

# OREGON INDEPENDENT AGGREGATE ASSOCIATION

– Industry News – Updates – Events –

## February 2026 Newsletter

### Board of Directors:

Chair – Erwin Hackett

Vice Chair – Bill Leavens

Secretary/Treasurer – Melissa Bronson

Board Member – Erick Staley

Board Member – Andrew Siegmund

Board Member – Bill Ruchti



### Chairman Message:

Oregon Independent Aggregates is committed to supporting the education and professional development of those pursuing careers in mining and related industries. We recognize that the strength of our field depends on cultivating knowledgeable, safety-minded, and technically skilled individuals, and we take pride in helping build that foundation. This commitment is especially meaningful when it supports the families and loved ones of our members, whose contributions continue to shape our industry. With that, we've had the privilege of awarding this scholarship to a remarkable young woman before, and we are pleased to support her education once again. Please take a moment to read Kiran's thank-you letter to the organization and to all our members whose generosity makes this scholarship possible.



Dear OIAA Board of Directors,

I wish to thank you for accepting me as a recipient of one of your 2025 scholarships. I have been passionate about geology from a young age, and that spark has guided and continues to guide me through my education. I am now a senior at OSU and look forward to entering the workforce in the field of geology. I intend to contribute to the professional community in any way that I can, and educate the public and my peers on the value of geology to our understanding of the world around us and society as a whole. Thank you for your generous contribution towards my education so that I may continue to learn and pursue this passion.

Sincerely,

-Kiran Staley

## MSHA Part 46 Training:

---

### Albany:

- 📍 **Location:** Linn County Fair & Expo
- 🕒 **Date & Time:** Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

### Roseburg:

- 📍 **Location:** Douglas County Fairgrounds
- 🕒 **Date & Time:** Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM



The Board of Directors has chosen to take a new approach to delivering the MSHA Part 46 training content. We've partnered with MSHA Safety Services to provide this year's refresher training, and we're excited to bring this experience to our members. Please feel free to share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested in attending—members and non-members alike.

## Meet Eddie Oliva with MSHA Safety Services, Inc.



Eddie Oliva, MSHA Trainer

MSHA Safety Services Inc. provides practical, MSHA-compliant training and safety support for the mining, aggregates, dredging, and industrial minerals industries. Our programs focus on real-world application of MSHA standards, current enforcement trends, and meaningful hazard recognition—helping miners, supervisors, and managers move beyond compliance and strengthen day-to-day safety performance.

We are excited to introduce Eddie Oliva, Western Regional Safety and Health Director, as your MSHA trainer. Eddie brings a fresh, engaging instructional approach rooted in field experience and a strong understanding of MSHA regulations. His training emphasizes interaction, clear regulatory interpretation, and practical solutions that connect MSHA standards to actual mine site conditions.

Please see the MSHA Part 46 Training form attached at the end of this newsletter. You can complete it electronically using Adobe Acrobat or print it and fill it out by hand. Once finished, please submit the completed form to [melissa.bronson@kniferiver.com](mailto:melissa.bronson@kniferiver.com)

## General Information:

---



We truly value and encourage active participation from all our members. You're invited to attend our meetings anytime. If you'd like to get more involved, share ideas for improving our association, or learn about upcoming meetings, please feel free to reach out to any of our board members.

### Join the Board!

With two of our founding directors retiring, we're opening the door for fresh energy and new voices—and we'd love to have you be part of it. We're actively looking to add members to our Board of Directors, and this is a great time to get involved. If you're curious, interested, or even just thinking about it, reach out to any board member or join us at our next meeting to explore the opportunity. We'd be excited to welcome you to the conversation.

### Next Meeting:

📍 **Location:** IMA (KPD) Office – Conference Room, Springfield, OR

🕒 **Date & Time:** April 8, 2026 @ 10 AM

### Article Content:

We're always looking for great content to feature in our newsletter. If you have an article, safety tip, or any information you believe would benefit or interest our members, we'd love to include it. Please submit your materials to: [melissa.bronson@kniferiver.com](mailto:melissa.bronson@kniferiver.com) or [erwinh@rfpco.com](mailto:erwinh@rfpco.com)

### Newsletter Changes:

We're excited to continue building community within the Oregon Independent Aggregate Association, and one great way to do that is through our Member Spotlight feature. We invite current members to submit a short spotlight showcasing their business—whether that's a quick Q&A, a fun fact about your operation, highlights of unique projects, or non-sensitive photos of your quarry, equipment, or crew. Including a brief blurb about your company helps us share your story while giving you a little extra marketing visibility. If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming edition, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit our website at [www.oraggregate.com](http://www.oraggregate.com)

# Member Spotlight:

## NORTHWEST ENERGETIC SERVICES

Northwest Energetic Services (NES) provides explosives and blasting services in the Pacific Northwest and has recently opened a new site in western Oregon. NES is a partner of Orica, a global leader in explosive manufacturing. Specializing in quarry blasting and road construction for the timber industry, NES brings a proven track record to western Oregon. Whether it's optimizing a blast pattern for an aggregate quarry or cutting access roads through Oregon's dense timberlands, NES has the experience, equipment, and technical knowledge to get the job done safely and efficiently.

For Oregon's aggregate operators, NES represents a valuable local resource - a contractor who understands the unique geological and operational challenges of working in the Pacific Northwest.

NES joined OIAA because they believe in the association's mission: supporting Oregon's independent aggregate industry through regulatory advocacy, compliance education, and the promotion of a free enterprise environment. They're not just here to do business; they're here to be a partner in the long-term success of Oregon's aggregate community.



Figure 1: NES Blast in Willamette Valley in November of 2025



Figure 2: NES Blast in Willamette Valley in October of 2025