

FROM THE DESK OF OACP PRESIDENT JIM FERRARIS



I hope this message finds all of you well and healthy. It is hard to believe that we are now in the month of May! It seems like yesterday we were celebrating the holidays and now summer is almost upon us.

As an alternative to our annual conference, OACP has launched another virtual training series this week of May 11-14, 2021, the theme of which is titled "Journeying Through Challenges." This theme is very appropriate and on-point, particularly this year, which has been quite a tumultuous year. All of us have been dealing with a myriad of challenges: COVID and its associated issues, budget reductions from COVID revenue shortfalls and the "defund police" movement, social justice issues and police reform, an incredibly challenging legislative session that is still underway, and now the aftermath of the Chauvin conviction in Minneapolis.

On the legislative front, while we are not out of the woods quite yet, we have been able to stave off significant negative legislation with less severe impacts to law enforcement, through a series of actions involving relationship building and demonstrating to legislators the realities of policing. We have demonstrated that we as leaders can manage and lead our departments with integrity and legitimacy, and that the men and women working in the field are well trained and ethical professionals serving our communities in the practice of procedural justice and constitutional policing.

Let me thank those OACP members in advance who have joined me, our Executive Board, and our Board of Directors, along with Kevin Campbell, OSSA Executive Director Jason Myers, and OSSA President Sheriff Tim Svenson, for all your hard work in addressing legislative issues. Whether it meant contacting a legislator, providing testimony, serving on a workgroup or being part of our strategic response team, our membership has once again shown how committed we are to fulfilling the OACP mission.

One of the most enjoyable responsibilities as OACP President is recognizing members for outstanding work on behalf of OACP. This year, I am recognizing three members for their significant contributions to OACP. Those members are: Chief Dave Rash, Chief Mitch Hicks, and Chief Don Taylor.

As you all know, our last several "in-person" conferences were cancelled due to COVID restrictions. As Co-Chairs of the Conference & Training Committee, Chief Rash and Chief Hicks took the lead and collaborated with OACP staff and their committee members to develop and deliver training in a virtual environment. This was a "first" for OACP and the dedication and commitment demonstrated by Dave and Mitch is certainly worthy of recognition. I am honored to present Dave and Mitch the "President's Award" for their efforts to fulfill the mission of OACP.

Because of the cancellation of our annual conference, we were unable to hold an auction in the usual "in-person" fashion, the proceeds of which directly benefit Special Olympics Oregon, OACP's Scholarship Program, and the Parent-Aid Program. Without reservation, Chief Don Taylor stepped up and took the lead in developing and delivering a "virtual on-line" auction. Chief Taylor spent many hours, much of it on his own time, gathering donated items to be auctioned off for these worthy causes. Working with OACP staff, Chief Taylor planned out all relevant details, pushed out advertising about the auction items, and presided over the virtual auction event raising over \$7,500.00 to the benefit of the OACP and the programs they support. As such, I am honored to present Don with the "President's Award" for his efforts in fulfilling the OACP mission.

This is my final message to you as your OACP President. OACP will have a transition of leadership at the May 7 Board of Director's Meeting. My term is coming to an end and I will be passing the torch to our next President, Chief Matt Workman of Warrenton PD, as I move into the position of Immediate Past President. Each of the members of the Executive Board will move up in position and we will be installing a new Secretary/Treasurer upon a vote of the membership.

As you know, I retired from Woodburn PD March 1 and I committed to finishing out my term as President and serving the upcoming year as Immediate Past President. I plan to stay engaged in OACP. Many Chiefs have retired in the past year or so throughout our state. I hope that those Chiefs will join me in staying involved with OACP as we have so much collective experience, it would be sad to see that experience go by the wayside.

It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to serve as your OACP President. While I am proud of the many accomplishments of OACP over the past year, what I am most proud of is each of you who make up our membership. As a life member of OACP for the past 21 years, I cannot recall a year in which we faced so many critical challenges. Even when faced with the most daunting of issues, members of our association stepped up and joined together to work through the cards we were dealt, to find workable solutions, often with the alternative being much, much worse.

I cannot conclude this message without calling out the outstanding work of Kevin Campbell, Marie Campbell, Deanna Moore, and Anne Campbell at the OACP administrative office. They are a team of incredible people who do so many valuable things for the benefit of OACP. On behalf of our entire membership, please accept my thanks for a job well done!

Be safe and stay healthy...

Best regards,



OACP President Jim Ferraris