



August 2026

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INSIGHT INTO **YOUR** BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

In Case You Missed It: A New Chapter for OBA!

At the 2026 Annual Conference, we shared that after 26 years of dedicated service to the Association and its members, Brant Wolf has made a thoughtful decision to begin shifting gears and slowing down. The OBA Board of Directors has spent the better part of a year vetting opportunities and the next direction for the Association and we look forward to sharing our next chapter.

While this marks an important transition in day-to-day operations, this is not a goodbye. Brant has agreed to continue serving as the Association's part-time Legislative Advocate, ensuring that OBA members continue to benefit from his foundational experience, relationships, and steady presence at the Capitol.

In his role, Brant will remain focused on supporting member companies across Oregon through continued legislative and policy engagement. His ongoing advocacy will help ensure that OBA remains actively involved in the conversations and decisions that affect our industry, our communities, and the customers we serve. As part of this transition, Brant will be stepping away from operational oversight.

With the departure of his leadership duties, the Board has appointed Mandy Jundt as OBA's Executive Director. Many of our members already know Mandy through her four years of service as the Office Manager and Member Services Coordinator. She has built relationships with both service providing members and our associate members through coordinating events and programs, newsletters and communications while managing the day-to-day tasks. She has developed a deep knowledge of the association and is committed to carrying forward our mission to help keep Oregon connected.

As Executive Director, Mandy will continue to build on her foundation as the face of the organization while working directly with the Board, members and external stakeholders. She will put forth effort to support deployment, foster collaboration and determine ways to make sure the association is providing meaningful value to you, our members. We are confident that she will serve OBA well as we look towards the future and we're excited for this next chapter. If you have a moment, please join us in congratulating her on this new role!

Please know that throughout this transition, one thing will remain constant: OBA will continue to be a trusted advocate, a strong ally, and a steady voice for Oregon's broadband and telecommunications providers.

If you have any questions or would like to reach out, please do not hesitate.

Best,
[Paul Hauer](#) on behalf of the OBA Board of Directors
OBA Board President

Legislative Watch

Through our Legislative and Policy Committee, the Association is tracking several issues this summer. The group will continue to monitor progress, coordinate member input, and support practical outcomes on the priorities outlined below.

- **Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) Workgroup** – OBA continues to play a leading role in efforts to modernize the COLR obligation. The workgroup, formed by Representative Pam Marsh includes Representative Rieke Smith and has met twice to develop potential legislation that would allow carriers to seek COLR relief.

Subcommittees have been formed, and OBA has been asked to coordinate several of them. On June 22, Representative Marsh circulated a matrix of issues and asked OBA to lead the effort to assess how interested parties may respond. That work will wrap up shortly.

This remains a complex issue since OBA members hold a range of views: some support maintaining a COLR obligation, some would support eliminating it, and others are less focused on the issue. Additional stakeholders also have their own priorities. OBA will continue working to update this requirement in a practical and constructive way.

The next workgroup meeting is expected in early August.

- **Railroad Right-of-Way** – There has been limited recent progress on railroad right-of-way concerns. OBA continues to work with the railroads on the cost and timeliness of permitting and will also explore whether the Oregon Rail Users League can help provide a forum for discussing permitting challenges.
- **Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Permits** – For years, OBA members have been able to secure ODOT permits at no cost. Current statute allows communications providers to deploy infrastructure and secure needed permits without cost when deploying facilities to provide telecommunications services.

ODOT has recently stated that because members are deploying fiber, they are no longer considered utilities and therefore must pay for permits. The Association's legal counsel from Yturri Rose LLP, Jeremy Hindman, disagrees with ODOT's interpretation. OBA has responded to the agency and provided relevant information. As of this newsletter, we have not yet received a response.

OBA is also tracking several other issues, primarily related to FCC actions and their potential impact on Oregon's USF and Lifeline programs. Please reach out if you would like to discuss any of those proceedings.

This is also an election season, and OBA is receiving calls from incumbents and first-time candidates. The Association has consistently used PAC funds to support legislative leaders and candidates who understand and support our issues. We will continue meeting with these individuals to explain who we are, what our members do, and the communities we serve.

As always, thank you for your interest and engagement in these policy issues. Member engagement matters, especially when members meet with elected officials and share the real-world impact of the issues affecting our industry.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns that we can help with.

-Brant Wolf

Behind the Scenes: Sustainability

A great deal of meaningful work is happening behind the scenes as OBA looks ahead to the next chapter of the Association. Alongside the current leadership transition and ongoing legislative and policy committee work, the Board is also taking a thoughtful look at the Association's dues structure.

For more than a decade, OBA's dues formula has remained unchanged. The current structure was built around access lines, a model that no longer fully reflects how our industry, member companies, or the broadband landscape have evolved. As technology, services, business models, and advocacy needs continue to change, it is important that OBA's membership structure keeps pace.

The Board and staff are approaching this process carefully and deliberately. That includes reviewing current operations, considering the long-term needs of the Association, and engaging in conversations with national peer organizations to better understand how similar associations are structuring dues and supporting member value.

This work is not simply about updating a formula. It is about ensuring OBA remains financially stable, operationally strong, and well-positioned to serve members for years to come. As always, our goal is to be transparent, responsible, and member-focused as we evaluate the best path forward.

Again, OBA's commitment remains the same: to be your trusted advocate in the most valuable way.

OBA Job Board

Looking for your next great hire? The OBA Job Board is a valuable resource for connecting with professionals across Oregon's telecommunications and broadband industry. Whether you're seeking engineers, technicians, customer service representatives, project managers, administrative staff, or leadership, the job board helps put your opportunity in front of a targeted audience that understands our industry.

Members are encouraged to share open positions by posting them on our website's [Job Board](#), where job seekers can view current opportunities from OBA member companies across the state. Posting a position is easy. Simply send us a PDF of your job announcement, and we'll handle the posting for you. We'll ensure your listing is added to the site and remains available to applicants throughout your recruitment process.

Once the position has been filled or the recruitment period has closed, just let us know and we'll promptly remove the listing. It's one more member benefit designed to help support workforce development and strengthen Oregon's broadband industry.

Have an opening to share? Send us your job announcement and let OBA help you find your next great team member! Take a look at what we have listed now!



HAPPENINGS >>>

Association News

Outside Plant Seminar Recap

Under the sunny skies in Bend at the Riverhouse Convention Center, the Outside Plant committee planned a packed few days for attendees to learn and connect with each other.

Tammie Davis (Irby) shared insights on **fiber testing at the ONT and troubleshooting**; Glenn Taylor, from Calix provided **WiFi updates and what is coming next**; and attendees had an opportunity to join the roundtable conversation on how peer companies are handling **green and brown-field MDUs** (Thank you roundtable moderator and leaders: Shaun Plummer, Matt Allison, CBS, Matt Barrett, SCTC, Rob Nance, Hunter Communications and Ken Pearce, Pioneer Connect).

We discussed **how new and emerging technology will reshape the OSP**; got **updates on 811 Oregon and excavation safety tips** provided by OUNC Executive Director, Josh Thomas; plus Safety Manager, David Lindsay from Day Wireless presented a **Truck to Trench Safety Guide that included the do's and don't around PPE, best practices and more**. Matt Barrett, the Plant Manager & CTO at SCTC presented a customer experience playbook for **employee conduct** in the field that provided reminders about cameras, work hygiene and reputation risk. Finally, Brant Wolf shared a **legislative and regulatory** update for Oregon issues.

In addition, the group also had multiple opportunities for hands-on engagement with **fiber splicing** on a demo case (thank you, Eli Garner from Precision Fiber!) and were given a **locate and GPR demo** from Nick Frappier of NY Hydrovac. Check out the photos of our group!

A special thank you to our presenters and sponsors who made this possible!



HAPPENINGS >>>

Association News

Beach. Broadband. Better Together at the 2026 Annual Conference

If you weren't there, you might not believe it: Seaside delivered sunshine, blue skies, and temperatures in the 70s for three spectacular days of learning, networking, and collaboration at the 2026 Oregon Broadband Association Annual Conference! Held June 1-3 at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, this year's event brought together broadband leaders, cooperative directors, industry partners, and technology experts from across the region. We were fortunate to have **Calix on board as our main event (Diamond) sponsor!** Their investment in our industry and commitment to member success continues to strengthen the connections, conversations, and innovation that define our association.

The conference introduced at least one new element, including a **dedicated Cooperative Board Training and Development Session facilitated by Baker Tilly** and was designed to help company board directors strengthen governance practices, deepen financial understanding, and exchange ideas with peers facing similar challenges. The session set the tone for a conference focused not only on industry trends, but also on leadership and organizational success.

Tuesday's activities featured networking opportunities, the golf tournament at McMenamins Gearheart, the Annual Meeting of Members, and one of our conference's favorite traditions—the Scholarship Foundation Auction and Awards Banquet. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of attendees, sponsors, and donors, the evening generated significant support for future scholarship recipients while bringing the broadband community together for a memorable celebration.

Wednesday's educational program delivered a full day of high-value content covering the issues shaping the future of broadband. Throughout the conference, attendees had ample opportunity to connect with exhibitors, sponsors, peers, and industry leaders. The new Seaside venue proved to be an excellent setting, offering flexible meeting space, very walkable amenities, and a relaxed coastal atmosphere that encouraged meaningful conversation. Did we mention there was an ice cream sundae bar?!

Most importantly to note, the conference was a reflection of the people who make this association strong. From presenters who generously shared their expertise, to sponsors who invested in the event, to committee members and volunteers who helped shape the program, this conference was truly a team effort. The energy, engagement, and willingness to support one another were evident throughout each day.

On behalf of the Oregon Broadband Association, **thank you to everyone who attended, presented, sponsored, exhibited, volunteered, and contributed. Together, we continue to strengthen Oregon's broadband industry and the communities we serve. We look forward to seeing you (again) next year!**

PRESENTERS:

**Carol Matthey; Matthey Consulting, LLC ● Josh Seidemann; NTCA ● Jimmy Todd; Nex-Tech
Chad Duval; Baker Tilly ● Casey McKillip; Aldrich Wealth Advisors
Pam Ferguson; Calix - Keynote Speaker**

Thank you Sponsors!



May 13-15, 2021

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
**2027 OBA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Seaside Civic
& Convention Center

HAPPENINGS >>>

Association News



2026 Tournament Winners

Team Winners: Tyler McGill (E4Connect), Shaun Plummer (Core Telecom Systems) + Ryan Mattila (OldCastle Infrastructure) and Chad Holzer (Baker Tilly)

Men's KP Winner: Tyler McGill (E4Connect) **Women's KP Winner:** Janet Hoefer (SCTC)

Men's LD Winner: Shaun Plummer (Core Telecom Sys) **Women's Long Drive Winner:** Janet Hoefer (SCTC)

ASSOCIATION, BOARD, COMMITTEE & INDUSTRY INFO >>>

Association News



Scholarship Foundation Report

The OBA Scholarship Foundation held its annual awards banquet and fundraising auction plus raffle in conjunction with the 2026 Annual Conference.

We're thrilled to share that our annual Scholarship Foundation Fundraising campaign, auction and raffle was a success! Thanks to the generosity of our community, sponsors, and participants, we raised almost \$11,000 to support next year's scholarship awards. Part of this includes a generous contribution from the **ITA Showcase Board of Directors!** Every dollar contributes directly to empowering folks through education, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for helping us invest in the next generation leaders!

The Foundation would especially like to thank the following companies for their generous donations to the silent auction and raffle:

- **ALDRICH CPAS + ADVISORS**
- **ALTEC**
- **BAKER TILLY**
- **BEAVERCREEK COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE**
- **COLTONTEL**
- **DATAVISION**
- **DIRECTLINK**
- **DOUGLAS FAST NET**
- **EAGLE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS**
- **E4 CONNECT**
- **JOE RUIZ**
- **MONITOR TELECOM**
- **LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES**
- **RELIANCE CONNECTS**
- **SMTA**
- **SCTC**
- **ST. PAUL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

THANK
you

Scholarship Award Recipients

Madeline Brewster



Linn Benton CC
or Oregon Tech

Diagnostic
Medical
Imaging

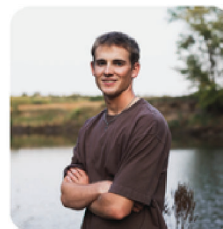
Sponsored by
**Pioneer
CONNECT**

2026 - 2027

Tyler Christensen

Dakota Wesleyan
University
Fitness &
Sports
Management

Sponsored by
**Innovative
Systems**



Stella Duman



Portland State
University
Accounting

Sponsored by
**consolidated
BUSINESS SERVICES**

Abbigail Goodwin

Oregon State
University
Computer
& Network
Administration

Sponsored by
E4 CONNECT



Rylee Whitney



Eastern Oregon
University
Business
Administration

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**EAGLE TELEPHONE
SYSTEM**

Sophia Hauer



University of
Portland
Nursing

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BUSINESS SERVICES**

Bree Roane



Linfield University
Pre-Med

Sponsored by
**RELIANCE
CONNECTS**

Diana Coleman Award Winner

Dylan Gralapp
Minnesota
State University
Chemistry

Sponsored by **CHR Solutions**



Elizabeth Young



Oregon Tech
Pre-Med

Sponsored by
SCTC

Things We Want to Mention

📣 Introducing the Network Operations Committee!

Introducing the new and improved Network Operations Committee! The former CO-IT Committee has voted to update its name to better reflect the members it serves and the evolving needs of today's broadband operations. Formerly known as the Central Office and IT Committee, the group will now be called the Network Operations Committee—a broader, more inclusive name that better represents service provider members whose work extends beyond the central office and into the full scope of modern network operations.

Save the date for the 2027 Network Operations Committee seminar! Join us at Best Western Agate Beach in Newport on January 28 & 29 for two days of networking and informational sessions! Right now, the committee is working on setting up presentations for Artificial Intelligence for Broadband Operations, Cyber Security for Small or Mid-Size Providers, Battery Plant & DC Power Systems, Network Resilience & Disaster Recovery and more! Seeing a specific challenge in your own operation? Reach out and let us know what you would like to hear!

📣 Oregon Broadband Office News

Are you keeping up with the latest from the Oregon Broadband Office? Make sure you are subscribed to their monthly e-blast news releases! Here are the most recent:

·OBO e-Blast 6.25.26 ·OBO News Release 7.8.26 ·OBO News Release 7.22.26

📣 Antitrust Notice

OBA members, representatives, and attendees are required to promptly inform the Board President of any concerns related to antitrust compliance. Given the complexity of antitrust law and policy—particularly within our highly regulated industry—all OBA members, representatives, and attendees are expected to assess whether any proposed action, activity, or discussion could potentially conflict with applicable laws.

In the event that improper topics arise, OBA members and representatives are advised to immediately discontinue participation in the discussion, seek legal counsel, or, if necessary, withdraw from the meeting altogether.

To obtain a complete copy of OBA's Antitrust Policy, please contact the office or visit our website.

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Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone

Rusti Lattin, **President-Elect**
Eagle Telephone Systems, Inc.

Brooke Wheeler, **Secretary-Treasurer**
Cascade Utilities dba Reliance Connects

Garrin Bott, **Director**
Rally Networks

James Byerley, **Director**
Pioneer Connect

Jessica Epley, **Director & Immediate Past Chair**
Zipty Fiber

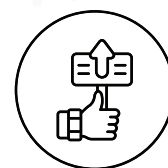
Geri Fraijo, **Director**
Monitor Telecom

Erik Hofer, **Director**
SCTC

Shaun Plummer, Associate Member **Director**
Core Telecom

Jared Wiener, **Director**
Lumen Technologies

Michael Wynschen, **Director**
Hunter Communications



Have exciting news or noteworthy updates about your organization?

We'd love to hear from you! Share your announcement with us, and we may feature it in an upcoming newsletter. Your stories help inspire and inform our community—so don't hesitate to reach out!

