



# Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP)

<http://www.policechief.org/>

## Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Overview

### History and Mission

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) was formed for the intended purpose of enhancing the professionalism and ensuring the integrity of law enforcement in Oregon. Our mission is to promote the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement at all levels throughout the state. At its inception, the OACP was envisioned as an organization that would promote training and information sharing to facilitate the professional growth of police chiefs and officers statewide. The OACP has always been a leader, both on the state and national level, in the effort to enhance the profession. The strength of an organization is found in the membership and those who give of themselves to better the whole. In this regard, the OACP has been fortunate to have a long legacy of fine leaders who worked tirelessly to meet the goals of the association and the needs of the citizens we serve.

On February 27, 1953, thirty-nine police chiefs from throughout the State of Oregon gathered in the capitol city at the invitation of Salem Police Chief Clyde Warren to form a new organization called the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. During the inaugural meeting, Chief Ted D. Brown of Eugene was elected the first OACP president, Chief Clyde Warren of Salem was elected vice president and Chief Carl M. Dalles from Grants Pass was elected secretary-treasurer.



Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Inaugural Meeting in Salem, Oregon February 27, 1953

Over the years, the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police has grown in scope and membership, but our commitment to our core values and to the law enforcement code of ethics has remained steady and sure. As we enter our sixth decade, the OACP continues to grow in image and stature within the state. Membership in the OACP has grown to over 200 law enforcement executives along with a significant number of law enforcement and private sector partners.

The OACP accomplishes its mission by hosting conferences and trainings, distributing college scholarship money to second year (or later) students in criminal justice programs, managing grants for safety belt and DUII overtime, and developing and running community outreach programs

geared for municipal police agencies. The OACP also maintains a strong presence in Salem, regularly testifies on legislative issues, and works to secure the passage of laws that help police departments better protect our citizens.

The membership of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police is committed to support and maintain the highest standards of public safety and police protection for the people who live, work and play in the State of Oregon.

## **Mission**

To promote and enhance the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement at all levels throughout Oregon.

## **Code of Ethics**

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police adopted the following Code of Ethics on January 26, 1993:

As a Police Chief, my fundamental duty is to serve my community in a leadership capacity by directing, controlling, and managing the police department. I shall use my training, experience, and education to ensure that my community receives professional, dedicated police services in a humane, ethical, fair, and honest manner. I shall instill in all members of my department the duty to respect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality, and justice.

I shall investigate all complaints of police misconduct fairly, thoroughly, and completely to insure that police authority is not abused. Likewise, I will defend and protect my employees against unfair and unjust accusations so as to enable them to perform their duties of law enforcement without undue interference of intimidation.

I recognize that as a community leader, I must keep my private life unsullied and be a role model of sobriety, honesty, and fidelity. I accept the fact that as Police Chief, I forfeit some rights of privacy that other occupations enjoy.

I shall maintain budgetary and fiscal control of police expenditures to ensure that the limited public funds I administer are expended appropriately and in conformance with budget law and sound fiscal policy.

I will faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. I will accept my obligation to pay dues regularly and to support the organization by active involvement in the affairs of the Association. When I accept assignment to a committee or as an officer, I shall conscientiously fulfill my duties to the best of my abilities.

I recognize my office as a symbol of public trust. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession --Law Enforcement Leadership.

At the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, we believe the best way to share the potential of our association is to unleash the energy and experience of our members. The benefits that OACP offers members and partners are unique to a professional non-profit association: leadership training,

community outreach programs, professional publications, annual conferences, and legislative advocacy. The most important ingredients to our success are the skills, abilities, intelligence, and initiative of our OACP members, member leaders, and partners.

Accordingly, the mission of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police is firmly centered on helping members and their personnel achieve their potential - both as professionals and people.

## **Membership**

There are five primary categories of membership in the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police including: active members, provisional active members, life members, associate members, and retired members. Applications and additional information can be accessed at [www.policchief.org/membership](http://www.policchief.org/membership).

**Active Members:** Those eligible for Active membership are any Chief of Police or Police Superintendent or second in command or the equivalent ranks in the police agencies of any city, tribe, special district, state police, division of the Oregon Department of Justice, railroad police, or other political division in the state of Oregon or any Assistant Chief of Police, Assistant Police Superintendent or those, who by their title are designated by the Chief of Police or Superintendent to carry on the duties of a Chief of Police or Police Superintendent during the absence of such Chief or Superintendent from their jurisdiction. All Active Members must possess at least a Management level training certificate from the Oregon Department of Public Safety, Standards and Training (DPSST) to be eligible to hold an office. Those persons who were Active Members prior to February 1, 2005 are exempt from the Management Certification requirement. Active Members must obtain police officer certification from DPSST within one (1) year of membership to remain in good standing.

**Life Members:** Persons completing their term as President of this Association, and any Active Member in good standing for a period of at least fifteen years of continuous membership in the Association, shall become a Life Member. Any member who shall have served this Association with honor and distinction may be elected a Life Member upon the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Directors at the business session of an annual meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. Subject to the limitations of this section, a Life Member shall have all the rights and privileges of an Active Member. Life Members shall pay the same annual dues as Active Members, except that from and after retirement from law enforcement or upon attaining "normal retirement age" (as defined for purposes of PERS benefit administration, if the member was not then employed in law enforcement) the Life Member will not be required to pay annual dues.

**Associate Members:** Associate membership is available to those persons otherwise ineligible for Active membership who are or were previously certified by the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, who serve or served as a federal law enforcement officer, who are currently employed in the management of law enforcement personnel in an "exempt" status for purposes of FLSA overtime eligibility, or who are employed to manage and direct security and/or criminal investigation activities of a private enterprise (such as a financial, banking, public utility or corporate entity with bona fide security needs and interests consistent with those of the OACP) in this state, and other persons who are distinguished because of their office, title, or special service to the Association. Associate Members may not vote and may not hold office in the Association. Annual dues for Associate Members shall be determined by the Board of Directors upon recommendation

of the Executive Board. Additionally, a police officer otherwise ineligible for Active membership but who is certified by DPSST at the supervisory level or higher and who is designated by a chief law enforcement executive or designee to manage the law enforcement functions of a law enforcement unit under an ORS 190 or other contractual arrangement to and on behalf of a different unit of local government is eligible to participate as an Associate Member, if the police officer holds command rank and performs duties and responsibilities such that the police officer is exempt from representation under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act and from the overtime requirements of the FLSA as an administrative, executive or supervisory employee of the employing law enforcement unit.

**Retired Members:** When an Active Member of the Association who is not qualified for Life membership retires from regular employment in good standing, the member shall become a Retired Member. Except for the office of Immediate Past President and for other positions as described in Article 7, Sections 7 and 8, Retired Members may not vote and may not hold an office or board position. Retired members may participate fully as voting members of the Retired Member's Committee and any other committee to which the Retired Member is appointed. Retired Members shall be exempt from annual dues requirements upon attaining "normal retirement age" as defined for purposes of PERS benefit administration when and during such periods that the member is not employed in law enforcement.

**Honorary Membership:** Any member may propose a candidate for Honorary Membership to the Board of Directors by submitting a letter setting forth the reason. If the Board of Directors approves, the Board of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police may recommend the candidate for vote at the next regular annual meeting. The Association by two-thirds vote of members present at any general membership meeting may elect to recognize honorary membership.