



4th Quarter 2016 Edition

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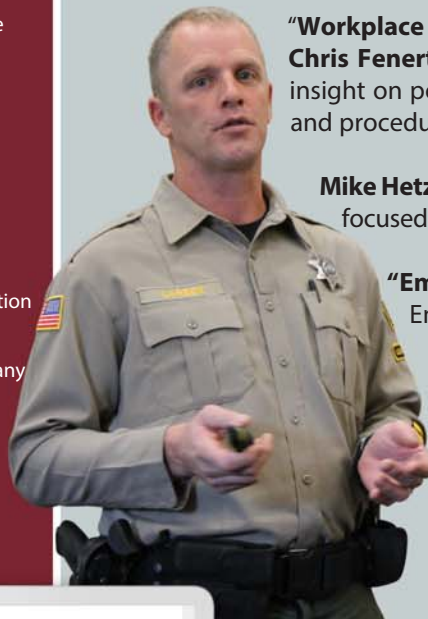
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2016 Safety Seminar Recap

The 2016 Safety Seminar took place on November 16th at the Best Western Boulder Falls Inn located in Lebanon, Oregon.

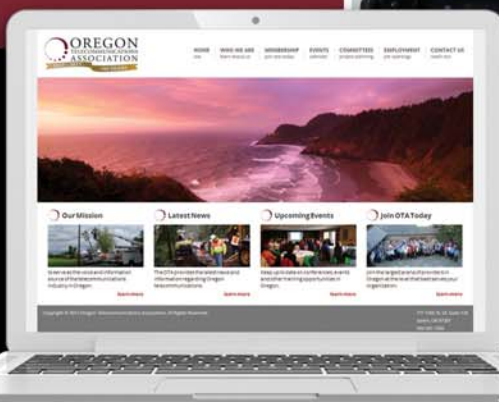


“Workplace Safety and Situational Awareness” was the topic for **Senior Deputy Chris Fenerty** of Linn County Sheriff’s Office. Senior Deputy Fenerty shared his insight on potential dangers and risks at jobsite locations while focusing on tools and procedures to minimize risk and deal with potential threats.

Mike Hetzel presented **“Are You Ready for a Data Breach?”** In this session, Mike focused on guiding attendees to better cyber security at their companies.

“Emergency and Disaster Recovery Planning.” – **Lt. Joe Larsen**, Emergency Services Coordinator with Linn County Sheriff’s Office teamed up with Vickie Myers, Linn County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program Manager to talk about what we can do to prepare ourselves for possible emergencies and the steps to take when facing recovery from a disaster.

Continued, See Safety



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- event calendar
- seminar information
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- legislative updates

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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!

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Safety Continued...

Chief Dusty Breen of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office joined us with a presentation on "**Active Shooters in the Workplace.**" Chief Breen shared his insights from undergoing specific training on this subject and discussed what we can do to protect ourselves and others when confronted with such a situation.



"**OSHA...Uggg.**" This session offered by **Craig Rapp, Owner, Utilicom Safety, LLC** discussed the latest rule changes and upcoming items to watch and how to determine the required training. He also covered important aspects of the 1910.268 Telecommunications rule and talked about "stepping up our safety game."

Mike Hetzel is presented award by (from left) Susan Allen, OTA and Robin Anderson, Telcom Insurance Group and OTA Safety Committee Vice Chair.

The 2017 Ray Hawkins Memorial Safety Employee of the Year Award was presented to **Mike Hetzel, Unitel Insurance.** He has served the independent telecommunications industry for many years attending to risk management and safety issues. Mike has always strived to successfully lower incident rates, promote worker and home safety and stood tall as an advocate for rural telecom. Mike is well known and respected for the unending concern that he puts forth in building relationships with those he serves. Mike continues to serve on the OTA Safety Committee for over 20 years!

Congratulations Mike and we earnestly thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, for this association and its members!



2016 Accounting Seminar

On October 13-14, 2016 the OTA Accounting Seminar took place once again at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn on the beautiful Oregon Coast in Newport.

Shane Ideus, Risk Consultant with **Unitel Insurance** started off the conference with **"Best Practices in Selecting the Proper Insurance Coverage."** Shane talked about the importance of selecting the proper coverage and limits of insurance in a risk management program. He provided a look at a peer analysis of what others are doing in their risk management programs as a baseline. He also covered the anatomy of a large loss that has happened in the industry recently and how the limits of insurance will impact the result of the loss.

Next on the program agenda was **David Strom**, QKA, QPA, Director at **AKT Retirement Plan Services** with a presentation on **"The Right Retirement Design."** David provided insight on how to attract and retain employees with retirement benefits. He also covered the benefits, flexibility and risks of 401(k) Plans vs Pension Plans and also discussed Cash Balance Pension Plans --- a new pension design with less employer risk than traditional pension plans.

RJ Del Mese, CPA, Communications & Media Group with **Moss Adams LLP** joined us to discuss **"Plant Accounting."** RJ talked about the mechanics of plant accounting, how it impacts the cost study, and what FTTH means to settlements and support. He also covered the importance of closing work orders in a timely manner and the potential impact on support. In closing, he offered a look at the fine line between the regulated and non-regulated components of various service offerings.

"Reform: The Order and Other Changes." **Josh Bailey**, **AKT LLP** acted as panel moderator to panel participants Jim Rennard, GVNW Consulting, Inc. and RJ Del Mese, Moss Adams. The panel discussed the significant implications for our company's future with the FCC Reform Order in full swing, covering expenditure limitations, analysis of your service territory's competitive overlap and the shift in support mechanisms --- both interstate and state.

Chad Holzer, CPA, Manager with **Moss Adams LLP** offered an interactive training session on **"Excel Tips and Tricks."** In this session attendees brought their own computers and Chad showed how to become more efficient on a day-to-day basis.

OTA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR



APRIL 2017

- 26 *Outside Plant Pre-Seminar Committee Meeting*
Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. - Best Western Agate Beach Inn; Hospitality Suite, Newport, OR

MAY 2017

- 9 *Scholarship Board of Directors Meeting*
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. - OTA Office; Conference Room A, Salem, OR

JUNE 2017

- 4 *OTA-WITA Scholarship Committees Pre-Auction Meeting*
Sunday at 4:30 p.m. - Skamania Lodge; Rainier Room
- 20 *Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting*
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. - DirectLink; in the River Room, Canby, OR
- 22 *CO-IT Committee Meeting*
Thursday at 10:00 a.m. - OTA Office; Conference Room A, Salem, OR

"End User Taxes and Surcharges" with **Tym Rutkowski**, Manager Telecom Industry Group at **Moss Adams LLP** focused on current end user taxes and surcharges, discussing rates that are in place. He provided a review of the most common charges that are applied to various types of services and common errors and omissions. He also discussed VoIP taxes, fees and surcharges as well as an update of the current charges for each of the various jurisdictions. Lastly, he discussed bundling options for services and ways to navigate the bundling and deregulated waters.

Brant Wolf, Executive Vice President with the **OTA** rounded out the conference with **"Oregon Legislative & Regulatory Updates."** Brant discussed how the OTA advocates for our members at the Capitol and at the Oregon PUC by focusing on a variety of issues in Oregon that the OTA has been working on this year.



2017 SEMINARS

FOR THE RURAL TELECOM INDUSTRY

COBANK
MOSS ADAMS LLP

October and November 2017 Luxor Hotel, Las Vegas, NV CPE credit available

The Moss Adams Telecom Seminar program delivers up-to-date information in a setting where open dialogue is encouraged between attendees and speakers. You'll learn from—and interact with—a carefully selected team of certified public accountants and telecommunications specialists who honed their credentials working with organizations like yours.

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Questions?

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Seminars Administrator
(509) 777-0123

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Consumer Services & Marketing Seminar Recap

For the 2016 Consumer Services & Marketing Seminar, we changed things up a bit. The committee decided to do a one-day event instead of the longer format and it was a great success!

The conference was held at the beautiful Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton.

Brett Hollis, Speaker, Story Teller & Comedian set the tone for the day with his presentation **"Going Through Change without Losing Your Mind."** Brett's session covered how to persevere through changes and times of uncertainty and even enjoy each season as it comes.

Motivational Speaker, Author & Consultant, Bonnie Milletto spent the whole day with us, offering three mini segments of 15 minutes each interspersed throughout the program covering **"Can You Hear Me?"** – highlighting the customer experience; **"Energy Running Low? Reach for the Bottle!"** – four powerful energy boosters in the workplace and **"Gratitude Will Save Your Life."** – Bonnie shared a short real life story. Bonnie's main session **"How to Grow Your Business and be More Competitive in Today's Market"** offered a fully packed hour of insights and strategies to help us succeed in business and in life.

Continued, See CSM

OTA EVENT CALENDAR

2017

Outside Plant Seminar

April 27 – 28

Best Western Agate Beach Inn– Newport, OR

NECU (National Electrical Code Update) Class

May 9

Monitor Telecom – Woodburn, OR

OR

May 10

Pioneer Telephone – Philomath, OR

NECA Training

May 16 - 17

OTA Office; Conference Room B – Salem, OR

OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting

June 5 – 7

Skamania Lodge – Stevenson, WA

Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar

September 7 - 8

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, OR

Consumer Services & Marketing Seminar

October 24

The Oregon Garden Resort– Silverton, OR

On November 17, 2016 the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce presented John T. Dillard with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 30+ years of service to the local community of Monroe.

Congratulations John!



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.

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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:

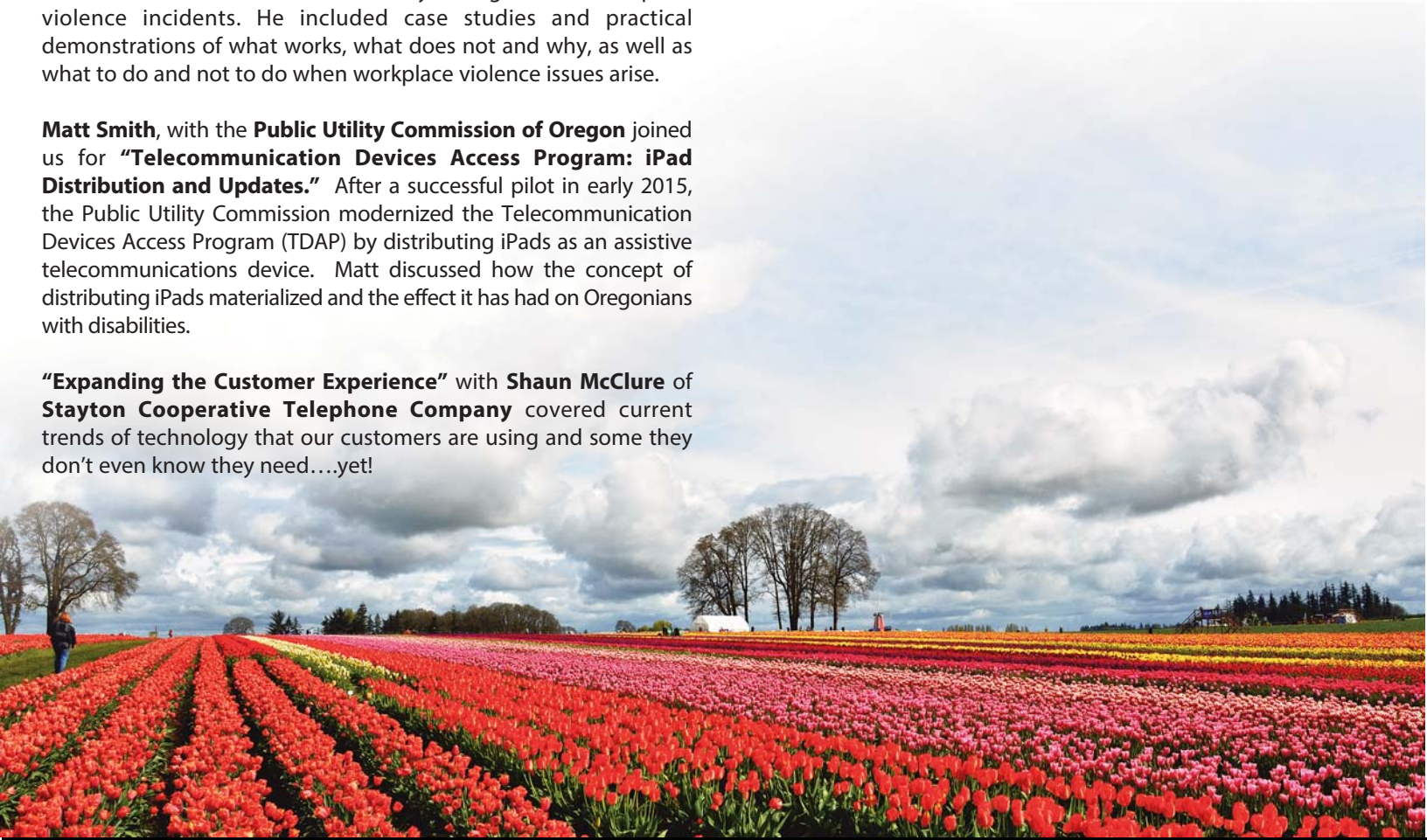
TouchTone Communications
www.touchtone.net

CSM Continued...

“Workplace Violence: What Managers, Supervisors and Employees Need to Know” was a presentation by **John Posey, President of Corporate Security Services, Inc.** John’s session focused on detailed information about why Workplace Violence occurs, how it can best be avoided, and best practices for reacting in the event an incident occurs. John discussed techniques and countermeasures needed to successfully manage real life workplace violence incidents. He included case studies and practical demonstrations of what works, what does not and why, as well as what to do and not to do when workplace violence issues arise.

Matt Smith, with the **Public Utility Commission of Oregon** joined us for **“Telecommunication Devices Access Program: iPad Distribution and Updates.”** After a successful pilot in early 2015, the Public Utility Commission modernized the Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) by distributing iPads as an assistive telecommunications device. Matt discussed how the concept of distributing iPads materialized and the effect it has had on Oregonians with disabilities.

“Expanding the Customer Experience” with **Shaun McClure** of **Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company** covered current trends of technology that our customers are using and some they don’t even know they need....yet!



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