



# **Oregon Report to Region IV Fall 2006**

## TELEVISION PSA ADS

The local Univision affiliate has been running an OASA public service announcement that it produced based on our input and recommendations. Anne Braghero, our Operations Manager, has taken the lead on getting it done. She also has set up a special OASA telephone number for Spanish-speaking callers to use to leave messages and has found a volunteer who picks up the messages and provides translations.

## NEW LEAGUE

We've affiliated another league, La Liga de Salem. Not to keep you in suspense, it's located in Salem, Oregon.

## ANOTHER COACHING CLINIC

We held our second adult coaching clinic in August in the Portland area.

## NEW LOOK FOR STATE OFFICE

Our office will be getting a facelift after many drab years. New paint will be applied and new carpeting will be installed in December.

## BORING BUT IMPORTANT

In recent weeks, our Eastside Coed Soccer League was contacted by the state workers' compensation agency, which inquired as to why the league wasn't making workers' comp payments for referees. It then demanded copies of all kinds of records. This all arose because one referee

who then was collecting unemployment pay had, as he is required to do, reported his earnings from all sources, including refereeing.

The league President, Ginger Bradbury, contacted me and we put together a response, pointing out that a state statute deems referees who officiate amateur adult and youth soccer games to be independent contractors and exempt from the workers' comp system. This statute was passed several years ago through the joint effort of a state representative in the Oregon Legislature (who at the time was a state referee), the Oregon Youth Soccer Association and the OASA (<http://www.oregonreferee.com/legislativesuccess.html>). Ginger hasn't heard from the workers' comp agency since.

More recently, the Oregon Department of Revenue has contacted the league about collecting payroll taxes. Our guess is that it was tipped off by the workers' comp folks. Again, I've put together a response that hopefully will end the matter.

It's really important for state associations and leagues to pay attention to this sort of thing and take it very seriously. If one of these state agencies gets in the door, it looks for everything and you're not just liable for future activities, you're also liable for the past (or at least as far back as they can go before they hit the statute of limitations). I've read of leagues in various sports being faced with bills for tens of thousands of dollars.

The sermon is over. Class dismissed.

Roger Hamilton  
October 17, 2006