



A publication of the  
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association  
PO Box 571  
Stayton, Oregon 97383  
[www.oraaggregate.com](http://www.oraaggregate.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
Erick Staley – Chairman  
Jerry Davidson- Vice Chairman  
Kellie Ramar - Secretary  
Mary McNatt – Treasurer  
Dan Kauffman  
Bill Ruchti  
Andrew Siegmund  
Jim Jefferies

## *Oregon Independent Aggregate Association*

# *Newsletter*

**February 2021**

---

### **Chairman's Message**

DOGAMI received strong support at a budget subcommittee hearing held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and hopefully will avoid being dismantled. The governor's proposed 2021-2023 budget, released in early December, called for splitting the agency along its component parts, including putting the mine-regulatory program into the Dept of Environmental Quality. There was a wide variety of testimony submitted, both written and oral, supporting DOGAMI's work in geologic hazards, resiliency planning, and involvement with the mining industry. The testimony was very one-sided – requesting to keep the agency intact. It would be hard for the governor's plan to continue in light of so much opposition to DOGAMI's dissolution; her office seemed to pull back on the proposal (<https://www.opb.org/article/2021/02/03/oregon-hazard-mapping-agency-gov-kate-brown/>). Still, the funding situation for DOGAMI is not yet determined and will be an important part of how the agency is managed in the future.

As many of you already know, we had to reschedule our Part 46 training this year due to venue limitations related to COVID. There are more details later in this newsletter. I want to give a shout out to OIAA Secretary, Kellie Ramar, for her management of what has been a very fluid situation for months. The most recent venue closures and changes came only a couple weeks ago, but she already has a new schedule at our familiar venues set up for June. Thank you so much, Kellie!

Thanks also to Josh and Adele at the Law Office of Adele Abrams for being flexible and helping us reschedule this important training.

Take care and be safe,

**Erick Staley**  
**Chairman**

## **Safety Topics:**



### **Annual Refresher Training Update for 2021**

Postponed to June 2021

As soon as the March 2020 classes were over the planning had begun for the 2021 classes. Little did we know what was about to happen. 2020 brought us the COVID-19 Pandemic. Schools closed, businesses closed, love ones were lost and our world as we knew it was turned upside down. We were all trying to get thru this the best way possible. As the end of 2020 approached our thoughts turned back to the 2021 training. With so many uncertainties and COVID cases not easing up the OIAA Board of Directors discussed ideas of how best to handle the situation. If allowed to have the training in person, how could we keep everyone safe? The venues and the instructors were contacted. No clear plans could be made due to the rising COVID cases and the heightened restrictions. We decided everything would still move forward but with uncertainty. Registration forms were processed but due to travel safety and restrictions our instructors were still on hold. Restrictions at both venues changed almost on a daily basis. They went from no indoor training allowed to a very limited amount then to the possibility of another shutdown. We considered trying to have the classes via online Zoom but this was not possible for all members. Finally on February 18<sup>th</sup> with very little options and COVID restrictions not easing up we were forced to postpone our training until June. Our priority is to keep our members and instructors safe but also compliance was an issue. Our instructors contacted MSHA to confirm that the postponement due to the State and Local COVID restrictions in Oregon was a possibility. MSHA replied back to the instructor's and that information has been passed on to the registered members.

With the vaccine being administered and COVID cases appearing headed in the right direction we are hopeful that our June in person classes will take place. New registration forms will be available in May. In the meantime let's all do our part to stay safe, follow the current guidelines and work to get back to some type of normalcy. The safety and the health of our members and instructors remains our first priority. The new class dates for Albany are June 21<sup>st</sup> and Roseburg June 22<sup>nd</sup> with a possible second class in Roseburg on the 23<sup>rd</sup> due to larger attendance at this location. We will keep you posted on any new developments.

Stay safe everyone and we hope to see all of you in June.

Kellie Ramar  
OIAA Secretary

## **Safepro MSHA Law Institute**

The 2021 June Safepro Law Institute will be held in downtown Savannah Ga at the Hilton Garden Inn. Downtown Savannah offers many things to do and great restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

Safepro Institute will give you the information and knowledge to not only comply with MSHA law but to combat citations with which you do not agree. The institute covers the 1977 Mine Health and Safety Act as amended by the 2006 Miner's Act and 30 CFR standards. We will go into detail about Your company's responsibilities under the law and operator entitlements and inspector's responsibilities pertaining to the law. We will review what constitutes a S&S citation and 104d1 citation. You will be given a law manual which includes the two parts of the law and MSHA program policies. We will review a number of actual citations that have been issued over the years and how to defend against bad paper using the law manual. The seminar will cover part 46 training requirements and part 50 reporting requirements. By attending our institute, you will have the knowledge and confidence to handle the "imminent" MSHA inspection. Have your game plan and your people ready; remember your house must be in order to keep the government from controlling your business.

This institute represents the best way to bring your new people up to speed and refresh your supervisors, managers and lead people.

Spouses are welcome if your company allows you to bring them.

The Safepro hospitality room will be open Sunday night and every night after class with food and drinks along with a chance to talk with your instructors about any problems you and your company may face. To register go to [safeproinc.com](http://safeproinc.com).

We only have **twelve** spots open for the 2021 June Law class. If you have anyone that needs to come sign up early.

Yours in Safe Production,

Dean

**For the future of our association we are vigilantly looking for new board members.  
If you are interested please contact any OIAA Board Member or Officer.**

### ***2021 Board of Directors***

Erick Staley – Chairman  
Jerry Davidson – Vice Chairman  
Mary McNatt- Treasurer  
Kellie Ramar – Secretary  
Bill Ruchti  
Andrew Siegmund  
Jim Jeffries  
Dan Kauffman

Currently there are no meetings scheduled.

[memberreply@oraggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oraggregate.com)

## **Stay Safe, Stay Healthy**