



Hello Everyone:

I hope this message finds everyone well. It is hard to believe that we are into August. I am not sure where the summer has gone. Before we know it, we will be at year's end and into 2021.

So far, 2020 continues to be challenging for our profession on many fronts.

COVID remains prevalent with little relief in sight. Masks, no in-person schools, remote workforces, limits on gatherings, etc., all seem to be the norm. At times, it seems we are living in an episode of the "Twilight Zone."

Our law enforcement officers across the state continue to do their jobs with professionalism and dedication while working under a cloud of scrutiny and adversity. Civil unrest continues across our country and in some areas of our state, particularly in Portland. It is unheard of for law enforcement to endure 70+ days of protests, unlawful assembly and rioting. My heart goes out to Chief Lovell and Superintendent Hampton, their leadership teams and most importantly to the men and women from PPB and OSP on the ground in Portland. Their tolerance and professionalism in the face of adversity and politicizing has been incredible.

Many OACP members have been working hard to address legislative challenges over the past couple of months. We managed to have some influence on criminal justice-related bills in June's 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session that are now law. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session began and concluded Monday. Most police-related bills are held off until later this year, should there be an additional special session, or until 2021 for the next long session. We are hopeful some proposed bills will involve workgroups with OACP and OSSA participation.

As mentioned in Kevin's latest update, Monday's 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session saw just a couple of bills move forward that affect us. One was a budget-related bill that reduces some DPSST cash reserves, but not approved were significant reductions for DPSST sought by some legislators. Director Gabliks tells me that the 16 budgeted classes will remain intact. See Kevin's August 11 update for more specific details.

Also passing by a wide margin was HB 4301, which the Governor will sign into law shortly. As Kevin explained in his August 11 legislative update, this use of force bill modifies language on the "chokehold" previously codified into law, soon to provide exceptions when physical force is justified in certain circumstances under ORS 161.209 and 161.215.

The bill also updates and modernizes our use of force statutory language to align state law with federal case law such as *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985) and *Graham v. Conner* (1989). I want to give a big shout out to our workgroup made up of representatives from OACP, OSSA, OSP, DPSST, and DOJ. In particular, Rob Bovett, Elmer Dickens, Aaron Knott and Scott Willadsen brought tremendous expertise to the table in

constructing language that the legislature adopted. Adding to the success of this bill's passage is the constant, "behind the scenes" relationship work of Kevin Campbell. Absent Kevin's longstanding and well-respected reputation, I do not believe this bill, as written, would have been introduced or passed.

### **Board Meeting Update:**

Our Board of Directors met on August 6. A number of important issues were discussed and decided.

### **Membership:**

Co-Chairs, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Chief Matt Workman and Chief Jason Schermerhorn led the discussion on membership. The Board accepted a list of new members and authorized some changes to the membership status of some members. As you will recall, the Membership Committee and OACP administration have been working on a long-term project to align our membership roster consistent with requirements of our by-laws. That work is complete and as a result, the membership status of some members has changed, with some members no longer meeting the criteria for membership.

### **Conferences:**

Conference, Education & Training Committee Co-Chairs Chief Dave Rash and Chief Mitch Hicks gave a status update on the fall conference. The consensus of the Board is to cancel the fall conference for "in-person" attendance because of COVID-19 restrictions. We discussed the upside and downside to hosting a virtual conference and the consensus was not to pursue a virtual conference at this time. In lieu of a fall conference, the committee is exploring options for fee-based, menu-oriented "online" training for our members. Stay tuned, as there will be more to follow on this as the committee works through details.

### **Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA):**

New OAA Executive Director Scott Hayes gave the Board an update on OAA. Scott provided information so that agencies interested in becoming accredited can move forward with the process. Chief Denney Kelley and Chief Ken Rueben are leading an effort to find ways to mitigate the workload impact of the accreditation process on small agency Chiefs. Stay tuned for more info on this topic.

### **Budget:**

Secretary-Treasurer Chief Matt Scales with 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chief Chris Skinner gave an update on association financials. OACP is experiencing a revenue shortfall, primarily because of COVID-19 related cancellation of conferences. Historically, these conferences have been the lifeblood for association revenue through conference and vendor fees. Matt and Chris mapped out potential budget cuts, which coupled with using some contingency funds, should keep OACP financially buoyed through the next year. Some of the reductions under review are:

- Membership dues increase
- Charging fees for "online" training in lieu of the fall conference
- Reductions in expenditures related to awards and recognition, charitable organizations/events and scholarships.

Another item under exploration is providing members with options on the disposition of conference fees previously paid. Stay tuned for more info.

The Board agreed that these budget reductions could be restored upon the association's financial recovery.

The Board is united that there should be no reductions to OACP's administrative costs, keeping the Victory Group fully funded.

Because of the revenue challenges, the Board was unable to adopt an operating budget during the meeting. Matt and Chris, working with Kevin and Marie, will develop a recommended budget, incorporating reductions and adjustments, returning to the Board within 30 days with a budget for Board adoption via email vote.

As always, your Board of Directors and Executive Board exist to serve you, our members. We are available to you should you have any questions, comments or concerns. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Ferraris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Jim Ferraris  
OACP President