
Give and Receive

“Get involved.” We hear it constantly. Our precious time, may very well be the hardest thing to give. There is simply never enough of it; but don’t be too quick to write yourself off as ‘too busy’. Being actively involved is not only about being a giving person. Most people that are currently involved will tell you: you receive more than you could ever possibly give. When you surround yourself with those who have a heart and shared passion for what matters to you, you tap into a tremendous wealth of resources, information, opportunity and strength. If you are not participating, you are likely missing out on invaluable exchanges of skills, knowledge and experience.

At Robinson Nursery, we believe it is imperative that those of us in the horticulture industry support and uplift each other. We are proud members of the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN); a community dedicated to the long-term success, profitability, and excellence of Oregon’s nursery and greenhouse industry. Last month, we had the opportunity to attend the annual OAN Convention; a two day event with useful industry insights and unparalleled camaraderie. People from every corner of the industry came together, celebrated the victories of the past year, recognized and awarded those who have lead the way, and strategized for the future. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, with oversight by a seven-member Executive Committee, the OAN gives a voice to our industry in the state of Oregon and at the nation’s capitol. We are pleased to announce, at this event, Chris was sworn into the OAN Board of Directors and Josh will be serving as the Vice President of the OAN Executive Committee for the next year.

Robinson Nursery has been involved for a number of years with the OAN Government Relations Committee and ONPAC, Oregon Nurseries’ Political Action Committee. ONPAC works closely with the OAN Government Relations Committee in reviewing political and legislative issues that are important to the nursery and greenhouse industry. Chris and Josh visit the Oregon Capitol twice a year with these organizations to lobby for our industry.



Photo Credit: OAN

Josh and Chris speaking with Rep. Karin Power at the Oregon Capitol.

Chris reflects on his time at the capitol saying, “The OAN has proven to be solution oriented and non-partisan, giving us a real spot at the table when decisions are made. We had the opportunity to personally talk to a half dozen senators and representatives. I was able to see first hand the passion that each one of our legislators has for the state of Oregon and our country. It was a rewarding experience to know that my voice was heard. The next time any legislator I spoke with goes to make a decision, they will be able to put a face to the issue. We have many issues that will be brought up for discussion over the next several years that will directly affect our industry. It is not always easy to take time out of your busy schedule, but it is of great importance to ensure the health of our industry’s future.”

With regard to industry involvement Josh added, “The networking aspect is invaluable. You are surrounded by the wisdom of those that have already done what you are trying to do and [you] are held up on the shoulders of those that have come before you. Not to mention, spending time with other nurserymen makes life more enjoyable.”

To be involved does not mean you must become a board member or jump into politics. Your experiences, your passions, and who you are makes you an incredible asset on any level. We encourage you, do not dismiss the call to service. Working together increases our strength and our ability to accomplish goals. There are far more reasons to become involved than to remain a lone wolf. Whatever your reason for becoming involved; whether it’s to have your voice heard, remain informed, or share in the fun; find a reason. Do not deny others of your unique contributions that will make a difference, and do not deny yourself of all that you will receive in return.