



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association

Newsletter

November 2021

Our Association is at a Crossroads and we need your input

Dear Members,

November 16, 2021

OIAA needs your help. Most of the Board of Directors – some of whom are the original founders – will need to step down in 2022, leaving the association at a critical juncture. Without a Board to run the organization, OIAA will cease to be, including the annual MSHA training sessions so many of you attend. But besides the annual training, there is much more we all enjoy through OIAA:

- A group of peers and professionals who can offer insight and shared experience;
- A source of unity and strength for independent operators;
- A platform to provide important news and developments in the industry;
- Associate members with expertise to help operators navigate difficult permits, compliance, and negotiations;
- Other training opportunities to help you run your business and understand its complex relationship with overseeing agencies.

The frustrations leading to the association's formation in 2008 may seem to have subsided, but it would not take much to change things. While MSHA may be foremost in the minds of many members, recall that the governor nearly removed DOGAMI as an agency this year. With every change of administration, there is an opportunity for reinterpretation of regulations or introduction of new policies. That is when industry associations show their greatest value. But building OIAA took a lot of effort. It would be a shame to lose this association to atrophy.

The need for industry representation and advocacy is still important. The permitting and regulatory environment for mining will continue to become more complex. It takes associations like OIAA to communicate those changing rules to members so they can prepare themselves.

New, inspired leaders are needed to carry on the mission. As we look to the future of the industry and the organization, we welcome the opportunity for similarly inspired members to join the Board. Your ideas, perceptions, and experiences help us guide our activities for the betterment of all members.

I encourage you to please reach out to myself or any other Board member and volunteer to add your voice and experience to OIAA.

Sincerely,
Erick Staley
OIAA Executive Chairman

OIAA Members,

November 16, 2021

Government agencies work for you, a citizen of our country. Sometimes the interpretation of a rule becomes unclear or muddled. Sometimes enforcement of a rule becomes overly enthusiastic. Sometimes the agency which is taxed (literally) with applying regulations feels an inflated worth and loses sight of its original mission. Sometimes an inspector capriciously changes interpretation of rules between inspections. Sometimes agency employees exercise a personal vendetta that impacts the very right of an individual to operate their business. Sometimes Federal administrations change due to national elections, followed by directives which radically change the rules (some call it moving the goal posts).

Back in 2008, all of these things actually happened in the aggregate industry in Oregon.

Who was available to help owners and operators of aggregate operations? Nobody! There is another association which promotes the aggregate industry in Oregon, but the pleas for help from them fell on deaf ears. They are more of a policy and promotion group than one who is willing to stand up against the abuses that were rampant 13 years ago.

OIAA was formed in October 2008 to unite and represent the owners and operators of aggregate operations throughout Oregon. Several of the original Directors of that Board remain active in the association today. However, speaking strictly for myself, I'm getting old, and I want to pass the torch to someone who will continue to uphold the mission we began several years ago. We were able to defend our members and to work with the regulators to reduce tensions and promote good practices that benefitted everyone.

History has a way of repeating itself. It would be a shame if we in the mining business take our eyes off the ball and allow past troubled times to return. When things are going fairly smoothly it is easy to become complacent. Please don't let that happen now. OIAA is at a crossroads. We continue to provide annual refresher training and support members with solutions to problems that arise. To continue helping our industry we need new members to step up and keep our membership informed. The Directors meet 4 times per year; sometimes in person, sometimes virtually. We listen to our membership 365 days per year and help when asked. Will you be the person to step up and give back to your industry advocate?

Best regards,

Mary McNatt
Owner and Founder: Davis Creek Rock Quarry
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association past Chair & Current Treasurer
Board of Directors 2008-Current

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

Our next meeting will be February 2, 2022. It will be done via teleconference if you would like to join in please contact Erick Staley.

Board member applications are available and ready to be sent out. Please email memberreply@oraggregate.com.

We need your help to keep the association going

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy