



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

Oregon Independent Aggregate Association

Newsletter

December 2020

Chairman's Message

Happy Holidays everyone! As we all take a collective breath and hopefully some quality time with family and friends, it is important to reflect on the past year and build some optimism for the year to come. We have endured a very strange and frustrating year. We had to make changes, big and small, to our daily lives. Unfortunately, some people have experienced real tragedy, and our thoughts go out to them.

While you may need a profound sense of humor and a stiff drink at times to cope this year, most of us still have our health, homes, and security. There were good things and good people that helped us get through the struggles. We can look back at 2020 and realize that for most, normal life was affected but still intact. And overall, the aggregate industry is still strong and as necessary to our society as ever. We can look forward to better times when vaccines, perspective, and camaraderie enable us to get back to it.

Hope you all have a safe and happy New Year,

Erick Staley
Chairman/President

Reflecting Back on the Beginning of our Association 12 Years Ago

By Jerry Davidson – Vice President and Mary Mcnatt – Treasurer/Past President

I attended a meeting of very unhappy quarry operators and owners in 2008 in Eugene, Oregon. Out of that meeting came the Oregon Independent Aggregate Association (OIAA) to address the oppressive governmental agency known as MSHA. That day at the urging of a friend I joined in with several people to form the board of directors for the fledgling group. OIAA brought many small independent crushed rock producers together in Oregon. We made big strides in our early years in overcoming some conflicts with MSHA, organizing and sponsoring meetings pertaining

to the safety of miners. I personally have enjoyed every minute, made many new friends and gained some very valuable work related contracts. I have served in various officer positions since 2008.

We as an organization need some young blood with some new ideas and visions to step into board positions to keep this very important organization going.

Jerry Davidson

On a Fall day in 2008, more than a hundred miners, mine owners and operators and timber company managers met in Eugene, Oregon, to discuss the state of mining in Oregon. All agreed that certain injustices needed to be addressed. The result was that a state wide association was proposed. Within weeks a Board of Directors was formed, by-laws were written and paperwork was filed that formed the Oregon Independent Aggregate Association (OIAA).

Many of those founders remain on the Board of Directors today and the majority of our founders are still involved in OIAA as members and advisors. It was my honor to be elected the first President of the organization, a position I held through 2015. Currently I am still on the Board and fill the job of Treasurer. Friendships formed within this organization will last a lifetime.

One of our early achievements was to have the Western District Manager of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) travel to Oregon to meet with our association. Another official who traveled to Oregon to meet with us was the Acting Head of MSHA who traveled all the way from headquarters in Washington, DC. Although he had a background in coal mines, he had never been in an open air mine such as we have in Oregon until he visited a site owned by one of our founding members. Sadly, this is typical of people who have risen to positions of authority in the mining regulatory agencies; their experience is based on underground mining, such as coal, which is vastly different than quarry mining. Legislators who create the regulations for all mining rely on the expertise of those hired to work in government when formulating the laws regulating both underground and above ground mining. When these “one size fits all” regulations are applied to different types of mining it can result in standards and procedures which do not recognize the unique nature of different types of mining. . When these inconsistencies are appealed to the enforcement agency, the agency basically says they cannot change the rules; only the legislators can change the rules. The legislators’ position is, basically, that without direction from the regulatory agency, the laws cannot be adapted to fit different types of mining. It is like a teenager asking Mom for permission to go out and she says to go ask your Father who says, “I don’t know; go ask your Mother”.

Our association represents approximately 50 independently owned businesses. All of these are “Mom and Pop” businesses who employ a small enough number of employees that, related or not, are considered family. We want all of our people to be safe and to make a good living. Rock is an essential commodity used by every person every day. If you attend a church or visit the library or grocery store, if you swim in the local pool, if you drive a car, ride a bike or a bus, you are using rock products. This vital industry must be allowed to continue. Associations like ours fill a need for encouraging the industry, individuals and government to work together for the benefit of all.

Mary McNatt

2021 – Officers

January is typically the month that we welcome in the new officers for the year. This year our 2020 officers have graciously decided to remain in office through March to allow a longer period for board member applications and officer nominations. Please if you are interested in becoming a board member and or officer please contact any board member. We welcome new thoughts and ideas to keep our association going and growing.

Safety Topics:



Annual Refresher Training Update for 2021

Normally this time of year we would be gearing up to send out registration forms and get the venues finalized. With COVID-19 restrictions we are not sure how everything is going to work out in 2021. I will be in contact with both the instructors and the venues throughout January to see how things are looking. As soon as I have information I will post in the newsletter and also send out an email to all members. We have secured the dates just not sure what the status of the venues will be. The tentative dates are Albany- March 9, 2021 and Roseburg- March 10, 2021. Please watch your emails for updates.

Thank you
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.

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

If anyone has any information they would like to share in next month's newsletter please let me know. Send your information to me at memberreply@oraggregate.com

We are currently looking for board members. If you are interested please contact the secretary for an application.

2020 Board of Directors

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**Our next virtual board meeting will be held on February 17, 2021 at 9AM.
If you are interested in attending please contact our Chairman Erick Staley.**

memberreply@oraggregate.com

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

