



International Association of Workforce Professionals

Volume 38, Issue 5, June/July 2010

OREGONIZER

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Publication of Oregon Chapter IAWP
Editors

Barbee A. Williams - Dennis Brophy

Something you want to share?

Interested in Writing for the Oregonizer??

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WAY TO GO OREGON CHAPTER!

Third place among all Chapters-International Chapter Achievement Contest

First place among District XIV Chapters-International Chapter Achievement
(Award to be presented at District Institute)

Big 12 Award-one of only two Chapters to receive this International Award

Most Improved Chapter-International Award

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ORLANDO WILLIAMS RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

By: Dennis Brophy

It was announced at the International Educational Conference held in Greenville, South Carolina, that Oregon Chapter member Orlando Williams, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program representative, is the First Place recipient of the International Services to Veterans Award. The nomination was written by Oregon Chapter members Julie Matthew and Dalys Clarke and was forwarded to International as a result of his having received the Oregon Chapter Award in this category at the Educational Conference held at Portland in May.

Orlando was recognized for his diligence and dedication in serving veterans throughout Lake and Klamath County. Paige Bryan has called Orlando a “remarkable leader and a motivational factor to all those he works with.” Orlando helped to create and conducts the “Ultimate Workshop which is an expanded version of the claimant re-employment orientation with a focus toward serving Veterans. He works closely with employers in the area to establish veterans preference when hiring, even when not Federally mandated. He works tirelessly with the community in support of food drives for Veterans and with Operation New Hope to provide surplus items to homeless Veterans and other Veterans in need. Though his effort in 2009, Operation New Hope acquired 2 1/2 semi truck loads of surplus items such as gloves, coats, blankets and sleeping bags which he helped to distribute when conducting outreach activities.

The following story excerpted from the nomination is but one example of how Orlando goes the extra mile in support of Veterans.

“One cold snow filled day during the harsh winter months (last year-2009) in Klamath Falls, Orlando received a telephone call from the spouse of a !00% disabled veteran.... Her vehicle was snowed in the drive way, and since she had no one to call to assist with her, she called Orlando.... Michael Stevenson and Orlando went to her home and removed all of the snow surrounding her vehicle so she could go to the store to purchase food and medicine for her children and disabled husband. Orlando has since made arrangements with Roland Gangstee (Asst. Director of the Klamath County Community Corrections) to have the work release inmates go to the homes of all senior and

ORLANDO WILLIAMS (Con't)

disabled veterans to remove the snow of those who request assistance.”

Oregon Chapter is proud of Orlando’s accomplishments and all that he does to assist Veterans in his community. He is very much deserving of this recognition.

JAYNE MARTIN HONORED WITH LIFE MEMBERSHIP

It was announced at the recently concluded International Educational Conference in Greenville, South Carolina, that Oregon Chapter member Jayne Martin was awarded life membership in IAWP. Jayne has been an active member of IAWP since 1983. Throughout these years she has played an instrumental role in shaping the success of Oregon Chapter. Jayne’s most notable contributions have been as Local Arrangements co-chair on the International Executive Board for the Portland 1993 International Educational Conference, co-founder of Nigeria West African Chapter which was Chartered by International in 1997, and Oregon Chapter Treasurer from 1994 to 2002. Jayne has held many other positions of responsibility with Oregon Chapter including International Development Chair, Publicity Chair, and Retiree Chair. In addition, she has attended fifteen International Educational Conferences beginning with Kentucky in 1989 and numerous District XIV Educational Institutes. Jayne retired from the Oregon Employment Department in 2005, but continues to work part-time in UI Tax.

Life membership is granted by International upon the recommendation of State Chapters to members who have made outstanding contributions to the Association. Jayne joins the following list of current Oregon Chapter members honored with Life Membership; Norm Blair, Dennis Brophy, Nick Guarriello, Brenda McDowell-Kelly, Craig Keyston, Duane Nealy, Kari Smith, and Byrt Swinehart. Congratulations Jayne and thank you from Oregon Chapter for your commitment to IAWP.



REPRESENTING OREGON

OK, so the story starts way before I arrived in Greenville, SC! It really started when our District Director Kathy Bilanko asked who would be carrying the flag for our state. Confidently, I said I would be happy to do this. After all, what is so hard about carrying a flag and after all, it was my duty.

After I arrived in Greenville I talked to members who had carried the flag before me and learned I had not really been prepared. “You do know what you are going to say, don’t you?” “Of course” I replied, “We say our name and the state.”

“Well, I guess that is ok, but you could say something really exciting about our state” they said hesitantly. Oh great, now I had to figure out what to say. More importantly, I had to figure out when I needed to be there, what I was going to wear and I sure didn’t want to mess up this very important task!

After getting all of that information, deciding what to say, I selected a sensible pair of shoes and heading down to get in the flag carrying line, I realized this was a great opportunity to represent my State. I arrived with plenty of time to spare and was given my flag to carry where I immediately took my place in line and started practicing “the wave” of the flag.

I talked with new flag carriers, and those that had done this many times. The excitement was building and I over heard conversations about a flag that was missing. Others were talking about how IAWP is supported or not in their state.

I also heard conversations regarding dress and was it formal or more causal. Some were laughing about their trip here and others were teasing the people in line they knew.

We finally started moving out and made our line nice and straight and started in. “Talk slow and say what you planned, speak clearly”. I said to myself. “Hi, I’m “ kept running through my head. I turned the corner and walked into the crowded room. As I sat down in my chair after giving my flag to the person up front I thought to myself, “And for this I lost sleep???” I recommend this experience to anyone who is asked. It was really an honor.

IAWP Oregon Sub-Chapters

Misty Rose Subchapter:

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Vice President: Mashelle Winters

Treasurer: Michelle Sture

Secretary: Laura Watling

Representative: Jennifer Ryan-Jauregui (2nd year of term)

Capital Subchapter:

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Treasurer: Nancy Imber

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Subchapter Rep: Tiffany Hibbard-Fraijo

Emerald Subchapter:

President: Stephanie Morelli

Vice-President: Brad Cabrera

Treasurer: Antoun Kehdi

Subchapter Representative: Francisco Garcia (2nd year of term)

Crater Subchapter:

President: Charlene Grafton

Vice-President: Tammy Schroeder,

Secretary/Treasurer: Sandy Watkins

Representative: Gina Green

Waiting to hear from the Oregon Trail Chapter

STATE OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Barbee Williams

This general session at International with Daniel Hayes also included three other panel guests. Douglas Holmes, President, UWC Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation (UWC), the national membership organization serving as the voice of business specifically with respect to unemployment insurance. UWC and its predecessor organization have served the business community in analysis of unemployment insurance policy since 1933. Jane Oates, US Department of Labor, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, (USDOL-ETA) and Ingrid E. Evans, Assistant Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, (NASWA).

Doug Holmes discussed the serious problems facing employers, specifically the insolvency of the state trust funds for unemployment insurance. There are over 6 million long term unemployed, slow job creation, mismatch between skills and job demand, regional differences, high unemployment claims load, over-payment and fraud, and finally, lack of capacity to handle all of these issues.

The workforce issues that contribute to the problem is the weak work search requirements, lack of congressional focus, new challenges, (oil spill, etc), coordination with employers, high duration of unemployment, eligibility review and reemployment services, and effective training for jobs in demand.

Discussions included some solutions also with the issues in unemployment. They were work sharing, self-employment assistance and incentives for employers to hire. While this will not solve the problems discussed above, they do, in fact, effect the end results and getting people back to work.

Jane talked about the difficult issues we will be facing when the Recovery Act monies are no longer available and the problems we will be facing with fewer people, less resources to handle the same number of people.

Ingrid followed up with some facts: 431,000 jobs were added in May. These were temporary census jobs but they were jobs. There has been a loss of 8 million jobs since 2007. 46% of the unemployed have been out of work for over 6 months.

Extensions for unemployment insurance are not a permanent answer to the problem of joblessness. Appropriations have been very, very tough. WIA reauthorization is not passing and may not be passed before Congress takes the month of August off.

We all recognize the difficulties facing the states regarding the unemployment insurance. We are looking for answers. The general feeling was that maybe Congress is out of touch with what is happening every day in our offices, the devastation to people's lives. We do know there are people not looking for work. We can see the evidence in their files when we pull them up to offer assistance after all of their extensions has been exhausted. We work with the individuals who have worked in one field their entire work careers, who have barriers to employment, who are not "job-ready" .

One solution brought up from the audience was to take the unemployed construction workers and put them to work on infrastructure. Where someone has a skill, is collecting unemployment and we have a need, match him or her up to work for the state to fill a need. This solves some of the infrastructure problems and also gives the unemployed worker dignity and a sense of contribution.

Oregon Chapter welcomes our newest retiree member- Dave Kirk, Past Oregon Chapter President and member of the Oregon Chapter Hall of Fame.

A DATE TO REMEMBER 2010

August 7 Oregon Chapter IAWP
Quarterly Meeting –
Salem Field Office

September 9-11 District XIV Educational
Conference, Missoula, Montana

Note From Past President: Thank you for allowing me to serve you this past year. I am so happy to have had this incredible opportunity. Be active in IAWP and look for learning opportunities around every corner!

Sincerely, Barbee

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR WPDP YET?

By: Dennis Brophy, WPDP Master

WPDP stands for the Workforce Professional Development Program, a series of four self-study resource guides that serve to educate the reader and provide an overall understanding of the Workforce system. The four areas of concentration are: History of Workforce Development, Business and Job Seeker, Unemployment Insurance, and Labor Market Information. Each resource guide has an accompanying test consisting of one hundred questions. Seventy-five correct answers is considered passing.

Scholarship funding is now available to full members to help defray the cost of participation in WPDP. The maximum grant amount is \$50.00 and is paid from a fund set up to honor the memory of Past International President Jim Mulcahey. More information and a grant application can be found on the International Website at:

www.iawponline.org/.

Why should you be interested in WPDP? In this day of specialization, most employees are able to acquire only a limited understanding of workforce programs and functions outside of their normal job responsibilities. The Workforce Professional Development Program offers an opportunity to broaden your knowledge of a multitude of workforce related programs and services. By enhancing your awareness and understanding of these programs, you will be developing skills that will help with your career growth. Upon successful completion of the program, you will become one of an exclusive group of individuals that have achieved the designation of WPDP Master. Completion of WPDP is one step toward meeting the requirements to become a Certified Workforce Specialist.

Oregon Chapter has five WPDP Masters. They are; Dennis Brophy, John Courtney, Marc Kane, Jon Osborne, Joan Potvin (Oregon's first Master), and Diana Tucker. Will you be next?

The next testing will be scheduled for October. Forms indicating an intent to test must be completed and submitted to International by September 15, 2010 and can be downloaded from the International Website.

For more information on WPDP or the Certified Workforce Specialist Certification Program, please contact any member of the Oregon Chapter Executive Board or myself at Neahkahnne@aol.com.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Green jobs! This is a subject that is dominating conversations everywhere that labor market information is discussed. How many jobs are there? When are they coming? What do we tell the employer? What do we tell the job seeker? Gary Crossley had all of that information to share at International IAWP, or at least where to watch for the information when it becomes available.

Gary covered the sources of information, such as the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, current employment statistics, LAUS (Local Area Unemployment Statistics) MLS (Mass Layoff Statistics) and OES (Occupational Employment Statistics).

Also included in Gary's presentation was the frequency of the information obtained, the measurements, the time lag, how often the information is updated and the geography of the area covered by the LMI information. When choosing the information to use it is important to know when the information came out and how often it is update.

The CES is a good indicator of rapid changes in employment where monthly and timely information can be used for industrial projections where the OES information is only updated once a year.

This information is invaluable in the education of our staff, the employers and even educating the job seeker in how to find the resources they need to make themselves more marketable. Like any statistical information, the end use determines where and what information you need for your situation.

The LMI resources are vast and some good websites are:

Workforce Information Council --

www.workforceinfocouncil.org

Bureau of Labor Statistics -- www.bls.gov

LMI Training Institute -- www.lmiontheweb.org

O* Net Resource Institute -- www.onetcenter.org

Department of Labor WIN WIN --

<http://winwin.workforce3one.org/>

Census -- www.census.gov

Also check your local state LMI web sites along with Universities, Associations and Institutes.

MONTANA WELCOMES DISTRICT XIV

By: Dennis Brophy

Montana Chapter plays host to the District XIV Educational Institute and meeting September 9-11, 2010, in Missoula. All members of IAWP are welcome to attend.

If you have never attended a District Institute, this is a great opportunity. Montana Chapter really knows how to host a memorable event and the cost to attend is quite reasonable. The theme for this year's event is: Step Into the Time Machine-Past, Present & Future, We're All In It Together.

Early bird activities begin on Thursday evening with one option being a hike to the "M" above the University of Montana to view the sun setting over the valley. Snacks and beverages will be served. Or for the less physical option, you might partake of light hors d'oeuvres and drinks served by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. We wonder if Rocky Mountain oysters are on the menu?

On Friday, the day long educational program includes presentations by Dru Rafkin Jackman titled "Seeing the Best in Others" and by Nan Russell on "A Winning at Working Approach to Conflict Resolutions". Other items of interest include a discussion on the 75th Anniversary of Unemployment Insurance and comments by International President Rich Vincent.

Saturday concludes with the District XIV membership meeting. Customarily the business meeting ends in time to check out of the hotel and head for home.

The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Parkside. To make reservations, call (406) 721-8550 or go to www.himissoula.com. Reservations must be made by August 12, 2010 to receive the special room rate of \$79.00 per night plus tax.

For more information and program registration information, contact District XIV Director-elect Barbee Williams.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

By: Dennis Brophy

Just prior to the recent vote by the US Senate on the Federal Unemployment Insurance extension, I e-mailed Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley to encourage his vote in support of the Senate Bill. I wish to share an excerpt from the reply I received after the vote was taken. In an upcoming issue of the Oregonizer, we will offer hints on writing your Senator or Representative in behalf of IAWP. If you wish to be a part of the Oregon Chapter legislative team, please contact Chapter Legislative Chair Mark Hoefler.

From the Honorable Senator Merkley:

"While we have seen some recent signs of improvement in economic conditions, the unemployment rate in Oregon remains unacceptably high, making these benefits even more necessary. Furthermore, extending unemployment benefits not only restores some stability to those looking for work, it also plays a major role in putting the economy back on track, boosting communities and local businesses as families turn around and spend the benefits in local stores."

"Putting Oregonians back to work is my number one priority, and I will always fight for legislation that supports families and promotes job growth. Please know that I continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that Oregonians have the support they need to get through this difficult time."

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator