

West Coast Notary Conference

August 13–14, 2026

A two-day professional development experience designed for notaries, legal professionals, and public service partners across the West Coast. Join state leaders, national experts, and front-line practitioners to explore emerging challenges, strengthen best practices, and build confidence in an evolving notarial landscape.

August 13

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| Conference Registration | 8:00-10:00 am |
| Welcome and Opening Remarks | 10:00-10:30 am |
| <u>General Session: Fraud: A panel discussion</u> Elizabeth Blosser, ALTA Shane Winder, Multnomah County District Attorney’s office | 10:45-11:45 am |
| Notarial fraud has been in the headlines recently, from the attempt in 2024 to steal Graceland, to multimillion dollar transfers from businesses hoodwinked by convincing avatars to homeowners finding their house or land has been sold without their knowledge. This session will discuss the extent of the problem, collaborative efforts between law enforcement and organizations to detect and prevent fraud, and measures being discussed for making victims whole. | |
| Lunch | 12:00-1:00pm |
| Concurrent Sessions | 1:15-2:15pm |
| <u>Practice Makes Perfect: Hands-on Practice with Certificates and Journal Entries</u> SOS Staff, TBA Have you just received your commission and feeling anxious about your first notarization? Or have you had your commission for a while and found that you do not do a lot of notary work, and just need some extra practice? Join SOS staff for some hands-on practice with certificates and journal entries that will help you build your confidence and provide you with practice dealing with unusual documents. | |
| <u>The Evolving Trust Landscape: How Remote Online Notarization Expands the Notary's Toolkit</u> James Fulgazi, Proof Notaries have always been on the front lines of protecting consumers and transactions, and AI and an evolving digital ecosystem are making that job harder. Remote online notarization gives notaries a powerful set of added tools to meet the moment, including layered identity verification, document security, and digital certificates. Join us for a presentation on the policy landscape shaping online notarization, the technology behind it, and what the online notary experience really looks like. | |
| <u>State of Oregon Notary Basics, part 1 of 4</u> Monique Bourque, Oregon Secretary of State Do you need to apply for your first notary commission, and prefer in-person to online training? Do you need to take the Notary Basics training because your current commission is running out and you need to apply for a new commission? We are offering our Notary Basics training at the conference in four sections. Complete all four, and you will be ready to take the notary exam and apply for a commission. If you need a refresher, please feel free to drop in on just the part that covers what you need. [I’ll modify this a bit once Jeanne and I decide how to break the training into the four parts). | |

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| Concurrent sessions | 2:30-3:30pm |
| <p><u>Cross-border issues in acceptance of notarized documents</u> TBA</p> <p>Many notaries have reported difficulties with the acceptance of Oregon-notarized documents when they are sent to other states. In this panel discussion, representatives from Western state Secretaries of State will share the cross-border issues they encounter and offer guidance on how notaries can better prepare documents to reduce the risk of rejection and respond effectively when documents are refused.</p> | |
| <p><u>State of Oregon Notary Basics, part 2 of 4</u> Monique Bourque, Oregon Secretary of State</p> <p>Do you need to apply for your first notary commission, and prefer in-person to online training? Do you need to take the Notary Basics training because your current commission is running out and you need to apply for a new commission? We are offering our Notary Basics training at the conference in four sections. Complete all four, and you will be ready to take the notary exam and apply for a commission. If you need a refresher, please feel free to drop in on just the part that covers what you need.</p> | |
| Break | 3:30-4:00 pm |
| <p><u>State and National Resources for Notaries:</u> Brooke Merritt, National Notary Association Kathleen Butler, American Society of Notaries Marc Aronson, Pennsylvania Society of Notaries Matt Miller, California League of Independent Notaries</p> | 4:00-5:30 pm |
| <p>Many notaries do not realize that in addition to the Secretary of State, there are multiple national and state-level organizations whose purpose is to assist notaries in the performance of their duties. Representatives of a few of these organizations will discuss their offerings: training, supplies, publications, hotline support for urgent questions, conferences, and more.</p> | |
| Dinner | 6:00-7:00pm |

August 14

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| Breakfast | 7:30-8:30am |
| <p><u>General Session: Signed, Sealed, ... Sued? Real Claims That Landed Notaries in Hot Water — And How to Stay Out</u> Bill Anderson, National Notary Association</p> <p>Even the smallest mistake can leave a Notary in hot water. In this cautionary — and eye-opening — session, we'll dive into real bond and errors & omission insurance claims that boiled over into costly lawsuits, career damage, and sleepless nights. You'll see exactly what went wrong, how these Notaries got burned, and the simple steps and tools you can use to keep your own record squeaky clean — and stay safely out of legal hot water.</p> | 8:30-9:30 am |
| Concurrent Sessions | 9:45-10:45 am |
| <p><u>Round Table Discussion: Modern Notary Practices: Remote Online Notarization, In-Person Electronic Notarization, and documents going overseas.</u> Jeanne Goldsmith, Oregon SOS Jaime Weddle-Jones, Oregon SOS</p> <p>Roundtable discussion designed to help notaries navigate Remote Online Notarization (RON), In-Person Electronic Notarization (IPEN), and the steps</p> | |

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| required when notarizing documents destined for use overseas (Apostille/Authentication). | |
| <p><u>State of Oregon Notary Basics, part 3 of 4</u> Monique Bourque, Oregon Secretary of State</p> <p>Do you need to apply for your first notary commission, and prefer in-person to online training? Do you need to take the Notary Basics training because your current commission is running out and you need to apply for a new commission? We are offering our Notary Basics training at the conference in four sections. Complete all four, and you will be ready to take the notary exam and apply for a commission. If you need a refresher, please feel free to drop in on just the part that covers what you need.</p> | |
| Concurrent Sessions | 11:00 am-12:00 pm |
| <p><u>Closing the Gap: Challenges, Opportunities and Professionalism for Notaries in the 21st Century</u> Lori Hamm, American Guild of Notaries Public</p> <p>Lori Hamm, AGNP founder and longtime director of the Montana Secretary of State's notary program, will facilitate a lively discussion on current and emerging issues in notarizations, raising the bar for professional notary certification, and trends in the profession. Bring your questions and concerns and be ready to learn from a legend!</p> | |
| <p><u>State of Oregon Notary Basics, part 4 of 4 (insert topic)</u> Monique Bourque, Oregon Secretary of State</p> <p>Do you need to apply for your first notary commission, and prefer in-person to online training? Do you need to take the Notary Basics training because your current commission is running out and you need to apply for a new commission? We are offering our Notary Basics training at the conference in four sections. Complete all four, and you will be ready to take the notary exam and apply for a commission. If you need a refresher, please feel free to drop in on just the part that covers what you need.</p> | |
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| <p><u>Practice Makes Perfect: Hands-on Practice with Certificates and Journal Entries</u> SOS staff</p> <p>Have you just received your commission and feeling anxious about your first notarization? Or have you had your commission for a while and found that you do not do a lot of notary work, and just need some extra practice? Join SOS staff for some hands-on practice with certificates and journal entries that will help you build your confidence and provide you with practice dealing with unusual documents.</p> | |
| <p><u>Elder Abuse: A Growing Problem</u> Kelli Crosby, Special Agent, DOJ</p> <p>Elder Abuse and financial exploitation have frequently been in the news since the pandemic. A seasoned investigator in elder abuse cases will discuss the scope of the problem, what authorities are doing about it, how you can recognize it, and what to do if you encounter it in performing a notarization. She will focus on the explosion of fraudsters victimizing elders through passive means that can involve notaries: title theft, will forgeries, phony POAs, and more.</p> | |
| Concurrent Sessions | 2:30-3:30 pm |
| <p><u>From Intake to Exit, Bedside Notarization Done Right!</u> Laura Biewer, Coach Me Laura</p> | |

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| <p>Notarizing in hospitals and care facilities requires more than knowledge—it requires judgment, compassion, and awareness. In this in-depth session, Laura Biewer draws on over 20 years of experience to guide you through the unique challenges of bedside notarizations in hospitals, skilled nursing, and specialty care environments. Learn how to vet calls, assess a signer’s alertness and willingness, navigate facility protocols, and know when to walk away. You’ll leave equipped with practical tools to elevate your professionalism, safeguard your clients, and protect yourself.</p> | |
| <p><u>Running a Notary Business: Challenges and What You Need to Know</u> Cynthianna Powell, Simply Cy Solutions Leah Geocaris, Leah’s Mobile Notary</p> <p>Thinking about starting a mobile notary business? Do you know what the state requirements are for starting the business, but you are wondering what it will be like? Two very busy notary business owners will talk about the challenges and rewards of establishing, publicizing, and running a notary business, including unusual situations, challenging customers, and what they wish they’d known before they started.</p> | |
| <p>Break</p> | <p>3:30-3:45 pm</p> |
| <p><u>General Session: Case Studies</u> Mike Phillips</p> | <p>3:45-4:45 pm</p> |
| <p>Mike Phillips’ thoughtful and funny presentations on important legal issues and cases have been standing-room-only at National Notary Association conferences, and his YouTube video “3 Court Cases Every Notary Should Know” has more than 100 thousand views. Come learn from other notaries’ mistakes!</p> | |
| <p>Closing Remarks</p> | <p>4:45-5:00 pm</p> |