

OREGONIZER

Inside This Issue:

Greetings1

Congratulations Laurie Warner1

A Date To Remember 1

Legislative News FAST Act 2

Welcome New IAWP Members..... 2

Develop Your Skills While Reading a Library Book2

IAWP Scholarships 3

Well Being 3

Employment Growth Stalled Since April4

Defeating Negativity in the Workplace4

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Something you want to share?
Interested in Writing for the Oregonizer??

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Vice President – Grant Axtell
Treasurer – Judy Mattos
Past President – Jeff Hunter

September 2011

Greetings from the President:

This has been a very busy month so I will keep this short. I attended the International Board Meeting in Spokane on September 23rd and 24th. This is the exciting location for our International Conference in June, 2012. We are working on additional scholarships for members to allow more members to attend this great event. Stay tuned for additional information. Thank you for your support.

Stephanie Stevens, President Oregon Chapter

**OREGON CHAPTER WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE IAWP MEMBER
AND
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
LAURIE WARNER
ON HER ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NASWA.**

A DATE TO REMEMBER 2011

Oct 8 - Oregon Chapter Executive Board Meeting
Eugene, Oregon

Oct. 29 - WPDP Testing-Eugene, Oregon

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS
FAST Act to create construction jobs

Whether you are Democrat, Republican or Independent, no doubt you will agree that additional new jobs are needed in these difficult economic times. The following recent news release was taken from the Website of Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley and offers one idea for stimulating new jobs in construction. Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C – Oregon’s Senator Jeff Merkley has cosponsored new legislation that would create jobs through the modernization and repair of schools around the country. The FAST Act could create or save 3,300 Oregon jobs through the modernization, renovation, and repair of Oregon schools. As outlined in the American Jobs Act, Oregon could receive up to \$253,000,000 in funding for K-12 schools.

“This bill is going to create jobs, save money for schools that have burdensome energy costs from heating drafty schools, and most importantly, give our children safe, better places to learn,” Merkley said. “There are currently a million construction workers unemployed and \$270 billion worth of maintenance needed at our schools. We can wait and do those repairs later at a far greater cost, or do them now and get those workers back to work. The choice for jobs and fiscal responsibility is clear.”

Specifically, the FAST Act would provide funds to school districts to:

- improve air quality with updates to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems;
- remove mold and reduce energy costs with roof replacement and repair;
- support technology, mechanical systems, and electricity with an electrical system modernization;
- reduce water consumption, eliminate lead in water, upgrade bathrooms and plumbing;
- eliminate allergy and asthma triggers, contain or eliminate asbestos, and repair plaster and painting;
- replace windows to save on energy usage;
- install solar panels, wind generators, and geothermal or other clean energy generators.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS
(cont’d)

It is estimated that for every \$1 billion invested in school construction between 9,000 to 10,000 jobs are created. According to the Blue Green Alliance, modernizing our schools can save \$100,000 a year in maintenance costs – enough for two new teachers, 200 more computers, or 5,000 textbooks. The average U.S. public school building is 40 years old and conservative estimates of deferred school maintenance and repair nationwide total at least \$270 billion.

The FAST Act has already been endorsed by the National PTA, Council for Great City Schools, Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO, National Construction Alliance II.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
IAWP OREGON CHAPTER

DAVID GERSTENFELD

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS WHILE READING
A BOOK

Submitted by Grant Axtell

The OED Learning and Development Team and Oregon Chapter IAWP have numerous books available for check - out on topics such as leadership and career development.

To access a full list of books and descriptions visit our webpage or the OED Learning and Development Team section on EdWeb. To check out a book, simply e-mail training.team@state.or.us.



In what you say of another, apply the test of kindness, necessity and truth, and let nothing pass your lips without a 2/3 majority. ~Liz Armbruster

THINKING ABOUT SCHOOL IN THE FALL FOR YOURSELF OR A DEPENDENT?

Submitted by Dennis Brophy

Oregon Chapter members may utilize scholarship funds available through the Logan S. Chambers Scholarship grant when funding is not offered by OED or other sources. A grant of from \$100.00 to \$350.00 depending on years as an IAWP member is available to increase knowledge and skills in workforce related training or toward a degree program that improves member performance and/or promotional opportunities. The course must be offered by an accredited institution or recognized professional organization such as the American Management Association.

Another educational scholarship is available for dependents of Oregon Chapter members. The Freddy L. Jacobs Scholarship grant provides from \$75.00 to \$250.00 depending on years as an IAWP member to dependents who want to increase their knowledge and skill in the area of leadership or workforce development, who are pursuing an associate or undergraduate degree or other certification, or who are required to complete an extracurricular educational or training program to obtain a high school diploma. As with the Logan S. Chambers grant, funding must not be offered by other sources and the training must be offered by an accredited institution or recognized professional organization. The grant may be applied for on a yearly basis.

For additional information on the Logan S. Chambers Scholarship and the Freddy L. Jacobs Scholarship grants and forms for application, please go to the International website at:

www.iawponline.org/scholarships.html

**Do what you can, with what you have,
where you are. ~Theodore Roosevelt**

WELL BEING

Mark J. Butterfield, D.C.

While stuck in traffic the other day, I was reminded of a conspiracy theory that surfaced several years ago. The traffic was stop and go which allowed me to read the placard on the big truck and trailer to my right. The placard warned "Corrosive Liquid" and had an illustration of a dissolving human hand. The conspiracy theory was popular among the industrial hygienist community – a community of individuals known more for ion analyzers than intrigue.

When the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) was setting the standards for transportation of hazardous materials many years back, a problem arose. When it came time to set standards for corrosive materials, at the lower end of the pH scale (acid/alkaline measure) at which substances were considered acidic and dangerous to transport in bulk a liquid was listed which raised eyebrows – soda pop. Some brands of pop can have a pH of about 2.5 which would have classified them as "Corrosive Liquid" by the standards being proposed. Needless to say, the beverage industry caught wind of the proposed action by the USDOT and did not like it much. The image of soft drink distribution trucks wearing placards showing drawings of dissolving hands was not an image with which the industry wished to be associated.

Therefore, the beverage industry convinced the USDOT to reevaluate science in favor of commerce and lower the pH level at which a material was considered hazardous for transport to below that of soda pop. The industrial hygienist community filled in the blanks of the story by speculating that the evidence supplied by the beverage industry to the USDOT officials supporting the basis for lowering the pH levels was presented at expensive dinners and golf vacations hosted by the industry.

Who knows if the industrial hygienist community was correct or just conspiracy mongers. Well actually, many people do know the truth. But my point is that to drink a beverage that is so acidic and consumed 12 oz. or more at a time should be viewed as consequential. The acidification of the body's chemical balance as well as the demineralization of teeth and bones after consumption has some permanent effect on health. You may not explode after drinking a can of pop - you may be dissolved a little bit. Comments?

Mark J. Butterfield, D.C. mjbdc@hotmail.com

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH STALLED SINCE APRIL

Submitted by Dennis Brophy

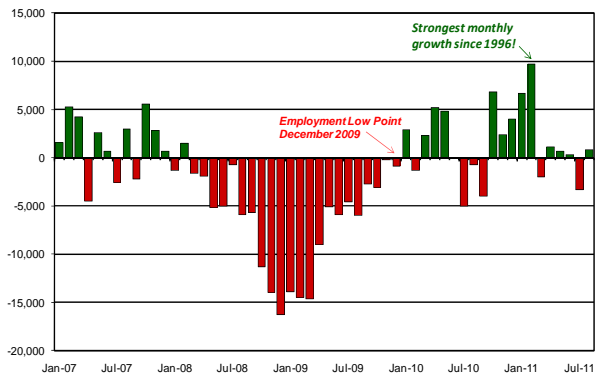
Oregon lost almost 150,000 jobs in the recession that started in late 2007. The number unemployed soared to almost 230,000, a record level. Job losses came rapidly, were huge, and were spread across almost all industries.

In 2010, the job situation stabilized. In the final quarter of 2010, Oregon added jobs at a decent clip, and that trend continued early in 2011. The February 2011 gain of 9,700 jobs was the largest employment gain for the state since 1996. That was the last sizeable employment gain; since April the state's employment trend has been flat.

Overall payroll employment is up 31,400 from the recessionary low reached in December 2009. Government has dropped nearly 8,000 jobs since the economy began its slow and unsteady rebound. That's not surprising, as increased demand for services often means government employment holds up well during a recession, but dismal budgets tend to trim government employment figures after a recession ends.

When will growth resume? We'll get our next hint when the September 2011 Oregon Employment Situation press release becomes available on Tuesday, October 18. Get the details, find all monthly press release dates, and even watch the live press conference on the Employment Department Research Division home page, www.QualityInfo.org.

Oregon's Monthly Job Growth/Decline seasonally adjusted



DEFEATING NEGATIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE

By James Thomas (CA) at International in St Louis

The presenter was Cornell Dillard; Chief Human Relations Officer. He let it be known that negativity is an emotion and we sometimes make decisions on that emotion. We were informed on identifying negativity, consequences of negativity, and neutralizing negativity. Negativity requires nourishment to develop and grow. Failure to stand against negativity causes it to continue and to flourish. Negativity will affect you as a worker, both mentally and physically. A work climate of distrust or mistrust reduces productivity and morale.

Negativity is a habit that will distract or disenchant employees that leads to preventable mistakes. He provided tips on neutralizing the negativity by stepping up and confronting gossip, providing productive and non-confrontational options, progressing towards a positive culture, reframing from negative thinking, confronting the whiners and complainers, stop blaming others, and using words like always, never, everything, everybody.

The instructor also touched on communication tips by specific disabilities. The tips were: a wheelchair is part of a person's body space, speak directly to the individual, interact with the person at eye level, be aware of the distance between you and the individual, and follow through on whatever needs to be done.

He also gave useful advice on people-first language. There are 54 million people with disabilities that share two unique distinctions; being the nation's largest minority groups, and the most diverse group. We can use some of these common terms: person with a disability, non-disabled, developmental disability, person with mental illness, person who is visually impaired, and person who has multiple sclerosis. Remember --- people come first.