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## Legislature Updates

By Brant Wolf

This first quarter of the year has seen the OTA busy attempting to deal with legislative issues during a remote only Oregon Legislative session. To say it has been challenging is an understatement. The amount of bills introduced did not decrease from the last full session but the ability to effectively communicate about them with legislators has certainly decreased.

The OTA Legislative Committee was tracking or monitoring almost 40 bills at the beginning of the session, which is around the usual number in a normal session. After the passing of certain deadlines for bills to be heard or voted on, the number has shrunk considerably. Those left to work on however, include a couple of real stinkers.

Here is a brief overview of a few of the bills that OTA worked on or tracked, their status as of April 22 noted:

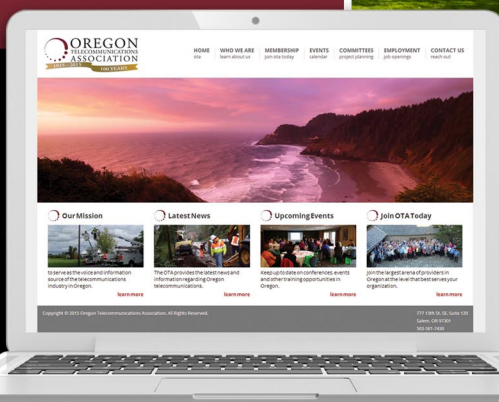
**HB 2410** – would require all broadband service providers to have a low-income program in order to have any contracts with a public body. The bill never got a hearing. Dead

**HB 2726** – required OPUC to study laws related to rural broadband and report back to the legislature by September of 2022. Dead.

**HB 2790** – would appropriate \$100,000.00 to Curry County to install fiber to the Cape Blanco Airport. This is the kind of thing that every broadband provider should oppose. However, the OTA was the only opposition at the hearing. Dead.



Legislature, Page 3



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## OTA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR

### MAY 2021

- 18 Small Company Committee and OTA Board of Director's Meeting  
Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. via Zoom
- 20 Outside Plant Committee Meeting  
Thursday – 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

### JUNE 2021

- 3 Annual Meeting Committee Meeting  
Thursday – 9:30 a.m. via Zoom
- 10 CO-IT Committee Meeting  
Thursday - 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- 15 Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday – 2:30 p.m. via Zoom
- 17 Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting  
Thursday – 10: a.m. via Zoom
- 23 Associate Member Committee Meeting  
Wednesday – 11:00 a.m. TBD

### JULY 2021

- 20 Safety Committee Meeting  
Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

*\*\*With the uncertainty of being able to plan face-to-face meetings amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, please check our website for regular updates or call the OTA office at 503-581-7430.*



## “Legislature,” Continued

**HB 3181** – would require the Oregon Utility Notification Center to adopt rules requiring marking paint to be temporary. Would also require rules that make operators responsible for all costs associated with any property damages caused if the paint removal rules were not followed. Again, this is one that every utility should have opposed just on principle but only OTA and Pacific Power opposed at the hearing. Dead.

**HB 3049** – this bill would give counties the ability to impose right-of-way permit fees for work along county roads. This idea has been floated numerous times over the years and it has never gotten passed. While there is hope that this will not be the session it gets passed, this bill is in a Committee that is not required to adhere to the deadlines. Therefore, we will have to continually monitor and make sure it doesn't suddenly come up for a vote. Still alive.

**HB 3069** – this bill is attempting to create an entirely new mental health care agency and is using the FCC mandated transition to dialing 9-8-8 as cover to do so. We all have to comply with the FCC order by July of 2022 and there is no need for any state legislation to implement the new three-digit number. The reason OTA cares is that this bill will impose a new tax on our customers or members, similar to the 9-1-1 fee. As yet the proponents have not come up with a total cost or fee amount. This is a really bad bill but sadly, we might not be able to prevent it from becoming law. Still alive.

**SB 615** – would create a brand-new, low-income assistance program to help qualifying Oregonians pay their monthly broadband bills. If this sounds familiar it should since there is already a program like this in place at the OPUC (OTAP). This is totally unnecessary and we have tried to keep the bill from moving, to no avail. While it isn't the end of the world if it passes, it would just be better if the state would focus on the program it already has vs. starting a new one. Still alive.

That's just a few of the bills. There is a long way to go until session ends at the end of June and there is still time for new bills to drop. We will continue to work on the bills left and try to derail those new tax/fee bills.

## OTA Legislative Committee

*Tom Barth Scio Mutual Telephone Association*

*John Dillard Monroe Telephone Company*

*Jessica Epley Ziplly Fiber*

*Paul Hauer Beaver Creek Cooperative Telephone*

*Jay Henke Clear Creek Communications*

*Erik Hoefler Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company*

*Rusti Lattin Eagle Telephone System, Inc.*

*Rick Peterson PEAK Internet, LLC*

*Jim Rennard Pioneer Connect*

*Jeffrey Smith GVNW – a Vantage Point Company*

*Todd Way Douglas Fast Net*

*Brooke Wheeler Cascade Utilities, Inc. dba Reliance Connects*

*Renee Willer DataVision Cooperative Telephone*

*Brant Wolf OTA*

# CO-IT 2021 Conference

## September 16 – 17

### Best Western Agate Beach – Newport, Oregon

*The OTA Central Office & Information Technologies Committee is planning their annual conference to be held at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn located on the Oregon Coast in Newport. The dates for this event are September 16 – 17, 2021. We welcome and encourage vendor table top exhibits!*

*Topics being considered are:*

- *Intro to DC Power Plant Maintenance*
- *Cyber Security*
- *Python*
- *FCC Speed Testing*
- *5G*
- *LEO (Low Earth Orbit)*



*The conference brochure and registration materials will be available on the OTA website and distributed via email mid-July.*

# 2021 OTA Annual Meeting

## September 27 – 28

### Skamania Lodge - Stevenson, Washington

Serenely nestled amongst the tall trees situated in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge, Skamania Lodge will be the setting for the OTA Annual Meeting.

This year's program will look a bit different from years past. The agenda has been redesigned to better fit today's environment with hopes of meeting everyone's busy schedules. There will not be an activities day or an organized golf tournament. We encourage and welcome vendor participation with table top exhibits.

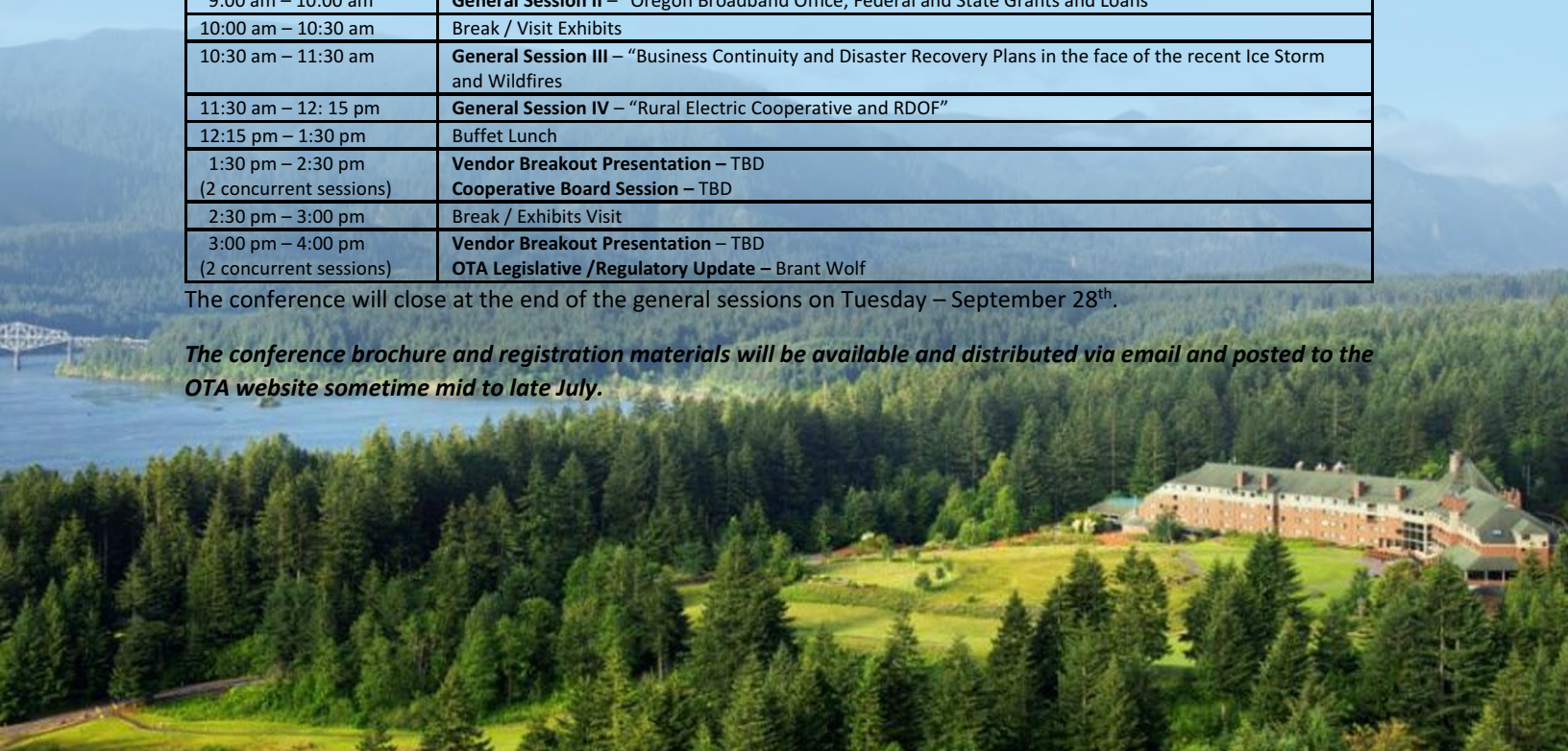
While the program agenda is currently under construction, it will look a bit like this. The first evening will kick things off with a Welcome Reception with our vendors, a Silent Auction and Raffle with proceeds benefiting the Scholarship Foundation and spend some time visiting over a Buffet Dinner.

The next day begins with an early Buffet Breakfast. We will then assemble for general sessions, interspersed with visits in the vendor exhibit hall throughout the day. Mid-day we will take a break and enjoy a Buffet Lunch. After a relaxing lunch we will resume with general sessions, vendor break-out presentations, a legislative and regulatory update and a cooperative board member session. We truly hope you will join us "face-to-face" as we *finally* gather and mingle at Skamania Lodge!

| Monday – September 27  |   |
|--|---|
| 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  | Registration Desk Open  |
| 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm<br>Time to be determined<br>Time to be determined | Exhibits Setup<br>WIN Board Meeting<br>OTA Membership Meeting   |
| 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  | Welcome Reception & Exhibits Visit  |
| 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm  | Silent Auction, Raffle, Scholarship Awards Buffet Banquet   |
| Tuesday – September 28   |   |
| 7:00 am – 5:00 pm  | Registration Desk Open  |
| 7:00 am – 5:00 pm  | Exhibit Hall Open   |
| 7:00 am – 8:00 am  | Buffet Breakfast  |
| 8:00 am – 8:15 am  | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>  |
| 8:15 am – 9:00 am  | <b>Opening General Session Keynote – “Sandy Gennaro”</b>  |
| 9:00 am – 10:00 am   | <b>General Session II – “Oregon Broadband Office; Federal and State Grants and Loans”</b>                                       |
| 10:00 am – 10:30 am  | Break / Visit Exhibits  |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am  | <b>General Session III – “Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans in the face of the recent Ice Storm and Wildfires</b> |
| 11:30 am – 12:15 pm  | <b>General Session IV – “Rural Electric Cooperative and RDOF”</b>   |
| 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm   | Buffet Lunch  |
| 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm<br>(2 concurrent sessions)                         | <b>Vendor Breakout Presentation – TBD</b><br><b>Cooperative Board Session – TBD</b>   |
| 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm  | Break / Exhibits Visit  |
| 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm<br>(2 concurrent sessions)                         | <b>Vendor Breakout Presentation – TBD</b><br><b>OTA Legislative /Regulatory Update – Brant Wolf</b>                             |

The conference will close at the end of the general sessions on Tuesday – September 28<sup>th</sup>.

*The conference brochure and registration materials will be available and distributed via email and posted to the OTA website sometime mid to late July.*



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October 12-14, 2021

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# LEADERSHIP FORUM & OUTSIDE PLANT WORKSHOP

Alderbrook Resort & Spa



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

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### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12:

LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE  
SPONSOR-HOSTED EVENT

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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13:

LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE  
OUTSIDE PLANT DINNER

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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14:

OUTSIDE PLANT WORKSHOP

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# 2021 OTA EVENT CALENDAR

## OSP Open eForum — “Is GPON Good Enough?” with Tom Pope of Calix

**May 19**

*Wednesday  
via Zoom*

The OSP Committee is offering the first in a series of one-hour sessions to keep our members engaged. Watch your email for a link, (or call the OTA office and request to be added to the distribution list) to join in the conversation!

## Central Office & Information Technologies Conference

**September 16 – 17**

*Thursday & Friday*

*Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, Oregon*

The CO-IT committee is working diligently to put together their 2021 CO-IT Conference as an in-person event. The conference brochure and registration materials will be available on the OTA website and distributed via email mid-July.

## OTA Annual Meeting

**September 27 – 28**

*Monday & Tuesday*

*Skamania Lodge – Stevenson, Washington*

We are hoping the pandemic will have calmed considerably and we are all able to meet face-to-face at Skamania Lodge! The conference brochure and registration materials will be available on the OTA website and distributed via email late July.

## Consumer Services & Marketing Conference

**October 15**

*Friday*

*Best Western Boulder Falls Inn & Conference Center – Lebanon, Oregon*

This conference is tentatively being planned as an in-person event. Please stay tuned for further details.

## Safety Conference

**November 17**

*Wednesday*

*Best Western Boulder Falls Inn & Conference Center – Lebanon, Oregon*

This conference is tentatively being planned as an in-person event. Please stay tuned for further details.

*Because of the on-going health crisis and the uncertainty of what the COVID-19 Pandemic will look like in the coming months, please check the OTA website regularly for any updates. We continue to plan for both virtual and in-person training sessions.*

## 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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### Richard A. Finnigan

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# Save the Dates!

## 2021 OTA CSM Seminar October 15th

### Best Western Boulder Falls Inn – Lebanon, Oregon

*The OTA Consumer Services and Marketing Committee is planning the 2021 OTA CSM Seminar to be held at the Best Western Boulder Falls Inn located in Lebanon, Oregon on Friday – October 15th.*

## 2021 OTA Safety Seminar November 17th

### Best Western Boulder Falls Inn – Lebanon, Oregon

*The OTA Safety Committee has scheduled the 2021 OTA Safety Seminar to take place on Wednesday – November 17th at the Best Western Boulder Falls Inn located in Lebanon, Oregon.*

*Both of these events are being planned as in-person conferences. The conference brochure and registration materials will be available and posted to the OTA website at by mid-August and mid-September respectively.*





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## Need to contact the Oregon Telecommunications Association?

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