

March 7, 2006

Dear Members,

As President, I feel it is appropriate, at this time, to share with you an informational update as to where OALI stands today. We are a professional, respectable and financially stable organization. I feel that OALI is doing great things to help investigators. My membership in OALI has provided me tremendous knowledge, networking contacts, and access to resources unavailable anywhere else. It is my wish that all investigators have access to this same opportunity.

As you know OALI is a Non-Profit Association working to promote licensing of investigators for the benefit of its members and for the protection of the general public. We are actively working to provide our members with the support they need to survive in the current economic, regulatory, and legislative environment. This is provided through volunteers who have taken an active interest in representing and providing a service for you. OALI is committed in providing information, training, continuing education (CE's) and ethics to its members and to the entire Private Investigation community.

The new board first met on August 12, 2005, and began to reorganize the responsibilities in running the OALI business. In addition to the normal rotation of board members, we have several individuals in new positions that perform work crucial to the functioning of the association. The functions of Treasurer, Membership Director, and video taping and sales all had been handled by one person in the past. Now we have several members handling these tasks and that has been a transition. Our new board has been faced with the immediate challenges in running the daily operations while keeping in mind that future boards will have to deal with our decisions. The board and I are very confident in the choices that we have made so far and welcome your input in helping to promote and move our association forward in a positive way.

The board was then faced with determining which policies that were working and which ones needed to be updated or changed. OALI had been contracting with a website hosting company to provide for our websites design and maintenance. After reviewing the expense of this service, which was \$10,204 for two years, and the fact that we had no control or access in managing the site, the board determined that we needed to drop this service for financial reasons. We now have total control of our website; we can make changes easily at a fraction of the cost. OALI now pays \$50 per month for Website hosting which this board feels is a much more appropriate figure. OALI can now provide website hosting to all members if they choose to have their own business site, for a \$5/mo fee!

Some people have asked why the website has not worked as well as it has in the past, and this is a fair question. Frankly, there were a lot of technical issues involved in the transition from one service provider to another, and there were problems. There was a problem adding new members to the website and those members randomly dropping off. I want to assure you that these were computer glitches and that they either have been or are being fixed.

Another issue, that had been a topic of complaint for several months on the forum, was the 800-referral service and the fact that most members did seem to benefit from it. This service cost

OALI roughly \$150 per month and did not seem to be working. The board felt that we should discontinue this 'live' referral system and replace it with a self-directed system that guides callers to our website to find an investigator. This was done both for financial reasons and simply to provide equality. If a person looks on the website, they can decide who seems to be near them or most qualified for their investigation and contact that investigator themselves.

As many of you know, OALI has long tried to maintain a newsletter for our members. This last year our editor has moved on to become our treasurer, and has a lot to do with that job. Because of this he resigned as newsletter editor. The board has been searching for a new editor, but as of yet we have not found a volunteer. We would like to continue the practice of publishing at least 3 issues per year, but at this time we do not have a volunteer. I would like to open this offer to any current member at this time in becoming the newsletter editor in having an opportunity in getting involved in the OALI association.

Another area of concern to the board is the ongoing cost of mailings, including postage and handling. The board made a decision to lower overhead by only mailing fliers and information to those members that we could not reach electronically. In this day and age, email and fax has become the desired method of communication for business. In an effort to cut cost and time we decided to try to get messages to our membership through this new media. We recognize that some people cannot or will not want to receive information this way, and those people can contact us and we will do a traditional mailing to them.

The board has been debating the usefulness of a printed membership directory and handbook. There have been discussions as to whether we could provide this information electronically or whether this is best left as printed material. No final decision has been made, so for this year we will post both manuals on the website in .pdf format. These are easy to download and each member could print out the whole manual or perhaps just the pages they need. The advantage to electronic information is that obsolescence of the information can be avoided by constant updating. We welcome member opinions on this matter before a final decision is made.

In closing, I would like to say that it is my humble pleasure to serve as your President and if I can make things better or easier I will try to do so. We exist to help you. Let us know how to keep pace with the changes in the industry, and in return we will try to help you do the same. We will be posting a great many items to the website, please visit and take part. In addition, in an effort to be transparent, the board minutes are going to be posted as well. Please read them and participate!

I want to thank the board and our new volunteers for the giving of their time and expertise to support OALI. I would also like to thank you, as a current member, for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Greg Parson
President, Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators, Inc.