

Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus

Leadership Assembly Meeting

August 9, 2025, 7:45 a.m. Croisan Creek B & C

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84007195508> [Meeting ID: 84001795508]

Assembly Members Attending: Nichole Schott, Condon, President; Tracy Adevai, VP Mary Anne Crandall, Pinehurst, Secretary/Treasurer; Ali Lanenga, Dale Keene

Guests: 38

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 am

Nichole Schott, President, welcomed all participants to the meeting

Review of the Goals of the Rural Caucus

Nichole reviewed the goals of the Rural Caucus including:

- Elevating the voice of rural schools
- Building relationships
- Promoting legislation that advances rural schools
- Promoting education
- Providing professional development for rural school members

Leadership Assembly

A. History

The rural caucus has been actively running a membership drive to encourage all board members in rural schools to join.

B. Who We Are

Nichole reviewed what the rural caucus stand for

C. Introduction of the Leadership Assembly

Nichole introduced members of the leadership assembly that were present

The state is divided into nine regions for the rural caucus. Nichole reviewed the nine regions and how they were divided.

D. Board Development Scholarships

Mary Anne Crandall spoke on how her district, Pinehurst #94, was granted a board development scholarship to help provide learning opportunities from an ODSA representative to present in person. The session was invaluable to her board; they were able to ask questions and elicit targeted answers. Mary Anne's school district has never had an

OSBA presentation in -person and would not have been able to afford it without the scholarship funding.

E. Scholarships

The rural caucus provided two summer conference scholarships to attend the summer conference. Tim Fain, Dufur and Mary Anne Crandall, Pinehurst were the recipients of the scholarship making it possible for them to attend from their small districts.

F. Representation on the LPC

The rural caucus provides rural schools with two voting representatives in the policy meetings giving rural schools a voice. Policy and principles are discussed including reducing reporting criteria and lessening mandates for small schools. Raeshelle Meyer is the ODE rural representative.

Voice for Rural School Boards Brainstorming

The attendees were divided into groups to brainstorm about three questions:

- A. What are you most excited about this upcoming school year?*
- B. What concerns you the most about this upcoming school year?*
- C. How do you think the Rural Schools Caucus should elevate the unique needs of our Districts?*
- D. We are in the planning stages for our November annual conference. How can the Caucus be most effective for you?*

Lively discussions followed with each group sharing what their main ideas were. Participants were engaged and told stories of how they were impacted. The discussion time was well-received by the participants and provided fodder for elected officials and OSBA to discuss with the legislators.

Upcoming Meetings

Next Regular Rural Caucus Leadership Assembly meeting September 16, 2025 @ 6PM on zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.