterly online newsletter is a great way to be seen and make new contacts!**

**Contact the OTA office today! 503.581.7430**





**ANNUAL MEETING** continued

*The OTA truly appreciates the support of its generous members who helped sponsor this year's event!*

### Telecom Provider Sponsors

#### Gold Level:

Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.

#### Silver Level:

Clear Creek Communications • TDS Telecom

#### Bronze Level:

Cal-Ore Communications

### Associate Member Sponsors

#### Platinum Level:

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AKT LLP • CoBank • GVNW Consulting, Inc.  
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#### Bronze Level:

The Berry Company • Clearfield, Inc. • Graybar  
Mid America Computer Corporation • PEAK Internet LLC  
Quintrex Data Systems • Superior Essex • Telcom Insurance Group

### Golf Tournament Sponsors

Golf Lunch.....N.F.U./Unitel Insurance  
Beverage Cart .....ANPI ZONE Telecom

### Golf Hole Sponsors

AKT LLP • The Berry Company • Graybar  
GVNW Consulting, Inc. • Modern Enterprise Solutions  
Molalla Communications N.E.C.A.  
North Sky Communications • PEAK Internet LLC  
St. Paul Cooperative Telephone Association

The crowd was entertained during Monday evening's festivities by "You, Me & Her." This talented trio of our own **Peggy Turner** from **COLTONTTEL**, **Teresa Kincaid** also from **COLTONTTEL** and **Becky Zenthoefer** performed songs from the 40's to present day.

The OTA Service Award for 2011 was presented to **Gary Friberg** of **Pioneer Telephone Cooperative**. Gary was chosen for this award for the many years of devoted dedication he has contributed to the telecommunications industry and to our association. Gary retires this summer and we will all greatly miss him!

The 2011 President's Award for WITA was given to **Mary Taylor**, Governmental Relations Manager in the states of Washington & Montana for **CenturyLink**. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the mission and work of the Washington Independent Telecommunications Association. Mary is Co-Chair of the Industry Issues Committee, Chairperson of the WITPAC Committee and Secretary-Treasurer of the WITSA Committee.

WITA presented their 2011 Service Award to **Rob Snyder** of **Law Offices of Robert S. Snyder**. Rob was acknowledged for his commitment to the individual WITA member companies and the association as a whole, and for his dedication to the telecommunications industry.

WITA made a presentation to honor **Arne "Skip" Haynes** as the recipient of the 2010 Pioneer Award. Skip was not in attendance to receive his award at the 2010 annual conference at Skamania Lodge. Skip was recognized for this many years of service to the industry and to WITA, serving on many committees over the years. He actively remains a participant on WITA's Board of Trustees and Executive Board.

**Shane Ideus** of **N.F.U. / Unitel Insurance** presented each association with a monetary contribution to the Job Training and Safety Program. Each year N.F.U. contributes monies based on a percentage of premiums written in the state for general liability and auto liability relating to the telecommunications industry. These funds are to be used to help make association members safer and more efficient through training seminars during the year. Special thanks to N.F.U. for their continual support in our Job Training and Safety Programs!

The **ITA Showcase** presented both the Oregon and Washington Associations with a donation to each of the Association's Scholarship Foundations. Presenting the donation was Greg Shimek of Power and Telephone Supply who sits on the ITA Showcase Committee. Funds donated are generated from the ITA Showcase annual trade show.

**Mark your calendar now for 2012!**

**The OTA / WITA Joint Annual Conference  
will take place at Skamania Lodge  
in Stevenson, Washington  
May 21st - 23rd**



# 2011 OTA EVENT CALENDAR

## 2011

### Central Office/Information Technologies Seminar September 29-30

Best Western Agate Beach Inn - Newport, OR.

### Consumer Services/Marketing Seminar • October 20-21

Best Western Agate Beach Inn - Newport, OR.

### Accounting Seminar • October 27-28

Best Western Agate Beach Inn - Newport, OR.

### Safety Seminar • November 15

Red Lion Hotel - Jantzen Beach - Portland, OR.

## OTA Scholarship Award Recipients

### 2011 - 2012 Academic Year

We are proud to announce the following individuals as recipients of scholarship awards. Applicants were judged on scholastic achievement, accomplishments, recognition received, work history, extracurricular activities, career and educational goals.



#### Bailey K. Olson

Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone  
(Daughter of Christopher R. Olson)

#### Julia D. Smith

GVNW Consulting, Inc.  
(Daughter of Jeffry Smith)

#### Morgan E. Willer

Frontier Communications  
(Daughter of Renee Willer)

The OTA Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors along with the entire association, extend sincere wishes to each of these individuals for continued success in the pursuit of education and career goals. Information regarding the 2012-2013 scholarship application process will be posted to the OTA web site and packets will be mailed to each member company on January 31, 2012.

## Notification of OTA President of Any Antitrust Concerns

OTA members, representatives and attendees should promptly bring any antitrust concerns to the attention of OTA President. Because antitrust law and policy is legally complex (especially in view of the heavily regulated nature of the telecommunications industry), all OTA members, representatives and attendees are expected and instructed to seek promptly the advice of counsel for OTA in the event that there is any question as to whether any contemplated action, activity, proposal, or other course of action may be in conflict with applicable law.

OTA members, representatives and attendees should terminate any discussion, seek legal counsel's advice, or, if necessary, leave any meeting or discussion where improper subjects are being discussed and explain the reasons for departure to those still in attendance.

*For a copy of OTA's Antitrust Policy in its entirety, please contact the OTA office.*

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# 2011 Outside Plant Seminar Review

*This year's Outside Plant Seminar began with a beautiful morning on the Oregon Coast. As our buffet breakfast was being served we were greeted by an amazing double rainbow appearing to be within our reach right on the surf's edge.*

**Anita Floyd** with **Qwest** addressed the process for effective investigation of damages to telecom facilities. **Joseph Rose** with **Corning Cable Systems** presented "The Evolution of Glass: It's History, Production and Future Applications," an interesting session that was very well received by attendees.

**Jeff Harmon** of **JDSU** presented a session on "T-1 Testing and Troubleshooting." **Robert Macaluso** of **Generonix, Inc.** offered "Line Powering Telecom Facilities in the Outside Plant Network." **Terry Martin** of **Martin and Baugh Consulting Group** discussed the world of Broadband and what can be offered with a session on "The Future of Telecom."

A huge crowd pleaser was internationally-recognized expert on earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides, **Yumei Wang** of the **Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries**. Ms. Wang discussed expected damages from a Cascadia earthquake disaster and associated mitigation strategies. **Brant Wolf** of **OTA** closed the seminar with his "Legislative and Regulatory Overview" bringing attendees up to date on current legislative matters that are of concern and interest to the telecommunications industry both in Oregon and on the Federal level.

The Employee of the Year Award for 2011 was presented to **Dave Kohls** of **Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company**. Dave has dedicated most of his working life to SCTC. He began his telecommunication career at SCTC in August 1973. Over the years, Dave worked in all areas within the OSP. Any task given him was always done completely and with great pride. Dave mastered the day to day OSP work from the beginning and his technical aptitude made him a great candidate for other areas when those opportunities became available. Dave has always been there for SCTC no matter what the job required. One of Dave's many great qualities was that he always had "plan B" ready in the back of his mind so that the customer was back in business with as little inconvenience as possible — he was always thinking and always

seemed to be able to find the answer. He has always been willing to share his knowledge with his co-workers. Dave has also been an integral part of the support team for SCTC's local 911 center.



Dave retired from SCTC in April 2011 after 38 years of dedicated service. Please join us in recognizing Dave for his dedication, honesty, work ethic and craftsmanship, as well as his loyalty to his profession, fellow employees and the community. Congratulations and thank you Dave!! Happy Retirement!

*Special thanks to our sponsors of this year's event.*

*We truly appreciate the continued support  
of our associate members!*

**Clearfield, Inc.**  
**KGP Logistics**  
**Vantage Point Solutions**



## Legislative Update

*The 2011 Legislative Session wound down slowly and quietly for the OTA and the issues we tracked throughout the session. Many other segments of the business community were busy right up to the end but our issues generally are taken care of before the end game begins.*

A big 'thank you' to everyone who serves on the OTA Legislative Committee. While this year might have been a bit quieter than other years, the effort and insight this committee brings to our legislative issues is greatly appreciated. The committee reviewed legislation that would have negatively impacted OTA members if the proposals had become law. A comprehensive report with all of these bills will be put together and circulated to each member company within a few weeks.

Also, of the three bills that the OTA requested, two were passed and signed into law. House Bill 2192 corrected language in the Oregon USF statute and ensured that the fund cannot be used for any purpose other than its intended purpose. House Bill 2463 clarified reporting requirements for member company employees working on customer computers and provided protection from liability for making reports related to suspected child pornography.

As the Legislative Session was winding down, the Oregon Public Utility Commission was busy working on issues important to us. Here is a brief listing of those issues.

UM 1547 – This docket was opened on July 5th at the regular Public Meeting held at the OPUC that day. This proceeding will investigate issues related to call termination problems that many, if not all, of our members and their customers have been experiencing. Staff held a workshop in late June and petitioned the Commissioners to open this docket as soon as they could.

The OTA brought this matter to the attention of Staff earlier in the year and they have responded in a very positive manner. It was recognized early on that these call termination issues were having a very real and very negative impact on your customers.

continued, see **UPDATE**

## OTA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR

*Please keep in mind the possibility that these dates could change, so be sure to watch your email for meeting confirmation and details that are sent to all committee members the week prior to the scheduled meeting date.*

### JULY 2011

#### **29th Consumer Services & Marketing Seminar Planning Sub-Committee Meeting**

Friday - 10:00 a.m. at Stayton Cooperative Telephone

### AUGUST 2011

**No meetings planned at this time.**

### SEPTEMBER 2011

#### **7th Outside Plant Committee Meeting**

Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. at Monitor Telephone

#### **15th Account Committee Meeting**

Thursday - 9:30 a.m. at Mt. Angel Telephone

#### **16th Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting**

Friday - 9:30 a.m. at Mt. Angel Telephone

#### **16th Board of Directors & Small Company Committee Meeting**

Friday - 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Angel Telephone

#### **21st Safety Committee Meeting**

Wednesday - 2:00 p.m. at COLTONTEL

#### **22nd Emergency Preparedness & Network Security Committee Meeting**

Thursday - 9:00 a.m. via Conference Call

#### **28th CO/IT Committee Pre-Seminar Committee Meeting**

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. at the Best Western, Agate Beach Inn, Newport



# New Members

*The OTA would like to welcome the following companies who have recently joined the association. For contact info and links to their websites, please visit the OTA website.*

## New Associate Members:

**C & C Power**

**Robinson Brothers Construction, Inc.**

## UPDATE continued

Since the OTA brought this matter to Staff and they have responded so well we now need to provide them the data necessary to resolve these issues. If you receive a request for data from Staff in this docket please respond as fully and as quickly as possible. We also will need to make a good showing at any workshops that are held to investigate these issues. As soon as a schedule is developed it will be circulated to all our members; please plan on attending or sending someone to participate.

AR 551 – This rulemaking proceeding implements the legislation that OTA introduced and passed in 2009 that allows an ILEC to petition the OPUC for relief from carrier of last resort obligations under certain circumstances. The OTA and other parties attended a workshop earlier in the year and reviewed a preliminary draft of the rules. OPUC Staff has drafted a sensible set of rules that reflects the law and OTA should have no major concerns with the proposed rules.

UM 1017 (3) – The Oregon Exchange Carrier Association petitioned OPUC to re-open this docket and investigate the possibility of further reducing intrastate access rates with some kind of off-set from the Oregon USF. This proceeding is just getting underway with testimony and workshops scheduled through the summer and early fall. While this is an OECA docket it is very important to our members and the OTA has intervened in the proceeding. The OTA will give whatever support is needed to this process.

Also, OPUC has proposed administrative rule changes to the RSPF program mainly related to the reporting process. OPUC has been generous about allowing OTA to review the proposed rule changes and it looks like there are no major issues we will have with the proposal.

Finally, without going into detail, you all know that we had Congressman Greg Walden at our Annual Meeting in early June. Thank you to all who were able to participate in our reception for the Congressman as well as to all who offered comments and asked questions. This was a unique opportunity for the OTA and you all are to be commended for participating so fully.



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## Need to contact the Oregon Telecommunications Association?

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