

E-Link

Connecting Southern Oregon's COG With Its Members

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RVCOG MEMBERS

- Jackson County
- Josephine County
- City of Ashland
- Town of Butte Falls
- City of Cave Junction
- City of Central Point
- City of Eagle Point
- City of Gold Hill
- City of Grants Pass
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Medford
- City of Phoenix
- City of Rogue River
- City of Shady Cove
- City of Talent
- Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
- Rogue Community College
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services
- Rogue Valley Transportation District
- Southern Oregon Regional Communications
- Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc.
- Southern Oregon University

Strength in Numbers: 2010 Census

April 1, 2010, is National Census Day. *What's the big deal, you ask?* Let's see...

First off, \$400 billion dollars a year in federal funding (between \$1,400 to \$1,500 per person!) is allocated to communities based on their census data. This money helps cities, counties and states pay for vital infrastructure and services like hospitals, schools, emergency services, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects. Secondly, census data decides the number of seats our state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. Third, people from all walks of life rely on census data to study populations, research markets, and advocate for causes. Life-saving activities such as preventing disease and locating disaster victims also depend on census data. Every day, census data influences significant political, economic, and social decisions.

It's important to note, too, that this year's 10-question survey, the shortest in history, will be mailed on April 1, 2010, to street addresses only, *not* P.O. Boxes. Anyone who cannot receive mail at a physical address will be counted by a Census taker (also known as an *enumerator*). Also new this year, quality assurance workers will follow enumerators to ensure that the counts are accurate.



As regional Census representative Noelia Hernandez (pictured above) explained to RVCOG Board members in January, counties and cities need to take proactive steps to improve their chances for an accurate count:

- Remind residents to mail back their *confidential* surveys
- Recruit *local* Census takers who know the area and arrange practice tests because only those with the highest test scores will be hired. Apply now!
- Sponsor a Census event to address people's concerns about privacy and to help them fill out the form—*identities and information are protected by law*
- Use *existing channels* to reach people (e.g., water bills, newsletters, etc.)
- When talking to people reluctant to participate, talk in terms of the services they and their families depend on—*how the Census affects them*

To become a 2010 Census Partner, please click here or contact Noelia Hernandez at noelia.hernandez@census.gov or (503) 896-0807.

RVCOG Adopts a Family of Nine for the Holidays



Nine blocks away from RVCOG's Central Point office sits Jewett Elementary. Like many schools in Oregon, Jewett strives to make a difference in the lives of their neediest families. One way they do that is through their Holiday Help Program. The goal of the program is simple: To help struggling families have a happier holiday season.

In 2009, thanks to the support of a generous community, the program helped 169 students (52 families) at Jewett Elementary. It also marked the third year that RVCOG has adopted a Jewett family for the holidays.

The family we adopted this year had nine members, our largest family yet. Most of the children (three boys and four girls) were adopted by the mother and father after they had them in foster care. Ranging in ages from 5 to 16, most of the children also have special needs. The school provides us with each child's age and gender, along with their shoe and clothing sizes. We also receive a "wish list" for each family member (remember your letters to Santa when you were little?).

Wishes in hand, COG staff members spend lunchtimes, evenings and weekends shopping for their adopted family. We take our Adopt-A-Family duties very seriously. First, we make sure that every child receives at least one complete outfit all the way down to socks, shoes and underwear. Second, we make sure every child receives several personal items on their wish list. This year, gifts ranged from electric shavers to scrapbook items to Legos, books and even baby dolls. Finally, we purchase family items for the Mom and Dad. Among this year's gifts were a set of pots and pans; a crock pot; and a gift card to purchase food.

With donated boxes, bags, paper and ribbons, staff members donate several of their lunch hours to wrap our adopted family's gifts. RVCOG elves (pictured right) deliver the gifts to the school because our adopted families are kept anonymous.



While it may be too soon to call three years in a row a tradition, COG employees have made it clear that they would like to continue being part of Jewett's Annual Adopt-A-Family, helping people in the community in which we work.

Options for Success Conference

The Third Annual *Options for Success* Conference was held at Southern Oregon University in late September. The focus of this annual conference is employment for people with disabilities. This year's conference was deemed a huge success, with over 200 people attending.

For participants trying to get back into the workplace, the conference offered three tiers of assistance aimed at becoming and staying employed—how to prepare for a job; how to obtain one; and how to maintain the one you've been fortunate enough to get. There were also a few sessions geared toward people who work in the vocational field. Feedback from participants was very positive according to the conference's organizers. The chair of RVCOG's Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Roquel Wilson, along with former DSAC member Lee Allison, and RVCOG staff member Connie Saldana were all part of the planning team. There are openings for additional team members for next year's event. If you would like to participate, or would like to find out more about *Options for Success*, please contact Connie Saldana at csaldana@rvco.org or 541-423-1383.

Gold Hill Dam Restoration Project

In summer 2008, a major fish passage barrier on the Rogue River, the Gold Hill Dam, was removed. In winter 2009, restoration activities were completed on the site. Site restoration consisted of three phases.

Phase I: Regrading and restoring the area below the dam.



During construction of the dam, a canal had been excavated to carry water to the power house. Since this was long before our present regulatory environment, the excavated rock was simply deposited on the banks of the canal, creating a berm that blocked access to the river.



As part of phase 1 of the recent restoration, the berm was leveled and part of the canal was filled.



Phase II: Creating a trail and scenic overlook near the canal.

In the second phase of restoration, a new trail and overlook were constructed to provide access to the river.



In addition, a gravel trail was created from the existing bike path to an overlook adjacent to the canal head gates, and then approximately ½ mile down river. The path provides access for walkers, fishers, birdwatchers, and kayakers, as well as views of the river.

Phase III: Restoration of the demolition areas.



The project areas that were disturbed during dam demolition were cleared of blackberries and planted with native species, including ponderosa pine, Oregon grape, native rose, maple, and alder.

We encourage everyone to visit the site and see how it has been restored to its natural beauty and function.



Workshop Explores Ways to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Transportation Sector

On December 10, 2009, more than thirty (30) Rogue Valley transportation professionals and other interested parties gathered in Rogue Valley Council of Governments' conference room to explore ways to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. The workshop, dubbed *Cutting Carbs*, was hosted by RVCOG and sponsored by the *Oregon Environmental Council*, *Oregon Department of Transportation*, *Department of Land Conservation and Development Department*, *RVTD*, *the Port of Portland*, *CAWOOD*, *David Evans & Associates*, *Lane Transit District*, and *CH2M Hill*. The goal of the workshop was to provide information, tools and resources to aid local public and private stakeholders in their ability to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Similar workshops were held in Salem and Springfield.



Featured speakers included Angus Duncan, Chair of the *Oregon Global Warming Commission*, who spoke about *The Policy Context for Reducing GHGs from the Transportation Sector*, Brian Gregor, P.E., *Transportation Planning Analysis Unit (TPAU)*, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)* who described ODOT's new "Green Step" emissions model: *Tools for Reducing GHGs from the Transportation Sector* and Vicki Guarino, *RVCOG*, who talked about the *Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations' (RVMPO)* efforts to integrate land use and transportation in ways that can help reduce greenhouse gases: *Elements Affecting GHG Emissions from Transportation*.

Al Densmore, City of Medford Councilmember Ward 1 and representative to the MPO Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Task Force from the Rogue Valley MPO shared his perspective on the Task Force's recommendations to the Oregon Legislature on reducing GHG in MPO areas. In addition, the audience engaged in an open discussion on the opportunities and barriers to reducing greenhouse gases after being posed with the following questions:

- Why is it so difficult to reduce transportation sector GHGs? What barriers do we face?
- Does Oregon/our community have an advantage in addressing GHGs? What are our opportunities?
- What co-benefits will we realize by undertaking measures to reduce GHGs from the transportation sector?
- What do we need to overcome the barriers? How will we succeed?

Finally, Tom Cosgrove, *Sacramento Council of Governments* board member and Mayor Pro Tem of the *City of Lincoln*, presented the *Blueprint for the Future*, a fifty-year conceptual vision/scenario plan for future growth in the Sacramento region. This blueprint plan has been highly acclaimed and has won many awards for its creative applications and its ability to create consensus in the region on a variety of complex issues.

All in all, the workshop was successful in informing participants about resources and ways to reduce greenhouse gases from the transportation sector.



To learn more about the Oregon Environmental Council's efforts to "cut carbs" from the transportation sector, please visit their site at <http://www.oeconline.org/our-work/climate/transportation> and click on [Resources to "Cut Carbs" from the Transportation Sector](#).

RVCOG

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www.rvcog.org



Founded in 1968, RVCog is a voluntary association of local governments and special districts in southern Oregon.

OUR MISSION

We shall act as a catalyst to promote quality of life, effective and efficient services, and leadership in regional communication, cooperation, planning, and action in southern Oregon.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Michael Cavallaro
Executive Director

Don Bruland
Director of Senior and Disability Services

Vicki Guarino
MPO Coordinator

Dan Moore
Planning Coordinator

Craig Harper
Natural Resources Program Manager

Alan Hudson
Finance Manager

Evelyn Kinsella
Nutrition Program Manager

Sandi Morton
Asst to Exec Dir / Human Resources Manager

RVPSA Brings Award-Winning Author to Town

On January 27, 2010, the Rogue Valley Public Service Academy brought award-winning author Marnie Green to our region to present an all-day workshop on performance management. The training was held in the large community conference room at the Medford Branch of the Jackson County Public Library, and was attended by over 60 people. As part of their course fee, those who attended received a complimentary copy of Marnie Green's book, *Painless Performance Evaluations: A Practical Approach to Managing Day-to-Day Employee Performance*.



Marnie Green's knowledge of the subject, as well as her engaging and interactive style, impressed many who attended the workshop. The words "excellent", "great", and "useful" were mentioned frequently by participants who shared their impressions of the training.

With a Board of Directors representing both Jackson and Josephine counties, as well as the cities of Medford, Grants Pass, and Central Point, the Academy's goal is to bring high quality, affordable training to the Rogue Valley. The Academy's operations and development are directed by the Board, while RVCog provides the organizational umbrella and sweat equity.

The RVPSA's next training will be held on March 9, 2010, at the RCC/SOU (HEC) Higher Education Center in downtown Medford. Chris Hunsicker, a nationally recognized authority on organizational leadership and change management, will be presenting two sessions that day. In the morning, participants will explore the art and science of *Passionate Leadership* in today's public sector marketplace. In the afternoon session, *Leading in a Crisis*, participants will examine the seminal work of Peter Senge in the *Fifth Discipline*. Although each session will stand alone, those who attend both parts of Hunsicker's leadership series will gain the greatest return on their training dollars.



Additional RVPSA course offerings for Winter/Spring 2010:

- April 7, 2010 — ***Understanding Different Personalities in the Workplace***. Anyone with co-workers should attend this training by Bill Gallagher, a local professional who understands the complexities of relational dynamics in the workplace.
- May 19, 2010 — ***Lawful Hiring Practices / Supervisory Skills***. Hiring managers, supervisors, and human resources professionals will learn valuable strategies during this practical, hands-on training by Barb Bloom, a Portland-based attorney and instructor who specializes in employment law.

To learn more about the Rogue Valley Public Service Academy, and how they can help your organization, please visit their [web page](#) or contact Academy Liaison, René Sjothun, at rsjothun@rvcog.org or 541-664-6674.