



**Advocating for all
Oregon wineries and
growers**



The Oregon Wine Council is Oregon's leading wine industry advocacy association.

Representing over fifty percent of Oregon wine grapes grown, produced and sold, the Oregon Wine Council (OWC) advocates on behalf of growers, producers and businesses supporting Oregon's thriving wine industry.

The OWC was founded in August 2019 by a committed group of industry leaders who are passionate about the success and sustainability of Oregon's wine industry. Together, our Board of Directors and our members represent a variety of AVAs and wineries and vineyards of all sizes.

In the short time since OWC was established, we have dramatically impacted our industry and helped push for policies that benefit all our colleagues across the state, but there is more to be done.

Join us today to lend your voice to these important conversations and decisions impacting our industry.



OWC's Role in Oregon's Wine Industry.

As the newest statewide wine organization in Oregon, the OWC fills an unmet need as an advocate for all aspects of your wine business.

How is OWC different?

OWC's sizeable staff has a long history of advocating on behalf of businesses and associations across all industries, allowing the organization to approach wine issues with a **more holistic perspective**.

OWC has highlighted ongoing **employment issues** impacting our members, giving – for the first time – the wine industry a seat at the table where employment issues are being discussed and ensuring that legislators understand the impact of employment policies on our industry.

OWC has prioritized building strong relationships with Oregon's agriculture industry, a departure from the industry's approach in the past, ensuring that wine grape growers are not only recognized as producers of one of our state's most valuable commodities, but that they also have a voice when it comes to **agriculture issues**.

OWC will ensure the industry takes a **commonsense approach** on issues that have the potential to devastate our industry, such as the proposed 1700% increase on Oregon's wine producers proposed in the last long legislative session.

OWC is the modern, dynamic and experienced statewide advocacy organization that Oregon wine needs.



2022 Key Accomplishments

- Brought wine interests to the table to tell the story about the impact of the agriculture worker overtime mandate, fighting to put in place a program that works for the wine industry
- Opposed legislation that requires producers, including wine grape growers, to pay agricultural workers overtime, aligning with agricultural organizations throughout the state but breaking with Oregon's other statewide wine advocacy association
- Partnered with Aglink to provide OWC members with new benefits including discounts on association health plans, SAIF worker's compensation insurance, workplace and promotional supplies, legal services, and Aglink event and product discounts
- Hosted legislator tours at member wineries in Southern Oregon
- Successfully advocated to ensure the proposed wildfire map wouldn't disadvantage wineries and make it nearly impossible for them to secure insurance simply based on their geography
- Successfully advocated for common-sense modernizations of Oregon's Bottle Bill to include wine cans, but extending the timeline for inclusion to allow consideration related to the future producer responsibility system
- Engaged with legislators and regulators to support the need for increased enforcement of illegal cannabis operations, particularly in Southern Oregon
- Supported a bill requiring reporting of human trafficking at cannabis sites, in addition to other cannabis enforcement mechanisms
- Successfully advocated against a bill that would have effectively banned nearly all diesel and diesel-powered vehicles in the state
- Coordinated with the OLCC to identify a panel of wine representatives, including OWC Executive Director Fawn Barrie and several OWC members, to present on the challenges faced by Southern Oregon wineries such as wildfires, illegal cannabis, and COVID-19, among other issues
- Engaged in DLCD's Wildfire Adapted Communities workgroup, raising concerns around DLCD's recommendations for building and event requirements that may impact the wine industry

What we're focusing on in 2023

Do no harm: Advocate against proposals that would harm our industry

- Support behavioral health investments, while opposing unnecessary and exorbitant tax increases for wine producers
- Serve as the voice for the wine industry when legislation or regulations are being discussed that impact employers throughout the state, including limiting employers' ability to provide hiring or retention bonuses
- Engage on legislative proposals to ensure they do not disadvantage wineries at commercial locations where consumers purchase our wine
- Ensure that vineyards are not only protected from wildfires, but also not disproportionately disadvantaged by policies that do not have a true impact on wildfire prevention
- Ensure that wineries are able to deliver their products safely, responsibly, and directly to consumers via common carriers
- Actively engage with policymakers to ensure they understand the importance of OLCC's role in supporting the industry

Fix what's been broken – Clean up problems for our industry created by the legislature

- Paid Family Medical Leave: Ensure the voices of Oregon wine industry employers are heard in conjunction with the business community when advocating for reasonable fixes to align the new Paid Family Medical Leave policy with the Oregon Family Leave Act so employers and employees have consistency across the system
- Wildfire legislation: Work to ensure the wildfire risk map isn't used to determine insurance coverage or cost of coverage for Oregon's wineries
- Agriculture overtime: Advocate for reasonable short- and long-term fixes to the existing ag overtime law, including bridge funding and ensuring the legislature is aware of the implementation challenges

Make strategic investments to support the wine industry as a vital part of Oregon's economy

- Advocate for wineries and growers disproportionately impacted by illegal hemp and marijuana operations, emphasizing the need for additional enforcement funding
- Ensure a level playing field for vineyards and cannabis producers so that issues related to water consumption and competitive employment do not disadvantage wineries and vineyards that are complying with existing regulations
- Engage in opportunities to strengthen Oregon's food and beverage sectors through partnerships with business and federal stakeholders, such as the Food and Beverage Task Force
- Support the creation of a Center for Innovation Excellence for Resilient Food and Beverage Manufacturing proposed by OSU and funded through a Business Oregon initiative

OWC / Oregon Aglink Member Benefits



**Oregon
Aglink**

All OWC members are eligible to become members of Oregon Aglink and take advantage of the many Aglink benefits - at no additional cost! Benefits include:

Association Health Plans

Aglink offers members access to a state-wide package of insurance plans. Licensed agents can advise you in selecting employer and voluntary options for health, dental, life and disability insurance.

Health Insurance: Over 20 medical plans with copays for office visits, prescription coverage, vision, alternative care with a range of deductibles, and out of pocket maximums. Healthcare Savings Account Plans, which allow for tax-advantaged savings with major medical coverage. Large provider network from Portland to Medford and Newport to Ontario. Each employer group may select 1-3 plans based on group size.

Dental Insurance: Access to Oregon's largest network of dentists through nine different plans. Can be offered as employer paid or voluntary.

Life and disability insurance: Coverage available as employer paid or voluntary to protect owner or employee income from life's unexpected events.

SAIF Worker's Compensation Insurance Discount

Oregon Aglink and SAIF have worked together since 2001 to offer the best workers' compensation insurance program within agriculture. The program has saved participating Oregon Aglink members more than \$2 million and continues to provide significant savings to its more than 400 member users. Members with mod rates of 1.0 or better through SAIF may qualify for the group discount on workers compensation insurance premiums. The discount varies from year to year based on group performance, but is generally 2% or higher.

Workplace and Promotional Supplies

The Staples Business Advantage program gives Oregon Aglink members access to pricing that cannot be found in Staples retail stores, mail order catalogs, or online, including an average discount of 60% off manufacturer list prices.

Legal Services

Oregon Aglink members can save money on legal services through Schroeder Law Offices, PC, which specializes in water law and water rights in the West and Northwest. All Aglink members receive up to a three hour initial consultation subject to a qualifying conflict of interest test.

Aglink Event and Product Discounts

Along with Aglink's free triannual membership magazine, OWC members are eligible for discounts on Oregon Aglink events and products such as the instantly recognizable Crop ID signs.

Our Team

OWC's Board of Directors

A diverse group of industry leaders committed to Oregon's wine industry

Sam Tannahill

President | Oregon Regional Director

A to Z Wineworks | REX HILL

Scott Kelley

Vice President | At Large Director

Paul O'Brien Winery

Laurent Montalieu

Treasurer + Secretary | At Large Director

NW Wine Co | Hyland Vineyard

Elin Miller

Executive Committee | Umpqua Valley

Regional Director

Umpqua Vineyards LLC

Kevin Jones

Willamette Valley Regional Director, Pos. 1

12th & Maple

Zach Gomber

Willamette Valley Regional Director, Pos. 2

Foley Family Wines

Dennis O'Donoghue

Rogue Valley Regional Director, Pos. 5

Celtic Moon Vineyards LLC

Rob Wallace

Large Vineyard Director, Pos. 7

Del Rio Vineyards

Ryan Harms

Large Winery Director, Pos. 8

Union Wine Company

Ken Johnston

At Large Director, Pos. 9

Sean Naumes

At Large Director, Pos. 11

Naumes Family Vineyards

Gary Mortensen

At Large Director, Pos. 12

Stoller Family Estate

Samantha Bayer

At Large Director, Pos. 14

Bayer Family Estates

Alisa Jacobson

At Large Director, Pos. 15

Wines by Alisa Jacobson

OWC Staff

A team with unmatched government affairs and association management experience

Fawn Barrie | Executive Director

Jennifer Sitton | Communications Director

Savanah McWhorter | Membership Services

Kelsey Wilson | **Montana Lewellen** | **Bridger Lanning** | Advocacy Support

Evyandrius Andries | Advocacy Team

Samantha Siegner | Advocacy Team

Gary Oxley | Advocacy Team



1249 Commercial St. SE • Salem, OR 97302 • 503-581-2845 • www.oregonwinecouncil.org