

2nd/3rd Quarter 2021 Edition

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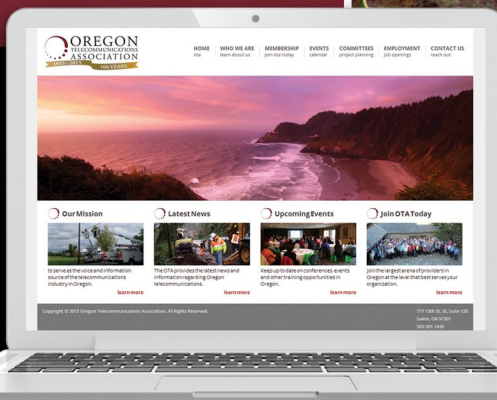
## Outside Plant Open eForum

Due to the unavoidable circumstances related to the pandemic and not being able to hold our in-person events, the Outside Plant Committee developed the "OSP Open eForum" to keep our members engaged and educated during these unprecedented times. These eForums are one-hour discussions being offered via Zoom, scheduled at one per month over the past several months. The committee decided to take a break for November and December but are planning to resume these discussions sometime in early 2022. We would like to thank all who have attended these sessions and hope to see you again in the near future.

continued



Photo courtesy of Eagle Telephone System, Inc.



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- 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**

A special thank you to all of our presenters thus far for providing expert training.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>June 16</b> – Wednesday (8:30 – 9:30 a.m.)      | <b>“Today’s Wifi: What Works and What Still Needs Work with Wi-Fi6, plus introduction of Wi-Fi 6e”</b> presented by Daran Hermans, Cambium Networks |
| <b>July 21</b> – Wednesday (8:30 – 9:30 a.m.)      | <b>“Getting the Most out of Your Existing Copper Network”</b> presented by Chris Dunford, EXFO  |
| <b>August 18</b> – Wednesday (8:30 – 9:30 a.m.)    | <b>“OTDR Update with Fiber Characterization”</b> presented by Larry Johnson, FiberStory, LLC  |
| <b>September 22</b> – Wednesday (8:30 – 9:30 a.m.) | <b>“G.fast Technology”</b> presented by Jeff Woodman, Viavi Solutions, Inc.   |
| <b>October 20</b> – Wednesday (8:30 – 9:30 a.m.)   | <b>“Fiber Optic Laser Safety”</b> presented by Larry Johnson, FiberStory, LLC   |

A calendar invite is circulated via email two weeks prior to each event --- watch for those in your inbox! If you are not sure you are receiving these invites, drop an email to Susan at the OTA office and she'll make sure you are on the list: [sallen@ota-telecom.org](mailto:sallen@ota-telecom.org)

*Save the date !!*

*for the 2022 Outside Plant Conference*

Currently, the OSP Committee is planning a full program for an in-person event in the spring of 2022!

Please reserve the dates on your calendar now and plan to join us on April 28 & 29 on the beautiful Oregon Coast in Newport at the Best Western Plus Agate Beach Inn

*...watch for further details in the coming months...*

**Welcome  
New  
Members...**



## CO-IT Committee News...

The CO-IT Committee introduced its **Network Operations User Group Discussions** earlier this year. These discussions were offered via Zoom to all OTA members. The purpose of these discussions is to learn, collaborate and engage with fellow network professionals. The target audience for these meetings would be Network Technicians, Administrators and Engineers, IT Managers and anyone managing IP networks.

The first discussion topic focused on what it means to Protect our Public Networks. Things covered were “Should I be blocking ports both to and from my customers’ home networks?”, “Do I care about spoofed traffic?”, “What are some ways to manage networks remotely and securely?”

Another discussion in July was directed to **Disaster Preparedness and Recovery** with guest speaker, Matt Marheine, Deputy Director at OEM (Oregon Emergency Management).

Mr. Marheine did a great presentation as a pre-cursor to his planned appearance at the 2021 CO-IT Seminar which was to be held mid-September. Unfortunately, as yet another fall-out from the pandemic, this event was cancelled.

Plans are being made to hold future user group discussions. Watch your email for further details.

The committee is hoping that 2022 will bring a new perspective on event planning so that we can resume the annual CO-IT Seminar next fall. We are currently looking at dates of *September 22 - 23* for this event. Please watch for announcements as details develop in the new year!

Please reach out to any of the CO-IT Committee members if you have an area of interest you would like to see added to the agenda for future discussions.

Kerry Benthin – DirectLink – Committee Chair	Josh Flick – Reliance Connects – Committee Vice Chair
Mark Benson – American Power Systems	Todd Berning – DataVision Communications
Tony Boyd – Pioneer Connect	Dave Conditt – COLTONTEL
Gene de Vore – DirectLink	Bill Dillard – RTI-Nehalem Telecom
Russel Dueck – ADTRAN	Lance Eves – Molalla Communications
Diane Garcia – Calix	Sev Giles – Primex Manufacturing
Brian Greene – Monroe Telephone	Jim Hemshorn – SCTC
Matt Hollinger – CORE Telecom Systems	Chris LaPlante – DirectLink
TJ Lindner – Clear Creek Communications	Kelli McAbee – Reliance Connects
Paul Nolin – Calix	Josh Peters – Scio Telephone
Shaun Plummer – CORE Telecom Systems	Lee Sitton – Rep Com International
Merit Walker – WIN	Jeffery Wolf – Roome Telecommunications



## **“Fiber Optic Technician Certification Program” Being Developed**

*The signing took place at the Fiber Connect Conference in Nashville July 27, 2021.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(July 26, 2021)—Today at Fiber Connect 2021, the Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) announced its Optical Telecom Installation Certification (OpTIC) Program. The program features unique curriculum designed by leading experts in the fiber community to quickly scale technical education, fill the existing fiber skills gap and accelerate fiber deployments across North America.

The demand on service providers and communities to build better broadband networks continues to increase. The pandemic highlighted the need for speeds to support bandwidth-straining remote work and education, telehealth and streaming entertainment. The best option to deliver this capacity is fiber because it delivers the best performance in speed and reliability than any other type of broadband technology. However, there is a shortage of qualified fiber workers which creates a tall hurdle in deploying fiber in many regions of North America.

*For the rest of the article, click on the following link:*

<https://www.fiberbroadband.org/blog/fiber-broadband-association-to-launch-national-fiber-optic-technician-training-and-certification-program>

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### **Standing (from left to right):**

Brendon O'Boyle (PLP)

Deb Kish (FBA)

Mark Boxer (OFS)

Larry Johnson (FiberStory)

Elizabeth Lentz (Corning)

Maury Wood (EXFO)

### **Seated (from left to right):**

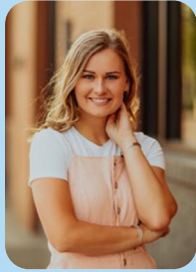
Michael Nelson (Dept. of Labor or State Director Apprenticeship and Training Representative at U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprentice)

Gary Bolton - President Fiber Broadband Association

# 2021 OTA Annual Meeting Recap

This was the first in-person event that OTA was able to hold since the pandemic hit --- we were more than ready to see everyone again! Skamania Lodge was the pristine setting for this event in late September.

The Silent Auction and raffle benefiting the OTA Scholarship program were held on Monday evening. Announcements were made of the recently awarded scholarships for the 2021-2022 scholastic year. Here are your recipients:



## **Elyse Burton** *Sponsored by Ziplly Fiber*

Elyse plans to attend California Polytechnic State School. Her goal is to graduate in four years with a bachelor's degree in either environmental science or environmental engineering. She plans to be as involved as she can in areas of interest including athletics, outdoor adventures, student clubs and leadership as well as studying abroad. She hopes to take classes that not only expand her knowledge, but also the world around her such as courses in finance, arts and foreign language. She would like to focus a career with a company that shares her values and contribute to saving the earth.

During her four years of high school, Elyse participated in many clubs and activities. She was an active member of a church youth group and community volunteer. She was on the varsity soccer team for two years and the varsity tennis team for four years and was captain of the tennis team her senior year. Elyse was valedictorian and graduated with honors.



## **Kadyne Eves** *Sponsored by Molalla Communications*

Kadyne plans to attend Pacific University with a proposed major in Kinesiology. His goal is to become either a physical therapist or athletic trainer to help others achieve their physical fitness goals. He enjoys helping others and encouraging them to achieve their desired level of health. Kadyne participated in Cross Country and Track & Field as a varsity athlete and captain. He has received four years of academic letter while taking honors and college courses. He has been a volunteer leader with the Cross Country elementary races and a group leader at the summer track camps in Molalla through all four years of high school. He also volunteered for Molalla Athletic Boosters Club various fundraising events.

Kadyne loves to run. He says running has allowed him to experience places in ways others don't. For instance, Alaska in the summer is never dark and has swarms of mosquitoes. The uniqueness of running through sugarcane fields while drenched in sweat from the humidity isn't something everyone experiences in Hawaii. To Kadyne, Vermont isn't about maple syrup, it's about the pain and joy of running 30 miles over a period of 24 hours. But his favorite place to run is Oregon. To him, experiencing the world through running has taught him that by working hard he can reach his goals while experiencing the joys of life through the uniqueness of every run. His goals for college are to further his education by gaining the knowledge and experience to be successful throughout his life while assisting others to reach their goals and obtain the joy in life through running.

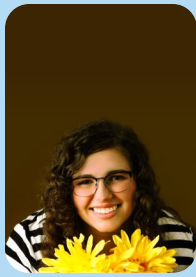


## **Landon Eves** *Sponsored by Molalla Communications*

Landon attends Linfield University. His focus studies are Creative Writing and Anthropology. His intent is to build expertise in fiction writing and poetry and to study humanity to better help write human stories, to further his success in his career choice. His main career goal is to become a published author, hopefully someday, even a best-selling one. Landon wants to use his talent and what he learns as a student to create memorable and evocative works of literature.

While in high school, Landon participated in cross country, was a member of the Creative Writing Club and the school's FBLA chapter. He also participated in the high school's Student Senate, which helped to give students an open campus lunch, proposed more electives, and potentially create a driver's education class. Landon helped with the cross-country team's elementary meets, leading runners and helping set up and take down the race before and after each event. He also led and operated the elementary track camp as a counselor, leading runners in exercises and running as a pacer in the final obstacle course, helping to advertise for the camp and create the scheduling and model for it. During his first couple of terms of college, he says he has learned a whole lot even in the hard times of the pandemic --- he has managed to balance his education with his passion and write every day while learning about new academic possibilities that could make his writing much more exciting!

**continued**



**Olivia Foster** *Sponsored by Innovative Systems*

Olivia's plans are to major in Digital Media and Design at Dakota Wesleyan University. She also plans to continue the pursuit of both instrumental and vocal music. Her career goals are to work for a company creating digital media and after gaining experience, start her own business that creates graphic media for other businesses.

During high school, Olivia has been an active participant in Marching Band, Concert Band, Choir, Art Ambassadors, school musicals, pep band and International Club. She has received recognition awards from both vocal and instrumental contests, honor roll, National Honors Society and Girls' State. Olivia has been an active member in her community with youth groups, vocal church music and piano guild and has received recognition for her artwork at the State Fair with superior blue-ribbon ratings.

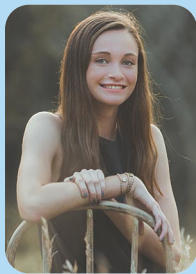
Olivia also enjoys keeping in touch with numerous friends from around the world. She feels that having friends from a wide range of experiences and viewpoints helps her have a better understanding of today's world.



**Mackenzie Halbert** *Sponsored by Windwave Communications*

Mackenzie is currently attending the University of Idaho. Her proposed major is Political Science with hopes of adding a minor in Philosophy and International Studies. After receiving her intended B.A., she plans to go on to graduate school, either in the states on the east coast or overseas.

Her goal is to obtain a law degree from Oxford and ultimately be able to practice law throughout the European Union. Mackenzie has long been involved in her communities with volunteer work. Her current involvement with her sorority is giving her the opportunity to expand this involvement and has recently assisted in the organization of fund raising for the local Girl Scouts troop and Prevent Child Abuse America. After completing her education, she hopes to work overseas with the United Nations. She has a passion for working with human rights and crimes against humanity.



**Carly Haring** *Sponsored by Innovative Systems, LLC*

Carly presently attends the University of South Dakota where she is majoring in Medical Biology. She considers herself to be a hard-working and determined individual. Her biggest goal for herself is to make a positive impact in the world through the career of being a physician. She likes to view opportunities as a chance to improve herself and better prepare her for future challenges. She is someone who likes to plan and prepare for her future, but also makes sure to enjoy the process along the way!

Carly was actively involved in volleyball, basketball and track & field all through high school. She was also a member of Health Occupations Students of America for four years and the National Honor Society her junior and senior years. She has continued on with track & field in college and volunteers weekly at a nursing home as part of a student organization "Adopt-A-Grandparent." She is currently a member of the Pre-Med Society at the University. Her intent is to become an Internist, although while keeping her options open as she navigates different specialties as a physician. She would like to serve a rural community in need of a physician – hopefully remaining in South Dakota, but she is open to other places as well.



**Carter Knox** *Sponsored by Aldrich CPAs + Advisors, LLP*

Corban University is where Carter chose to attend college this fall. He will be majoring in Accounting. He has not completely made up his mind as yet to what career he will pursue, but he is looking to pair his future knowledge in accounting with a trade. He has always had a knack for understanding math and how numbers work. He likes math because equations work out and there is always a right answer with an explanation. He has considered the possibility of combining his business and accounting training with the hands-on skills he has attained to run his own business or operate in a management position.

Carter has been involved in numerous outreach and volunteer programs through the local community and his church. He began working the summer after his freshman year of high school on his grandfather's farm driving swathers and combines in the fields. This past year he began working full-time in the summer and parttime during the school year as a construction laborer in his family's construction business. Carter says this schedule helped to build his character, taught him how to work really hard and to persevere even when things are tough.



**Drew Knox** *Sponsored by Aldrich CPAs + Advisors, LLP*

Drew will again be attending Corban University this fall for his third year at college, majoring in Accounting. His intent is to finish in 4 years, a program that typically takes 5 years to complete, by utilizing credits he earned in high school and along the way. 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 for humanitarian service trips to build homes for financially challenged families. He has also participated in local community outreach programs and with his church serving underprivileged families in the area.

During the school year, Drew works for his family's construction business as a bookkeeper. He says that this experience helps him to grasp concepts in his business/ accounting classes in a more tangible way. He plans to continue his work through college and hopefully increase the complexity of his tasks. Last year, Drew was chosen as a recipient of the OTA Scholarship Award. He had told of his desire to play basketball for Corban University. Although he faced many challenges and had to overcome obstacles along the way, he has earned a spot on the Gold Squad, the developmental team at the University. He says managing the additional time commitments with his academic load and work expectations is definitely a challenge, but certainly worth it.



**Noah Lyman** *Sponsored by GVNW – a Vantage Point Company*

Noah is excited to begin his college experience this fall at Columbia University in New York. His major will be in Political Science. Noah strongly identifies with his Hawaiian culture and heritage. He hopes to make a difference in the lives of the Hawaiian people by seeking office either in Hawaii or somewhere else where he can embark on a career in politics to make change.

Throughout his high school experience, Noah admits to having been on the receiving end of strong racism, hatred and ignorance because of his Hawaiian heritage. However, he feels thankful for this because it helped him find his voice, his passion and his determination to always fight for what he believes in, and to always fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Noah also plans to continue with his interest in playing baseball having been recruited by Columbia to play baseball on their team. He played on the Jesuit High School team all four years of high school and with the NW Futures Baseball Academy for 3 years on the select college prep team. Noah has been continually active in his school, local community and church through numerous outreach programs benefiting low-income and homeless families, children's ministry, and education on poverty and social injustice.



**Toni Schmidt** *Sponsored by Innovative Systems, LLC*

Toni is working towards her MBA in Accounting Analytics at Northern State University. She is working full time while pursuing her degree. Toni's career goal is to work in an environment that helps others, challenges her personally and drives her to do better, and helps to support her family. She wants her children to be proud of their mom, inspire them to go out and work hard and to help them learn they need to make their own way in life. Toni assists in designing software that helps make her clients work lives easier. She feels challenged every day and wants to become a more valuable resource for her employer and ultimately for her clients all across the country. That is why she is attaining her Masters Degree and eventually her CPA certificate.

Throughout high school, Toni was involved in almost everything — sports, band, jazz band, chorus, swing choir, FHA and Pep Club. She maintained a 4.0 GPA and graduated co-valedictorian of her class and was selected for the National Honor Society. In college, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science major in Accounting with an MIS minor. After her first stint with college, she participated in and graduated from the N2Institute Leadership Program. Toni has always been very active in the communities she has lived in, helping her daughters in their activities including assisting with coaching, providing team meals, organizing events and fundraisers. She continues to volunteer in programs such as Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity, and fundraising for local Safehouses.



**Stephanie Way** *Sponsored by Douglas Fast Net*

Stephanie will begin her studies this fall at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Her major will be in Global Business and Global Security and Intelligence. By earning a Bachelor's Degree in both of these subjects, she hopes to set herself up to earn internships and potential employment at various government agencies or private businesses. Through this career she plans to do meaningful tasks that aid in humanitarian efforts, as well as assist in serving and protecting the United States. Stephanie says that what drove her to choose this career path was a tour of the US Pentagon on a recent family trip. It made her realize how hard the military works to protect the citizens of the United States and the environment was so driven with so much purpose that it served as a life-altering inspiration to her.

Stephanie has always been physically active. At age 10, through trial and error, physical and emotional perseverance, and countless hours at the local YMCA, she earned her First Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo! She says the fortitude that was formed through this experience carried through many of her future activities. Presently, she continues her involvement in 4-H, beginning in the fourth grade, raising steers. She has participated in Cross Country, Basketball and Track and Field all throughout her school years.

Stephanie has continued to be involved in school activities including Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), serving as vice president of media for her chapter during her senior year. She has also served as a member of the U-Dub Club, a volunteer organization and participated on various committees. She was inducted into the National Honors Society her junior year, currently serving as Treasurer for her local chapter. During the past year, she has worked as an intern at a local financial business, all while maintaining her studies and numerous activities. She is looking forward to continuing her education.



**Nikolas de Vore** *Sponsored by Consolidated Business Services*

Nick presently attends Clackamas Community College where he is studying mechanical engineering with a transfer degree with the ultimate goal of obtaining his bachelor's degree at Oregon State University. Nick is "a family man with three beautiful and hyper children and a loving wife" who manages them during the day while he is going to school and working full time. He considers himself to be a technology enthusiast that loves messing with new and exciting technology. He wants to work on something that allows him to do good for the world — something that allows someone's life to be better. In high school, Nick participated in the Big Brother Program with FBLA. He served as Theatre Technician all 4 years, building sets and setting up for shows. Nick was Varsity Tennis player & Counselor at Outdoor School while obtaining his Eagle Scout Award.

Nick's most recent community activity was helping organize the 3D printing of 50,000 pieces of PPE that was shipped up and down the west coast due to COVID. He was a volunteer coordinator in helping organize 500 plus 3D printers to gather pieces that were 3D printed and get them to a central location to be distributed to medical offices or nonprofits that needed them. Nick also printed full size brain models to be used as teaching aids for Northwest Noggins, a nonprofit that teaches kids about brain science and how neural network works in the human body.

This year's OTA Service Award was given to Maureen Comstock who recently retired after 40+ years at Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company. Through the years, Maureen has been immensely supportive of the OTA, serving on a number of committees, including the Scholarship Foundation and the Consumer Services and Marketing Committees. Congratulations Maureen -- you are so deserving of this award. We will all miss you, but we wish you the very best in your next chapter!



*Maureen getting her Service Award*

Two Honorary Member Awards were given out to Curt Thornton, recently retired Manager at Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company and Mike Whalen, recently retired General Manager of Pioneer Connect. Neither Curt nor Mike was able to join us for this meeting, but we will be sure to get their awards delivered to them.

Unitel Insurance once again presented a “big check” to the OTA from their Job Training & Safety Program. The OTA has truly appreciated this gesture over many years. These funds provide assistance with being able to continue to offer our members training programs throughout the year. Shane Ideus, Risk Consultant and Mike Hetzel, Director of Risk Management Services from Unitel made the presentation.



*Unitel getting its BIG check!*

Keynote Speaker, Sandy Gennaro kicked off our full day of sessions with his B E A T S presentation. Mr. Gennaro is a world class speaker and drummer who has recorded and toured with several globally known artists during a career that spans 52 years and continues today. Sandy shared lessons he has learned while navigating the murky, shark infested waters of the music business to help identify and offer solutions to issues regarding leadership, customer service and brand loyalty.

- Belief**...God Energy, Yourself, Possibilities
- Enthusiasm**...Christmas Morning
- Attitude**...Thoughts, Equality, Appreciation
- Tenacity**...Passion Power
- Service**



*Sandy Gennaro's B E A T S*

Daniel Holbrook, Manager of the Oregon Broadband Office joined us to discuss the OBO and state broadband programs. Jeff Smith, VP of Public Policy and Advocacy for Vantage Point Solutions provided important information from the federal level.

(Below) Mike Hetzel, Director – Risk Management Services for Unitel Insurance, Craig Sanders, Partner at Moss Adams and Darrin Gross, Account Executive at Leonard Adams Insurance presented a panel discussion on Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery in the face of challenging times for the telecommunications industry in the face of COVID, the rampant wildfires and recent crippling ice storm.

Managing Director with CoBank, Lennie Blakeslee offered insights and information about our economy, focusing on inflation concerns and employment issues.



**continued**

*Mike, Craig and Darrin's panel discussion on Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery*



*Concurrent breakout sessions included:*

“Enabling service providers to deliver unparalleled, fully managed subscriber experiences beyond Broadband and Wi-Fi.”  
– presented by Calix.

“Cooperative Board Session.” – presented by Matt Lowe,

“Simplifying FTTH technology evolution: Combo PON Use Cases.” – presented by Adtran.

“Legislative and Regulatory Updates.” – presented by Brant Wolf, OTA.

*A special thanks to our ever-supportive vendors for participating at this event!*

Adtran  
Altec Industries  
Buckingham Manufacturing  
Calix  
Clearfield  
MACC  
Millennium  
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*And huge thanks to those companies that helped to sponsor our meeting!*

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**The 2022 OTA Annual Meeting is being planned for late May or early June —  
exact dates and location to be announced soon!**



# 2022 OTA EVENT CALENDAR

## ITA Showcase

**March 2-3**

Wednesday 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel – Portland, Oregon

## Outside Plant Seminar

**April 28-29**

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, Oregon

## OTA Annual Meeting

Dates & location yet to be determined; either late May or early June

## Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar

**September 22-23**

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, Oregon

*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.*



## DECEMBER 2021

- 1 Annual Meeting Committee Meeting  
Wednesday – 9:30 a.m. via Zoom
- 9 Outside Plant Committee Meeting  
Thursday - 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.*

## 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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The Premier Associate Member demonstrates a high level of support to the OTA and the telecommunications industry. In return, the Premier Associate Member receives benefits that include signage at the Annual Meeting, priority booth placement consideration at all OTA events, one discounted registration at all OTA events, and discounted advertising in all OTA publications.

## Need to contact the Oregon Telecommunications Association?

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