



2nd Quarter 2016 Edition

## Board of Directors

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## Legislative Issues

*Even though it is summer the OTA continues to meet with individual legislators and candidates.*

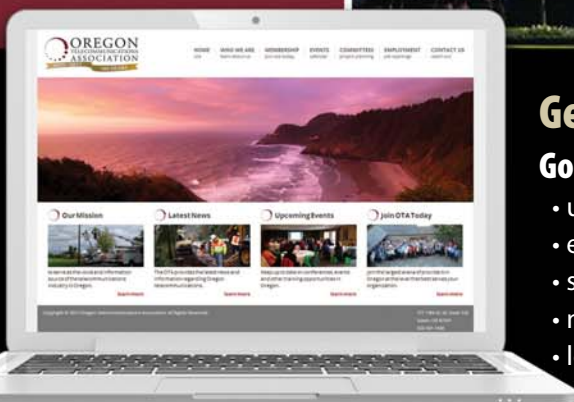
We plan on introducing two separate measures for consideration in 2017. While we have discussed them at our Legislative Committee and Board meetings here is a very brief summary:

The first is a bill to allow the Oregon PUC to consider whether or not the Oregon Universal Service Fund can be used to support broadband networks. The second, a bill to allow a carrier to abandon Carrier Of Last Resort (COLR) obligations in areas where it does not receive universal service support.

You might remember that a couple of years ago we petitioned the PUC to allow Oregon USF to be used to support broadband infrastructure. The Oregon Department of Justice advised them they did not have the authority to do so and our first bill, if passed, would give them that authority.

The second bill, while perhaps more difficult for some legislators to get behind, is still a legitimate issue to bring up for consideration. With many of the support mechanisms that exist to help meet

**Continued, See LEGISLATIVE**



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**Go to [www.ota-telecom.org](http://www.ota-telecom.org)**

- up-to-date industry news
- event calendar
- seminar information
- member directory
- legislative updates

**Show off your stuff...**

Are you a new member? Would you like your fellow OTA members to notice your company and products? If so, this quarterly online newsletter is a great way to be seen and make new contacts!

**Contact the OTA office today!**

**503.581.7430**

## LEGISLATIVE, continued...

the COLR obligation either gone, quickly disappearing or under constant threat, it seems only fitting that elected policy makers fully understand the effects of no or reduced support.

We are meeting with folks over the summer to explain the rationale behind both of our proposed measures as well as introducing (or re-introducing) ourselves to elected individuals. Even though Oregon does not have term limits the turn over at the Capitol is pretty healthy.

This election cycle there will be three Senators not running for re-election. Meantime, there are nine Democrats and four Republicans not running for re-election to their House seats. That's a lot of new faces to get in front of and explain who we are and what we do for their constituents out in their districts.

We also have a really healthy Political Action Committee (PAC) this election cycle. It is very gratifying to have members who support our PAC with their contributions. We had funds left over from the previous cycle and combined with our new contributions we are able to support old friends and make new friends. We target support to those who represent our members, relevant Committee members and people in leadership positions. We also support a few legislators representing urban areas. It is important to have legislators from urban areas know about our issues and why rural telecommunications issues are just as important to their constituents as they are to rural Oregon.

# OTA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR



## AUGUST 2016

- 23 *OTA Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting*  
Tuesday – 10:00 a.m., OTA office building;  
Conference Rm A – Salem
- 24 *OTA Outside Plant Committee Meeting*  
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m., OTA office building;  
Conference Rm A – Salem

## SEPTEMBER 2016

- 7 *OTA CO-IT Pre-Seminar Committee Meeting*  
Wednesday - 6:00 p.m., Parlor Suite at the Best Western  
Agate Beach Inn - Newport
- 15 *OTA Accounting Committee Meeting*  
Thursday - 9:30 a.m., Consolidated Business Services  
- Mt. Angel
- 20 *OTA Small Company and Board of Directors Meeting*  
Tuesday - 10:30 a.m. - John Day (location TBA)

## OCTOBER 2016

- 12 *OTA Pre-Seminar Accounting Committee Meeting*  
Wednesday - 6:00 p.m., Parlor Suite at the Best Western  
Agate Beach Inn - Newport



# IMAGINE THAT!

## 2016 Calix User Group Conference

October 22 - 25 Wynn Las Vegas

[www.calix.com/usergroup](http://www.calix.com/usergroup)



Have you registered for the Calix User Group Conference, October 22-25 in Las Vegas? Join the hundreds of service providers, consulting engineers, sponsors, and Calix experts for the industry's leading educational event with four days filled with keynotes, training and breakout sessions, and fun! For more information: [www.calix.com/usergroup](http://www.calix.com/usergroup).

# 2016 Outside Plant Seminar....

returned to the Best Western Agate Beach Inn located on the beautiful Oregon Coast in Newport for their annual conference. We had very good attendance and great support from our vendors!

This year we added something new to our program — “Vendor Quick Topics.” We offered our exhibiting vendors an opportunity to get up in front of the attendees to give a brief 5 minute presentation on a new product or service that they would like to introduce or make known. Our intent with the quick topics was to draw more attendees to visit the exhibit booths. These presentations were slotted before each of the main sessions throughout the first day of the program, a total of five presentations in all, offered on a first come, first serve basis. Since this addition to the program was so well received by both the attendees and the vendors, we are offering this at the upcoming CO-IT Seminar in September as well. If you want to take advantage of this “extra spotlight,” just contact Susan at the OTA office.

The seminar began with a return visit from **Chris Robertson of Three Wolves Consulting**. Chris has joined us in the past, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience so we were excited to have him join us again. Chris’s presentation “Methods of Testing Bonded and Vectored ADSL 2+ and VDSL2 Circuits” covered methods for testing Copper Facilities during the I&M process of Bonded and Vectored circuits as well as the data provided by XDSL Test Sets. He also included a conversation on SNR Per Tone, Attenuation Per Tone and Noise Per Tone.

**Buck Spears of S & S Solutions, LLC** talked about the causes and effects of not characterizing your fiber in his session “Fiber Characterization.” **Chris Fikert, Cambium Networks** presented “Residential WiFi: Deployment Do’s and Don’t’s.” Chris reviewed proper methods of deployment and tricks of the trade for WiFi hotspots, both in the home or outside venues.

Another return performance was given by **Tom McGowan of CenturyLink** with his “Got Conduit?” Being there is a lot of focus to comply with aerial aspects of the Oregon Administrative Rules 860-028 and 860-24-0011, Tom covered key components of these rules as they relate to conduit, which not only educated, but stimulated a lively discussion amongst attendees as to the practical aspects of conduit network stewardship and capacity management. Tom’s passion for his work is fully apparent and we always enjoy him sharing his many experiences.

**Alan Pritchard of Positron Access Solutions** did a presentation on “Leveraging Your Copper – DSL Extension, Bonded Pairs and Ethernet over Copper (EoC).” Alan talked about how fiber is everywhere but still plenty of copper in the ground. He shared how with improving technology, service providers can leverage their existing copper plant and provide increased bandwidth without having to make large investments on fiber and construction, especially for those hard to reach or sparsely populated locations.

**Brant Wolf, EVP of the OTA and Jim Rennard, Division Manager at GVNW Consulting** teamed up to discuss the legislative and regulatory issues facing the industry, covering proceedings in both Oregon and Washington, D.C., associated with USF support that could have major implications for our members.

Closing out the conference with “Why Roll a Truck?? — Manage/Troubleshoot your WiFi Devices Remotely with TR-069” was **Patrick Maloney, Senior Sales Engineer with SmartRG**. Patrick covered a brief history and the basics of TR-069. With live demonstrations, he discussed motivations for deploying TR-069 management solutions along with real world examples of enhanced customer support, “zero touch” CPE provisioning and pre-emptive access network troubleshooting.

**The 2016 Outside Plant Employee of the Year Award was presented to Don Adamson of Cascade Utilities, Inc./Reliance Connects**. It appeared to come as a bit of a surprise to Don, which is always fun when we can keep a secret to the very end!



Left to right, Scott Crosby, OSP Manager – Cascade Utilities /Reliance Connects; Don Adamson, Cascade Utilities / Reliance Connects; and Brad Madison, Field Operations Manager, Canby Telcom and OTA OSP Committee Chair

Don has dedicated his life work to the telecom industry. His career with Cascade Utilities began some 35 years ago as an OSP lineman/construction worker. His work ethic and leadership qualities allowed him to advance from working in the trenches to managing one of Cascade’s larger service areas. Don is one of those rare individuals that have been able to adapt to changes in our industry. Don takes the responsibility upon himself to search for the best tools and operating procedures with the end result of functioning more efficiently and effectively. Don is a great example of what the OTA represents; small-town customer service while using state-of-the-art technologies and having an unprecedented professionalism within his community. Don has served on the OTA OSP committee for 10 years, serving as both Vice Chair in 2009 and Chair in 2010.

## Congratulations Don!!!

The OTA sincerely appreciates the continual strong support of our Associate Members. A huge thanks to our exhibitors at this year’s event:



# 2016 OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting

*Thank you to those that attended this year's conference.*

Motif Seattle was the venue for the event. The first day kicked off with the annual golf tournament which was held at Jefferson Park Golf Course. Those that didn't golf had a leisurely day taking in the sites & flavors of nearby Pike's Market and touring around the Emerald City. That evening festivities started off with a Welcome Reception with our exhibiting vendors and the raffle sponsored by the OTA Scholarship Foundation, then moving on to the Silent Auction, benefiting both the Oregon and Washington Scholarship Associations and an enjoyable buffet dinner.

Sessions began the next day with a report from the **FCC** with **Amy Bender** who discussed the recent FCC action relating to the federal Universal Service Fund, re-prescription and other important issues facing rural broadband carriers in this election year and beyond.



**Joe Robertson, CenturyLink's Senior Regional EH&S for WA and OR and Rick Anderson, 9-1-1 Supervisor for Stevens County, WA** discussed how telecoms can be ready to deal with natural disasters.

**Yasmin Narievala, Director of District Programs of Education SuperHighway**, a non-profit organization that focuses on upgrading internet access for every public school classroom in the country, shared stories from her team's work with local school districts and service providers from across the county as they work together to leverage E-rate rules to provide broadband access.



**Chris McMurtry, President of Aerial Inspection Resources** joined us to talk about the rules and regulations of Drone Technology, its continuing revolution and how it can be used in the utility industry.

**Continued, See JAM**

## Much appreciated sponsors of this year's annual conference included:

### Telecom Provider Members

#### Gold Sponsors

CenturyLink

#### Silver Sponsors

Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.  
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative

#### Bronze Sponsors

Cascade Utilities, Inc. / Reliance Connects

### Associate Members

#### Platinum Sponsors

AKT, LLP  
ClearView Security & Home Automation  
GVNW Consulting, Inc.

#### Gold Sponsors

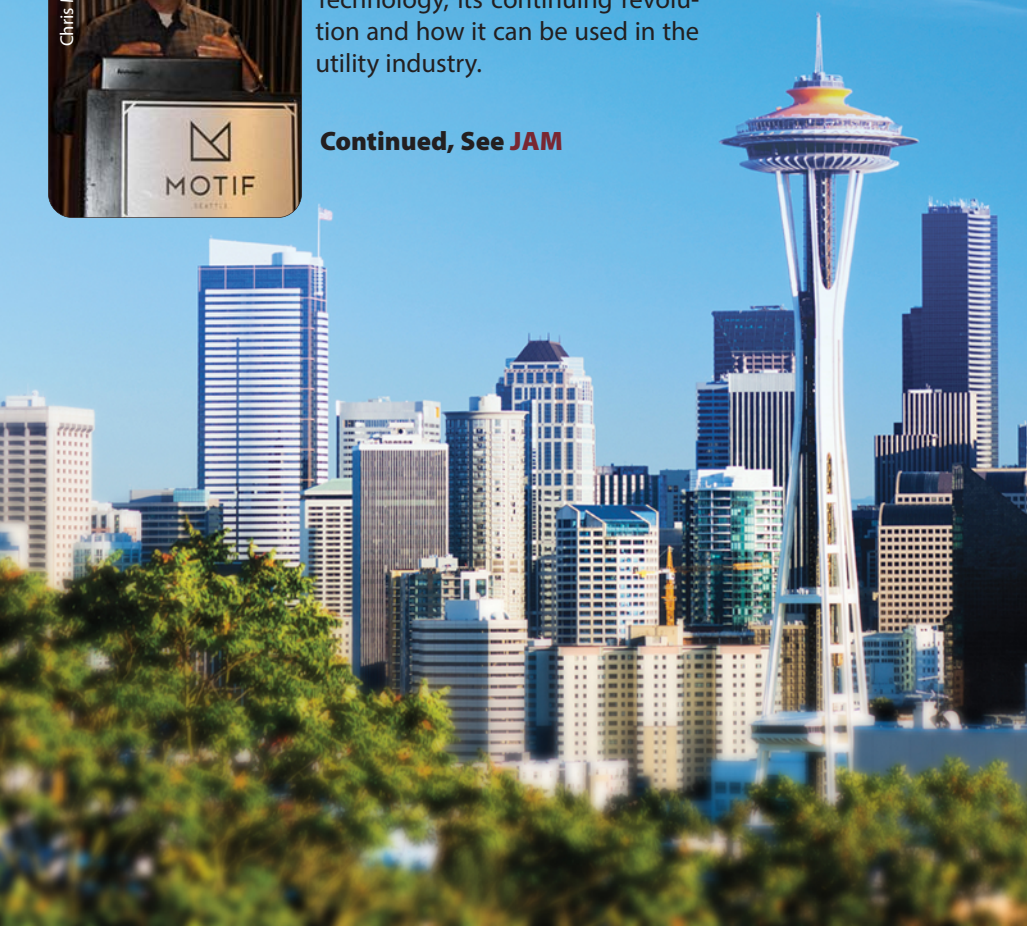
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Unitel Insurance  
ZyXEL Communications

#### Bronze Sponsors

Mapcom Systems  
Power & Tel  
Vantage Point Solutions





Patrick Moreno



Andrew Dickson



Todd Twete

**Vendor Breakout Sessions included:**

“Creating Bridges in the Modern Digital Home – Connecting Subscribers to the Provider Within the Last 2,000 ft.” – presented by **Patrick Moreno**, Product Marketing Manager for **ZyXEL Communications**. “Speed Kills...Especially if You Move Too Slow!” – presented by **Andrew Dickson**, Advanced Development Electrical Engineer for **Alpha Technologies, Ltd.**

“The Lifecycle of an Advanced Cyber Attack.” – presented by Structured Communication Systems with **Jason Gifford**, CISSP, Systems Engineer with **Fortinet**. “Special Circuit Management – Trends & Best Practices.” – presented by **Todd Twete**, Vice President of Sales for **KADENCE**.



The evening reception with our exhibiting vendors led into the Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony. The OTA presented a small token of appreciation and Honorary Member status to **John Hoffman**, President of **DataVision Cooperative (Gervais Telephone Company)**, thanking him for his strong support of the Oregon Telecommunications Association and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

**The OTA also recognized the following companies for their voluntary support with contributions to the Political Action Committee (PAC).**

- Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone
- Canby Telcom
- CenturyLink
- Clear Creek Communications
- COLTONTEL
- Eagle Telephone System, Inc.
- DataVision Cooperative
- Molalla Communications
- Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.
- Oregon Telephone Corporation
- Pioneer Telephone Cooperative
- Scio Mutual Telephone Association
- St. Paul Cooperative Telephone Association
- Stayton Cooperative Telephone

The OTA PAC is an important part of how we are able to get our story out to legislators and candidates for office.

**Continued, See JAM**

Top Left: Janet Hoefler (left) wins the Pendleton Blanket, presented by Roselle Potts (right), BCT during the raffle. Bottom Right: Marlene Muhs (COLTONTEL) congratulating Ken Stueve for winning the Traeger Grill in the raffle event



Ryan Travaile



Rodney Wood



Trevor Reynolds



Volodymyr Chornodolsky



Patrick Moreno and Bob McMillion

**JAM** continued

**The OTA was proud to acknowledge their Premier Associate Members who continue to demonstrate a high level of support to the OTA and the industry.**

- AKT, LLP
- Alpha Technologies, Ltd
- GWN Consulting, Inc.
- Moss Adams, LLP
- North Sky Communications
- PEAK Internet LLC
- PocketiNet Communications, Inc.



**President of the OTA Scholarship Foundation, Debbie Jewell (Canby Telcom/ Mt. Angel Telephone) announced the names of the recipients of the 2016 Scholarship Awards:**

- Sarah Cooley.....sponsored by Eagle Telephone System, Inc.
- Zachariah Cooley.....sponsored by Eagle Telephone System, Inc.
- Anna Crosswhite.....sponsored by Pivot Group, LLC
- Savanna Jaffe.....sponsored by Frontier Communications
- Jennifer McDougall.....sponsored by Eastern Oregon Telecom
- Victoria Niska.....sponsored by Frontier Communications
- Lily Olson.....sponsored by Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone
- Eliana O'Neill.....sponsored by Frontier Communications

**Receiving the Diana Coleman Memorial Scholarship Award:**

- Emily Mills.....sponsored by Monroe Telephone Co.



Mike Valentino

Howard Fuller



Robin Anderson



Left: Georgia Hanson receives prize for the only "Hole in One" at the Golf Tournament! Nice going Georgia!! Right: Georgia and the rest of her team accepting their prizes.



Kathy Rea



**JAM** continued

The next morning and the last day of sessions opened with a panel of industry professionals coming together for a discussion on Federal Issues Updates. **Eric Keber, WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband, Josh Seidemann, NTCA The Rural Broadband Association and Carol Brennan from NECA** talked about the many issues they are involved with on our behalf in Washington D. C., and shared their ideas on how this year’s election could impact the regulatory and legislative landscape.

Closing out the conference, nationally recognized speaker and humorist **Gary Zelesky** shared his insights and humor in his presentation of *“How to Handle Stress of a Continually Changing Industry,”* giving attendees a unique perspective on how to deal with change.

**Mark your calendars now  
for the  
2017 OTA-WITA  
Joint Annual Conference  
to be held  
June 5 – 7, 2017  
at the beautiful Skamania Lodge  
in the Columbia Gorge.**



Darren Dierbeck



Dave Manfredo



Dave Roussy



Gene Morisak



## Introducing CCI Systems, and all we have to offer.

CCI Systems is the nation's premier start-to-finish solutions provider of communication network services.

- We have **60 years of experience** delivering complex custom solutions for all network types.
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CCI partners with top industry suppliers and technology leaders, bringing you the advantage of fresh insight and state-of-the-art solutions that keep you ahead of the curve.

We closely collaborate with our partners to tailor SP Architecture solutions to fit the needs of Tier 2- 4 service providers. You can rely on CCI to develop a solution that will be compatible with your current network and provide you the practical, honest insight you expect.

CCI specializes in a variety of gear related to:

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- Optical Transport (SONET/DWDM)
- Video Headend and distribution
- Outside Plant Optical/RF Transport & Distribution
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- CPE (Cable Modems, eMTA, Gateways)
- Service Provider Wi-Fi
- Network Security
- Network Management
- Data Center

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We listen to and understand your situation, then give you an honest recommendation. We tell you what you need to hear and work hard to help you succeed- that's our speciality.

If you would like to learn more about CCI Systems, contact a team member today or visit us at [www.ccisystems.com](http://www.ccisystems.com).

### Your CCI Support Team

Ready to assist



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## OTA Fall Seminars



### Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar

September 8 – 9, 2016

Best Western Agate Beach Inn - 3019 North Coast Highway – Newport, Oregon

“IP Network Transition Considerations.” – Bob Gnapp, NECA

“Local Number Portability.” – Ken Snw, GVNW Consulting, Inc.

“AC vs. DC Power.” – Mark Benson, American Power Systems

“WiFi: Deployment Considerations and Best Practices.” – Chris Fikert, Cambium Networks

“Why we as citizens should be active in the Protection of our National Critical Infrastructure.” – Special Agent Christopher Bizanno, FBI and Ngoni Murandu, President of the Oregon Chapter of InfraGard

“Cascadia Earthquakes: The Road to Resilience.” – Yumei Wang, PE, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

“Oregon Legislative & Regulatory Updates.” – Brant Wolf, Oregon Telecommunications Association

### Accounting Seminar

October 13 – 14, 2016



Best Western Agate Beach Inn - 3019 North Coast Highway – Newport, Oregon

“Selecting the Proper Insurance Coverage.” – Shane Ideus, Unitel Insurance

“Retirement Planning.” – David Strom, AKT Wealth Advisors

“Plant Accounting --- Q&A” – FTTH, Reg/Non-Reg, Broadband.” – RJ DelMese, Moss Adams, LLP

“Reform, The Order & Other Changes.” – Panel Discussion moderated by Josh Bailey, AKT, LLP with Jim Rennard, GVNW Consulting and RJ DelMese, Moss Adams, LLP

“Excel Tips and Tricks.” – Chad Holzer, Moss Adams, LLP

“End User Taxes.” – Eric Votaw, Moss Adams, LLP

“Oregon Legislative & Regulatory Updates.” – Brant Wolf, OTA



### Consumer Services & Marketing Seminar



October 27, 2016

The Oregon Garden Resort – 879 W. Main Street – Silverton, Oregon

“Motivational Speaker.” – Brett Hollis

“Workplace Safety.” – John Posey – Corporate Security Services, Inc.

“How to Grow Your Business & Be More Competitive in Today’s Market.” – Bonnie Milletto – Motivational Speaker, Author, Consultant

“iPad Update from the PUC.” – Kevin Roebke – Oregon Public Utility Commission

“Tech Trends.” – Shaun McClure – SCTC



### Safety Seminar

November 16, 2016

Best Western Boulder Falls Inn – 505 Mullins Drive – Lebanon, Oregon



The OTA Safety Committee is working diligently to put together an informative one-day program to include the following topics: Dealing with Safety & Security Issues at the Customer Premise ♦ Cyber Security ♦ Emergency & Disaster Recovery Planning ♦ Federal Mandates for Employee Training on Active Shooters in the Workplace ♦ OSHA Training – Employers Responsibilities & Practical Use

Please plan to join us for these educational trainings and networking opportunities! Seminar brochures & registration materials will be distributed via e-mail & posted on the OTA website with on-line registration at [www.ota-telecom.org](http://www.ota-telecom.org).



## MBTC Details

The event will be held in Omaha, Nebraska

Session One – September 7-9

Session Two – September 12-14

Follow this link for more information and registration:

<http://www.maccmbtc.com/>

Questions can be directed to MACC's Creative Services Coordinator, Kristi Rounds, at 402-533-5184 or [krounds@maccnet.com](mailto:krounds@maccnet.com).

## Make plans to attend the 2016 MACC Billing and Technology Conference

The schedule is set for the 2016 Mid America Computer Corporation (MACC) Billing and Technology Conference (MBTC). MACC clients from across the country will have the opportunity to learn new skills related to our products and network with their telecom industry peers. Registration is available for those MACC clients who have not already done so.

### About MACC

In the last few years, more than two dozen telecommunication companies from across the United States have converted to MACC's BSS/OSS platform. Our products empower clients to reach new levels of efficiency through integration and process automation. MACC's products are supported by professional and dedicated customer care teams to ensure the outstanding service our clients deserve. For more information on how your company can begin enjoying the benefits of MACC, contact us at 1-800-622-2502 or visit [www.maccnet.com](http://www.maccnet.com).



The ITA Showcase Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the OTA-WITA Members for your continual strong support of the annual ITA Showcase event.

Because of your tremendous support again this year, we were able to present a \$3,500.00 check to each of the Associations to be directed to their individual scholarship foundations. This is the highest dollar amount to date that we were able to proudly give to these worthy programs. Historically to date since 2005 the overall total of funds donated to the Oregon and Washington Scholarship Foundations comes to \$35,000.00! Your support of the ITA Showcase has a great impact on this outcome and we want you to know that we truly appreciate you! Each year both the OTA and WITA Associations offer scholarships to employees and immediate family of their members to further their education in colleges, universities and trade schools. **So from the bottom of our hearts — thank you so very much for your ongoing support!**

### The ITA Showcase Board:

- Mark Johnson, President - North Sky Communications
- Diane Garcia, Vice President - Walker and Associates
- Deb Low, Secretary/Treasurer - Graphic Design Unlimited
- Jim Brett, Director - Graybar
- Gabe Chillous, Director - Nelson Truck Equipment
- Chris Dinwoodie, Director - Corning
- Sev Giles, Director - Techtel Marketing, Inc.
- Paul Nolan, Director - Calix

ITA Showcase President Mark Johnson presents checks to Betty Buckley (WITA Executive Director) and Brant Wolf (OTA Executive Vice President) at the 2016 OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting in May.



**We look forward to seeing you all again at the 2017 ITA Showcase March 8 – 9 (golf tournament on the 7th) at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel**

# OTA EVENT CALENDAR

## Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar

**September 8 – 9**

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, OR

*Registration deadline is August 26th.*

*To register, click here: [www.ota-telecom.org](http://www.ota-telecom.org)*

## Accounting Seminar

**October 13 – 14**

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, OR

*Conference brochure and on-line registration will be available soon!*

## Comprehensive Grounding & Protection of Communications Sites

**October 25**

OTA Office – Conference Room B – Salem, OR

*For more information & to register, please click here:*

*<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comprehensive-grounding-and-protection-of-communications-sites-salem-or-tickets-19261432463>*

## Consumer Services & Marketing Seminar

**October 27**

Oregon Garden Resort – Silverton, OR

*Conference brochure and on-line registration will be available soon!*

## Safety Seminar

**November 16**

Best Western Boulder Falls Inn – Lebanon, OR

*Conference brochure and on-line registration will be available soon!*

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# 2017

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## ITA Showcase

**March 8 – 9**

Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel – Portland, OR

## OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting

**June 5 – 7**

Skamania Lodge – Stevenson, WA

## Notification of OTA President of Any Antitrust Concerns

OTA members, representatives and attendees should promptly bring any antitrust concerns to the attention of OTA President. Because antitrust law and policy is legally complex (especially in view of the heavily regulated nature of the telecommunications industry), all OTA members, representatives and attendees are expected and instructed to seek promptly the advice of counsel for OTA in the event that there is any question as to whether any contemplated action, activity, proposal, or other course of action may be in conflict with applicable law.

OTA members, representatives and attendees should terminate any discussion, seek legal counsel's advice, or, if necessary, leave any meeting or discussion where improper subjects are being discussed and explain the reasons for departure to those still in attendance.

*For a copy of OTA's Antitrust Policy in its entirety, please contact the OTA office.*

## OTA Legal Counsel

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582 E. Washington Street

Stayton, OR 97383

503.769.7741

Fax: 503.769.2461

### Jennifer Niegel

[jennifer@staytonlaw.com](mailto:jennifer@staytonlaw.com)

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Fax: 360.587.3852

### Richard A. Finnigan

[rickfinn@localaccess.com](mailto:rickfinn@localaccess.com)



# New Members

*The OTA would like to welcome the following companies who have recently joined the association.*

*For contact info and links to their websites, just click on the web address or please visit the OTA website.*

## **New Associate Member:**

**NSFOCUS**

[www.nsfocusglobal.com](http://www.nsfocusglobal.com)



## **Need to contact the Oregon Telecommunications Association?**

### **Mailing Address:**

777 13th St. SE, Suite 120  
Salem, Oregon 97301-4038  
Telephone: 503.581.7430  
Fax: 503.581.7457

### **Brant D. Wolf, CAE**

Executive Vice President  
email: [bwolf@ota-telecom.org](mailto:bwolf@ota-telecom.org)

### **Susan E. Allen**

Office Manager/  
Members Services Coordinator  
email: [sallen@ota-telecom.org](mailto:sallen@ota-telecom.org)