



May 2008

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CAROL HUMPHREYS

Spring 2008. Was it really spring? While the weather outside may have been cold, snowy and totally unpredictable, inside the Village Green Conference Center it was warm, filled with sunny smiles and comfortably predictable. It was predictable in that the conference offered an outstanding educational program. The emphasis of our MSU core competency was Resources, Budget and Finances. The sessions with Allen Carlson were enlightening and informative; playing the Budget Game with Roger Dawes was not only fun, but educational. Although some of us had some very creative suggestions for cuts that were made. I believe we all came away with a little clearer idea of the budget process. The dual track offered a variety of options and I am sure that you were challenged and gained knowledge that you will use in your court.

It is impossible to thank everyone who worked diligently to make the Spring Conference successful. Hats off to the board and committees for all of their dedication, planning and joy in bringing you the 2007 Spring Fling.

Kudos to our past presidents who attended the conference, Nadine, Donna, Char, Kay, Joyce and Becky! We have appreciated your leadership and are thankful for your continued dedication to OACA.

A special thank you to our vendors who assisted in making this conference enjoyable and successful. Professional Credit donated our notebooks; Credit, Inc mouse pads; Credit Services and Majic sponsored the beverages for the hospitality evening; Valley Credit all day coffee service and Tyler Technology donated pens and hosted our breaks with the brownies and *cookies*. Their donations are most appreciated.

If you missed the Spring Conference – I’m sorry. BUT, it’s not too early to start planning on attending the fall 2008 conference at the Mt Bachelor Village in Bend October 19, 20 & 21. Fall in Central Oregon is magnificent. Join me on my side of the mountains for what promises to be another educational and joy filled adventure.

The fall conference will also bring an opportunity I invite you to consider. Succession planning is always important and for OACA it is life giving. Your Board is ever changing and this year is no exception. I hope that you will consider taking advantage of a great opportunity and join the Board. Please contact Becky Robertson, myself, or any member of the Board for further information. The Intent to Run forms will be in the next issue of the ECHO.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The ECHO is committed to accuracy in all of its content. If you see something that requires a correction or a clarification, please contact Amy Anderson at: amy@ci.hillsboro.or.us



SECRETARY'S CORNER

On behalf of the OACA Board I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Spring Conference selective drawing. Your commitment to helping OACA in our continued education is sincerely appreciated.

Each year OACA continues to advance its mission of not only providing quality education but to provide opportunities to exchange ideas for improving court processes and networking with professionals.

The money collected from the raffle helps support those purposes along with many others. Thanks again for your generous support.

VENDOR SCHOLARSHIP'S

The OACA Board was pleased to award Vendor Hardship Scholarships to ten OACA members in April. These members were able to attend the Spring conference even though their courts were going through some tough financial times.

If you cannot afford to attend an OACA conference, please remember that there are other resources available to you as a dues-paying member. The Vendor Hardship Scholarship is available to assist OACA members with conference expenses. The application period is open prior to each conference and applications are available on the OACA website, or by contacting the Association Secretary.

Applicant must be an active dues-paying member and application must include a statement about financial need. Please refer to <http://www.oaca.org> to get more information.

MEMBERSHIP

Have you changed your name, mailing address or e-mail information recently? If so remember to contact Karen McCulley, Membership Vice President to update your membership information. You can contact her via e-mail at Karen.McCulley@co.lane.or.us.

Cottage Grove New Member Breakfast

The Membership Committee is excited to announce that there have been over 50 new members join OACA this calendar year, and 14 of them attended the New Member Breakfast at the Cottage Grove conference. Membership certificates, pins and packets were distributed to those who were present. Other new members will receive their information through the mail.

The breakfast was an opportunity for the members to meet each other, be introduced to the Board members, hear about the function of the Board positions and their committees, listen to a conference overview, and enjoy breakfast together. It was a good beginning to a wonderful conference, and a great conference experience.





Congratulations!

Three members have earned recruitment incentives. Leslie Bjornbank, Central Lane Justice Court has earned a free OACA membership. Jane McKinnis from Springfield Municipal Court and Laurie Boyce from Aurora Municipal Court have each earned a free membership and a free conference registration!

A great reminder for us to ask those that we refer to OACA to enter our name on the Membership Application! Remember refer 3 new members and receive a free membership fee or refer 5 new members and receive a free membership and free conference registration.

A New Member Perspective

2008 Snowy Spring Conference

My first OACA Conference was one for the record books. I would describe my experience as both exhausting and exhilarating!! Our theme was spring renewal but it looked more like a winter storm had come to Cottage Grove.

It was amazing to watch the snow fall on the beautiful spring flowers around the gardens at the Village Green Resort. From the moment I arrived at the conference I was met with friendly faces and anticipation to attend the many informational sessions. I especially enjoyed the Justice Court Rap session where I met clerks from all over the state. We shared information on various procedures and spoke of new laws that are in effect. It was great to network with clerks from both large and small courts. We all basically have the same concerns just on a different scale.

I had the opportunity to see first hand what it's like to attend the Trauma Nurse Talk Tough class. Our court uses this course to teach safety and create awareness to young drivers. I actually learned some things myself and would highly recommend the class. The Mental Health court class and Court Advocate class were also very eye opening for me, as we don't have either program in place at our court. It really sparked an interest for me to see if our court can implement an advocacy program for our Spanish speaking clients.

I was exhausted from attending all the different classes, rap sessions and the wonderful banquet. I was energized from meeting all the great clerks, the exhilarating presenters and the amazing OACA officers who make the conferences such a great experience for us all!! I hope that if you have an opportunity to attend in the future you won't hesitate.

Jamie Strand, Central Lane Justice Court

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

"Spring Renewal" was in the air Monday night at the banquet. We had the pleasure of listening to the steel kettle drum band "Steel Magnolias" throughout dinner. Then we moved into the selective drawing. There were so many great prizes donated, thank you! Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Wes Ryan, kept us entertained throughout. It was a great evening and the Conference Committee and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

So much "behind the scenes" work goes into preparing for a conference. With the help of this great committee everything got done in an organized, professional and friendly manner. Not only did the Conference Committee members come up with a banquet theme, they decorated the banquet, planned the entertainment, created the fliers that were in your binders, put together a grand prize, and sold raffle tickets and items at the OACA store. They also put together every one of the notebooks used during the conference.

This committee was there to jump in and help with anything that was asked of them. I just cannot say thank you enough.

I would like to recognize the following Conference Committee Members: Wendie Rowe, Heidi Dotson, Jamie Strand, Amy Anderson, Peggy Howd and Sue Ryan. There were also a few people who jumped in and asked if they could help and we appreciate them for that. Thank you, Carol Humphreys, Danah Harrington, Kay Renfro, Char Mauch and Wes Ryan.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Juli Lichtenberger

Grand Prize Winner:

Looks like newlywed Leslie Bjornbak is off to enjoy a romantic "Wine County" weekend! She was the grand prize winner of the selective drawing held at the banquet.

She will enjoy a 4 hour winery tour in a limousine, 2 nights stay at the Village Green Resort in Cottage Grove, dinner for two both nights of the stay, and breakfast each morning.

Have a great time Leslie and congratulations!

Next Conference Update:

Come join the fun at the 2008 Fall OACA conference. We are off to Mt. Bachelor Village Resort in Bend! The conference will be held October 19th, 20th and 21st.

- ◆ Gather your friends and rent one of the Ski Houses.
- ◆ Take a break in the early morning or evening to work-out at the Athletic Club of Bend. Free passes are given with hotel registration!
- ◆ Enjoy 2 miles of walking trails.
- ◆ Looking for something more to do in the evening? The resort offers 2 outdoor spas, 6 tennis courts and bike rentals.



**Thank you to all the members who donated items to the selective drawing
and also those purchasing tickets, even if you did not win this time!**

Donated by:

Rhonda Castro
Kay Renfro
Sandy Rivers
Sandy Mills
Susan Mansfield
Donna Poirier
Tina Huff
Barbara Gibson
Florence Municipal Court

Sandy Rivers
Niki Hubbard
Juli Lichtenberger
Bonni Cook
Becky Robertson
CSD Financial
Barbara Gibson
Dee Shute
Char Mauch
Sandy Rivers
Marlene Leland
City of Shady Cove
Albany Municipal Court
Carol Humphreys
Peggy Howd
Jamie Strand
Peggy Howd
Albany Municipal Court
Becky Robertson
Roberta Tharp & Michelle Fumer
Christine Watts
Denise Middleton
Carol Humphreys
Suzanna Sterrett
Jeanne Plagmann
Joyce Denver
Jennifer Lucas
Donna Poirier
Theresa Miers
Linda Ramsey
Molly Ferder
Sandy Rivers
Carol Humphreys
Char Mauch
CSD Financial
Helen Matzke
Heidi Dotson
Carol Humphreys
Susan Mansfield

Item:

Pillow and Blanket
Water Fountain
Basket of Primroses and Pansies
Grandma Mug, Starbucks gift card
Oil Painted landscape
Mary Kay Satin Hand scrub
Wine, wine glasses and truffles
Condiment set of serving dishes
Basket with Myrtle wood night light,
Novel, candies and candles
Basket of Primroses and Pansies
Willamette Valley Chardonnay
Tea Cup flower pot
Ice bucket, glasses and mixers
Gardener's Basket with lots of goodies
Treat basket
Serving dishes
Veggie plate set and bowl
Life's a Beach bag
Basket of Primroses and Pansies
Village White Cuvce
Blue angel wind chimes
2 Miniature Cypress trees in boxes
You Can Do It Book
Wall plaque
Homemade pickles and jams
Pair Votive Candles and Holders
Tea cup planter, gloves, and flower
Retro movie basket
Frog plant stand
Coconut Lime bath set
Birdhouse, bird seed, bird magazine
Pier I ribbon frame
French memory board
Bird feeder
Wine basket
Infinity candle bowl
Mary Kay eye shadows and lip colors
Basket
Picture frame
Wreath
Basket of Primroses and Pansies
Note basket
Spa bag
Wine
Dish garden plant in basket
Wood stick bicycle with plant
Calligraphy print
Hand painted door harp

Winner:

Gabriele Glenn
Chris Watts
Gabriele Glenn
Becky Robertson
Carol Humphreys
Becky Robertson
Molly Barrett
De
Barbara Gibson

Rhonda Castro
Carol Humphreys
De
Juli Lichtenberger
Beth Stevenson
Mary Stankey
Beth Stevenson
Im Pullam
Michelle Furrer
Rob with PCS
Joyce Denver
Wendie Hamm
Winnie West
Char Mauch
Dee Shute
Cathy Carpenter
Cathy Carpenter
Linda Ramsey
Claracy Hancock
De
Donna Poirier
Kim Tidball
Im Pullam
Amy Anderson
Marlene Leland
Trissie Pendland
Linda Guy
Joyce Denver
Beth Stevenson
Kay Renfro
Theresa McLeod
Molly Ferder
Tina Huff
Kim Tidball
Dena Audette
Karen McCulley
Peggy Howd
Barbara Gibson
Kathy Kelty



The Key to a Good Conference



At our Spring Conference, the MSU emphasis was on Budgeting, Resource and Financing the Courts. The OACA Board thought it would be important to our members to let you know how we spend your \$155 registration fee to attend the 2 ½ day conference.

First of all, OACA provides the finest quality training dollar for dollar to assist Oregon court employees. It is almost impossible to find even a high-quality one day training for \$155 that is somewhat court related.

How do we do it? First of all, we have a dedicated OACA board who works very hard to find the right agenda, the right speakers and the right facilities. Are we always 100% successful? No, we can't always control the hotel experience or every speaker's word but we are committed to working for the membership.

One of our goals is to keep the cost of the conference affordable so that any court employee in the state could attend a conference. We work within those restrictions but we will not compromise on education. We try to book hotels that can provide proper facilities at a reasonable price.

Half of the cost of the conference goes to food. We usually furnish 3 meals, soda/coffee breaks and a hospitality suite. Sometimes we get donations from vendors to assist us with breaks and the hospitality suite. Did you know that a pot of coffee can cost \$75? A can of pop \$2? A cookie \$1.75? Hotels charge these costs and we are unable to bring in our own food for breaks. Our ala carte food costs passed on to member's guests are not marked up. Who would've thought a sandwich lunch could be over \$15?

Our conference meeting room rate is based on food purchase and hotel room reservations. You can pay a little or a lot depending on the hotel's policy. Every microphone, electrical cord and easel costs OACA a fee.

Vendors at the Fall conference are charged a table fee by the hotel, OACA pays the \$50 fee for each. OACA turns around and puts the \$400 fee paid by a vendor into a scholarship pool for members to use.

Printing and binders with tabs are another expense. Last Fall our printing bill was way over \$2000. Our binder tabs this past conference cost over \$700.

Education is crucial to the success of OACA. We have been fortunate to have many wonderful speakers who have donated their time and talents to OACA. However, we also bring in speakers from other areas of the country who are experts in their field. OACA pays travel and expenses and speaking fees. Our Fall budget speaker budget was \$4000 plus travel and expenses.

As you can tell, putting on a conference is expensive but the OACA board will continue to work for the membership. What can you do to help? You can encourage and support your board. You can become involved on a committee or the board. You can help better OACA. You are OACA's present & future.

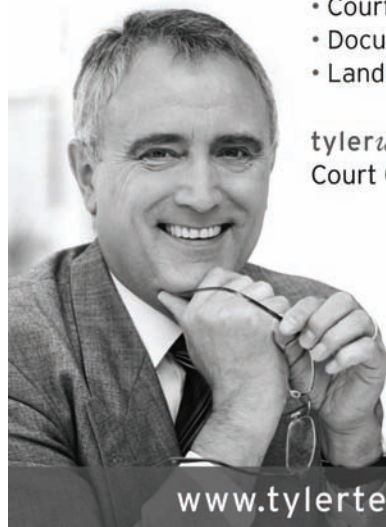
Becky Robertson
Immediate Past President

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HERE COMES DMV

Have you ever wanted to ask DMV a question but did not know who to contact?

Well now is your chance to ask—DMV is coming to the Fall 2008 Conference in Bend! Please send any and all questions you have to Char Mauch, OACA Education VP at Charlene.a.mauch@ci.eugene.or.us.

She will forward these on to DMV prior to conference so they can be ready to answer all our burning questions.

WE NEED A FEW GOOD PEOPLE



As Immediate Past President my duty is to make sure we have a full ballot for our October 2008 elections for officers for OACA. This seems like it should be an easy job but it is always challenging.

Members seem to hold back because they think they are too busy, come from a court that is too small or feel they might not have anything to contribute. I'm here to say, get involved – it will be one of the best decisions of your life.

Being part of the OACA board will help you grow in your professional and personal life. If you have been a member for just a month or for several years, you need to get involved to continue OACA's growth as a strong organization. You are OACA and OACA needs you!

Positions open this election are President; Education Vice President; Membership Vice President; Conference Vice President; Echo, Resolutions & By Laws Vice President; Secretary and 5 Director positions.

As I wrap up my several years on the board, I can look back at my experience on the OACA board with fond memories and I'd like you to have the same. Don't miss this opportunity. It takes a few Fridays during the year and attendance at the conferences. You also receive half off of your registration as a member of the board plus mileage to the meetings.

Will you step up to the plate and start your OACA board experience? Please e-mail me at brobertson@co.linn.or.us or call me at (541)995-8311. I'd like to put you on the ballot.

Becky Robertson
Immediate Past President



SPRING CONFERENCE SESSION REVIEWS

JUSTICE COURT RAP SESSION

This session allowed people to send in questions in advance. I felt like this was a great way for us to add our topic to the discussion. We received handout of the requested topics, and they were a great way for people to see that the topic they may have wanted to talk about was going to be discussed. We shared our thoughts and our Court procedures on a number of topics.

One of the topics we discussed the new MIP's/MIP Suspensions; how they affected our procedures and what the responses were from the public. Another topic was about the title of Public Officials and the description from the Oregon Ethics Guide. It was crazy to hear that in the capacity of Court Clerks we are considered "Public Official's".

We also went over what other Courts procedures are for Suspensions. We talked about things like bankruptcies and how they relate to DMV Suspensions. We went over clearances to DMV and how some courts fax the clearance and others call when it's a short notice. We also discussed whether or not to notify the defendant.

Overall I think this session was very informative for me. Being fairly new it helped me look at these topics in different perspectives. It's great being with so many people that have so much experience. They help you see what they've tried and why it did or didn't work for them. Then you can take it back to your Court to see if it would work for you.

Thanks to Leslie Bjornbak and all the ladies for the great information.

Submitted by: Lisa Faught, Linn County Justice Court

MUNICIPAL COURT RAP SESSION (TRAFFIC ONLY)

Amy Anderson from City of Hillsboro Muni Court led the Rap Session which was done in a Q & A style. This opened the sessions to matters that were most important to the members present. The topics covered were MIP judgments, default judgments, suspension packets, e-tickets, payment plans, collections, citizen issued citations, insurance (fail to carry versus uninsured) and court interpreters.

There was also a discussion on making time more efficient and what the minimum requirements are for filing judgments, length of payment plans, and how many times a defendant is contacted before suspension and collections are filed.

In the past there were many variations for how courts handled processes and I was amazed that there was more familiarity in policies this time. I think this shows that OACA is beneficial to members for networking and learning.

Submitted by: Peggy Howd

MUNICIPAL COURT RAP SESSION (TRAFFIC & MISDEMEANOR)

As always, the rap sessions are some of the most educational sessions OACA offers. Innovative ideas are shared with peers. Oftentimes, we're enlightened about laws or processes we were unaware of. Some of the topics discussed were: collections issues; trial exhibits; various fees imposed; use of interpreters and the liabilities involved in not using certified interpreters; as well as a myriad of issues we all encounter in our work lives. The best part of the session is that we connect with seasoned clerks who then become a valuable resource to us, which is especially important to new clerks.

Submitted by Donna Poirier, Beaverton Municipal Court



Funding of the Court: Context and Revenue

I enjoyed this session, not only because it had great information, but also because the speaker Mr. Carlson was both witty and knowledgeable.

The overview for court funding was wonderful for the new Clerks that attended, however it was also nice for the veterans to go over new and inventive ways to deal with budget cuts short term and long term, and the citizens that don't quite understand where their money goes.

Mr. Carlson ended his session with a discussion on how we were to implement this information into our budgets, policies, procedures, and everyday business practices to change or reduce costs.

I gave this session an A+.

Submitted by: Danah Harrington, Molalla Municipal Court



BETTER BUDGET ADVOCACY

Anyone interested in or involved in their Court's budget process would have benefited from Alan Carlson opening our minds to techniques that could be used in advocating for our Court's budgets. First of all he stressed the importance of building relationships with key people and agencies that may be affected by or have input into your budget. Know whom you are competing against and whom you are appealing to. Go to meetings once in a while such as City Council just to visit. Remind key people who you are and that you know who they are. Remember to tell success stories, not just at budget time but feed them to key people throughout the year. Show them what you did with the money or program they gave you last year and how you want to build on that.

He talked about strategies when presenting your budget such as how to present your vision or goals into your request. The importance of looking "down the road", how does what you are asking for now affect where you will be or want to go next year or the year after. Think about how you are reporting data. Does it mean anything to the people reading it and making decisions; does it help prove your theory and tell the story of why you are asking for a particular item or program?

Alan summed it all up with three important words, credibility, credibility, and credibility!!

Budgeting in Oregon – Playing the Budget Game

The budgeting game is a look into the world of City government and how different departments and programs compete for funds. Working in groups, participants were tasked with funding a number of programs. Each program had a dollar value assigned to it and, you guessed it, the group was not given enough money to fund every request. To complicate the process even further certain money was considered dedicated and could only be used for specific projects. In other cases, not funding a project fully could result in less money the following year from other agencies. Needless to say, it got complicated!

Each group had a lively discussion and ultimately did come up with a budget. The groups presented their budgets and the reasoning behind the "cuts" they made. It was fascinating and fun to hear the logic that went into the decision making.



In the end it was a great reminder that it is important to know and understand the programs your court is competing against for funds. It is equally important to know the priorities for your community and to present your budget in a way that supports the community goals.

Submitted by: Nadine Robinson, Tigard Municipal Court



COURT PROCEDURES 101

This was a great presentation with very good basic information. I wish I had this when I first started in court. Peggy did a great job of interacting with the participants and addressing conflicting pieces of information and finding the ORS's.

Submitted by: Theresa Miers, Eagle Point Municipal Court



THE BASICS - CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING

Susan Chase was a relaxed and gracious leader of this workshop that was somewhat like a rap session with everyone sharing their ideas. Topics covered were Misdemeanors, Criminal Citations, Fine Schedule/Maximum Sentence, Arraignment, Release, Counsel, Discovery, Pre-trial Conference/Status Check, Deferred Sentence Program, Jury Trials, Bench Trials, DUII's, Diversion, Show Cause, Appeal, Expungments, Warrants and Contempt's. Susan provided the ORS for each of these topics. One idea that sounded like it would be beneficial was contracting a group of attorneys for indigent defense who are paid a flat amount each month. Since budget issues are at the forefront of challenges facing Courts today, it was shared that this saves the court money. Susan also reminded us that warrants are a huge liability if not handled properly. She urged us to read ORS 135.280 and make sure we understand it. Thank you, Susan for a job well done.

Submitted by: Joanne Sargent, Lebanon Sweet Home Justice Court

WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH COURT?

After the panel was introduced by Ms. Glenn, Judge Mori gave a history of the Mental Health Court at Eugene Municipal. Judge Mori said she has been involved with the Mental Health Court since 2002, either in start-up discussions or as the Judge. She explained that the program is a six month diversion program that deals with individuals who have thought and emotion disorders, and provides integrated resources to help stabilize these individuals in the community.

The program began as a grant. Program costs cover the salary of Roger Kalman and flexible spending for things like needed prescriptions, or other items, including perhaps a first/last month rent for someone on the program who was moving into an apartment. Needs are looked at on an individual basis.

Mr. Kalman also utilizes other available resources, including limited psychiatric care, offered through Lane County Mental Health. He indicated that at times there were relapses, and some participants who have actually been in the program a second time. While they are rarely admitted for a second time, there has always been improvement. Mr. Kalman also mentioned that the other shared resources help participants be more independent and continue on elsewhere. He cited St Vincent de Paul as a wonderful shared local program resource.

Ms. Glenn distributed copies of paperwork utilized in the program. The program participants meet with the Judge at least once a month and with Mr. Kalman perhaps more often. A Public Defender also participates in assessing individuals who might qualify for program inclusion.

All three panel members were pleased about the outcome of the Mental Health court. Judge Mori observed that the program was like raising a child – “everything by gut,” that there are rules, but always exceptions to the rules. Mr. Kalman mentioned that it helps participants to accept life behavior “as is,” and to take responsibility for their own actions.

Submitted by: Leslie Bjornbak, Central Lane Justice Court



TRAUMA NURSES TALK TOUGH

Joanne Fairchild passionately shared with attendees the need to not only wear seat belts, but to wear properly positioned seat belts at all times. She showed graphic videos depicting the aftermath of violent traffic crashes in which drivers and passengers failed to wear their seat belts. Prevention and parental involvement are key in not only saving lives, but saving billions of dollars spent annually on recovery, rehabilitation and time loss from work. We all share the burden of these costs. Joanne gave staggering statistics regarding taxpayer costs due to spinal cord injuries and lost work days as a result of not wearing safety belts. On a positive note, Oregon boasts the highest safety belt use in the nation! This was an enlightening, albeit sad session due to the fact that most of the tragedies seen could have been prevented. Joanne has worked as a registered nurse for twenty nine years. She worked in the intensive care unit, emergency department and as a flight nurse whose specialties were trauma and pediatrics. She realized it's better to prevent critical injuries because most critical injuries can't be fixed. TNTT is an internationally recognized program targeting injury prevention.

Submitted by Donna Poirier, Beaverton Municipal Court

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF NOTARY PUBLIC IN OREGON

Our appreciation to speaker Thomas Wrosch, Senior Policy Advisor for the Corporation Division of the Oregon Secretary of State Agency, for providing up-to-date information on being a notary and for responding to participant questions on how to handle different situations.

Did you know a notary public is acting as a state officer? A notary doesn't just witness a signature. The person's job is to obey the laws, verify the person's identity, maintain a journal, and complete the notarial certificate. Since there are laws, rules and procedures for a notary public, all first-time applicants are required to take a 3-hour class. (Notaries without a current commission at the time of application, must also take the course.)

If you are a notary or thinking about becoming one write this web address down: www.filinginoregon.com/notary. The Notary Guide is on-line along with a lot of other good information. You can also check-out the on-line tutorial as well as a list of training opportunities the State is providing.

Submitted by: Nadine Robinson, Tigard Municipal Court

Chat Away...

Have a general court question, want to know how other people are processing something well then you need to check out the OACA Yahoo Chat Room.

Peggy Howd, OACA Director has set up a chat group for members to share ideas and ask questions relating to the Court.

This is a member only chat room. So when you initially log on you will need to get approval to belong. It's actually very easy so log on and join today if you have not already done so.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OregonOACA/>



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COURT ADVOCATE PROGRAM – PASO a PASO

This session was very informative; we discussed what some Courts are doing to help their Spanish speaking communities. It was a great experience for me to be able to see the Court through the eyes of someone else. Depending on our background and our history being in Court could be a difficult and scary experience for someone even if the charge is minor.

Ms. Levya-Johnson works in a community where they have a Court Advocate Program. This is an amazing opportunity for this community to inform their Spanish speaking members of the procedures and their responsibilities to the Court. She showed us what they use to inform people of their rights and the types of videos they show before their Court Session so that people will understand what the process is.

I left this session wanting to do more in my community. We were given a vast array of ideas as to how we can help initiate something like this, and I hope it allows more people to receive these types of services.

Submitted by: Lisa Faught, Linn County Justice Court

COLLECTIONS

The Hon. Jad Lemhouse, Justice of the Peace, Linn County Justice Court, District 4A, (as well as serving as Municipal Judge for Brownsville, Halsey and Harrisburg) presented a comprehensive overview (including written procedures, ORS authority and documents samples) to implement a successful judgment collection program for Courts. His emphasis for successful collections program elaborated his “4 “Cs” to build and maintain a successful compliance program: Step 1: Consistent and timely procedures that are applied in every case. Step 2: contact with the judgment debtor initiated immediately upon default. Step 3: Consequences for the defaulting judgment debtor who fails to cure the default. The results of consistent and timely execution of steps 1 through 3 leads to step 4: compliance - the ultimate goal of judgment enforcement programs/

As Judge Lemhouse discussed enforcement types (active and passive) and examples, he stressed, “that enforcement procedures were non-exclusive unless otherwise stated in statute” that is, a court may use one or more active and/or passive enforcement processes consecutively or simultaneously. Active enforcement is procedures that are undertaken by the court: suspension of driver privilege (ORS 809.210), contempt proceedings (ORS 161.685) and debtor’s exams, garnishments, and executions and liens (ORS 137.450). Passive enforcement procedures include 1) reporting of default to a consumer reporting agency (ORS 161.685(7), 2) assignment to a collection agency (ORS 137.118) or 3) assignment to the Oregon Department of Revenue (ORS 137.118, 156.315).

Judge Lemhouse also provided a brief overview of bankruptcy proceedings and provided “automatic stay checklists” describing types of bankruptcy proceedings and effects depending on whether cases were crimes, violations or civil actions. His documents will certainly assist courts in quickly determining actions that a court should or may take when bankruptcy notices are filed.

The information presented and provided by Judge Lemhouse is a valuable guide for any Court to implement or improve court collections programs.

Submitted by: Kathy Cunningham, Springfield Municipal Court





HOSTAGE TAKER IN THE COURT: WHAT AND WHO TO WATCH FOR

I've got to say that this was my favorite session for the Spring 2008 OACA conference. The speaker, Det. Alysoun House from Lane County SO, was articulate and both knowledgeable and passionate concerning her topic. She started the session with a request for questions, which she answered in the course of her presentation.

#1: What indicates a potential problem? Is it gut instinct something is wrong or body language? Answer: Both Watch for someone "indexing" ("fingering" or repeatedly touching) a pocket or location on his person, or someone wearing uneven or "weighted" clothing. This might be indication he has a weapon. Also, someone looking first at the judge or police officer in the court room and then at his own location, looking back and forth repeatedly might be trying to figure out how to launch himself at this individual, and in the case of the officer, trying to figure out how to wrestle his gun away. (The use of the masculine pronoun is deliberate as Detective House did not know of any hostage situation involving a female as the hostage taker.) She also recommended that we look for Gavin DeBecker's books concerning body language (which I did at the Eugene Public Library, only to discover there were 10 holds already for the only copy the library owned). And, of course, the best answer is to stop an event from ever occurring—let the right people know if something seems "off." Det. House repeatedly told us that we control our court rooms.

#2: What's your plan in an "event"? Answer: do whatever the hostage taker tells you to do. Use her "rule of 4" (breath in for a count of four, hold for four, breath out for four, hold for four) to control our adrenalin. If we pattern calming techniques, it's very possible the hostage taker will unconsciously mimic these behaviors.

#3: What do you do before help arrives? Stay calm. See #5.

#4: Taser certification/pepper spray? She told us both were good ideas in her mind, especially pepper spray or pepper foam (even better), that it's legal for us to both have and use pepper spray, keeping in mind we don't want the "bad guy" to get hold of this.

#5: How do you establish communication with "wiggled out" parties? In the event of a hostage situation, ask the hostage taker personal questions in a calm, soft voice. Show empathy to this person (but remember the Stockholm Syndrome in which the hostages indentified with the hostage takers against the police). It's quite likely this just has had more stressful events in his life than he can cope with, so he flips out.

#6: Bailiff—how to get the message out with what you have (meaning: how does the small court get an alarm out that something's wrong)? Have code words in place that everyone understands. Are there security alarms? Call someone immediately if there is something odd. Make sure there's a plan of action in place.

She also told us that if we're in a hostage situation and we see officers or SWAT or other help arriving to not acknowledge this—ignore it. Don't let the hostage taker learn this a moment before he himself becomes aware of this. Also, be prepared that should a negotiator become involved, that the negotiator is going to try to earn the hostage taker's trust. In other words, the negotiator might seem to be totally uninterested in or even hostile to the hostages. This is a technique, designed to save your life.

And, should anything traumatic, from being a hostage, or being in any kind of horrific incident while in the course of our employment, we should seek trauma counseling or some sort of crisis intervention debriefing (psychological first aid).

Submitted by: Dena Audette, Junction City Municipal Court Clerk



OREGON ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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NEWS FROM DMV

New federal requirement:

As of September 30, 2008, when an out-of-state driver who holds a commercial driver license (CDL) or is driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) is convicted of a traffic offense, the state of conviction must inform the driver's state of record about the conviction within 10 days of the date of conviction.

What could happen if Oregon doesn't meet this requirement?

- Loss of up to 5% of federal highway funds (about \$12.5 million)
- Possible loss of authority to issue CDLs

What about electronic transmission of convictions from courts to DMV?

- It's a good idea and it's technologically feasible
- But it's a very big project that will require lots of resources, and it can't be done before 9/30/08

What is DMV doing to meet the 10-day requirement?

- Created expedited internal process for CDL/CMV convictions, cutting internal processing time in half
- Working with courts to expedite sending of CDL/CMV convictions to DMV

One idea is to use specially-marked or colored envelopes to make it easier to identify the CDL/CMV convictions so they can be put into an expedited process by the courts and DMV

What can you do?

- Develop a more efficient work process within your court to send CDL/CMV convictions to DMV -- each day or immediately upon conviction
- Share your ideas and work processes with your co-workers and peers in other courts Share your ideas with DMV

Who should you contact at DMV?

Lydia Beebe, CDL Policy Unit
Driver Programs Section
503-945-8927
lydia.k.beebe@odot.state.or.us

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