

Oregon Tradeswomen Network History

The Oregon Tradeswomen Network (OTN) evolved in December of 1989 through the collaborative efforts of a small group of women who possessed a great deal of tenacity and fortitude. The four women were adventuresome with a strong desire to see more women actively participating in trades fields. The Oregon Tradeswomen Network was subsequently formed as a support group to present trades occupations as a viable career choice for women.

OTN's Mission Statement:

"OTN is dedicated to ending discrimination in the trades, creating a safer workplace, eliminating sexual harassment on the job, educating women and girls about trade opportunities, encouraging fair hiring hall practices, promoting fair access to apprenticeship training, and advocating for stronger unions for all workers."

At the time of OTN's inception, the four women involved covered a very small spectrum in trades fields. They were employed in three areas: two were carpenters, one an operating

engineer, and one an elevator constructor. In the decade of the '90s, the women involved in trade fields discovered they were no longer few in numbers. It has been within the last few decades that the traditional trade occupations, which were solely regarded as predominantly male occupations, began to see a change in the labor force. Women were starting to be recognized for being adept, and capable of acquiring the knowledge and possessing the same types of skills that enabled them to perform the same tasks as their male counter parts.

Volunteer Training Program AT West Women's Shelter

The Salvation Army's West Women's and Children's Shelter is again offering its volunteer training program beginning Saturday May 1, 1993. The program includes four Saturday sessions (from 10am to 1pm) and three Monday evening sessions (from 6pm to 9pm). These sessions cover such topics as Domestic Violence; Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Crisis and Suicide Intervention; Rape, Sexual Abuse and Incest; Mental Health; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; and Depression. The sessions will be held at the West, 2010 NW Kearney, Portland.

More than 270 volunteers have participated in the training program since it began in December of 1988. These volunteers provide essential services to the nearly 60 women and children who call the West "home." The diverse programs at the West can utilize a wide array of volunteer interests of time schedules. Volunteer opportunities are available with children, adults or low-client-contact projects. Volunteers are especially needed in the Children's Program during the summer daytime hours. The West is a program of The Salvation Army Harbor Light Recovery Road.

Oregon Tradeswomen Network 2nd annual "Women in Trades Fair"

9am to 4:30pm Saturday, April 24
Mt. Hood Community College
26000 SE Stark, Gresham

Trade and technical careers for women

- Employers
- Hands-on workshops
 - Mechanic repair
 - Electrical work
 - Floor covering
 - Carpentry
 - Bricklaying
 - Painting
- Demonstrations
- Apprenticeship information
- Training program information
- Panels
- Booths
- Fashion show featuring work clothes, safety wear and tool accessories.

Free admission and parking. On-site child care available.

Oregon Tradeswomen Network is dedicated to ending discrimination in the trades, creating a safer workplace, eliminating sexual harassment on the job, educating women and girls about trade opportunities, encouraging fair hiring advocating for stronger unions for all workers. For more information, call Joann Phillips at 221-1646 ext. 292. Special thanks to Mt. Hood Community College for donating use of its campus for the event and for other numerous co-sponsors, contributors and supporters.

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AAA Oregon Personal Safety Tips For Motorist (continued from last week)

- If you drive alone in the winter, keep emergency items such as a traction mat, a shovel and a bag of sand or kitty litter in your trunk. Flares, blankets, water, flashlight, canned food and a reflective "Help" sign are also useful.
- If you have a flat tire in a dark or dangerous location, drive slowly to the nearest service station or public place. Even if you ruin the tire you will not have risked your life.
- Always park in a central, well-lit place, preferably where there are attendants on duty or people passing by. Try to park so that you will approach the driver's side of the car when you return. You won't be surprised by someone who has crouched by the door.
- Avoid short cuts that take you through unfamiliar or unsafe areas.
- If you notice someone suspicious near your car walk in a different direction toward a public place and seek help.
- Beware of men in civilian clothes driving unmarked cars who show

you what appears to be a police badge. Don't roll down your window or get out of the car. Instead, request that a marked police car be called.

- If your car is rammed from behind and the hit seems to be deliberate, stay in the car with the doors locked. Wait for the police to arrive.
- Most police experts do not recommend that you carry weapons in your car. Instead, they suggest that everyday items like flashlights, fingernail files, pens, keys and screwdrivers can be used for protection.
- If someone forces you to drive your car in an abduction, try to attract the attention of the police by turning off the lights, speeding, driving as if you were intoxicated, or running into something.
- Never follow a stranger who offers to help you find your way on an unfamiliar road or street. Wait in your vehicle and ask for directions.

A list of these tips is available from AAA Oregon in a free brochure. (503) 222-6729

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