



OEC

NEWS

Fall 2004



Oregon Employer Council Newsletter

President's Message

Hello again, fellow OEC members.

It seems like it was just spring a few short days ago, and now it is fall once again. And with fall it is time for our annual conference for business. This year it is being held at the Embassy Suites Washington Square. It will be a pleasure to see all of you there at our annual membership gathering.

I am excited by the variety of organizations that will be participating in our conference this year. These include the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME), presenting host of the World Fair trade show and networking reception on Monday, October 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. Many chambers of commerce helped us in our effort to publicize the conference and we thank them for spreading the word. Also, many new sponsors and exhibitors will join us this year for the first time and to them we extend a warm welcome.

I have had the pleasure of seeing our conferences improve year after year, as a result of the planning committee's hard work.

Our host council this year is the Western Washington County Employer Council, a dedicated group of volunteers that planned an exciting event for us. I would like to acknowledge their hard work and dedication over the last year. They, like all of our previous host councils, have worked to make this event the best ever. As an OEC member for over 10 years, I have had the pleasure of seeing our conferences improve year after year, as a result of the planning committee's hard work. Thank you all for the growth and continuous improvement.

This year also brings the opportunity to exercise one of our most precious rights as a free society, the right to

choose our representatives in government. This is one of the best ways we as people, employers, and a nation ensure that our voices are heard about what we want to see from our governing bodies.

I am not here to sway your voting decision in any direction. That decision is for you to make and needs to be based on your beliefs, desires, and convictions. I am going to say, however, that you need to participate in the process of selection by casting your vote.

The coming year will bring a new session of Congress, a new session in the Oregon Legislature, and a new era in Oregon's largest city, Portland. Let's make sure that the voice of the business community is heard.

As we move through the coming legislative session of Oregon, our legislative committee will be very active in keeping us informed and updated on their progress so that we can participate in the process. If you want to be on the notification list please contact your local coordinator, or Marney Roddick, our state coordinator, and provide an email address. We usually use electronic methods of communication, for its speed and efficiency. If you would like to serve on this OEC committee, please contact Marney.

As always, I look forward to continuing to work with and for you, our valued members. I hope to see each and every one of you at our annual conference.

Respectfully,



A message from Debbie Lincoln, Director The Oregon Employment Department

The Employment Department will join the U.S. Department of Labor in a special campaign to hire veterans

The campaign is called: Hire Vets First. The campaign, through its Web site, www.hirevetsfirst.org, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Toll-Free Help Line 1-877-US2-JOBS (TTY: 1-877-889-5627), will refer employers to local WorkSource Oregon Centers for assistance in connecting to veterans. Businesses that contact WorkSource Oregon Centers during the campaign will want to tap into the veteran labor pool by utilizing the comprehensive services offered at WorkSource Oregon Centers.

Each of our field offices has or has access to a Vets representative who can assist in directing employers to our highly qualified veteran job seekers.



*Stay tuned for the start of this campaign
in the near future!*



“
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”

What can I expect to happen during the campaign?

During this timeframe, businesses will contact WorkSource Oregon Centers for assistance in connecting to and recruiting veterans. Due to the extensive media campaign, we anticipate that many small, medium, and large businesses will be reached through the marketing campaign and will reach out to One-Stop Career Centers.

Expect employers to have no prior knowledge of the public workforce system, WorkSource Oregon Centers or veterans services, so One-Stop representatives will need to provide background information and an overview of services provided through the workforce investment system.

Expect to provide answers to employer questions relating to veterans qualifications and how to recruit veterans.

Business services offered:

- Job Postings
www.WorkingInOregon.org
dod.jobsearch.org, and
America's Job Bank (www.ajb.org)
- Referrals: veterans and non-veterans
- Candidate Screening
- Dedicated staffing events; customized job fairs; specialized recruiting
- HR Services

Many businesses who hear about this may be small and medium sized businesses without HR departments

- Assessment and Testing

OEC's can get involved by contacting the local vets rep or holding special events for veterans at the local One-Stop or Employment office.



Upcoming Dates...

2004
2005

October 8 (2004).....	3rd quarter reports due
October 18 (2004).....	4th quarter board meeting, Embassy Suites, Washington Square, Beaverton (9:00am)
October 18 - 20 (2004).....	Annual state conference for business, Embassy Suites, Washington Square, Beaverton
December 31 (2004).....	Shortened fiscal year-end
January 7 (2005).....	4th quarter reports due
February 15 (2005).....	Year-end financial reports due to state treasurer
TBA.....	Issues forum and legislative training, Date and location TBA (Salem)
April 8 (2005).....	1st quarter reports due
April 18 - 20 (2005).....	UWC conference, Nashville
May 2 (2005).....	OEC 2nd quarter board meeting, Mount Bachelor Village, Bend
May 2 & 3 (2005).....	OEC board retreat, Mount Bachelor Village, Bend
May 3 & 4 (2005).....	OEC coordinator training, Mount Bachelor Village, Bend
June (2005).....	Annual speaker showcase, Date and location TBA
July 11 (2005).....	2nd quarter reports due
August 19 (2005).....	Award nominations due
September 9 (2005).....	3rd quarter reports due
September 21 - 23 (2005).....	Annual state conference for business, Location TBA
December 31 (2005).....	Fiscal year-end

Otteration!

Did you know that you can file your quarterly payroll reports using the Oregon Tax Employer Reporting System (OTTER)?

The Tax Section of the Employment Department will provide you with free software for tax reporting that is easy to use and will help you save time.

You can send in your quarterly combined payroll report by email or on a diskette.

OTTER allows you to import your payroll data from your own payroll software.

The Employment Department Tax Section provides free technical support.

You can copy one quarter to the next so that you don't have to key in data each quarter.

Mass Validate is available now. You can validate multiple quarters for multiple businesses.

OTTER's unique design will help you automatically calculate excess wages.

The OTTER CD provides forms to satisfy other state reporting requirements.

When you send in the electronic reports, you will receive a confirmation from the Tax Section stating which reports were received (or not received if there is a problem).

To order now, download the program from our online site at <http://findit.emp.state.or.us/tax/> - call us at (503) 947-1488 - Or send an email to taxinfo@emp.state.or.us



**It's not
too late
to register!**

You are invited to attend
A World of Difference

**OREGON EMPLOYER COUNCIL
ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE FOR BUSINESS**

October 18-20, 2004

Embassy Suites Washington Square

For lodging reservations and special rates call (503) 644-4000

This Is An Event You Do Not Want To Miss!

Fee includes: activities on all three days, education courses and materials, registration items, World Fair trade show, social events, two breakfasts, three lunches, banquet, entertainment and break refreshments.

Critical information regarding your payroll taxes, employment law, employee benefits, building sales, excellent customer service, financial planning for your future, communication for managers and five fabulous general session speakers. A panel of economic experts will forecast the future of Oregon's business health and workforce quality.

Visit www.workinginoregon.org/oec

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