

3rd Quarter 2020 Edition

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Legislative and Regulatory Update

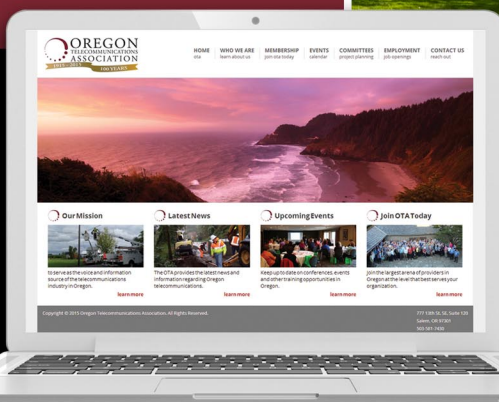
Keeping you informed on what's happening in the Capitol.

This is the 3rd quarter issue of the newsletter and by now you probably are aware that the Legislature did pass the OTA version of a bill to modify the Oregon USF. As of now, all providers of retail telecommunications service are required to contribute to the Oregon USF. While there remains hard work and likely many months of effort at OPUC around this matter, the really hard part is done.

While the Oregon Legislature has met in Special Session over the past few months, our OTA issue was addressed in the first Special Session back in June. The Regular Session begins in January 2021 and we have already heard of at least one bill directly related to broadband that OTA will need to monitor. Other legislators have reached out as well to discuss potential broadband related issues for 2021.

Exactly how to hold a normal, regular session is still being worked out. Currently, no visitors are allowed in the Capitol building. That includes legislative Staff, the media and lobbyists. Setting aside the logistical problems and how on earth to lobby a bill when you can't meet with people, there are legitimate transparency and public access concerns that have to be dealt with. There are rumors that maybe the session will begin in January like normal but, actual legislative business wouldn't occur until perhaps April.

Continued, Page 3



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Go to www.ota-telecom.org

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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

Meet the newly elected Associate Member Delegate to the OTA Board of Directors..... Ginny Gardea!

Ginny is the Director of Customer Relations at Vantage Point Solutions, currently managing client relations in 11 western states.



As a farm girl from Oregon the unique needs of rural America are near and dear to Ginny's heart. She "feels that the work we do in this industry to bring robust broadband to some of the most remote areas of our country is more than a job --- it's a calling. By connecting communities, we are enabling opportunities for education and economic growth for the rural communities."

Ginny started her telecom career about 17 years ago at then Canby Telephone (now DirectLink). It was there that she learned the industry through the lens of a service provider. Needing to understand enough about technology to translate the information into both staff and customer trainings and promotion, she began to develop an interest in network architecture and engineering. Ginny has worked with the OTA and NTCA serving on various marketing committees, as well as the Alaska Telecom Association's Associate Member representative and has also held the Associate Member seat on the Montana Telecom Association Board.

As the Associate Member Delegate on the OTA Board of Directors, Ginny will also serve as the Chair of the OTA Associate Member Committee. We look forward to having Ginny as an integral part of the OTA team!



Ginny Gardea
Director of Customer Relations
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Legislative, Continued

We already have copies of a few pieces of legislation that we will need to track. One of those is related to the counties implementing a brand new right-of-way permitting policy which, I'm pretty sure, will come with permit fees.

Meantime, the OTA will be quite busy with UM 2040, the proceeding at OPUC to determine support amounts and how to distribute the Oregon USF funds. This will be a complicated process and all our OTA members interested in the OUSF and the newly created broadband grant program should be paying close attention. There is a lot at stake in this proceeding.

And as always, I want to thank our members who support the OTA Political Action Committee (PAC). While I understand that some have a negative view of PACs (I'm not a big fan myself) it is really important that OTA is able to support those who support us and the customers we serve. Our PAC keeps us at the table to a small degree.

PERSPPECTIVES

By Vantage Point

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Emma Burke

Daughter of Dan Burke
Sponsored by Reliance Connects

Emma is currently attending Oregon State University with a proposed major in Accounting. Her plan is to graduate in June 2021 with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and then study and take the Certified Public Accountant exam within the following year. She says "solving puzzles and adapting to the ever-changing world of accountancy is exactly the right fit for me." After her schooling is completed, she strives to work for a regional accounting firm.

During her time at OSU, Emma has been involved in a multitude of activities. She was elected this year by the college of business faculty to present a speech at the Dean's Welcome Assembly. She spent six months working as a Career Ambassador for the college of business at OSU and spent time as a Teacher's Assistant for various classes on campus. She competed as a prosecuting attorney for Oregon State University's Mock Trials, competing throughout the Pacific Northwest, and winning two outstanding attorney awards. Outside of OSU, she has volunteered as a basketball head coach and swim assistant coach for the Benton County Special Olympics Oregon.

Emma is also pursuing her own entrepreneurship as a wedding videographer in addition to her accounting career. Best wishes to this busy young lady for continued success in her pursuits!



Landon Eves

Son of Lance Eves
Sponsored by Molalla Communications

Landon will be attending Linfield College this fall seeking a degree in Creative Writing. His main career goal is to become a published author, hopefully even a best-selling one! In high school he participated in the Honors English and Creative Writing Classes, writing works to be published in the Creative Writing Club and class publications. One of Landon's teachers wrote "I have been in awe of his ability to think critically, creatively and divergently. His self-motivation, grit and compassion for others are all traits that place Landon in the top 1% of students I have worked with in my teaching career. He heightens the level of discourse in the classroom and leads the students around him to have similarly high expectations. Every teacher's dream!"

Landon was active in the high school's FBLA chapter. During his senior year, he participated in the Student Senate, helping to give students an open campus lunch, propose more electives, and potentially create a driver's education class at Molalla High School. He helped operate the cross-country team's elementary meets, leading and operating the elementary track camp as a counselor and helping to advertise for the camp and create the scheduling and model for it. We congratulate Landon on his accomplishments and wish him the best in his future endeavors!



Adrienne Gaeta

Employee of PEAK Internet
Sponsored by PEAK Internet

Adrienne is an employee of PEAK Internet, and has attended Linn-Benton Community College. Her plan is to attend Oregon State University this fall pursuing a proposed dual major in Biological Engineering and Mathematical Biology. Ever since she was little, she has always wanted to be a scientist. She hopes to pursue a Master's Degree after completing her undergraduate degree followed by a PhD. She has come to realize that her preferred career would take place in a research lab for either a private company or a university, and as a graduate professor, inspiring the younger generation to love science as much as she does.

Adrienne hopes to use her dual degree to solve complex problems by perhaps creating bio-artificial intelligence, or researching biodiversity to create new medicines and tools. She wants to work in a lab that aims to create things that will better people's lives, and learn about the world around us in the process.

While at Linn-Benton College, she joined the ROV SAVER Team and took an Arduino Microcontrollers class learning about mechanics, automated design and computer coding. For her Physics class, she did an outreach program with Scio High School where she created a physics lab and lesson where the students used the principles of 2-dimensional kinetics.

Best wishes to Adrienne as she forges ahead in her career plans!



Shane Hoefler

Son of Erik Hoefler

Sponsored by Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company

Shane will be returning this fall as a student at the University of Oregon pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. He plans to continue on with higher education at graduate school at the U of O. His career goal is to become a clinical psychologist. He would like to focus more on the therapy aspect rather than the area of research. He looks forward after completing graduate school to be mentored and trained in order to reach his career goal.

In high school Shane participated in the Future Business Leaders and placed 4th in Entrepreneurship at the state competition. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. He participated on the Cross-Country team where he earned a varsity letter. In college, he is on the UO Snow Club Sports Team which participates in slopestyle competitions.

Shane has dedicated multiple hours helping in the community and volunteering with numerous school projects, all while maintaining seasonal jobs and tackling a full school schedule. We congratulate Shane for his achievements and wish him the very best in fulfilling his goals!



Drew Knox

Son of Daryl Knox

Sponsored by Aldrich CPAs + Advisors, LLP

This fall Drew will begin his second year attending Corban University. He is seeking a degree in Accounting. Though an accountant is required 5 years of college credits to be eligible to take the CPA exam, Drew intends to finish in four years by utilizing credits he earned in high school.

Drew feels it is important to make a positive contribution to the lives of other people, especially those who may be experiencing difficult times. He has volunteered on humanitarian service trips to Mexico to build homes for financially challenged families. He has also participated in Feed Salem, delivering food to underprivileged families in the area and worked with a program through his local church sponsoring birthday parties for children whose parents were incarcerated. He has worked summers on his family's grass seed farm, often putting in 12 to 14 challenging hours a day, but finds it rewarding to successfully harvest the crop. During the school year he works as a bookkeeper at his family's construction company.

He has a natural passion for Art, and a "learned" passion for Basketball. He hopes to play on the development basketball team at Corban this coming year so that he can continue to develop experience and knowledge of the game. He would like to coach one day and pass along his passion for the details of the game to others. Congratulations to Drew for his dedication to working hard and pushing forward to be successful in life!



Joshua Mentele

Son of Steven Mentele
Sponsored by Innovative Systems

Joshua's current plan is to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with the possibility of continuing his studies to obtain his Master's Degree. After graduation he would like to work in the energy field as he feels this industry has an enormous demand for innovation in renewable energy.

While being homeschooled, Joshua was involved with playing baseball, lifting weights, computer programming and volunteering in various charitable projects with his local church and throughout his community. He plans to continue his service to his community going forward to give more of his time and talent towards beneficial causes to help make our world a better place a little bit at a time.

One of Joshua's school counselors said "What really makes Joshua stand out is his character. He is a low maintenance young man. He earns his grades/credentials the old-fashioned way — through hard work. He doesn't complain, criticize or whine, he just does more and does it better than anyone else. He thrives on challenges and takes on a test as if it were an opponent that he is able to overcome." We wish Joshua every continued success in his scholastic achievements and future endeavors!



Tyler Mills

Son of David and Debi Mills
Sponsored by Monroe Telephone Company

Beginning his 2nd year at Oregon State University, Tyler is studying accounting, business and finance. He plans to graduate with a degree in Accounting. Tyler enjoys volunteering for various community projects and has worked part time throughout all four years of high school and college and has worked full time during breaks over the years. Outside of school and work, he likes spending time with family and being outdoors with sports, particularly mountain bikes.

Tyler strives to maintain the high expectations he has set for himself to continue to do well in his studies. He hopes to use time at school to make connections and take advantage of everything the university has to offer to improve himself and prepare for a successful career.

Upon graduation, Tyler hopes to obtain his CPA Certification, allowing him to pursue his goal of becoming an auditor. He has gained experience through participating as an intern during school. His first year at OSU he made the Honor Roll and Dean's List.

After starting his career with an accounting firm, he hopes to gain valuable experience in the many aspects of business which will open up more possibilities of new interests and opportunities to specialize in those fields as he advances further into his career. We sincerely wish Tyler continued success as he moves forward with his ambitions.



Jonathan Nguyen

Son of Tam Nguyen
Sponsored by Ziplly Fiber

Jonathan attends the University of Portland in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. He has plans to collaborate with a professor at the University on a research project which would ideally focus on microbiology.

Jonathan's interest in microbiota stems from a microbiology lab during his 2nd year of undergraduate studies. His interest was peaked by the intricacy of the procedures used throughout the lab and his passion for microbiology was driven by a desire to discover new antibiotics that will ultimately alleviate the devastating effects of the antibiotic resistance dilemma.

Jonathan has constructed a number of short-term goals in order to obtain his end goal of becoming a researcher in the microbiology field. This summer he planned to intern at OHSU and volunteer at Legacy Emanuel to observe the antibiotic resistance crisis firsthand. Immunology and Cellular and Molecular Biology is on his course roster for this semester, where he hopes to become a lab assistant. He would then like to become an intern in a research setting. His final goal is to construct a personal research project with his professors that will focus on antibiotics.

Jonathan has always been active in community outreach programs. He regards volunteering as an opportunity to change the lives of people, including himself. He currently serves on the University of Portland campus as the Historian Officer of International Club and Public Relations Officer of Vietnamese Student Associations. We extend congratulations to Jonathan for his accomplishments and wish him the very best in achieving his dream of becoming a Microbiology Researcher.



Marisa Osterloo

Daughter of Brad Osterloo
Sponsored by Innovative Systems

Marisa has chosen to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology because of its nationally respected engineering programs. She will be majoring in computer science and possibly minoring in robotics. Being able to create something that could potentially change someone's life for the better has always been a dream of Marisa's. She plans to gain the knowledge to program robotic, prosthetic limbs for people who have lost or were born without them. Her goal is to create something that could allow a disabled person to have the same capabilities as anyone else.

Marisa played tennis all through most of high school and was a member of the Robotics Team, which took 2nd place at the 2018 multi-state University of South Dakota Autonomous Robot Programming Contest. She was selected by Dakota State University to attend their summer Cyber Camp sponsored by the NSA and was one of 15 girls chosen to attend a Rocket Camp sponsored by AT&T at NASA to learn more about programming, cybersecurity and engineering. Her creativity allows her to enjoy art and graphic design.

Marisa volunteers through the church in her community, has worked with the Special Olympics and the Mitchell Animal Rescue. While working regular shifts in high school, Marisa maintained a 3.88 GPA and an active schedule of school activities. Best wishes to Marisa for her continued success in reaching her goals!



Ryan Rickman

Son of Don Rickman
Sponsored by Consolidated Business Services

Ryan has decided to attend Southern Oregon University, major in business and play football. His aspiration is to get a degree in Business Management as well as to become a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. Ryan's career goal is to open a gym for athletes and help them achieve their goals of making it to the next level of competition and also to help athletes who are recovering from injuries and get them back on the playing field.

Ryan was a three-year varsity starter on the football team in high school. He was team captain his junior and senior years and was selected Team MVP his senior year. He participated in Unified Sports 2018-2020 through his school which was a program where he helped students with disabilities to be more involved with school activities and within the community. He says this pushed him outside of his comfort zone and to create relationships with those students. He says he gained a tremendous amount of respect for the students and enjoyed the opportunity to help them experience some of the same opportunities that others may take for granted. He participated in the Saxon Youth Sports Camp for three years as part of a high school program where he helped young children develop their football and basketball skills. Congratulations to Ryan and we wish him a memorable college experience and a successful future following and achieving his goals!



Rachel Way

Daughter of Todd Way
Sponsored by Douglas Fast Net

Oregon State University is where Rachel is studying a proposed major in Earth Sciences – Geology. Her goal is to attain a GIS Certificate and achieve a minor in physics. She is hoping to take advantage of opportunities to study abroad with a connection to the Honors Program. After obtaining her Bachelor's Degree, she plans to continue for her Master's Degree or become a doctoral candidate in a Geoscience field at the Colorado School of Mines.

Rachel was inspired to pursue this career path by events such as the 2009 earthquake in Japan and 2010 earthquake in Haiti which resulted in death, loss of infrastructure and massive human rights issues to varying degrees. She feels her interest can be turned into an opportunity to make the world a safer and better place to live.

Rachel invested her high school years spending time in athletics, clubs and academic courses that were challenging and helped her prepare for her future. She was a member of the National Honors Society, the Mathematics Team, and was the Academic Feather Award winner all four years, where one had to maintain at least a 3.75 GPA and be involved in at least 2 clubs and/or sports. She was a member of the Robotics Club, Creative Writing Club, Cross Country Team and Track and Field. She has also achieved her Level 1 Black Belt in TaeKwonDo. Rachel has been involved in outreach programs within her community as a 4H Camp Counselor, and has been a 4H Market Steer Showman.

Having most of her baccalaureate core classes out of the way, she currently studies geology, chemistry, public speaking and has begun working on her thesis and GIS Certificate. We congratulate Rachel on her determination to be successful and truly wish her the very best in her future endeavors!

OTA EVENT CALENDAR 2020

Because of the on-going health crisis and the uncertainty of what the COVID-19 Pandemic will look like in the coming months, all OTA in-person conferences have been cancelled through at least the end of 2020.

Please check the OTA website regularly for any updates on possible virtual training sessions to be offered that are currently under consideration.

Visit www.ota-telecom.org for complete details.



DECEMBER 2020

- 2 Scholarship Foundation Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting
- 3 Outside Plant Committee Meeting
Thursday - 10:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting
- 8 Associate Member Committee Meeting
Tuesday - 11:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting

JANUARY 2021

- 13 Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday - 1:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting
- 14 CO-IT Committee Meeting
Thursday - 10:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting

FEBRUARY 2021

- 4 Outside Plant Committee Meeting
Thursday - 10:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting
- 16 Associate Member Committee Meeting
Tuesday - 11:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting

***With the uncertainty of being able to plan face-to-face meetings amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, committee meetings are continuing to be held either by conference call or virtual platforms such as Zoom or MS Teams. Please check the regularly updated calendar on the OTA website at www.ota-telecom.org or call the OTA office at 503-581-7430.*

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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Need to contact the Oregon Telecommunications Association?

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