



OREGON FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THOSE WHO LEAD

## **President's Message**

September 2023

Good afternoon, Chiefs,

This month we are remembering the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Oregon Firestorms and the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of 9/11. These events serve as powerful reminders of the bravery and selflessness of firefighters who risk their lives to protect others. These tragedies have brought the fire service community even closer together, fostering a sense of unity and resilience. We stand united, ready to face any adversity and continue our missions to keep our communities safe.

### **Ethics Matters: Public Meetings Law**

The Legislative Assembly recently passed HB 2805, granting the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) the power to enforce Oregon's Public Meetings Law (ORS 192.610 to 192.690). Starting on September 24, 2023, OGEC can provide advice and accept complaints for alleged violations of the Public Meetings Law. In January 2024, OGEC trainers will begin offering Public Meetings Law trainings in coordination with various agencies and groups throughout the state. To file a complaint, there are mandatory steps outlined in HB 2805. If you believe a violation has occurred, you must submit a written grievance to the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. The public body then has 21 days to respond, admitting or denying the facts and circumstances and explaining any steps to address the violation. When submitting a complaint to OGEC, make sure to include documentation of the completed prerequisites. These changes aim to enhance transparency and accountability in public meetings. Please see more at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORGEC/bulletins/36f41a1>

### **Donation Made to Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association**

The Oregon Fire Chiefs recently showed their support by making a generous donation of \$2500.00 to the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association in the aftermath of the Maui Wildfires. This donation demonstrates our commitment to fostering collaboration and solidarity among Fire Chiefs across

different regions. The contribution from the Oregon Fire Chiefs Foundation will undoubtedly assist the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association in their road to recovery as well as their mission to protect and serve their communities. We are proud to harness the spirit of camaraderie and the shared dedication to public safety within the firefighting community. Such donations not only provide financial support but also strengthen the bonds between fire departments, allowing us to exchange knowledge, resources, and best practices.

## **Oregon Fire Service Mental Health Initiative: Two Upcoming Trainings**

We are proud to present two upcoming trainings which are free to attend: *Work Life Balance*, presented by Dr. Donnie Hutchinson, and *Struggle Well*. Seating is limited for each session. These trainings are presented to the Oregon Fire Service by the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Oregon Safety & Health Section, DPSST, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

### ***Work Life Balance, Dr. Donnie Hutchinson***

#### **[Event Flyer](#)**

September 26, Bend, [Register](#)

September 27, Eugene, [Register](#)

September 28, Portland, [Register](#)

[Dr. Donnie Hutchinson](#) is recognized as a top work-life balance speaker, author, and online coach who works with firefighters, police officers, and EMS first responders. He works with individuals and departments on self-care and work-life balance strategies to help them be effective at work and at home. Dr. Donnie teaches you the knowledge, then takes you step-by-step with strategies and tactics. Knowledge is powerful when joined with execution.

Seating is limited to the first 50 students. The cost is free.

### **Struggle Well**

#### **[Event Flyer](#)**

October 17 and 18, DPSST in Salem, [Register](#)

October 19 and 20, DPSST in Salem, [Register](#)

[Struggle Well](#) is a two-day training based on the proven framework of Post Traumatic Growth which features five phases built on an environment of trust and connection. The objective of Struggle Well training is to enable participants to prepare, practice, and implement an individualized plan for personal growth by transforming struggle into strength, enabling them to be of continued service to themselves, their family, their work, their community, and their country.

Seating is limited to the first 20 students. The cost is free.

### **October Board Meeting**

Our next OFCA Board of Directors meeting will be on **Thursday, October 5, 2023** at **0900 hours** in Hood River, OR and via Zoom. As an OFCA Member, your participation is welcomed and encouraged. An invitation and a copy of the agenda will be provided to your email inbox.

Sincerely,

Chris Heppel, President  
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association