

ASCOG
NEWS 'N BRIEFS
MAY 2019
Edition 346

ASCOG'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES JUNE RETIREMENT

ASCOG

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS

April 18, 2019

Royce Reagan, ASCOG President



Working for ASCOG has been a real privilege, but time stands still for no one. I am retiring effective June 30, 2019. I will miss a lot of things I have enjoyed doing over the years, but I have come to a point in my life where I want to enjoy time with my wife and family while I still can. Without their support I could not have made it this far.

ASCOG is a great organization! There are so many dedicated people who contribute to its success. The collective wisdom, enthusiasm, and commitment of ASCOG's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members is unsurpassed. They have made my tenure, especially as the executive director, very rewarding and pleasant.

I cannot say enough good things about ASCOG's employees. I have been lucky to work with people who are loyal, passionate about what they do, and love the people they serve. They go above and beyond day after day.

I would be remiss if I did not single out a couple who have greatly helped me. Blaine Smith, Jr. was a great, nurturing boss who hired me as the Community and Economic Development Director in January 2016. He was and is a great mentor and friend. Nancy English, ASCOG's Deputy Director has graciously provided key assistance with her institutional memory, patience, and advice that have kept me out of more trouble than I care to itemize. She has been my confidante, sounding board, sage, and the glue that held everything together.

I wish I had more time and space to give individual credit to the division directors and every employee who have significantly contributed to my personal success but more importantly to ASCOG's success. ASCOG has GREAT employees!

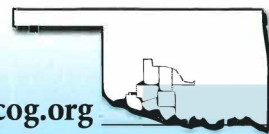
I also want to thank to each person who represented a community or organization with which I have worked. I appreciate what they have done, how they have worked with ASCOG, and how they continue to make ASCOG successful.

Retiring is a difficult decision, but I look forward to moving into the remaining chapter of my life. Thank each of you once again for allowing me to be a part of ASCOG.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Ward

CC: ASCOG Board of Trustees



ASCOG HOLIDAY

ASCOG will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING TO HOST MEETINGS MAY 29 AT THE ASCOG CONFERENCE ROOM

- Elderly Assistance, Incorporated board meeting 9:30 a.m.
- ASCOG AAA Advisory Council meeting 10:30 a.m.
- ASCOG Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature immediately following the Council meeting

NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER RSVP

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has expanded to cover Beckham, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman and Washita counties. This program assists with Meals on Wheels, Make a Way Transportation to Medical Appointments, Senior Medicare Patrol, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Head Start Classroom Assistance Program. They are currently seeking new volunteers as well as community partnerships in need of services. This program has been instrumental in providing needed services in rural areas and would like to continue to grow and provide these necessary opportunities for qualifying seniors in need of assistance. ASCOG is happy to announce their continued partnership and support for this program in our SCSEP, Medicare and I&A counties. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the RSVP Director **Kelly Baker** for more information at (580) 482-4141. As **Elizabeth Andrew** said, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Information and Assistance services are offered for individuals over 55 in all eight of or service counties including Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens and Tillman. We have exhausted 2019 Masonic Grant funding but have other resources available to assist with the cost of glasses and dental. Through our partnership with DHS aging services, we have hearing aid batteries available for distribution to the public at no cost at the ASCOG office. Weatherization program applications are available as well to assist seniors with lowering their utility costs and gaining assistance for home improvement. The goal of Information and Assistance is to get resources to people in need of help, and we take this responsibility very seriously. For more information please visit our website at www.ascog.org, on Facebook, or contact **Kristina Manriquez** by phone at (580) 736-7036, by fax (580) 252-6170, by email at manrkr@ascog.org, or by calling the Senior Information Line at 1.800.211.2116.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The **Swan Lake Volunteer Fire Department** has completed their 3000-gallon tanker truck, and it is now on line. The truck was received as a donation, and the skid unit was supplied by ASCOG thru the rural fire program. The **Cyril Fire Department** and the **Wichita Mountain Fire Department** are also in the process of painting and finishing their trucks as well. The **Tri-County Meeting of Cotton, Jefferson and Stephens Counties** was well attended with a full agenda. The departments meet quarterly at the career technology center in Duncan.

MEDICARE PRESENTATIONS AND COUNSELING

Medicare community presentations and individual counseling is offered and can be scheduled by calling Kristina Manriquez. We offer these services year around and not only during Medicare Open Enrollment. If you need a plan comparison or are new to Medicare and have questions please feel free to visit any of our upcoming community events listed below, visit us on Facebook, or contact **Kristina Manriquez** by phone at (580) 736-7036, by fax (580) 252-6170, by email at manr_kr@ascog.org, or by calling the Senior Information Line at 1-800-211-2116.

May 1st, Patterson Community Center, Lawton, OK, 8 AM-10 AM

May 1st, Geronimo Community Center, Geronimo, OK, 11:30 AM-1 PM

May 14th, Frederick Senior Nutrition Site, Frederick, OK, 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

May 14th, Tipton Community Center, Tipton, OK, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

May 15th, Altus Community Center, Altus, OK, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

May 15th, Hollis Senior Nutrition Site, Hollis, OK, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

May 23rd, Mangum Nutrition Center, Mangum, OK, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

May 30th, Mountain View Nutrition, Mountain View, OK, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

2020 REAP APPLICATIONS

We are still waiting to see if there will be any change in REAP funding for 2020 or if it will be the same as last year. We will know more in the June issue of News and Briefs. **Instead of three REAP workshops, there will only be one. This workshop will be sometime in July.** The exact date and time will be in the June newsletter. The application due date will be September 26, 2019. The application and instructions will be on the ASCOG website by July 10, 2019.

5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Now is the time to finalize your new 5-year capital improvement plan that sets the prioritization of needs for your community over the next 5 years. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Zigler at zig_to@ascog.org, (580) 736-7971, or Mike Dixon at (580) 736-7965, dixo_mi@ascog.org.

REAP QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE FROM 2019 REAP RECIPIENTS

The 2019 REAP contract terms and conditions contain deadlines that are required of each 2018 REAP Recipients. The first Quarterly Report Deadline for recipients requires the following to be done before May 1, 2019.

For CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (*Water, Sewer, Roads, Buildings, etc.*) Grant Recipients **must** submit the following:

1. Copies of all necessary permits,
2. Copies of bids as required based on the project cost,
3. A quarterly report providing a brief statement of the stage of progress including supporting documentation that the steps outlined above have been completed or a closeout with all supporting documentation if the project is completed.
4. Pictures reflecting each stage of project progress to date.

For EQUIPMENT PURCHASES (*Fire Trucks, Ambulances, Street Signs, Electric Poles, etc.*) Grant Recipients **must** submit the following:

1. Copy of specifications used to obtain bids,
2. Copies of bids as required based on the project cost,
3. Pictures of equipment including VIN or serial numbers.

ALL REAP recipients must submit quarterly reports providing a brief statement of the stage of progress including supporting documentation that the steps outlined above have been completed or a closeout with all supporting documentation if the project is completed. ***Failure to comply with contract provisions may result in de-obligation of your award funds.***

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Tom Zigler at (580) 736-7971 or Mike Dixon at (580) 736-7965.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASCOG is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Executive Director
- Community and Economic Development Division Technician

Job descriptions, qualification requirements, duties, salary range and benefits are on ASCOG's website www.ascog.org, Applications including resumes, references, certificates, transcripts, etc. are due by the close of business on May 23, 2019. See webpage for application instructions.

REAP SPOTLIGHT REPORT ALEX EROSION PROJECT

The Town of Alex pipes their storm water runoff waters to the Washita River rather than to their sewer lagoons. Unfortunately, the drainage pipe that emptied the runoff water into the river was broken off after a heavy rain. The result was the runoff water also began to erode the bank around and below the pipe so that the river bank sloughed off more of the bank every time it rained - especially when the river was up. The drainage pipe had to be extended and rip-rap installed to prevent further erosion. Had the repairs not been made, it was just a matter of time until the erosion would have collapsed the dike of the sewer lagoon located nearby.

At first the town asked for funds to pay for an engineering study. However when Grady County Commissioner Ralph Beard was informed of the problem, he offered to repair and extend the pipe and place rip-rap if the Town would pay for the fuel costs for the equipment used on the project, the rip-rap, and other material needed to fix the problem.

With the assistance of Commissioner Beard and his employees, the pipe was extended and all repairs made in less time than it would have taken to get an engineer plus the cost was much less. The entire project was completed for a total cost of \$25,135.

The pictures below show the “before” conditions and the “after” results (Commissioner Beard is in the top right photo).



Thank you, Commissioner!

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

MAY 5 -



MAY 12 -



MAY 27 -



HACKBERRY FLAT BIRD MIGRATION TOUR

May 3 - May 4, 2019

Hackberry Flat Center

Frederick, OK 73542 (405) 990-4977

Celebrate the spring winged migration through the Hackberry Flat Wetlands, 7,120-acres of wildlife recreational opportunities located just southwest of Frederick. Attend one of the Bird Migration Tours available from mid-April through the first of May to see migrating ducks, shorebirds and songbirds who are stopping in the wetlands to refuel for their continued journey north. Families can explore the vast mosaic of wetland habitats for prairie waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent birds.



DUNCAN ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

May 3, 2019 - May 4, 2019

**Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
Duncan, OK 73533 (209) 914-9112**



Enjoy a whole weekend of handmade wares at the Duncan Arts and Crafts Show. Centered at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center, this one-of-a-kind arts and crafts show spotlights local and regional craftspeople. Not just anyone can sell their wares at this show; in order to exhibit, most of a vendor's product line has to be handmade.

Be captivated by the magician performing on Saturday and grab a bite to eat from the food truck on-site. Come early and stay late to win one of the handcrafted door prizes given away hourly to attendees throughout the event.

The Arts For All Festival, now in its 45th year, is southwest Oklahoma's largest free juried arts festival, drawing people from Oklahoma and Texas for a weekend of art, entertainment, and tantalizing foods. The festival will feature over 90 artists (from Oklahoma, Texas, and from throughout the U.S.), and include two stages of live entertainment, a youth art area, and multicultural food vendors. Come to the Arts for All Festival and browse through artist booths filled with fine art, photography, pottery, sculpture, painting, and jewelry.

ARTS FOR ALL FESTIVAL

May 10, 2019 - May 12, 2019

Shepler Park

Lawton, OK 73501 (580) 248-5384



Come out to the Armed Forces Day Celebration in Lawton to honor our men and women in uniform. This free parade, music festival and red dirt barbecue honors the service of our Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Retirees, Veterans, and their families with nearly ten hours of live music and more. In 2019, the festivities kick off with a parade at 10am, and the night closes out with a concert by Andy Grammar. Admire well-kept automobiles at the car show and judge various barbecue food entries submitted to the People's Choice BBQ Competition.

ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

May 18, 2019

**Elmer Thomas Park
Lawton, OK 73507 (580) 284-1645**



PERUVIAN HORSE SHOW

May 24, 2019 - May 26, 2019

**Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
Duncan, OK 73533 (405) 613-9841**



Come to Duncan and witness as stately Peruvian steeds are put through their paces at the Peruvian Horse Show.

This NAPHA, or North American Peruvian Horse Association, sanctioned event spotlights the Peruvian horse's beauty, unusual gait and smooth ride. Competitions for the event include combination pole and egg stomp, champagne and costume class, musical performance pairs and a parade of stallions, all showcasing the unique nature of this breed.

ROOTS BALL

May 25, 2019 - May 26, 2019

**Town Center Mainstage
Medicine Park, OK 73557 (580) 529-2825**

The Roots Ball in Medicine Park brings out some of the best musicians around to showcase live music at its finest. Join family and friends at this event on Memorial Day weekend for three days of music, food and fun. Hear top local talent live while exploring the quaint landscape of this historic town during the annual Roots Ball.



TOUR de MEERS

May 25, 2019

**Meers Volunteer Fire Department
Meers, OK 73507 (580) 704-9009**

The annual Tour de Meers bike ride has become a beloved tradition in the small rural community of Meers, located just north of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Bicyclists can choose routes of varying lengths depending on if they want to ride 10, 22, 36, 57 or 62 miles. The longer routes go through the wildlife preserve, where riders can see bison, longhorns, elk, birds and several other species up close.



FISHING & TACKLE SHOW

May 31, 2019 - June 1, 2019

**Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
Duncan, OK 73533 (580) 255-3231**



Make your way to Duncan's Stephens County Fair and Expo Center for the yearly Fishing & Tackle Show. Browse fishing equipment and tackle vendor booths to find the newest and best products in the sport of fishing. Visitors will also be able to check out displays of antique lures and reels. This show is put on by the World Association of Tackle Collectors, so you'll find only the most authentic collections of vintage tackle at the event. The Fishing & Tackle Show is a great event for fishing enthusiasts of all ages, from novice to expert.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT 4-H HORSE SHOW

May 31, 2019 - June 1, 2019

**Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
Duncan, OK 73533 (580) 255-3231**

Show your support for Stephens County youth at the Southwest District 4-H Horse Show in Duncan. Held at the Stephens County Expo Center, this three day regional horse show will feature all disciplines including pleasure, classes and trail. Make your way to Duncan for a great time at the Southwest District 4-H Horse Show.



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