

Membership Guide



SDAO

SPECIAL DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION OF OREGON



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The mission of the Special Districts Association of Oregon is to assist special service districts in providing cost-effective and efficient public services to the people of Oregon.

Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) was formed in 1979 to give special districts a stronger and united voice at the Oregon Legislature. As with similar associations that support cities, counties, schools, and local governments, the Association provides advocacy with state administrative agencies and other units of government, training, information resources, and other support programs. SDAO has grown its membership to over 950 local government members.

SDAO is governed by a twelve-member board of directors that exercises general supervision over the affairs of the organization. The board's governance and formulation of policies are exercised in accordance with the association's bylaws. The annual business meeting of SDAO members, held in conjunction with the February annual conference, gives members an opportunity to elect, for two-year terms, the SDAO Board of Directors.

SDAO has become increasingly important as the membership has grown and the operation of special districts has become more complex. It has become an effective lobbying and educational organization that strives to serve the needs of its members.

TYPES OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS IN OREGON

9-1-1 Communications · Airport · Cemetery Maintenance · County Service
Domestic Water Supply · Drainage · Geothermal Heating · Health · Heritage · Highway Lighting
Irrigation · Joint Water & Sanitary Authority · Library · Mass Transit · Metropolitan Service · Park & Recreation
People's Utility District · Port · Predator Control · Radio & Data · Road Assessment · Rural Fire Protection · Sand
Control · Sanitary Authority · Sanitary · Soil & Water Conservation · Special Road · Translator · Transportation · Vector
Control · Water Authority · Water Control · Water Improvement · Water Service Corporation · Weather Modification

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

SDAO members have access to a suite of benefits including legislative advocacy, research and technical assistance, publications, education and training, financial and managerial services, and Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) insurance programs.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

SDAO's highest priority is representing our members before the Oregon Legislature and various state administrative agencies. Policy direction and guidance is provided to our government affairs staff by the SDAO Board of Directors and SDAO Legislative Committee. SDAO also advocates for special districts at the federal level through its partnership with the National Special Districts Coalition.

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Members have access to a broad range of support services in the areas of research and technical assistance. SDAO staff are available to research and respond to member inquiries and if appropriate, attempt to resolve the issues.

PUBLICATIONS

Various complimentary materials are available for district members to utilize in their research and education efforts. In addition, a reference library of internal and external materials is maintained to assist members with their research efforts. Periodicals, books, binders, electronic documents, and videos are available to members through the SDAO website.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Educating board members and staff is an ongoing need of our members. Each year, SDAO develops various training programs in response to member input as well as external developments and influences. Training opportunities are offered year-round throughout the state. SDAO also holds an annual conference offering three full days of educational sessions and networking.

SDAO ACADEMY

This professional development program is designed specifically for special district employees looking to advance their careers in local government management. The SDAO Academy offers current, in-depth training and education opportunities in three specialty areas including district management, human resources and personnel management, and risk management and operations. Participants develop their leadership and management skills and are better prepared to take on more responsibility at their district.

BOARD MEMBER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Our board leadership programs, Board Leadership Academy and Fire District Directors Academy, have been designed to ensure that Oregon's special district board members have all the tools necessary to provide superior leadership and governance to their communities. Participants will have access to current, in-depth training and education opportunities in several areas including board member basics, statutory obligations, risk management, and human resources.

SDAO SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT FUND

The SDAO Education and Grant Fund is designed to be a resource for members to utilize for education, training, and funding of various association-defined programs related to the operation of a special district. Active board members or employees of an SDAO member district can apply for a scholarship through the SDAO Scholarship and Grant Fund that may be used for any SDAO or SDIS course or approved outside educational opportunity such as affiliate conferences or trainings.

INTERNSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

The SDAO Internship Grant Program is available to SDAO members to assist in meeting or improving loss control and best practices, ultimately benefiting both the district and the intern. These grants are used by award recipients to help fund district projects and provide local government work experience to college students.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

SDAO Advisory Services, LLC (SDAOAS) was established for the purpose of serving SDAO members in evaluating, managing, and structuring capital financing needs. Advice regarding debt management, debt policy, and financial policy is available, as well as assistance with general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, refinancing, tax anticipation notes, and any other type of debt financing allowed under Oregon law.

AWARDS PROGRAM

SDAO offers an annual awards program that recognizes members for accomplishments that allow for better service to the public and honors individuals who have greatly contributed to the success of their organization. These awards celebrate the ingenuity, creativity, and diversity of our members. Districts and individuals are honored with a plaque and personalized video at the SDAO Awards Banquet held in February.

CONSULTING SERVICES PROGRAM

This program offers members assistance with a variety of services including board training, planning, public and media relations, human resource management, policy development, best practices, and more. Members enrolled in the SDIS general liability program are eligible for up to eight hours of free consulting services each year provided by a team of staff consultants. After the eight hours of complimentary service is exhausted, members will have the option of continuing consulting services at a reduced hourly rate. Members not in the general liability program can access the program at the reduced hourly rate.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

SDAO membership is available to Oregon special districts, intergovernmental organizations, statewide or regional associations of local government, or any other public entity which qualifies as a political subdivision or municipal, quasi-municipal, or public corporation. Each entity type falls into one of the following sub-categories of membership: political subdivision or municipal, quasi-municipal, or public corporation. Each entity type falls into one of the following sub-categories of membership:

Regular Membership

Any special district authorized and regulated by Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 198. Regular members have voting privileges at the annual meeting and are eligible to have a representative serve on the SDAO Board of Directors.

Associate Membership

If an entity does not qualify for regular membership as a special district, it may qualify for associate membership under the following:

- a.** Any intergovernmental agency, department, council, or other like entity which is created under ORS 190.003 to 190.110, and which does not act under the direction and control of any single member government, or
- b.** Any statewide or regional associations of local government or any other public entities which qualify as political subdivisions or municipal, quasi-municipal, or public corporations as those terms are contemplated in ORS 30.260.

Associate members do not have voting rights at the annual meeting and are not eligible to have a representative serve on the SDAO Board of Directors.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS INSURANCE SERVICES

SDIS PROGRAMS

SDAO members have exclusive access to SDIS programs including property, liability, automobile, crime, boiler and machinery, health, dental, life, and disability insurance. Eligibility for participation in these programs varies with member type and can be referenced below.

Regular SDAO Membership Participation Eligibility	
Property and Liability Self-Insured Pool	Yes
Employee Benefits Self-Insured Pool	Yes
SDAO Workers' Compensation Service Group Through SAIF	Yes
Associate SDAO Membership Participation Eligibility	
Property and Liability Self-Insured Pool	Yes, except for cities, counties, school districts, community colleges, charter schools, and education service districts
Employee Benefits Self-Insured Pool	Yes, except for cities and counties
SDAO Workers' Compensation Service Group Through SAIF	No

A comprehensive summary of coverages is available by contacting Special Districts Association of Oregon, administrators for SDIS, at 800-285-5461.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SDAO?

Contact SDAO Member Services at **800-285-5461** or **memberservices@sdao.com** to request application materials. We look forward to serving you.



SDAO

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