



Hello Friends:

I hope this note finds you all well and healthy. 2020 was such a challenging year; COVID, politics, the Oregon legislature, diminished resources, recruitment, and retention challenges, wildfires, etc., etc. Wasn't all the bad stuff supposed to end as we moved out of 2020 and into 2021? Much of it seems to have followed us into the New Year.

On the positive side, the COVID vaccine is starting to work its way into our profession and our communities. COVID-related restrictions on business, schools and the like are beginning to loosen, albeit ever so slightly. Hopefully, life will begin to gain some semblance of normalcy as this year progresses. I am keeping my fingers crossed that sometime this year we will be able to come together in person and see each other face to face at an OACP conference.

With COVID-related restrictions making in-person training and conferences nearly impossible, OACP has tried some different methods of training delivery over the past several months. We stuck our toe in the water with virtual training delivery. The most recent E.L.V.S. classes were last week. Please give the association your honest feedback and your overall impressions of this training. It will help us as we develop a future path on training.

On the challenging side, most recently, we have had to deal with weather. Last week's ice storm was the most significant weather event in 40 years. So many trees down, so much property damaged and so many Oregonians were and have been without power for days including our first responders. Portland General Electric and other power companies, many from across the Western US, have been working diligently to restore power across our state. Right alongside of the utility workers were first responders – police, fire, medical and 911 telecommunications personnel leaving their families and coming to work under trying circumstances to serve their communities.

Challenges continue – COVID is still with us. We are facing one of the most contentious legislative sessions in our history. Negative media coverage about law enforcement seems to outweigh the positive stories. Recruitment and retention of police personnel continues to confront Oregon law enforcement. Government budgets are feeling the impacts of COVID-related reductions and the “defund the police” movement which translates into reductions of service and personnel. Even so, OACP members across the state are stepping up, working with Kevin and the Executive Board in addressing legislative issues, contributing ideas, thoughts, and insight, along with providing written and “virtual” testimony. The OACP leadership team is grateful for the contributions of our membership, which is what makes OACP such a great organization.

Even when facing challenging times, we as a profession, persevere. We come to work, we do our jobs, we serve our communities. This is what makes me proud to have been part of the Oregon law enforcement profession, working with you across four Oregon police departments for nearly 43 years.

Now, that takes me to the next part of my next message. As many of you know, I am retiring from Woodburn PD effective March 1. It is time to step aside and let others take the reins. A wise mentor told me many years ago to retire at the top of the wave – not to wait too long or the wave may crash down upon you. That was sage advice. I feel good about leaving, like I am at the top of the wave. WPD is in a good place. We have good personnel and a good leadership team to move the department forward. It has been an absolute honor and privilege to represent you the past few years on the OACP Executive Board and for the past year as OACP President.

Some have asked what is next for me. My wife and I have moved to Central Oregon. However, I will still be around, finishing out my term as OACP President into April, followed by a year of service on the OACP Executive Board as the immediate past president. I plan to stay involved with OACP, particularly on legislative work. Additionally, I launched a consulting firm focused on serving government and law enforcement with a variety of management functions ([www.ferrarisinvestigations.com](http://www.ferrarisinvestigations.com)). Most recently, I accepted a part-time position as the Training Coordinator for the Oregon State Sheriffs Association (OSSA). Later in March, I will begin working with Jason Myers and his team, coordinating OSSA training for the 36 Sheriff's Offices across the state.

In closing, let me leave you with this thought...

The work of Oregon law enforcement continues to exemplify the positive notion of service to others through our chosen profession. The American professor of literature Joseph Campbell said it best: *"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."* These words so perfectly describe our cops, and you – our heroes. Thank you for what you do each day.

Be safe and stay healthy...

**Jim Ferraris**  
OACP President