



# Oregon Seed Association

August 1, 2016 – Edition 4

## *Message from the President*

I am honored to be your president for the next year. OSA is coming off a successful year under the leadership of Greg Loberg, whose dedication has been an inspiration to all of us. I want to thank outgoing Board members Todd Bond and Kevin Rogers for their years of service to OSA. The Board and I are already working hard to continue the legacy set forth by past presidents and Board members. Building upon Greg's goals for the past year, I have outlined my own Presidential Goals in this newsletter. The Board and I are committed to working for the best interests of the industry and to represent all members professionally.

~ Scott Harer

## *Summer Convention Recap*

This year's annual Summer Convention, held jointly with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), was a huge success. ASTA reported record-breaking attendance of over 470 guests, including OSA and ASTA member representatives, family, speakers and guests. Many of the committee meetings were held jointly, giving delegates from both organizations a chance to share ideas and solutions.

## *Committee Notes*

OSA and ASTA members met over a five day period for committee meetings covering a variety of industry topics. Below are some key takeaways:

### **Science & Technology Committee**

- Sharon Davidson presented updates to the Canadian noxious weed list, as well as steps to follow when a stop sale, violation or red tag is received on a shipment. Copies of both documents are posted [here](#).
- Attendees discussed a statement from the Turfgrass Breeders Association (TBA) which recommended new definitions for OSA's stewardship policy regarding biotechnology, genetic engineering/genetic modification,

Then-OSA President Greg Loberg and Risa DeMasi, former ASTA Chair, along with convention staff, aimed to make this year's event not only informative, but also entertaining for both memberships. It took months of organizing to plan a joint convention that could equally accommodate both organizations, and I think we really hit the mark. Below are some of the highlights from the Summer Convention.

and GMO/GEO. The Board of Directors will now review the committee's recommendation to adopt TBA's proposed definitions.

- Bernice Slutsky, Senior VP of Domestic and International Policy for ASTA, also spoke on TBA's recommended definitions. She warned that the language therein, even if not specifically used, could be interpreted as referencing gene editing.

### **Domestic Committee**

- Members discussed Oregon's new minimum wage rules. At their request, a copy of BOLI's final rules was subsequently sent to membership via email.

## **Board of Directors 2016-2017**

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## ***Committee Notes (cont.)***

### **International Committee**

- South Korea—After shipments of ryegrass were rejected in 2015, APHIS got involved to establish a new protocol requiring companies to test by both U.S. and South Korean methods. If a false negative was reported on both methods, the ryegrass could ship with the understanding it would be retested upon entrance to South Korea. Some companies have begun shipments again, but sales are down from previous years due to the cost of bringing back a rejected shipment.
- Vietnam—In 2014, Vietnam began reviewing all pest risk assessments (PRA) entering the country. In 2015, APHIS was notified that a

PRA was needed for over 200 species before import permits would be issued. There have been 44 concerns brought to APHIS by ASTA members.

- Chile—It has been difficult to work with Chile on a bilateral level as they have been unwilling to give countries a pass. APHIS identified several public sector scientists to write opinion studies on testing of asymptomatic plants.

### **Health Insurance Subcommittee**

- Progress to acquire a group health insurance policy has stalled. The recent survey sent to members requesting employee demographic information received less than

50 percent participation, which was the next step needed for an insurance quote. Members will be updated at the Mid-Winter meeting.

### **Associates Committee**

- Committee members discussed an annual sponsorship package that, for one lump sum, would include sponsorship and registration of the winter and summer meetings and the November workshop, company logo displayed on the website and in electronic communications, ad space in the member directory, and other add-ons. The Board of Directors will take this under consideration in August.

## **Resolutions**

- ✓ Members took a position in opposition to the corporate sales tax measure IP-28.
- ✓ Members passed a resolution authorizing the Board to pursue an alternative negotiator to represent dealers in grass seed bargaining meetings.

## ***New Members***

Membership approved three new associate members during the Summer Convention: Nufarm (Kennewick, Wash.), ASF Logistics (Redmond, Wash.), and Market Transport, Ltd (Portland, Ore.). We extend a warm welcome to these new members!

## ***Auction Results***

This year's auction had great attendance and raised over \$4,500 in bids, plus cash donations of \$3,500. The proceeds help to fund the OSA scholarship program, and we thank everyone who participated in the silent auction.

## ***OSA Honorary Life Member Award***

The 40th recipient of the OSA Honorary Life Membership award was Risa DeMasi of Grassland Oregon. In his presentation speech, then-OSA President Greg Loberg said Risa personified the many attributes shared by previous leaders of the Oregon seed industry—a pioneering, innovative, and entrepreneurial spirit, special skills in business development, management, and communication, and a problem solver who also appreciates networking with others to find solutions.

Risa was the 2015-16 Chair of the American Seed Trade Association, and has held active senior positions with the Oregon Seed Association, the Southern Seed Association, as a charter member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, and active in the Atlantic Seed Association (where she was named “Seedsman of the Year” in 2007). Risa is a co-founder of Grassland Oregon.



*The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well.*

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Scholarship Recipients

This year's Scholarship Committee recognized three talented young women as recipients of the OSA Memorial Scholarship—Jessie Stone, Karina Lopez-Ruiz and Morgan Aerni—each receiving \$1,500.



**JESSIE STONE** is pursuing dual degrees at Arizona State University. She is majoring in Journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at ASU's downtown campus. In addition, she also attends the WP Carey School of Business. She plans to graduate with a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and a B.S. in Business Marketing. Jessie is the daughter of Kyle and Cindy Stone.



**MORGAN AERNI**, a 2013 West Albany graduate, now attends Oregon State University and plans to complete her B.S. in Animal Sciences. Morgan is the daughter of Steve and Nancy Aerni.



**KARINA LOPEZ-RUIZ** will be pursuing a career as a pediatrician at Oregon State University in the fall of 2016. She plans to complete her pre-med studies at OSU before applying to medical schools. She is the daughter of Jorge Ruiz Vasques and Eloisa Lopez De Ruiz.

### OSA Presidential Goals for 2016-2017

- Board to engage with members
- Timely communication to members
- Expand associate member participation
- Expand Emerging Professionals membership and involvement
- Continue coexistence strategy for products of unconventional plant breeding
- Improve member's protection of intellectual property
- Address seed lab uniformity issues
- Improve industry data reporting and presentation/communication of the information
- Engage in transportation issues: local, export, rail, OTR, LTL
- Expand political influence
- Align resources and messages, when applicable, with ASTA, WVSSA, OFB, OFS and other organizations
- Build scholarship opportunities and student involvement with OSA
- Improve OSA media presence
- Maintain past president involvement
- Execute, update and report on OSA 5-year strategic plan

*These goals will be updated throughout the year depending on industry issues and committee meetings.*

### Golf Tournament Winners

This year's golf tournament was held at the OGA golf course in Woodburn, Ore. OSA hosted ASTA members and guests for a great mix of players. Cash prizes were awarded to the following:

#### First Place Team

Donald Bourne  
Conner Olsen  
Stu Barclay  
Jake Stockfleth

#### Second Place Team

Steve Haughton  
Bill Talley  
Kyle Stone  
Cindy Stone

#### Third Place Team

Josh Peterson  
Kyle Olsen  
Mervyn Selvidge  
Greg Papworth

#### Closest to the Pin

Men's Hole #3: Kyle Olsen  
Men's Hole #17: Alan Hirsch  
Men/Women's Hole #13:  
Thomas Hawker

### Upcoming Events

#### WINTER WORKSHOP—Nov. 16, 2016

LaSells Stewart Center at OSU, Corvallis, Ore.

- ✓ Time management & productivity seminar
- ✓ Canadian noxious weed updates, import testing requirements

#### MID-WINTER MEETING—Jan. 10, 2017

Salem Convention Center, Salem, Ore.

#### SUMMER CONVENTION—Jun. 23-24, 2017

The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Bend, Ore.

Visit [www.oregonseed.org/events](http://www.oregonseed.org/events) for more information.

We look forward to your

feedback, comments or concerns.

Feel free to contact us at any time.

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*Golf Lunch*

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*Auction Reception*

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