

RVBAT Meeting – August 6, 2025

Meeting Purpose

To maintain connection and share updates among RVBAT members during summer months.

Key Takeaways

- Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition hosting town hall on Aug 27 in Medford
- Link Oregon under new leadership, focusing on articulating value and rural expansion
- AGE+ expanding digital literacy programs, opening new housing in Jackson County
- Josephine Community Library ramping up digital skills classes and outreach events
- Concerns raised about funding cuts and AI impacts on older adults

Topics

Statewide Broadband Initiatives

- Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition hosting town hall on Aug 27, 2-3:30pm at Medford Library
 - In-person and livestreamed event
 - Government officials attending (Wyden's office confirmed, others pending)
 - Highlighting rural Southern Oregon needs and successes
- Oregon AI K-12 collaborative resuming in September
 - New newsletter available for sign-up on OBIC website

Link Oregon Updates

- Jackie Wirz new Executive Director (35 days in role)
- Providing fiber optic network for Oregon education and research
 - 40 members including libraries, municipalities, nonprofits, school districts
 - Covers 60% of K-12 students, 100% of research universities in Oregon
- Strategic priorities:
 - Clarifying value proposition
 - Increasing member value
 - Expanding capacity in rural/underserved areas
 - Advocating for digital access for all Oregonians

AGE+ Digital Literacy Initiatives

- Partnering with Senior Planet to train digital navigators
- Working with Jackson County Library District, Baker City, and Stanfield
- Plans to expand to La Grande and Grants Pass
- Opening new affordable housing in Jackson County (Sept/Oct)

Josephine Community Library District Programs

- Summer reading program: 400,000+ minutes read, ~900 registered readers
- Digital skills classes at WorkSource every other Thursday
- "Welcome to Smartphones" event with U.S. Cellular on Aug 16 in Cave Junction
- Developing digital pathways with Rogue Community College
- Six-week computer classes with laptop incentives (29 graduates last year, aiming for 50 this year)
- Two Spanish-language classes planned

Upcoming Events and Conferences

- Senior Resource Fair in Grants Pass (September)
- Recovery Fair in Grants Pass (September 23)
- Art Along the Rogue festival (October)
- AI for Good fall conference
- Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference in Hood River

Next Steps

- Share event flyers and information for posting on RVCOG website
- Connect AGE+ (Olivia) with Josephine Community Library (Shannon) for potential collaboration
- Attend Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition town hall on August 27
- Next RVBAT meeting scheduled for September 3

Action Items

- **Share Zoom registration link for Aug 27 Broadband Town Hall in chat**
- **Email Olivia info re: Senior Resource Fair (Sept) & Recovery Fair (Sept 23) in Grants Pass**
- **Create section on RVCOG website for RVBAT upcoming events/flyers**