

ASCOG NEWS 'N BRIEFS

January 2019
Edition 342

JANUARY



ASCOG will be closed Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's Day, and Monday, January 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

3 ASCOG EMPLOYEES HONORED IN DECEMBER



Executive Director Ronnie Ward with Lisa Thomas

Competing with 3 other ASCOG employees selected as Employees of the Quarter, **LISA THOMAS** was selected by her peers as ASCOG'S **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**. Being selected for this honor also includes 1 full day off and a \$100 check. Lisa was also recognized for completing 30 years with ASCOG which includes a check for \$1,000. (*Anybody need a loan? See Lisa!*) Lisa worked in Workforce Development for many years rising to the rank of Division Director. Since 2015 she has worked as one of the accountants in the Resource Management division.



Executive Director Ronnie Ward with Tim Fritts

TIM FRITTS received a \$250 check for completing 10 Years of Service. Tim worked in the Managed Care Division as a Case Manager. He is also retired at the end of December due to health concerns. We will miss him greatly and wish him the very best.



Executive Director Ronnie Ward Kristina Manriquez

KRISTINA MANRIQUEZ was recognized as ASCOG's Employee of the Quarter for October-December 2018. She received a half-day off and a check for \$25. Kristina wears many hats! She presents various AAA related programs in 19 different counties. She has set records for the number of clients served as an Information and Assistance point-of-contact and as a Medicare counselor. She also assists in the Senior Citizens Service Employment Program (SCSEP). She approaches every detail of her work with enthusiasm and creativity. She truly cares about her clients and does her best to find ways to help them.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO EACH OF THESE WORTHY RECIPIENTS! THEY DESERVE IT.

2019 REAP APPLICATION RESULTS

The list below contains the applicants who were awarded 2019 REAP grants. The list is also posted on ASCOG's website www.ascog.org/community-and-economic-development/reap/. **An elected official or approved employee from each recipient must attend the REAP Contract Signing at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Canadian Valley Technology Center, 1401 Michigan Avenue, Building 200 (east side) Seminar Center, Chickasha, Oklahoma.** Terms and conditions of the contract will be discussed as well as requirements to be met before funds will be reimbursed. Failure to attend could result in forfeiture of the grant award.

2019 REAP Recipients

Entity	Title	Award
CEMENT	Engineering Study for Sewer Lagoons	\$ 136,363.63
GOLDSBY	New Water Wells	\$ 45,000.00
GRANDFIELD	2 Water Pumps	\$ 44,462.00
VERDEN	Engineering and Leverage - Water Trans	\$ 45,000.00
MEDICINE PARK	Rehab of 3 Standpipes	\$ 45,000.00
McCLAIN COUNTY #1	Street Resurfacing	\$ 45,000.00
LOOKEBA	Engineering For Water Up-grade	\$ 45,000.00
INDIAHOMA	Sewer Evaluation Study	\$ 40,000.00
ADDINGTON	Street Resurfacing	\$ 35,462.00
JEFFERSON COUNTY #1-2-3	Courthouse Repair	\$ 135,000.00
FORT COBB	Engineering W&S Sytem Evaluation	\$ 44,500.00
DAVIDSON	Fire Hydrants	\$ 45,000.00
STERLING	Engineering for Water System Imp	\$ 39,340.00
ANADARKO	Street Repair	\$ 44,667.00
TILLMAN COUNTY #1-2-3	Emergency Generator	\$ 66,186.00
COMANCHE COUNTY #3	Emergency Operations Trailer	\$ 36,000.00
FLETCHER	Street Signs	\$ 29,759.00
RYAN	Water Meters	\$ 45,000.00
CARNEGIE	Smart Water Meters	\$ 45,000.00
ALEX	Engineering Study of Erosion Problem	\$ 45,000.00
FREDERICK	Paint Water Tower	\$ 45,000.00
HYDRO	Water Tower Refurbishment	\$ 45,000.00

TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS RESUME

The Tri-County meetings will resume at the Red River Technology Center (RRTC) in Duncan. The quarterly meetings are scheduled for Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 on January 31, April 25, July 25 and October 31. Dates can be discussed at the January meeting for changes. Re-Certification will begin soon for the 2020 year and all run reports should be turned in to the state fire marshal by January 15, 2019.

**MASONIC
FRATERNITY OF
OKLAHOMA provides
ASCOG with Funds to
Assist Qualified
Elderly**



(L to R) OARC President **Rich Brierre**, Masons Grand Master **Michael L. Dixon**, ASCOG AAA Director **Ken Jones**, ASCOG Executive Director **Ronnie Ward**, and Masonic Charity Foundation Executive Director **John Logan**.

ASCOG received \$73,591 from the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma as their portion of funds to provide services to the needy who are at least 55 years old and live in ASCOG's region consisting of Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens, and Tillman Counties. With high demands and limited funding, only one application per household is allowed. Additionally, those who receive a grant must wait 3 years before re-applying. Grants can be used for such things as wheelchair ramps, eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, heaters, refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc. Applications will be available on the ASCOG website at www.ascog.org beginning on January 17, 2019. Application templates will also be emailed to city and county clerks to be copied and distributed as needed. They will also be delivered to area nutrition sites and senior citizen centers by the end of January. The program runs out of funds around the end of April so those needing assistance are encouraged to apply early. Community leaders are encouraged to identify and inform those who are elderly and in need of the program. For more information contact Ronnie Ward at (580) 736-7970.

We appreciate the Oklahoma Mason's Multimillion dollar legacy that continues to support aging in place. The Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma has provided over \$10 million over the last few years thanks to a generous bequest from Oklahoma Freemason Edgar M. Woody. Woody believed in the obligation to care for aged members of the community and placed a \$12 million endowed gift with the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma to support the aged.

Woody's gift continues to generate funds and support for services not provided by government programs. Eleven O4A agencies provide services in multi-county regions throughout Oklahoma.

Thanks to partnerships with groups like O4A and the network of over 200 Masonic lodges in communities throughout the state, the charity of the Masons is able to impact Oklahomans from every walk of life at a rate of over \$12,000 per day. More information about O4A programs and the Masonic Charity Foundation may be found at www.o4aoklahoma.org and www.mcfok.org.

2019 CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS

Entities interested in submitting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for \$150,000 - \$350,00 grants for water, sewer, community buildings, roads, fire trucks, etc. are strongly encouraged to start preparing and taking appropriate action now. Every year some wait too late to get the required meetings and other actions completed before the applications are due. The FIRST STEP is to decide what your eligible project is and how much it will cost. Public Hearings must be advertised at least 7 days prior to the event, and then you have to have a meeting to confirm what was done in the public hearing. Also, Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Surveys may be necessary to qualify. If federal funds are to be used for engineering, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process is mandatory. Engineering plans and preparing specifications take time. You should be talking to engineers now! Commerce will not consider an application unless a copy of your FY 2017 audit or agreed upon procedures is included. If you need any assistance, please contact **Tom Zigler** or **Mike Dixon**, ASCOG's CED grant writing and administration staff. If we help you get a successful grant, the grant includes funds to pay us for our efforts in administering the grants. Don't miss out on applying if you don't know how. We do - let us help!!

ANTICIPATED DUE DATES FOR CDBG APPLICATIONS:

- CDBG-REAP – February 28, 2019
- Community Revitalization (community buildings, streets, sidewalks, equipment, fire trucks, etc.) – March 29, 2019
- Water and Wastewater Engineering and Construction – May 1, 2019

AAA SUPPORTING COUNTY ELDER JUSTICE NETWORKS

ASCOG Area Agency on Aging is in the process of initiating and supporting elder justice networks in all eight counties. The networks will be made of professionals who work with seniors or their caregivers. The purpose of each network is to improve public understanding and reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. If you would like to be a part of this network, please contact **Ken Jones** at jone_ke@ascog.org or (580) 736.7972.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

Information and assistance is available to all seniors within our eight-county core service area including, Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens and Tillman. Currently we are developing one-page information sheets by county which we hope to distribute in all community nutrition centers and community focal points in January.

Information and Assistance is gearing up to assist all our service area with the Masonic Grant applications, weatherization applications as well as many other community sponsored assistance programs specifically geared to assist our aging population. We are constantly adding new resources and looking to make lasting partnerships to aid our clients.

Currently, thanks to our partnership with DHS we have a variety of sizes of hearing aids that are free to the public. We also have the 2019 schedule for the free dental clinics in our service area.

For questions or more information please contact Kristina Manriquez at (580) 736-7036, email at manr_kr@ascog.org or by using the Senior Information Line at 1-800-211-2116. Don't forget to visit us on Facebook.

OMBUDSMAN VOLUNTEER TRAINING

New Volunteer Training on February 6/7, 2019 from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Canadian Valley, Chickasha Campus, 1401 Michigan Avenue, Chickasha. For more information, please call **DACIA NIX** (580) 736-7975 or **KIM RHODES** (580) 736-7974.

FREE ADVERTISING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS

For the last few months, we have been offering free advertisements to promote events in communities within ASCOG's 8-county region. Events often bring tourists or folks living in neighboring communities who come to enjoy the event and spend a few dollars having a good time. Candidly, most of the information is separated for our area and copied from the Oklahoma Department of Tourism webpage. Some volunteer fire departments have sent flyers promoting their fundraisers. Depending on time and space availability, we advertise what we can if we know about it in time. Unfortunately, I did not get too much on Christmas parades until after our newsletter went out. Those appearing in our newsletter came strictly from Tourism. Please let me know if you have something you want advertised. My email information is ward_ro@ascog.org. ASCOG reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement for any reason.

MEDICARE

We are excited to start the 2019 year with our Medicare Assistance Program. We had an extremely successful Open Enrollment Season to finish off 2018 and served more individuals than any previous year. A huge thank you to our community partners for their referrals and for all the people who took the time to come see us for information or plan comparisons during the many events and counseling sessions.

Community Medicare presentations for the upcoming year are being scheduled monthly for future community education events and information sharing and individual Medicare counseling is offered throughout the year and appointments can be made by contacting **KRISTINA MANRIQUEZ**, Medicare Coordinator by email at manr_kr@ascog.org, calling (580) 736-7036, or visit us on Facebook.

Please come see us at our community engagements listed below:

- **Geronimo** Senior Citizens Center, January 2nd 9:00AM-11:00PM
- **Mangum** Senior Nutrition Site, January 9th 9:00AM-11:00PM
- **Duncan** Senior Center, January 15th 9:00AM-11:00PM
- **Granite** Senior Citizens Center, January 24th 9:00AM-11:00PM
- **Altus** Nutrition Site, January 30th 9:00AM-1:00PM

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

REAP SPOTLIGHT REPORT

Bridgeport Street Overlay with Chip and Seal



W. Wichita Ave.
(West side)
Chip & sealed

With \$35,000 from a 2017 REAP, the Town of Bridgeport purchased the material to chip and seal all their roads throughout their town. Caddo County Commissioner District #1 Benny Bowling and his crew provided the equipment and labor to install the material.

