



Please use this form as the cover page for each submission (chapters can submit in two categories).  
It does not count as 1 of the 4 page totals for the submission.

## Outstanding Award Application

Chapter Name:	OPPA
Submitted By:	Kaliska King
Contact Information:	
List Program(s) that will be highlighted in application	

☒ Has your chapter submitted your Performance Standard SEAL?

Check the box for the Outstanding Chapter Award you are submitting:

- ☐ Outstanding Chapter Operations Award
- How does your chapter excel in its operating processes, including policies and procedures, budgeting, recognition of agencies and individuals and involvement with NIGP?
- ☐ Outstanding Chapter Membership Award
- How well does your chapter market membership benefits and resources and what are your methods for membership retention and growth?
- ☐ Outstanding Chapter Advocacy and Outreach Award
- What practices and operations has your chapter demonstrated to be an effective advocate for members and our profession?
- ☒ Outstanding Chapter Professional Development Award
- How does your chapter go above and beyond providing educational resources and other opportunities to your membership?



## The Events

The Oregon Public Purchasing Association (OPPA) was pleased to host the third 2022 Area 8 Regional Training and Vendor Showcase in beautiful Sunriver, Oregon. The event kicked off with Presidents from OPPA, Columbia Chapter, Washington State Chapter and the Idaho Public Purchasing Chapter. Each chapter gave highlights of their respective chapters and accomplishments from the prior year. It was very informative, and attendees enjoyed learning more about their respective chapters.

The agenda included speakers that were representative of the various chapters and not OPPA specific and each attendee earned 8.5 contact hours to use towards their certification needs. The conference also included a visit from Bill Munch, an NIGP Chapter Ambassador.

Aside from the educational component, the event also included a fundraiser for charity in memory of Lillie Gray. Lillie was the former Director of Procurement Services for the Oregon Department of Education; she passed away suddenly in 2021 in a tragic accident. Lillie was a longtime member of OPPA and presented at an OPPA conference the case study of her most challenging and rewarding procurement of her career- the Extreme Home Makeover reality show did a complete makeover of the Oregon School for the Deaf in 2010. The fundraiser was a gift basket raffle to raise money for the School for the Deaf. Attendees donated gift baskets, and OPPA also funded some baskets. OPPA also donated free registration to its Fall Conference, and something new- a scholarship to Forum. We had some additional funds in our budget and moved them to our Community Involvement committee so that they could offer a scholarship as part of the charity raffle; a first for our Chapter. It was heartwarming to see the giving nature of the conference attendees.

[https://www.oregonlive.com/movies/2010/10/extreme\\_makeover\\_oregon\\_school.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/movies/2010/10/extreme_makeover_oregon_school.html)

Putting on an event of this nature is no easy task. An OPPA past President took the lead in coordinating the chapter presidents about a year in advance. The first order of business was to determine which chapter would lead and host the effort; it was decided to be OPPA. Each participating chapter offered up volunteers to assist OPPA with the planning, in addition the chapter Presidents. OPPA sent out a survey to the chapters to find out interests in locations, educational content, theme ideas and interest in attending in person or virtual. OPPA's Program Committee took the lead once the location was secured to make the arrangements with the Sunriver Resort, however they worked lockstep with the other chapter volunteers. Details such as meals, lodging, conference rooms, speakers, entertainment, the agenda, the golf charity fundraiser, awards banquet, welcome reception, and AV needs were all decided

by the group. There were many moving parts, and the event went off seamlessly due to the hard work and dedication of these volunteers.



OPPA organized a social outing with other Area 8 members at the 2022 NIGP National Forum in Boston



OPPA also held its annual Fall Conference at the beautiful Oregon Coast. There were a couple of things that made this event notable. Attendance was strong, as was the agenda. However, there was a last-minute cancellation from a speaker due to illness the night before the event. The Program Committee, who is responsible for putting on events, was quick on their feet to fill the time slot. Overnight they developed a slideshow presentation and the President revised her opening welcome speech. “Pivot” quickly became our theme for the conference, and the President worked a [short video clip](#) in her opening welcome speech to set the overall tone for the conference. Instead of the planned education, there was instead a structured session around the Chapter and brainstorming from the members/attendees. Attendees were put into table groups they answered questions: what they feel are highlights of OPPA conferences, what are challenges that they face and what presentation topics they would like to see. This information was so valuable- and it was an on the fly “pivot” to fill time.

Another activity added to fill the time was to assemble an impromptu panel of OPPA Board members. The President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Treasurer and one Director discussed the value of membership and the rewards of volunteering. Attendees asked all the questions they had in regard to volunteering and what it is like to serve on the Board. This will hopefully gain more interest from the membership and increase the number of volunteers.

One big highlight of the conference was the introduction of our new Mentorship Program. OPPA’s Mentorship and Young and Developing Professionals committees partnered together and are using the NIGP software to manage our new Mentorship program. The old Mentorship Program had no activity for a year or two, and with a new committee chair at the helm, it has been rebuilt from the ground up. Immediately following a short introductory session, there was a meet and greet mixer of potential mentors and mentees. At the end of the mixer, there were enough mentors signed up to be able to host a cohort! (That cohort is currently underway in 2023 and there has been outstanding feedback for the program.)

Shortly before the OPPA Fall Conference was held, a man reached out to our chapter. This particular man happened to be Charles Dallas, one of the founding members of our chapter! He lives nearby where the conference was held, and one day on a whim he decided to look online to see if our chapter

was still active. Not only did he find that OPPA is active, but that it was going to be a just few miles from him. He asked if he could join the conference, and he joined us for the kickoff of the new Mentorship Program and mixer. It was a great honor to have him! OPPA was founded in 1969 and Charles served as President in 1970-71, where he remained an active board member for the next 11 years. He expressed great pleasure at seeing how strong the chapter is and that it is still very active. It truly was an honor to have him join the event and hope that he will continue to join OPPA events in the future.



Fall Conference group photo



Charles Dallas and Christine Baker, OPPA Mentorship Chair



Fall Conference  
Agenda 2022.pdf



Document1.docx



OPPA Overview &  
Fall Brainstorming (1

## Outcomes and Results

Nearly 30% of the attendees for the Area 8 Regional Training and Vendor Showcase were from Area 8 chapters that are not OPPA; there was a total of 91 attendees, which is a combination of virtual and in-person. While attendance was lower than in prior years, this is a success due to the post pandemic world and budget constraints. Another Area 8 Chapter has expressed interest in hosting next time, and OPPA will most likely mentor them through the process should they decide to.

The charity event raised \$5,000 for the Oregon School for the Deaf, which was outstanding! One of the highest yielding raffles was the new Forum Scholarship which was open to all attendees, regardless of whether or not they were an OPPA member. There was great excitement for this opportunity and the money raised went to a worthwhile organization.

In the instance of the speaker that cancelled at the Fall Conference, the information was captured from the group activity, and the Program Committee uses it now for future planning. There was 100% participation in the room, which is better than any survey results thus far. Attendees found it to be relevant and were pleased to be able to share their input. This could not have been pulled off without having a talented and dedicated committee that could fluidly work, or pivot, with change.



## What Makes Your Event Unique or Innovative

OPPA has forged a partnership with the other Area 8 chapters. It began with the first Area 8 Regional Training and Vendor Showcase but did not end there. The chapter presidents reach out to one another on occasion. The chapters also coordinate with one another to have a social outing at Forum. The conference has increased each chapter's networking capabilities, which also increases the pool of potential speakers and topics available to each chapter.

OPPA has a talented group of individuals that are responsible for putting on its events. When a speaker canceled the night before an event, they pooled together their expertise and lead a session seamlessly, receiving high accolades. Taking the time to connect with the membership to grow as a chapter was a brilliant idea and the data captured from it is invaluable. Multiple attendees approached the President during the conference to compliment and praise that session; it made them feel valued and seen and like more of a partner than just an attendee.

## Lessons Learned

Hosting a multi-chapter event is a substantial task, but hosting the event with boots on the ground is monumental. Finding other chapters to volunteer to help is imperative. There are many tasks that cannot be done until onsite and there never seem to be enough hands. Asking the other chapters for volunteers will build camaraderie, increase networking opportunities and provide a sense of ownership and pride in the event.

The trade show component of the event was well attended, but the sponsors have some downtime. Next time, there will be a focus to give sponsors a training track during the sessions for attendees. This could be another opportunity to have the other chapters responsible for.

The 2022 Area 8 Regional Training and Vendor Showcase was the first year where virtual attendance was offered, and it was OPPA's second time ever offering virtual. Finding better ways to integrate virtual attendees is an important take-away. Having little experience with virtual events, it was clear that there needed to be someone dedicated to monitor the online chat. Having the virtual component was also very expensive and almost not cost effective. OPPA has since purchased an [Owl](#) in an effort to keep down future AV costs and to provide a better experience for attendees.

One important lesson learned is to have a back-up plan for speakers in the event they cannot make it. While this event was successfully pulled off, it could have had a different outcome. Now there is a contingency plan in place and a back up speaker is planned for all events.