CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

OREGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION
1915 - 2015   100 YEARS

1st/2nd Quarter 2018 Edition

Legislative Update

With a short legislative session and rulemakings as a result of the session, it has been a busy first part of the year.

OTA has been meeting with legislators and candidates as well in an effort to educate them about our priorities for the legislative session in 2019. Here is a brief re-cap of what we have been working on. As always, please just give me a call or send along an e-mail if you have any questions or concerns.

February Legislative Session – you might recall that when voters passed the ballot measure mandating legislative sessions each year, the short session in even numbered years was supposed to be dedicated to addressing fiscal emergencies and other pressing state business. Well, the fear that some folks had – that once in session all manner of issues would come up – certainly was realized this past February.

This was the most difficult session for us in many years. Two separate bills were signed into law over the objections of OTA and all other telecommunications industry groups. The first, House Bill 4155, dealt with net neutrality. Realizing that our members do not engage in the prohibited activity we only wanted to ensure that we could continue to provide service to state agencies. Oregon law now states that entities that do business with the State of Oregon are prohibited from traffic shaping, throttling, re-directing traffic, etc. OK, fine by us. The rulemaking at the OPUC has gone well and our members will be able to deal with this mandate without any undue burden.

The second bill, House Bill 4023, was much more troubling and is proving more difficult to deal with. Briefly, it allows the State of Oregon Chief Information Officer (OSCIO) to provide broadband service, defined as 25/3, to non-state entities such as schools and libraries if no broadband service is available to them. OTA's objection was and remains pretty simple: no state-owned facilities should be used to overbuild existing facilities and strand investment that our members have made.

Get informed 24/7/365

Go to 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

ITA Showcase 2018...

took place on March 7 – 8 at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel. The theme was "Reaching for the Cloud." 83 vendors participated. Educational seminars were offered continually throughout the two-day event.

This year, instead of kicking off the show with the traditional golf tournament, the showcase planners did a little thinking outside the box and decided to do an excursion to TopGolf Hillsboro on Tuesday, March 6. It was a successful event, so perhaps they'll do it again next year!

For those of you who may not be familiar with the ITA Showcase Northwest — this is an annual trade show put on by vendors to the telecommunications industry in Oregon and Washington. It is sponsored by the associate members of the Oregon Telecommunications Association (OTA) and the Washington Independent Telecommunications Association (WITA), for the benefit of the members of those associations as well as others in the telecommunications industry.

OTA would like to thank the ITA Showcase Board of Directors for their continual support of both associations —
we truly appreciate you all for the efforts you put forth in planning the annual ITA Showcase and for the monetary contributions
you make to the scholarship foundations each year.

ITA Showcase Board of Directors

Mark Johnson, President (North Sky Communications)

Diane Garcia, Vice President (NISC)

Deb Low, Secretary/Treasurer (Graphic Design Unlimited)

Jim Brett (Graybar Electric)

Gabe Chillous (Nelson Truck Equipment)

Chris Dinwoodie (Corning)

Sev Giles (Primex Manufacturing)

Paul Nolin (Calix)

◆ **Mark your calendars now to be sure to attend the 2019 ITA Showcase** ◆
March 6 – 7
(Wednesday & Thursday)
Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel – Portland, Oregon

Legislative Continued...

The bill also directed that a committee be created to write the rules for this law. OTA, CenturyLink and others are on the committee. While the telecommunications folks have gotten concessions and are making good progress, there remains aspects of the rules that are troubling. For example:

Our position is that the state should only consider providing service in unserved or truly underserved areas. Other parties disagree.

Our position is that having access to broadband and having access to affordable broadband is site specific and two very different things. In other words providing service in some areas is way more expensive in some areas than in some other areas. Other parties disagree.

You can see where this is going. OTA is working closely with our industry partners and in particular our friends in the cable industry to address these concerns. The rules are not going to be perfect but, I feel there will be language included that will make it mandatory that non-state entities have to provide proof that they contacted all local service providers and were told that no service was available at the specific location in question.

In addition to all that, we have been meeting with legislators to socialize our effort to ensure that the contributions to the Oregon Universal Service Fund are non-discriminatory and all providers contribute as our customers have contributed over the years. We are meeting with some good results and there is a real possibility that we might be successful in this effort. Meeting with Senators and Representatives in their districts is important and I really appreciate everyone who has been able to help out and meet with these elected officials. We will continue this effort until next year and just continue pressing our story.

Our legislation, which will be introduced in 2019, will eliminate the exemption from contributing to the fund that the wireless carriers have enjoyed since the Oregon USF program began. There are other elements to the legislation, such as creating a broadband grant program, that are making it easier for some folks to support the effort. While gaining support for a new fee is really difficult for some officials to get behind, we are making a solid effort and will simply continue to tell our story.

OTA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2018

19   CO-IT Pre-Seminar Committee Meeting
Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. – Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center – Florence, OR

25   Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. – Aldrich CPAs + Advisors; Conference Room – Salem, OR

25   Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting
Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. – DirectLink; The River Room – Canby, OR

28   OTA Board of Directors Meeting
Oregon Telephone Corporation - Baker City, OR

OCTOBER 2018

17   Outside Plant Committee Meeting
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. – OTA; Conference Rm A – Salem, OR

DECEMBER 2018

11   Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting
Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. – Reliance Connects – Estacada, OR

Registeration is open for MACC's 2018 Conference!

Mid America Computer Corporation (MACC) has scheduled their 2018 conference. At this event, MACC clients will have the opportunity to learn new skills related to MACC products and network with their peers in the telecom industry.

MACC Billing and Technology Conference – MBTC
• Omaha, Nebraska
• Session One – September 5-7
• Session Two – September 10-12
• MBTC details and registration – http://www.maccmbtc.com/
For more information on this event, please contact Kristi Rounds, at 402-533-5184 - krounds@maccnet.com or JoEllen Maras, at 402-533-5117 - jmaras@maccnet.com.

Outside Plant Seminar 2018...

took place on the beautiful Oregon Coast in Newport at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn on April 26 – 27. The two-day event was attended by 71 people. 15 vendors participated in this year's conference.

Kicking off the seminar, back by ever popular demand was **Chris Robertson** from **Three Wolves Consulting**. Chris has a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share and we are always pleased when he has the time to join us! This year he provided two sessions for our conference, "Testing Copper Facilities for XDSL Services" and "VDSL 2 Vectoring." Chris detailed the electrical tests that should be performed during the installation and maintenance of DSL services, covering Bonding, Vectoring and G.INP. He also talked about how vectoring operates, the effectiveness of Vectoring and binder group loading limitations.

Brant Wolf, OTA's EVP offered another of his legislative and regulatory updates speaking to this year's short legislative session and the unusually active participation for OTA relating to Net Neutrality, a state owned and operated fiber network and tax credits for gigabit projects. He also discussed the serious moves by two counties to build out and offer telecommunications services in Oregon.

The Outside Plant Employee of the Year Award was presented during the buffet lunch. The recipient of this award for 2018 was **Ron Stenger** from **DirectLink**. Ron began his employment with Canby Telephone Association in 1985. In his 33 years as a field inspector he has seen a lot of change within the telecommunications industry. During the past 9 years Ron had held a seat on the OUNC (Oregon Utility Notification Center) Board of Directors representing telephone cooperatives for utility damage prevention. Ron has been an instrumental part in developing and maintaining the Oregon 811 notification that we all use today. **Congratulations Ron** — thank you for your commitment and many years of service to this industry.

Left to right:
Brant Wolf, Executive VP, OTA –
Ron Stenger, OTA's OSP Employee of the Year, DirectLink
and Eric Kehler, Plant Operations Manager, DirectLink.

After our lunch break, to liven up things a bit, **Brett Hollis** – Inspirational Speaker, Story Teller & Comedian joined us to talk about "Going Through Change Without Losing Your Mind." Brett's session covered how to persevere through changes and times of uncertainty, whether we bring it on ourselves or something happens out of our control.

Mark Rettman, Senior Utility Analyst with the **Oregon Public Utility Commission** presented "NESC – Past, Present & Future." Mark discussed the practical application of the National Electrical Safety Code and explained the function of the OPUC Safety Staff.

Paul Hannasch with **PowerTec Solutions** International joined us for a discussion of the "FCC Report and Order regarding 24 Hours of Battery Backup," covering the current operating strategies and new technologies being implemented to handle these increasing network demands and FCC requirements.

"Public WiFi Deployment Planning: Hospitality, Events, Campuses and More" was presented by **Dave Moore**, Senior Director, WiFi Business Acceleration from **Cambium Networks**. Dave discussed best practices, challenges and tips to address these WiFi opportunities to provide quality service to the existing community and how to grow revenue with businesses and public venues.

Tanner Betteridge, Director of Safety at **North Sky Communications** addressed codes, standards and best practices for General Road Side Safety during construction and the standard road side sign set up for the state of Oregon.

Rounding out our program, **Buck Spears** with **S & S Solutions** gave a presentation on "Modern Techniques for Troubleshooting Fiber Characterization." Buck reviewed current techniques for isolating problems in 10, 100 and 400 Gig applications.

Vendor Quick Topics were dispersed throughout the first day of the conference. Providing substance for these 5-minute sessions were **Millennium, Calix, CORE Telecom Systems** and **Rep Com International.**

And a big thank you to **Altec** for sponsoring our **Welcome Reception on Thursday evening!**

We truly appreciate the continual support!!

2018 OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting — A Huge Hit!

The OTA -WITA 2018 Joint Annual Meeting took place on May 29 – 31 at the Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon. Attendees from across the states enjoyed the beautiful weather that Sunriver offers throughout the three day event.

Have you seen him????? *Rumor has it that a certain furry critter was abducted from the golf course and is being held for ransom at an unknown location!!*

Please help free the Beaver as he is anxious to go home!
The OTA Scholarship Foundation has been contacted by the captor(s) regarding the release of the furry little fellow. Negotiations have taken place and arrangements have been made that any and all donations for his release will be accepted.

Please make checks payable to the "OTA Scholarship Foundation"and send to the OTA office at 777 13th Street SE – Suite 120, Salem, OR 97301-4038. **The deadline to post "Beaver Bail" is at sunset on Monday – October 1, 2018.**

This year's conference program kicked off with the annual golf tournament, the Evening Welcome Reception with participating vendors and the Silent Auction benefiting both association's scholarship foundations.

The first full day of sessions opened with key note speaker **Steve Brown**, also known as "The Bald Futurist," – Possibility and Pupose, LLC. Using plain language, strong visuals and cool videos, Steve presented a compelling presentation entitled **"Digital Transformation: How the latest technologies will enable us to reimagine our world."**

Mike Romano, NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, **Derrick Owens, WTA** – Advocates of Rural Broadband and **Jeff Dupree, NECA** joined together to give attendees a look at the latest legislative and regulatory information from Washington DC with **"Federal Policy Update."**

James Rennard, Division Manager with **GVNW Consulting, Inc.** discussed the process, benefits and potential pitfalls for Consumer Broadband Only service offering with his session **"CBOL Presentation."**

Mitchell Moore, Clear Creek Communications moderated a discussion on **"Fixed Wireless Solutions"** with panelists **Gerry Lawlor, Rock Island Communications** and **Duncan Scott, Online NW** as they shared their real life experiences with deploying and managing this technology.

WITA held their Annual Membership Meeting and Board Meeting and Brant Wolf presented Oregon Members with his Oregon Legislative and Regulatory Report.

Concurrent Sessions were offered throughout the first afternoon for attendees to choose from: **"Federal Tax Reform – The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act."** – Ryan Johnson, Aldrich CPA's + Advisors LLP, **"The Business Case for Self-Service."** – Todd Twete, KADENCE, **"Internet of Things."** – Neil Green, Platt Electric, **"The Successful ILEC of the Future."** – Chad Duval & RJ Del Mese, Moss Adams LLP

The Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday evening. The OTA honored **Mike Hetzel (Unitel Insurance)** with an **Outstanding Service Award** for his many years of dedicated service to OTA members and the telecommunications industry. OTA's current President, **Renee Willer (DataVision Cooperative)** presented the **President's Award to Susan Allen (OTA)**. WITA's President **Skip Haynes** presented their **Pioneer Award** to **Rick Finnigan (Richard Finnigan Law Office)** and **Gail Long (TDS Telecom)** received the **President's Award**.

ITA Showcase Vice President, Diane Garcia (NISC) presented a check to each association as a contribution to their individual scholarship programs. These funds help to support the level of scholarships awarded each year to our members and their families.

Unitel Insurance presented checks to both OTA and WITA (shown above) as a contribution to each associations Job Training & Safety programs. National Farmers Union/QBE established the JT&S program in the late 1970's to help support and enhance this important training. OTA is grateful for the continual support and truly appreciates the assistance in providing safety training events for our members.

A huge thanks to Kathy Rea (MACC) for her time and efforts in helping to capture our event in photos! We so very much appreciate you!!

The OTA Scholarship Foundation proudly announced the recipients of this year's scholarship awards.

Ryan Dillard
sponsored by RTI Nehalem Telecom

Rachel Doran
sponsored by North Sky Communications

Allie Hill
sponsored by Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.

Kendall John
sponsored by GVNW Consulting, Inc.

Ryan Mount
sponsored by Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone

Kayla Rassi
sponsored by Reliance Connects

Megan Rutherford
sponsored by Frontier Communications

Krista Staehle
sponsored by Frontier Communications

Receiving the Diana Coleman Memorial Scholarship Award

Peyton Whitehead
sponsored by Scio Mutual Telephone Association

The Oregon Telecommunications Association Board of Directors established the Scholarship Foundation in 1995 to offer scholarships to the employees and immediate families of OTA members to assist in the pursuit of furthering their education in colleges, universities and trade schools. Since 1995 the OTA Scholarship Foundation has awarded 143 scholarships totaling $176,500.00. The proceeds from the Silent Auction, raffle and golf tournament held each year at the Annual Meeting and the annual contribution from the ITA Showcase Board of Directors continue to help fund this important program.

The final day of sessions at the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting opened with **"Update from US Telecom"** with **Jonathan Spalter**, CEO and President of **US Telecom**.

Rounding out the program with the closing general session, **Gabriel Gundersen**, Cyber Supervisor for the **Portland FBI Field Office** discussed how to maximize efforts to protect customers and your own personal information and data with **"Cyber Crime and Cyber Security."**

**Thanks to all who attended this year's event —
we enjoyed spending time with you all!**

We very much appreciate the continual support of sponsors at the Annual Meeting!
We would like to sincerely thank the following companies:

Telecom Provider Sponsors:
Gold Sponsor:
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative

Silver Sponsor:
Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.

Bronze Sponsor:
TDS Telecom

Associate Member Sponsors:
Platinum Sponsors:
Aldrich CPA's + Advisors LLP
GVNW Consulting, Inc.
Moss Adams, LLP

Gold Sponsors:
Adtran
Altec Industries, Inc.
Metaswitch Networks
NECA
Pivot Group, LLC
Unitel Insurance

Silver Sponsors:
CORE Telecom Systems
Mapcom Systems
Telcom Insurance Group
ZyXEL Communications

Bronze Sponsors:
Ad Specialties of Oregon NW
CoBank
ECI Telecom, Inc.
NISC

Golf Tournament Sponsors:
KADENCE (Breakfast Sponsor)
PEAK Internet, LLC (Beverage Cart Sponsor)

Golf Hole Sponsors:
Aldrich CPA's + Advisors LLP
Eagle Telephone System, Inc.
GVNW Consulting, Inc.
Molalla Communication
NISC
Pivot Group LLC
St. Paul Cooperative Telephone Association
ToledoTel
Western Independent Networks

WIRESHARK101 - Wireshark Fundamentals

This Wireshark 101 course is a fast start to using Wireshark for packet analysis. Basic configuration and customization of capturing packets, displaying/filtering packets, and customizing the environment is covered. Even if you have used Wireshark before, there are critical usage tips and methods that will change the way you use this tool

Teacher: Andrew Walding

DN101 - Data Networking 101

This course is an introduction to Data Networking principles and concepts. From understanding the layered model of communications and how TCP/IP fits that model, to understanding how TCP/IP packets are forwarded through the network. These basics are essential comprehension as to how the Internet and Ethernet technologies work together.

Teacher: Andrew Walding

ENET101 - The Basics of Ethernet

This course is an introduction to Ethernet principles and concepts. From understanding the structure of Ethernet Frames, to understanding how Ethernet behaves (including protocols like ARP and Spanning Tree), this course provides a solid understanding of Ethernet fundamentals.

Teacher: Andrew Walding

IPV4ADDR - IPv4 Addressing and Subnetting

This course provides the essential knowledge and skills in handling IPv4 Addressing. Anyone working with the internet has to understand the IPv4 Addressing schema, and the history of addressing changes that shape the way we use IPv4 in networks. From Classful to Classless, Subnetting and Supernetting, the IPv4 addressing schema can be complex, but in this course we will provide you the tools and skills to quickly conquer this technology so you can put it to use in your daily activities.

Teacher: Andrew Walding

IPv4 Routing 101

This course focuses on the functions that Routers perform in an Internet, and the protocols they use, such as RIP, OSPF and BGP, in the control plane to make Shortest Path First decisions and deliver packets to their intended destinations as quickly and efficiently as possible. Understanding this process is critical in understanding how the Internet actually works.

Teacher: Andrew Walding

Register now to attend the upcoming Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar!

September 20 – 21

Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center – Florence, Oregon

"Cybersecurity." – **Ronald Watters**, Cyber Security Advisor Pacific NW Region, **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**.

"Diesel Fuel Maintenance – **What's the Point?"** – **Robert Leamy**, **ReNU Solutions**.

"No Spoofing – **No Kidding Panel!"** – **Stephen Hayes**, Senior Telecommunications Analyst, **OPUC** as panel moderator with team members **Andrew Ward**, **Award Consulting**; **Brian Ford**, **NTCA** and **Mykola Konrad**, **Ribbon Communications**.

"Managed WiFi." – Gene de Vore, Data Operations Manager, **DirectLink** as moderator with panelists from **ADTRAN**, **Calix**, **Comtrend** and **Smart RG**.

"Softswitch Security Monitoring." – **Kerry Benthin**, Central Office Supervisor, **DirectLink** will moderate this discussion with panel members **Glenn Gephart**, **Metaswitch** and **Andrew Ward**, **Award Consulting**.

"Preparedness, Continuity and Recovery." – **Jon King**, Manager, **Moss Adams LLP**.

"HB 2597 – The Dangers and Consequences of Driving While Distracted." – **Steve & Lois Lents**, **Pacific Driver Education**.

"Legislative & Regulatory Updates." – **Brant Wolf**, Executive VP, **OTA**.

Visit https://www.ota-telecom.org/ for complete details, including lodging information and registration forms

or go directly to online registration here: https://www.ota-telecom.org/events/2018-co-it-seminar/

Hotel Reservation Deadline: Wednesday – August 29

Seminar Registration Deadline: Friday – September 7

2018 Fall eLation User Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE

2018 eLation Fall User Meeting
October 9 – 10, 2018
Highland Conference Center

All General and Optional Sessions are Free of Charge

Calling all eLation users! Innovative Systems invites you to attend the 2018 Fall eLation Billing & Financials User Meeting in Mitchell, SD. Join us for two days packed with information regarding updates and enhancements to the software and optional training opportunities. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge of the eLation software and to see what the future holds for eLation.

eLation User Meetings are a great opportunity for you to meet face-to-face with our Billing and Financials Support Teams as well as to network with other Telco staff from across the country to see how they are utilizing our products.

Follow this link to register: http://www.innovsys.com/innovsys/news-events/elation-user-meeting/

OTA Safety Seminar 2018 will be held on Wednesday, November 14ᵗʰ at the Best Western Boulder Falls Inn located in Lebanon, Oregon.

The OTA Safety committee is putting together a full agenda....here's a sneak preview of some of the topics we are working on....

The Right Tools for the Job • Road Side Safety • Locate Training •

Contractor Risk Management • Safety in Remote Areas....

The conference brochure and registration materials are targeted for distribution mid-September. We hope you will consider joining us for this one-day event.

Stay tuned for more details!

THINK

Safety First, Last and Always

OTA EVENT CALENDAR

2018

Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar
September 20 – 21
Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center – Florence, OR

Safety Seminar
November 14
Best Western Boulder Falls Inn – Lebanon, OR

2019

ITA Showcase
March 6 – 7
Holiday Inn – Portland Airport Hotel – Portland, OR

Outside Plant Seminar
April 25 - 26
Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, OR

OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting
June 5 – 7
Salishan Spa & Golf Resort – Gleneden Beach, OR

Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar
September 19 - 20
Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, OR

2020

OTA-WITA Joint Annual Meeting
June 1 – 3
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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360.956.7001
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Richard A. Finnigan
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.

Associate Members:

CellStream, Inc.
www.cellstream.com
www.netscionline.com

Comtrend
http://us.comtrend.com

ECI Telecom, Inc.
www.ecitele.com

ICBS
www.icbsrepair.com

ProLabs
www.prolabs.com

Quanta Telecommunications
www.quantatelcom.com

3-GIS
www.3-GIS.com

Vetro FiberMap
www.vetrofibermap.com

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!!

2019 OTA – WITA Joint Annual Meeting

on the beautiful Oregon Coast!

June 5 – 7

Salishan Spa & Golf Resort – Gleneden Beach, Oregon

Need to contact the Oregon Telecommunications Association?

Mailing Address:
777 13th St. SE, Suite 120
Salem, Oregon 97301-4038
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Brant D. Wolf, CAE
Executive Vice President
email: bwolf@ota-telecom.org

Susan E. Allen
Office Manager/
Members Services Coordinator
email: sallen@ota-telecom.org