

The Value of OLCA Membership



OLCA strives to serve you, the landscape community in Oregon. Programs and services are established to create value for our membership. The values will vary between members, but there is no denying the value that OLCA brings to the Oregon landscape industry greatly exceeds the dues that members pay.

OLCA Member Programs & Services

LCB Semi-Independence sponsored by OLCA has resulted in more enforcement of non-licensed contractors, allowing for more business to our members. LCB established a full time licensing staff for the landscape industry. LCB has more autonomy and priorities than when landscape licensing was a small part of the large Construction Contractors Board.

Statewide Chapter Meetings & Social Events are the primary vehicle for members to network and receive quality education. Networking with peers is recognized as one of the most valuable business tools available. Industry speakers and topics generally include LCB-approved CEHs and PLANET recertification CEUs. Social events enjoyed around the state are golf tournaments, holiday parties, picnics and community service events.

Discount Programs are an opportunity for members to pool with other landscape contractors throughout the state to take advantage of a discount program previously reserved for large companies, including Supervised Fuel's Fuel Program, the Office Depot Program and whirlLocal's Reputation Marketing Program.

Certification Program has numerous rewards. Everyone can become certified in one or all five Certified Landscape Technician (CLT) types. Managers can become a Certified Landscape Professional (CLP). An educated and experienced work force that enhances your company.

Legal Resource Program uses the law firm of Jordan Schrader. This benefit allows a member to call the firm and receive fifteen minutes of free legal advice which could save thousands of dollars.

Lobbying & Government Affairs Committee works with the OLCA Board and a professional lobbyist monitoring

the many landscape industry issues in Salem. No other organization speaks for and protects the Oregon landscape industry. OLCA has had some significant successes in the past few legislative sessions and believes the entire industry benefits immensely from this representation. A voice of many is more powerful than a single voice.

Oregon Landscape Expo is the annual meeting place of the landscape industry which showcases vendors' products, services, and offers bilingual education. Seminars focus on current operations, trends and issues facing the landscape industry and many of the educational seminars are free to members.

Property & Casualty Program offered through OLCA's preferred insurance agency, LaPorte & Associates, has proven to be a great money saver. In addition many members take advantage of the other insurance options offered through LaPorte.

Right to install Irrigation control wiring and outdoor lighting systems that do not exceed 300 volt-amperes per circuit. OLCA sponsored and passed SB 1034 that allows licensed landscapers to do this work where before an electrician was required to hook-up the low voltage electricity.

Nursery License Fee Exemption SB 827 was sponsored by OLCA and exempts fees to landscapers who temporarily store plants for various clients' projects, not having to buy a license and be subject to inspections.

Installing fences, decks, driveways, retaining walls and walkways without registering with Construction Contractors Board is allowed after OLCA sponsored and passed HB 2062.

Planning and Installing fountains to include ornamental water features. This includes fountains, ponds, waterfalls, man-made streams and other decorative water-related constructions.

Install backflow prevention devices in irrigation systems and water features is allowed thanks to OLCA sponsoring and passing HB 2192.

Restricting building contractors to only be able to do \$2,500 in landscaping per house. The new homeowners can then decide to do the rest of the landscaping themselves or contract with a licensed landscape contractor.

Annual Management Dinner offers an educational and networking opportunity specifically geared towards Landscape company owners. This evening event offers you the opportunity to network with your peers. Who knows what "pearls" of knowledge you will get.

Pesticide Education: OLCA annually offers pesticide education that is approved for both Oregon and Washington pesticide license renewal. The classes are focused on applications for residential and commercial landscaping.

Summary

OLCA was established in 1987 and since that time has grown in numbers and in knowledge. This Value Paper was developed to remind the industry of the tremendous value and importance that OLCA brings to the landscape industry in Oregon. For those of you who are members, we thank you for your support both financially and in volunteer time and expertise. You are the reason OLCA is enjoying tremendous success.

For non-members, we hope you will reflect on these successes and decide to become a member of OLCA!

Don't you think it is time to support the association that does so much for you?