

1st & 2nd Quarter 2022 Edition

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Legislative Update

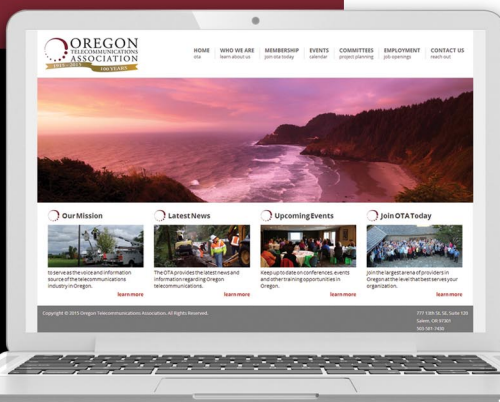
by Brant Wolf

During the first half of the year, the Oregon Legislature met and passed legislation of interest to our members. Work is ongoing to implement those bills. Here is a brief recap of the work being done.

House Bill 4092, among other things altered the membership and responsibilities of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council (OBAC). The Council now has one telecommunications provider member dedicated to the interests of rural Oregon. Jim Rennard, Pioneer Connect, serves that role on OBAC. The bill also implements term limits for OBAC members.

Additionally, OBAC will now actively assist the Oregon Broadband Office (OBO) in establishing best practices and a grant review process. Both of these elements should give our members and the broader public greater confidence in the work that the OBO is doing. The OTA supported this bill for several reasons and chief among them was a need for meaningful policies and procedures that will ensure the wise of public funds meant to eliminate areas currently unserved and address areas that are underserved.

continued...



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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!

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HB 4092 also directed the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) to study the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) and report back to the legislature. The study will examine how OTAP might be expanded to address low income Oregonians access to broadband internet access services. The report is due on or before Jun1, 2023. My hope is they will also examine how OTAP might get a new name, although the bill doesn't require that part.

Also, House Bill 2411 is legislation crafted to facilitate the ongoing efforts to deploy and maintain our broadband capable networks. In certain situations, it requires ODOT to notify broadband providers when ODOT will have underground construction that might accommodate 3rd party broadband infrastructure such as conduit. Rules to implement this requirement are currently being drafted.

ODOT has been in close contact with the OTA and in particular, has engaged our Outside Plant Committee (OSP) in discussions on how to implement HB 2411. This is a great example of the value OTA provides to our members as well as state agencies. David Soloos with ODOT is familiar with the OTA and knew he could reach out to us for assistance with this legislation. Thank you to the OSP for taking on this work.

The OTA supported both of these bills and offered testimony and other support as needed or requested.

On a related note, 2022 is of course an election year. The OTA does have a Political Action Committee (PAC) which most of our provider members support and contribute to. While our PAC is small compared to others in the telecommunications space, we use these funds in a targeted way to ensure our collective voice is heard.

If the OTA can be a lower level sponsor of certain fundraising events and be recognized as such, it goes a long way towards generating some goodwill. It also demonstrates to those who might not always agree with us on policy matters that OTA can be a force in elections as well.

Beyond that, we use our PAC funds to support key legislators on Committees where our issues are heard as well as legislators in Leadership positions. We also support folks representing our member's service areas.

The importance of our PAC can't be overstated. While this is an area where not all our members agree, what can be said without hesitation is that our PAC matters to the efforts of the OTA. No one buys a vote with a PAC contribution but it does allow us to help those who might help us and by extension those we serve in rural Oregon.

A big thank you to all our members who are able to contribute to the OTA PAC!

“Essential Expansion: Building a Resilient Network”

Holiday Inn Columbia Riverfront in Portland, Oregon



ITA SHOWCASE NORTHWEST



This year's theme was “Essential Expansion: Building a Resilient Network” and held at a newly remodeled venue for this year's ITA Showcase! The group ventured to the recently renovated Holiday Inn Columbia Riverfront (formerly known as the Red Lion Jantzen Beach) in North Portland just across the river from Washington. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the new location. Even though the footprint of the show is somewhat smaller in size, it was still a huge success! Seventy-five vendors filled the exhibit hall. Thankfully the weather was beautiful, but a bit chilly — there was a heated outside tent that housed the ice cream social and served hot coffee all day.

Seminars were held on an hourly rotation both days:

“Telecom Power Grid Presentation” with Superior Essex

“New Connections for the Digital Home – Introduction to WiFi 6E” with ZyXEL

“The Secret Playbook: Five Winning Strategies to Keep your Field Operations in the End Zone”
with Fiber Professionals

“The Whole Thing” with Calix

“A Comprehensive Cloud Strategy” with Calix

“OMNIA – U.S. Communities” with Graybar

“Building a Multiservice Aggregation Network for Rural Broadband” with Ribbon Communications

“Evolving Your Fiber Broadband Services and Why ‘Openness’ Matters” with Radisys Corporation

“Tackling Challenges Facing Telcos – A unique look at end-to-end network monitoring, switch analytics and Robocalling, plus subscriber grown tips from a fellow service provider” with Nex-Tech

“Bring Your Buried Assets to Life: Mapping Underground Utilities with High-Accuracy in Real Time”
with EOS Positioning Systems

“Keeping Network Maps Current: The New Necessary Evil” with New Net Services

“Introduction to MaxWrap and MaxSpace” with MaxCell

continued...

This show continues to be a great success due in large part to the continual support of many! Stepping up for "Show Saver" sponsorships were **Calix, Cascade Poly Pipe and Conduit and Preformed Line Products!**

Platinum Sponsors were **Clearfiled, Corning, Ditch Witch, General Pacific, Graybar, North Sky Communications, Power & Tel and Robinson Brothers Construction.**

Gold Sponsors were **Altec Industries, Commscope, CORE Telecom Systems, Cyber Power, Hubbell Power Systems, NW Technology Sales, Precision Fiber, Primex Manufacturing, S&S Solutions, Radisys Corporation, Superior Essex, Versalift NW and ZyXEL Communications.**

Silver Sponsors were **American Power Systems, Batter Power Solutions, a Maicom Company, Buckingham Manufacturing, Communications Data Group, Maptraq, Mid-America Corporation and Ribbon Communications.**

This was Deb Low's swan song with this event — she "officially" retired at the end of this show. Deb has been coordinating the ITA Showcase for many, many years (I have lost count) and she will be truly missed. She has done an outstanding performance of pulling these shows together every year. Someone will have some huge shoes to fill! Wishing you every blessing your heart can hold, Deb — we appreciate all you have given to this industry over the years.

Deb Low (Graphic Design Unlimited) "retiree" on the right and Susan Allen (OTA) rumored to be following in Deb's steps to retirement not too far in the future!



Watch your email and the OTA website later this fall for dates and location for the 2023 ITA Showcase!

Outside Plant Seminar

The Best Western Inn, Newport, Oregon



The Outside Plant Seminar finally happened in 2022!

After two years of being cancelled due to COVID, everyone was ready to get together at the beach again. The Best Western Agate Beach Inn located in Newport was once again the venue for this event. We had really good attendance with a good showing from both Associate Member and Telephone Companies. Thanks to all of you for your support in attending this seminar.

The committee arranged a program with relevant topics: Calix provided speakers for **"WiFi6/6e," "Supply Chain Logistics," "Innovation for Better Broadband Quality"** and **"PON Technologies --- Which is Right for You?"**

Jason Williams from NW Natural joined us for a presentation on **"811 Updates."** Dale Berryman from Vivax/Metrotech Corporation presented **"Utility Locating and Survey Grade GNSS Mapping."** Discovery Management Group's Eric Gakstetter presented **"What can GIS do for Your Telecom Organization?"** and Tammie Davis from S & S Solutions wrapped up the program with **"What testing Looks Like for the Networks of the Future."**

The recipient of the 2022 Outside Plant Employee of the Year Award is Bruce Lanham.

Erik Hoefer, President/CEO at Stayton Cooperative Telephone Association, tells of Bruce's tenure at SCTC. "Bruce began his career at SCTC in 1988 as a Security Alarm Installer/Repairman. Back before FTTH, high speed internet, and such, there was a service called POTS. In the early 90's 2nd lines became the rage and many of the companies out there at the time did not have the pairs needed to feed the demand. High density CM8 was the answer and it kept many cable splicers and technicians busy trying to keep their copper plant in good enough shape to run these systems. Bruce is/was one of the best copper technicians I have ever worked with. He is one of the few people that could operate a Wheatstone Bridge. Look it up, you'll be impressed too! Luckily the dynatel 965 came and Bruce embraced the new technology too. Bruce became the "go to" technician for those intermittent problems that the I&R techs just couldn't figure out. He earned the nickname "the wizard" for his ability to identify, locate, and repair those copper problems.

In 2008 we began our journey down the FTTH path. Bruce added fiber splicing, testing, and troubleshooting to his repertoire and kept moving along. Bruce never lost his touch in the copper world and we kept him busy right up until his last week of work for us. Bruce finished his career as Leadman/Senior Tech and was respected by all of the staff at SCTC. Bruce has never sought after accolades from his work, but everyone that worked with him knew he was one of the best and knew they could count on him whenever they needed help."

Congratulations Bruce and thank you for your many years of dedication to this industry!



(left to right: Matt Barrett, SCTC; and OTA OSP Committee Vice Chair Bruce Lanham, retired SCTC; and Brian Richardson, Pioneer Connect and OTA OSP Committee Chair)

**Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the 2023 Outside Plant Seminar
April 6 – 7 at the Best Western PLUS Agate Beach Inn – Newport, Oregon**

Annual Meeting 2022

Brasada Ranch, Powell Butte, Oregon



Brasada Ranch in Powell Butte, Oregon was the setting for the 2022 OTA Annual Meeting. The weather could not have been more perfect and the surrounding landscape was absolutely beautiful! A good crowd of attendees ventured to eastern Oregon for this event. Kicking off the program on the first evening were the silent auction and raffle benefiting the Scholarship Foundation. We had great success in raising monies for future recipients! Thank you to all of you who opened your wallets to support this important program!



This year the OTA honored Marlene Muhs (COLTONTEL, retired) with the OTA Service Award for her many years of continual support of our association. Marlene has served on the OTA Scholarship Foundation Board for several years and before that, the Consumer Services Committee.

An Honorary Member award was announced for Tom Barth, who retired from his position of CEO/GM at Scio Mutual Telephone Association at the end of last December. Congratulations Tom!

A fully packed day of sessions started off with **LD Bennett of Maximize Consulting, LLC**. LD walked us through a process designed to enhance team member performance. She shared how awareness of diverse and inclusive business practices will lead to competitive advantages and development of employees with skills that companies need in order to thrive.



Lennie Blakeslee, Managing Director with **CoBank** offered insights and information about our economy while **Michael Balhoff**, Senior Partner with **Charlesmead Advisors, LLC** offered his thought and insights on trends and developments in the telecommunications industry.



Derrick Owens, WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband and **Lynn Follansbee, US Telecom** teamed up to discuss the latest developments in Washington, D.C.



Daniel Holbrook, Manager of the **Oregon Broadband Office** and **Evan Feinman** from **National Telecommunications and Information** joined together to discuss the emerging state and federal broadband funding programs.



Rounding out the day, **Moss Adams, LLP** presented a breakout session on **“Metrics & Strategies to Reduce USF Dependence”** while **Vantage Point Solutions** offered **“Executive Responsibilities in a Cyberthreat World.”** The evening closed with a private reception for the OTA Board of Directors and OTA Premier Associate Members.

2022 Scholarship Award Recipients



Cyrus Bogart

sponsored by Cascade Utilities / Reliance Connects

Cyrus plans to attend the University of Oregon this fall with a proposed major in Law with hopes of reaching his maximum potential in an educational aspect. Cyrus feels that the justice system affects everyone and to play a part in such a fundamental system of our country would not only be a dream, but an honor.

Elyse Burton

sponsored by Ziplly Fiber

Elyse will be continuing her education at Goshen College where her goal is to obtain a bachelors degree in Sustainability Management. Her focus is on environmental outdoor spaces. She would like to further her education and has plans to achieve her master's degree.





Olivia Foster

sponsored by Innovative Systems

Olivia will be continuing her studies at Dakota Wesleyan University in digital media and design. Her education goals are to gain as much knowledge and experience in business, leadership and graphic art as possible with plans of beginning a career in graphic arts.



Carly Haring

sponsored by Innovative Systems

Carly currently attends the University of South Dakota studying Medical Biology. Her goal is to complete her undergraduate degree, complete the Honors Program graduating with honors and write a thesis --- all leading up to successfully completing medical school.

Taylor Haring

sponsored by Innovative Systems

Taylor plans to attend South Dakota State University with a proposed major in Pharmacy with a minor in Chemistry. Her goal is to complete all six years of college keeping a 4.0 GPA and upon graduating, work in a local pharmacy.



Kacy Lyman

sponsored by Vantage Point Solutions

Kacy is planning to attend Georgetown University upon graduating from Jesuit High School this June. Her proposed major will be Sports Management and Marketing. She would like to use her education to work in sports management to help others through their journey in sports and make a difference.



Tyler Mills

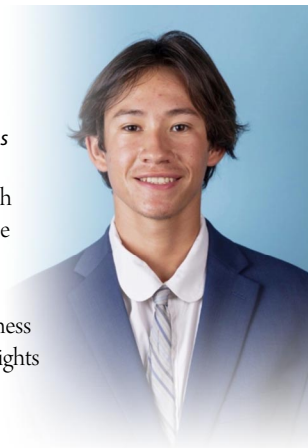
sponsored by Monroe Telephone Company

Tyler currently attends Oregon State University majoring in Accounting. His goal is to maintain his position as an Honor Roll student while completing his bachelor's degree and aspires to work at a public accounting firm. While he primarily has an interest in audit, he is excited to gain exposure to the many niches within the industry to find an area of accounting that allows him to continue to challenge himself and learn as he advances through his career.

Noah Lyman

sponsored by Vantage Point Solutions

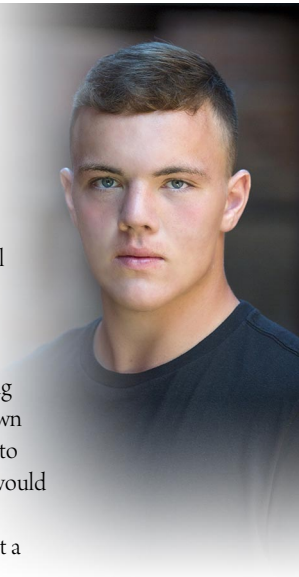
Columbia University is where Noah is pursuing a political science degree working towards a future career in politics. He wants to perpetuate Hawaiian culture and spread awareness through the recognition of human rights issues facing Hawaiians today.



Ryan Rickman

sponsored by
Consolidated Business Services

Ryan is presently enrolled at Carroll College majoring in Business. He aspires to get his degree in Business Management as well as become a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. His goal is to open his own gym that specializes in athletes and to help them achieve their goals. He would like to one day become a football Strength and Conditioning coach at a university.



Carley Silbernagel

sponsored by *Scio Mutual Telephone Association*

Carley plans to attend George Fox University and pursue a degree in Nursing. Becoming a Labor and Delivery Nurse has been one of her life long dreams and is now one of her biggest goals! She was able to witness the birth of a first-time mom and observe the most amazing display of compassion and expert care which served as a pivotal, life-changing moment for her.

Alexander Simms

sponsored by *Molalla Communications*

Alexander hopes to attend Mt. Hood Community College this fall. His proposed major will be Computer Game Development. His goal is to obtain an Associate's Degree and likely move on to a more career-oriented school, focused on software engineering. He finds this field incredibly interesting and a very broad and beneficial avenue to explore.

Diana Coleman Memorial Scholarship Award



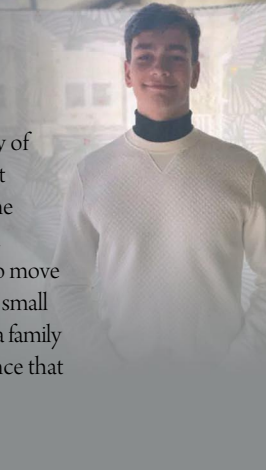
Diana Coleman was a cornerstone of the OTA Scholarship Foundation serving as past Chairman of the Board and as a Director on the Board for 15 years. She was involved from its inception; instrumental in starting the organization. Diana lost her nearly two-year battle with cancer in December of 2013.

To honor her memory, the OTA Scholarship Foundation created the Diana Coleman Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is in addition to the annual awards which are awarded largely based on academics. Diana's greatest passion was for students who encountered adversity, that persevered and triumphed over their difficulties. The Diana Coleman Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student who most closely fits the criteria Diana championed.

Nicholas Sawtelle

sponsored by
Consolidated Business Services

Nicholas currently attends the University of Oregon and has applied at the Lundquist College of Business at the U of O with the intent of obtaining a bachelor's degree in Business. He wants to use this platform to move his career goal forward towards running a small business. He would like to be able to start a family business with his sister providing assistance that finds shelter for houseless children.





**Scholarship
Foundation**

OTA Scholarship Foundation

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 we have awarded 188 scholarships totaling \$221,500.00. The proceeds from the Silent Auction and Raffle held each year at the Annual Meeting continue to help fund this important program.

When you contribute to the OTA Scholarship Foundation, you are contributing to the future of our employees and their families. Thank you for your continual support!

OTA Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

Virginia Tucker, President, *Pioneer Connect*

Janet Bailey, President Elect, *Consolidated Business Services*

Kathy Gordon, Secretary-Treasurer, *Aldrich CPAs + Advisors LLP*

Brant Wolf, Executive Vice President, *OTA*

Geri Fraijo, Director, *Monitor Cooperative Telephone*

Joyce Nelsen, Director, *Roome Telecommunications Inc.*

Renee Willer, Director, *DataVision Cooperative*



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And many thanks to the companies who provided sponsorships! We truly appreciate your support!

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Fond memories.....

Sadly, our industry and the OTA Family lost a few good men early on this year, all within just weeks of each other. Each of these men were continual supporters of the OTA by being actively involved in various committees and each will be truly missed!

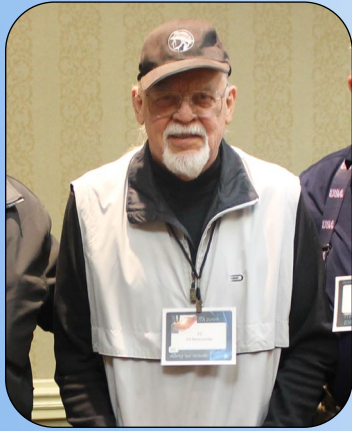
Sev Giles

(Primex Manufacturing) passed away in February. He served many years on both the Outside Plant and CO-IT Committees. Sev also served as Director and was a Past President on the ITA Showcase Board.



Ed Newcombe

Ed passed just a couple weeks later. He had retired some years ago from Norcom NW. Prior to that he worked for PacStar and Norcom Agency. During his decades long career in the telecommunications industry, Ed was a continual support of the OTA and all of our events.



Mark Benson

(American Power Systems) Mark passed suddenly and unexpectedly in March just prior to the ITA Showcase. Mark was always a huge support on committees and continually willing to share his vast knowledge in the world of batteries with anyone that needed advice and by speaking at many of our events, including seminars for Outside Plant, CO-IT and Safety.



*Our thoughts and prayers
continue to be with their families*

OTA COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 2022

- 21 CO-IT Pre-Seminar Committee Meeting
Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. at Best Western Agate Beach Inn - Newport

OCTOBER 2022

- 27 OSP Committee Meeting
Thursday – 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

NOVEMBER 2022

- 1 Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday – 2:00 p.m. at Aldrich CPAs + Advisors LLP Salem
- 3 Annual Meeting Committee Meeting
Thursday – 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

NEW MEMBERS

Telephone Company:

Beacon Broadband, Inc.

Associate Members:

Challenger Optics

<https://challengeroptics.com/>

Choice IT Global LLC

www.choiceitglobal.com

Comtrend

us.comtrend.com

CyberPower Systems

www.cyberpowersystems.com

Deduction Productions

dba Fiber Professionals

www.fiberprofessionals.com

DZS

www.dzsi.com

EOS Positioning Systems

<https://eos-gnss.com/>

JSI

www.jsitel.com

Maptraq

www.maptraq.com

Radisys

<https://www.radisys.com/>

Tempo Communications

www.tempocom.com

October 6-7, 2022 in Ashland



The theme for this year is: Navigating the Funding Flood

The 2022 conference presenters and attendees will explore how Oregon can leverage the current historic & extraordinary funding programs available to meet the broadband needs of its local communities and to close the Digital Divide.

Program topics will include the array of available funding programs, state and local community engagement, broadband technologies, digital equity, digital inclusion, managing expectations, and keys to project success.

for more info visit: www.oregonconnections.info

2022 Keynote Speakers



Angela Siefer
Digital Inclusion Expert



Russ Elliott
CEO, Siskiyou Telephone Company

OTA Upcoming Event Calendar

Central Office & Information Technologies Seminar

September 22-23, 2022

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, Oregon

Safety Seminar

November 16, 2022

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

Outside Plant Seminar

April 6 & 7, 2023

Best Western Agate Beach Inn – Newport, Oregon

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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The 2022 CO-IT Seminar is scheduled to take place this fall on September 22 – 23, once again on the Oregon Coast in Newport at the Best Western PLUS Agate Beach Inn.

We hope you will consider joining us for this event. The topics on this years program agenda will include.....

“Stir/Shaken Robocall Mitigation Technology” with Andrew Ward of Ward Consulting

“Python Best Practices, Tips & Tricks” with Tom Pope of Calix

“Gig Wireless Service” with Cambium Networks

“Customer Service and Marketing Panel” with representatives from Pioneer Connect and CBS

“Guide to Securing the Remote Work Force” with Kelven Harigyan of CheckPoint Software

“Intro to DC Power Plant Maintenance” with Curtis Ashton of American Power Systems

“Disaster Recovery” with Matthew Marheine, Deputy Directory of Oregon Emergency Management

“Legislative and Regulatory Updates” with Brant Wolf of OTA

The conference brochure will be distributed and registration for this event will open within the next couple of weeks.

.....we hope to see you at the beach!!

The OTA Safety Committee is working diligently to put together their annual program for this fall. They will be gathering at the Best Western Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center in Lebanon, Oregon for this event on Wednesday – November 16, 2022.

Topics currently being considered for the agenda are:

Environmental Hazards

Cascadia Subduction Zone

Situational Awareness

Grounding and Testing

Workplace Morale and Mental Health Issues

Rigging and Setting Vaults and Poles

The conference brochure and registration materials are scheduled to be available and distributed by the middle of September.

Please join your peers from across the Pacific Northwest for this fully packed day of safety training!

Oregon Telecommunications Association appreciates the support of our Premier Associate Member Companies!

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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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Salem, OR 97301-4030
Telephone: (503) 581-7430

Brant D. Wolf
Executive Vice President
email: bwolf@ota-telecom.org
Cell: (503) 871-0479

Susan E. Allen
Office Manager/
Members Services Coordinator
email: sallen@ota-telecom.org
Cell: (503) 998-1318