

The Oregon Pilots Association

December 4th, 2025

**Becky Breckenridge,
Director of Legislative Affairs**

President@oregonpilot.org



Oregon Pilots Association

- 10th February 1939: Sportsmen Pilots of Oregon
 - Three months before AOPA (13th May 1939)



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From the original Articles of Incorporation:



Oregon Pilots Association

The object of this corporation is and shall be...

- *...to foster the interests of aviation...*
 - To promote aviation in all aspects: business, commercial, recreational, training, safety, airports, youth engagement, educational scholarships...



Oregon Pilots Association

The object of this corporation is and shall be...

- *...to promote honesty and good will among fellow pilots to assist fellow members to greater achievements in their respective vocations...*
 - An association of Oregon's pilots and other airport users
 - A state-wide network of all people embracing aviation



Oregon Pilots Association

The object of this corporation is and shall be...

- *...to cooperate with other organizations in advancing the interests of aviation in Oregon...*
 - Partner to advance all aviation: “No pilot/business/user/airport left behind”
 - Advocate for equitable and fair treatment for all Oregon aviators
 - Embrace emerging technologies



Oregon Pilots Association

The object of this corporation is and shall be...

- *...to promote and encourage the construction, maintenance and improvement of airports and landing fields...*
 - Pilots/aircraft require places to fly to/from
 - Airfields require pilots/aircraft to use them

} Same thing, different perspectives



Oregon Pilots Association

- 29th March 1960:
 - Name changed to Oregon Pilots Association



- June 2025: Latest Board of Directors:
 - OPA restored as a mutual benefit association, strengthening its general advocacy and lobbying position
 - Created Oregon Air Safety and Education Foundation (OASEF) as an IRS 510 (c)(3) public benefit educational charity, providing aviation scholarships
 - Reestablishing the vitality of OPA and the revival of OPA chapters

Oregon Pilots Association – BoD 2025-2026

OPA Board of Directors:

- President: Stephen Bateman
- Vice President: Sean Phillips
- Secretary: Ryan Birr
- Treasurer: Alan Williams
- Dir. Legislative Affairs: Becky Breckenridge
- Dir. Membership: Stan Swan
- Dir. OPA Chapters: John Storey
- Dir. Communications: Casey Simons
- Dir. at Large: Kim Muinch
- Dir. at Large: Dennis Schoenberg
- Dir. at Large: Richard Giles

Pilots
Association

Oregon Pilots Association – Present Focus

- Advocate for aviation, especially general aviation:
 - An open door for early collaboration, not late conflict
 - A strong representative and collective voice
 - The pulse of the system's users – Oregon's pilots and other airport users
 - A balanced counterweight and lobbying force - to be engaged as necessary
 - Promote and encourage the use and activities at all Oregon's airports to keep them vibrant: Get people flying!



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 - Modernizing communication methods, membership structure, defined benefits, and more



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 - Modernizing communication methods, membership structure, defined benefits, and more
- Membership growth and involvement:
 - Director of Membership
 - Director of OPA Chapters
 - Three Directors at Large

Grow membership, chapters and representative base
State-wide overlay, with localized engagement

Oregon Pilots Association – OPA Chapters

- Localized, grassroots “clubs” with shared interests and values, camaraderie, community involvement and education



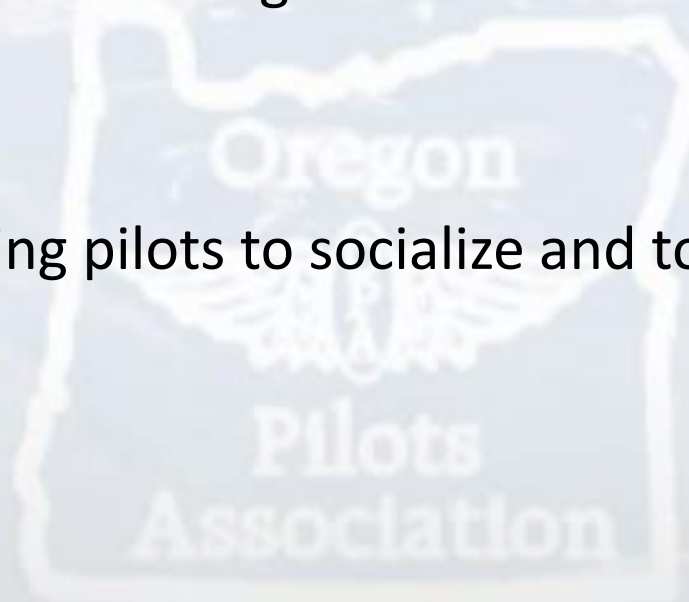
Oregon Pilots Association – OPA Chapters

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- A bit like “Friends of XYZ Airport” support and advocacy:
 - An established sounding board for discussion of matters affecting the airport and its users
 - Community organizer to advocate for balance and fair play
 - Support airport sponsors and management in the utility and promotion of airports



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 - An established sounding board for discussion of matters affecting the airport and its users
 - Community organizer to advocate for balance and fair play
 - Support airport sponsors and management in the utility and promotion of airports
- Plus...
 - Encouraging and supporting pilots to socialize and to actually fly and use our airports!



OPA/ODAV Opportunities

- Support:
 - A strong member base
 - Grassroots education: local communities, naysayers, elected officials
 - Collective action, as appropriate
- Engagement:
 - ODAV Strategic Plan – early involvement
 - Partnerships and solidarity with other aviation organizations
 - Regular “catch-up” meetings with ODAV staff for two-way communications with our base
 - Frequent contributor at OSAB meetings—public comment, and more
 - Access to a large and smart user base for discussing technical advancements: air mobility, alternative propulsion/fuels...

OPA/ODAV Opportunities

- Working together to make our common missions more productive:
 - Jointly develop and promote legislation that improves Oregon's aviation system in ways that makes communities more resilient and connected
 - Develop methods and programs for new or increased funding for ODAV, without taxing users out of existence
 - Let us be a part of the COAR and SOAR funding processes, by providing ODAV decision makers access to pilots, airport businesses and community decision makers for insight on how these limited funds can be best used
 - Our chapters and members can be a virtual extension of the ODAV staff, by being the "eyes and ears" at the 28 state-owned airports and beyond

Oregon Pilots Association

- Conclusion:
 - OPA exists to “*Keep Oregon Flying*”, in all interpretations
 - Allow members to enjoy access to airports and the airspace, in an equitable and fair manner
 - Pull upon a growing member base as a counterweight to threats
 - We offer to collaborate early and closely, for the mutual good, and to avoid wasteful rework that consumes time and resources when in conflict
 - “Ask the users”: Access to a large base of smart, active and impassioned aviators to collectively move Oregon aviation forward
 - OPA chapters provide the opportunity for local social and community engagement and education, with the overlay and comfort of a state-wide parent organization