

*From the desk of*



*Chief Matt Workman*

# OACP PRESIDENT

Greetings All OACP Members!

Wow! The past year has been a whirlwind for the OACP and law enforcement in general! We have faced one figurative tsunami after another and are seeing our profession change on a monthly, if not weekly, basis. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Chief Jim Ferraris (Ret.) for his unbelievable leadership through this tumultuous year! Pandemic, police reform, hostile legislative process, wildfires, more police reform, etc...and through it all, he was a rock as our OACP President. I could go on and on with more accolades for President Ferraris and the work he did, but I will repeat what I said at the mini banquet in Hood River on May 7, "If my OACP presidency is a fraction as good as yours, it will be considered a success." Thank you, Jim. It is an honor to serve with you on the Executive Board. Of course, Jim isn't done and will be our Past President for the next year and has agreed to continue being involved in the Legislative Committee as a co-chair.

I was so disappointed when our 2021 Annual Conference was changed from in-person to virtual. I really miss getting together with all of you and the benefits of the various conversations that only occur at an in-person event. Kudos to the Conference Committee and the OACP admin staff for their efforts to pull together the virtual conference so quickly and having such quality presentations. The Board meeting/mini banquet was great and a wonderful opportunity to see at least a few of you again. Besides me being confirmed as the new president, the rest of the Executive Board was confirmed as well - Chief Chris Skinner as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Chief Matt Scales as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Chief John Teague as Vice President At-Large. Also, please welcome Chief Mark Daniel as Secretary/Treasurer. As mentioned previously, Chief Jim Ferraris (Ret.) will serve as Past President. It is my honor to serve with you for the next year as we work together to support our great Association.

One of the themes or key discussion points at the Board Meeting and in President Ferraris' speech was the number of retirements and the exodus from people from law enforcement. Over the last year, we have seen so many of our OACP members retire and we wish them all well in their various endeavors. President Ferraris and I both asked for all of our retirees to stay involved with the Association or at least stay in touch. I remember in 2004 when I was first hired as the Chief in Vernonia, I was mentored by Dale Scobert, but I was also mentored by many other Association members. I still recall Retired Chief Les Youngbar introducing himself and having a conversation with me at an OACP event. Interactions like that are not only meaningful, but they impart valuable knowledge and experience from one generation to the next.

As we move forward, our individual organizations are changing by continually bringing in new chiefs, new second in commands, new supervisors, and new organizational leaders. Our Association must move forward as well by reaching out and bringing these same people into our amazing organization. Hopefully, most will already be a member as we continue to enhance our Association by having the leadership teams of all Oregon law enforcement organizations as OACP members. Look at your organization's leadership team and consider getting them an OACP membership.

During my short OACP Vision speech in Hood River, I mentioned two keywords: engagement and collaboration. I believe that both of these are essential for the OACP as we navigate the current rough seas and the rough seas ahead. Yes, I am always the optimist and look forward to the next year for our Association, but I am also a realist and know that we are still in a contentious legislative session and will most likely have another one to follow, and the pandemic is certainly not over yet. We have to be committed to engaging our communities, our officers and staff, and our partner organizations. With this engagement, we must also be committed to collaboration to continue to make Oregon a national leader in law enforcement/criminal justice, and the example for ethical standards and accountability.

Serving in the OACP can take many forms, but one of the most important, and that has the most direct impact, is serving on one of the various committees. I have reached out to all of the committee co-chairs to ask them to remain in that position. In some cases, we need to replace a co-chair, so you may be contacted to gauge your interest in that position. We will soon be sending out a solicitation explaining what the various committees do and asking everyone to indicate in what committees they have an interest in serving. Please sign up for at least a couple of committees as they are so important to the Association and the many things we want and need to accomplish.

In closing, I want to thank Kevin & Marie Campbell and the Victory Group for everything they do and the countless hours they put into making the OACP such an outstanding organization! We would not be where we are today, and the amazing association we are, without their efforts! Thank you to my other Executive Board members and the District Board members and I look forward to another great year in the OACP!

We are here to serve you, the members, so make sure you reach out at any time if you need anything or have questions.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathew Workman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "W".

Mathew Workman  
OACP President