



ASCOG SELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At ASCOG's Board of Trustees meeting on June 20, Ken Jones was introduced as the 4th and newest Executive Director effective July 1, 2019. Ken has been an ASCOG employee for the last 13 years and has been the Director of Aging Services for the last 10. Ken's experience, education, and established contacts will make the transition very smooth. Please read his introductory letter below.

I was asked to introduce myself as the incoming executive director of ASCOG and to talk about who I am and what my vision is going forward. ASCOG is more than just the person at the helm, so I think I would rather talk about who WE are rather than who I am.

We are a service organization. Specifically, we serve communities and the people that live in them. We serve you. When you call our office, I hope the response you get is "How may we help you" or "How can I serve you."

We are Community and Economic Development. We contract with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and other state and federal agencies to improve commerce, access to transportation, job accessibility, water and wastewater, roads, quality of life, and education.

We are human services. We partner with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and the Masonic Charities Foundation to improve the lives of vulnerable adults to keep them independent and healthy. We work with those at greatest risk of institutionalization to help them stay in their own homes as long as they can.

We are a great investment. We save our citizens money on insurance premiums and help keep them safe by investing in our rural fire program. We save the State of Oklahoma millions of dollars every year by keeping vulnerable adults out of institutional care. We improve commerce in rural Oklahoma by supporting all of our communities, especially the smaller ones. We bring millions of federal and state dollars into south-central Oklahoma. We contract with local providers who employ hundreds in our communities.

We are our employees. We have employees who found their first jobs at ASCOG and some who found their encore careers here. We have employees with diverse backgrounds. We have experience and energy and compassion. We are farmers, ranchers, teachers, nurses, mothers, deacons, actors, singers, and even politicians. We love to serve our "peeps."

If you want to know a little about me, I'm a country boy from Central High. I'm a pastor. I'm a father. And I am at your service.

ASCOG WELCOMES 2 NEW TRUSTEES



ALVIN CARGILL

Comanche County District 3 Commissioner **ALVIN CARGILL** replaces Comanche County District 2 Commissioner Johnny Owens, and McClain County District 1 Commissioner **GLEN MURRAY** replaces retired McClain County District 2 Commissioner Shorty Foster. The new trustees were sworn in at the June 20, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting.



GLEN MURRAY

ASCOG LOSES 5 EMPLOYEES TO RETIREMENT OR PROGRAM CHANGES

June 27, 2019 is the last day of work for 5 ASCOG employees who officially retire on Sunday, June 30. Four of the five are retiring either because it was planned or due to circumstances beyond their control. One is not eligible to retire but is leaving because the program that funds her position is moving back to a subcontractor. We thought we would share some information on these departing employees whose combined years of ASCOG employment totals over 88 years.



CINDY OLIS (40 years) began her ASCOG employment with the Manpower Team in the Workforce Division on January 2, 1979. Her first day started with a huge area storm so violent it left one of our entrance doors difficult to use. At lunchtime, the Team went to eat and left her to answer the phones. She said her employment began with a trial of fire, and it has been that way ever since. In her 40 years at ASCOG, she has worked for or with most of the programs and divisions. After the Manpower Team assignment, she went to the Aging Division and worked as the secretary. She later transferred to the Community and Economic Development where she again served as the secretary with one of her main assignments consisting of producing codebooks and supplements with contracting entities. Her job functions changed but she remained in CED, and for the last several years her assignments included working on the Geographic Information System Mapping (GIS) projects as well as the Capital Improvement Program Projects (CIP) where she developed inventory lists and maps of infrastructure locations for eligible entities. Her work also included billing activities for the Supportive Services Division, as well as serving as the Technical Coordinator for all of ASCOG. She was the one we turned to if we had computer problems. If the problem was unusual, she was the one who contacted our IT provider to get the issue resolved. She also took care of the phone system and the Portal. She is married, has 2 children and is Nana to 2 grandsons who she claims are the smartest, cutest, and sweetest to ever come along. She is retiring due to health issues and will be greatly missed.



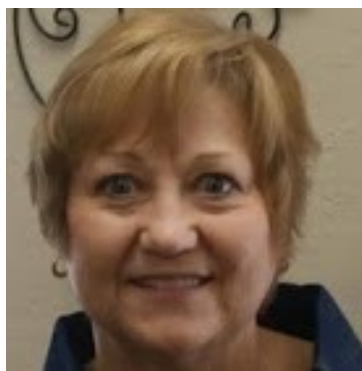
SUELLEN McALLISTER (20 years) began her ASCOG employment working in the Workforce Development Division as a Management Information System (MIS) Specialist on January 27, 1999. She worked with case managers in area offices helping people get back into the workforce. She took over the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) on May 12, 2007. She helped many of our seniors in 14 counties improve their daily way of life and gave them a purpose - to gain unsubsidized employment so they could become self-sufficient. Unfortunately after 20 years of loyal service with ASCOG, the program that funded her position was awarded

to AARP, and so she retired rather than transferring within the organization. She has 2 children and 5 grandchildren who she claims are the smartest, cutest, and sweetest. While her premature departure was unexpected, she leaves with a pension and our very best wishes for her future.



RONNIE WARD (13½ years) was hired by Blaine Smith, Jr. on January 5, 2006, as the director of the Community and Economic Division. While director, he and his division were responsible for writing and/or administering hundreds of grants benefitting South Central Oklahoma and its communities. Some of the larger ones include EDA grants for the Industrial Park at Elgin, the Industrial Complex for the Delaware Nation in Anadarko, and the Cameron University science labs at the Duncan Campus. When Blaine retired, he was selected on

January 21, 2015, to become ASCOG's third Executive Director. Unfortunately, health issues with his heart has forced a retirement earlier than he had planned. He plans to spend more time with his wife of 50 years, two sons and daughter-in-law, and 5 grandchildren.



SUSIE LINDSAY (12½ years) started her ASCOG employment as the secretary for the Supportive Services on November 20, 2006. In April 2007, she moved to the Community and Economic Division as the Administrative Assistant for the Division. One of Susie's main projects is providing services for communities who need their codebooks updated where the new or updated ordinances could be included as part of their ordinances publication. She also served as ASCOG's retirement and insurance benefits coordinator. Susie shares an office

with Cindy Olis. Susie also is married with 2 children and has 5 grandchildren. She claims her grandchildren are the smartest, cutest, and sweetest to come along. It makes for some really entertaining, diplomatically tactful discussions in that office as to who is making the most accurate claims. Susie is retiring to spend more time with her family.

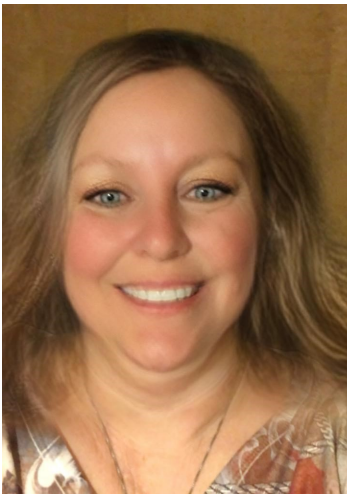


CINDY HALE (1 Year) came to ASCOG on August 20th, 2018, to serve as our Caregiver Program Coordinator and has managed the Caregiver Respite, Grandparents Raising Children Respite, and Chore Assistance programs for the past year. Cindy was responsible for the oversight and management of these programs from data entry, to creating program documentation, to visiting with seniors and caregivers in their homes, to giving countless presentations to the public.

On July 1st, ASCOG will transfer these programs to MaddieLuke Support who has partnered with ASCOG to administer these programs in the past. Cindy will oversee the transition process and will continue to manage them as Project Director for MaddieLuke Support. **There will be no change to the programs or services that are provided.**

For information about services beginning on July 1st, please contact Cindy at: cindy.hale@maddieluke.com or call (855) 962-3343 or (580) 786-3046. Thank you Cindy for a job well done and good luck on your future endeavors.

ASCOG HAS A NEW EMPLOYEE!



DANIELLE CARPENTER was hired on June 10, 2019 as the Community and Economic Development Technician. She will be doing parts of what both Cindy Olis and Susie Lindsay were assigned, She will be taking care of the ordinances, serving as the computer liaison, and coordinating benefits and retirement information dissemination. She is married and has a daughter and son-in-law and 2 grandchildren. She describes herself as very outgoing, caring, fun-loving, adventurous, outdoorsy person who likes to hunt, fish, garden, 4 wheel, dance and ride horses. She attended Cameron University and has experience in Human Resources, Payroll, Benefits, Customer Service,

Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Health and Safety. Welcome to ASCOG, Danielle!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Each month somebody on our mailing list will change addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or other contact information. We need to keep that information updated in our files so we can continue to provide you with the information you need from us. Please when your information changes, call Nancy English at (580) 736-7019. Thank you.

2020 REAP Workshop

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Lawton - Great Plains Technology Center Building 700 – Room 701

9:30 am until all questions are answered.



This year's workshop will be different than in the past. There will be only one workshop, and all applicants must attend the 2020 REAP Grant Workshop in order to submit an eligible application. The attendee must be an elected official or an individual appointed by the board or council to represent the entity submitting the application. Any appointment must be reflected in the entity's board minutes. Between now and the scheduled workshop dates it is recommended all applicants must: (1) select an eligible project that can be fully funded including leveraged dollars, (2) get cost estimates from an eligible source and (3) take formal board action including approving making the application for the project, approving a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, and approving any cash leverage from the applicant agency. Keep in mind that these matches are not required but do figure into the scoring system. No objective points will be given for in-kind matches this year. 2020 REAP grants will have the same time requirements. Projects must begin within 6 months and be completed by June 30, 2021.

Please remember, ASCOG CED staff will write your REAP application for a \$150 fee. If the application is not funded, there is no charge for writing subsequent grants the following year for the same project. This fee must be paid for by the applicant and not out of REAP funds. The purpose of this option is to ensure every potential REAP applicant has the potential to submit a competitive, well-written application. For those who do not want to take the time, who do not have the needed expertise within their staff, or just don't want to go through the hassle, ASCOG staff can help. Having ASCOG CED staff write your grants does not guarantee approval, but it does ensure that your grant is well-written where the scorers can fully understand the importance of the project to your community/county. If you need several thousand dollars for an eligible project, \$150 is a good investment for a grant that averages over \$40,000. PLEASE call CED staff if you have any questions.

2020 REAP SCHEDULE

July 12 – Application posted to ASCOG Website.

July 23 - REAP Workshop at Great Plains - Mandatory Attendance

September 25 – Applications due close of business.

November 14 – Applications scored.

December 13 – Awardees announced on ASCOG Website.

HELP ODOT DEVELOP ITS LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

In accordance with federal law, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing 25 year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that will help provide a long term vision for highways, bridges, rural public transit, waterways, state-owned rail, airport access and bicycle/ pedestrian facilities.

Please fill out a survey to help ODOT better understand what transportation priorities and options are important to you. Estimated time to complete is 10 minutes. The survey can be accessed at:

<https://www.oklongrangeplan.org>



MEDICARE EVENTS

Medicare community education events and individual counseling are available all year through ASCOG. ASCOG has three counselors that are happy to offer assistance to any Medicare beneficiary with problems, questions or concerns. Fraud prevention and community training are important factors for all beneficiaries are we are currently looking for volunteers for the Senior Medicare Patrol. For more information please contact Kristina Manriquez by phone at (580) 736-7036, by fax at (580) 252-6170, by calling the Senior Information Line at (800) 211-2116, by email at manr_kr@ascog.org, or visit us online at ascog.org or on Facebook.

Below are our community events for the month of July, please mark your calendars, or call today to schedule an event.

July 9th, Hollis Nutrition Site, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

July 9th, Altus Nutrition Site, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

July 18th, Duncan Senior Citizens Center, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

PUBLIC SAFETY



July will be an active month with truck completion and inspection as well starting the new fiscal budget year. Inventory is planned for at least four counties of all federal loaned equipment to departments. Along with the information will be insurance on said vehicle (liability), mileage, report of condition and importantly the use of (is it still in use). Equipment ranges from vehicles, pumps, engines and other various items. Any equipment on the list and not being used will be requested to be returned to Goldsby.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Information and assistance services are provided to our service area all year round. The purpose of this is to find new resources and continue to discover avenues and community partners to provide assistance to clients who are in need. ASCOG has currently partnered with New Eyes which is a program that can provide glasses to individuals with a valid prescription. We have also partnered with Oklahoma Clinical Management, a Medicare grant recipient who completes Medicare Wellness screenings for needy and homebound clients within the state of Oklahoma. We encourage any and all nonprofits, government agencies and local charities to please contact us to be added to our resource directory so that we may properly refer individuals to you whom you can assist. For more information please contact Kristina Manriquez by email at manr_kr@ascog.org, by phone at (580) 736-7036, by fax at (580) 252-6170, by calling the Senior Information Line at (800) 211-2116, or visit us online at ascog.org or on Facebook.

TOWN ADVISOR SERVICE

ASCOG's Board of Trustees adopted a competitive procedure allowing ASCOG assign staff to serve as Town Advisors. Dues-paying members of the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) are entitled to basic services. This program is designed to fill the needs of communities that need more than basic services including preparing and administering grants, guiding local staff to ensure statutory requirements are being met, strategic planning, asset identification and mapping, bookkeeping, billing, capital improvement planning, etc.



After you determine what you can afford and the level of services you desire, we will provide a program tailor-made for your community.

For further information, please contact ASCOG Staff.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

ASCOG members will be invoiced for Fiscal Year 2020 membership dues in July. Dues are unchanged from the previous year.

2020 BUDGET ESTABLISHED



At its June 20, 2019 meeting, ASCOG's Board of Trustees passed the 2020 budget for \$4,802,066.

REAP PROJECT SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOWN OF RYAN



Old - Hard to Read

The Town of Ryan is a small rural community of less than 900 residents in Jefferson County. The Town is the sole provider and source of water, sewer,, and electrical services for its residents. They currently have 336 water customers.

An audit of their water meters revealed that half of them have measured over 1M gallons and are between 10-20 years old. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality suggested the water meters needed to be replaced since they over a decade old. The old meters progressively read less accurately with time resulting in meter readings below what was actually used.



New - Automatic

The Town of Ryan requested REAP funds to augment what they had available in the Town's coffers so that half of the meters could be replaced at one time with new digitally automatically read meters. The request included a handheld reader and necessary software. Not only will the meters read the water flow more accurately, they will also allow for city employees to spend less time reading meters each month. This is a great way to conserve water, bill more accurately and save employee expenses.

OML MEDICAL MARIJUANA WORKSHOP

JULY 12, 2019

Frances Tuttle, Rockwell Campus

12777 N. Rockwell Avenue, OKC, OK 73142

Registration: 7:30-8:00 a.m.

Program 8:00 am-4:00 p.m.

Pre-Registration is recommended

Contact: Cheryl Adams cadams@omlorg or (405) 525-7515



New Medical Marijuana laws are coming soon. This workshop will provide information on how these changes will affect your city or town. Topics include information on the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, regulatory framework, current statutes, agency rules, as well as 2019 legislative changes. You don't want to miss this training event. Registration fees are \$85 per person for OML members and \$150 per person for non-OML members.

All advertisement on the following pages come from the Oklahoma Tourism Website or from submittals from member governments. They are intended solely for the purpose of promoting activities occurring with our member governments' locations. If your city or town is not represented, it is only because nothing was received in time to publish. All advertising for member governments is **FREE!**



BLANCHARD'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

July 2, 2019

HWY 62 AND NE 10TH STREET

Blanchard (405) 485-9392

Celebrate the Fourth of July at Blanchard's Independence Celebration with live music from the OKC Symphonic Band, Banana Seat and more. Take the children to the Kids Zone for inflatable toys and games. Come to the Blanchard Independence Celebration and enjoy fun for the whole family. End the evening with a great fireworks display set to music at dusk.

OLD-FASHIONED INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

July 4, 2019

Redbud Park 9:15 am

Marlow (580) 580-658-5401

Marlow's Old-Fashioned Independence Day Celebration will kick off with a parade at 9:15am on Main Street. Huge crowds gather to watch floats, horses, antique automobiles, antique tractors, Shriners clowns and more. The parade



leads to a full day of fun for the entire family in Redbud Park. This event includes arts and

crafts, game booths, rides, various food vendors and bingo. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs to the park at 6:30pm for a free concert that leads up to a huge fireworks display. Stick around until 10pm for the Old-Fashioned Independence Day Celebration grand finale: one of the largest fireworks displays in southern Oklahoma.



CYRIL OPEN RODEO

July 5 - July 6, 2019

700 Wyoming Street

Cyril (580) 464-2678

Come out and watch rodeo competitors take to the Cyril Open Rodeo, one of southwest Oklahoma's most-respected open rodeos. Sit back and witness former Wrangler National

Finals Rodeo qualifiers and world champions compete in a variety of traditional rodeo events. In this Oklahoma small town, enjoy specialty acts and forming fellowship with people from surrounding communities. Bring your kids to this family-friendly environment, and take in one of the oldest and truest sports.



ROCKIN' THE PARK
July 6 - July 7, 2019
Downtown Medicine Park
(580) 574-9528

Bring the family and join in on the fun at Rockin' the Park, a two-day music festival and Fourth of July celebration held in the heart of Medicine Park, one of Oklahoma's most charming towns.

Put on by the Old Plantation Restaurant and the Medicine Park Economic Development Authority, Rockin' the Park is a great opportunity to relax in the sun, eat some food and hear some great music from nine bands. Spend the weekend listening to some hard hitting rock and roll that is sure to get you moving before taking a swim in Bath Lake. For the grand finale of this fun-filled event, be sure to stay and catch a grand fireworks experience, featuring popping lights and festive colors.

CARNEGIE RODEO
July 12 - July 13, 2019
Carnegie Lower Park Rodeo Arena
Carnegie (580) 330-0293



For more than 50 years, the annual Carnegie Rodeo has been entertaining audiences with classic western events. You'll be on the edge of your seat as you watch top cowboys and cowgirls compete in barrel racing, calf roping, bull riding, double mugging, break away, team roping ribbon roping and ranch riding. Step into the Carnegie Lower Park Rodeo Arena for this family friendly event. A concession stand will be available selling grilled hamburgers and other snacks, and don't miss the parade on Saturday morning.



AIRBORNE DEMONSTRATION
TEAM JUMP SCHOOL
July 12-July 20, 2019
Frederick Regional Airport
(580) 305-2289

Come visit the Airborne Demonstration Team Jump School while they train their newest team members. Meet WWII veterans, view the on-site

WWII C-47 aircraft, dine in the chow hall and learn about the history of the Frederick Army Airfield. Individuals who wish to participate with the team as demonstration parachutists must first qualify by attending this jump school. Recruits will be trained in all aspects of jumping from a C-47 with static-line parachutes including parachute packing, parachute landing falls, drag training and emergency procedures. Recruits must be in good physical condition because the training is rigorous. Upon successful completion of five jumps, trainees will be awarded their gold jump wings at a traditional wing pinning ceremony. Tuition for the school includes lodging, meals, aircraft fees, parachute gear, insurance and formal instruction.



CHISOLM TRAIL ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS: ART EXPLOSION

July 15- July 20, 2019

**Stephens County Fair and Exp Center
Duncan (580) 252-2900**

Bring your creative energy to Arts Explosion 2019, a week-long series of summer arts workshops for children, teens and adults hosted by the Chisholm

Trail Arts Council (CTAC). All students will have the opportunity to learn different art disciplines and mediums throughout the week, including pottery, sculpture, watercolor, story boarding and acrylic painting.

Children's classes are for students who have completed third, fourth or fifth grades. Classes for teens include students who have completed sixth grade or higher and want to keep their artistic gears turning during the summer. Adults classes take place in the evening, for those who don't want to let the kids have all the fun. A limited amount of scholarships are available for students who qualify. Come to the Stephen County Fair & Expo Center in Duncan and see why CTAC's Arts Explosion has been a creative force in Oklahoma since 1991.

ANNUAL WORLD'S LARGEST GARAGE SALE

July 19 - July 21, 2019

Citywide, Duncan, (580) 252-2900

Hit the citywide Annual World's Largest Garage Sale in Duncan to rake in the bargains. Sift through junk, gently-used items and specialty goods up for grabs at residential garage sales throughout the city. Duncan's retail stores will also have several sidewalk sales with plenty of steals. Pick up your copy of The Duncan Banner and the Chisholm Trail Shopper to locate some of the best deals around the city.

After a deep spring cleaning, reward yourself with a trip to the Annual World's Largest Garage Sale to stock up on new purchases with summer sale price tags.



COMANCHE NATION HOMECOMING POWWOW

July 19 - July 21, 2019

**Sultan Park, Walters
(580) 492-3240**

Come see the tradition of the Comanche Tribe come to life before your eyes and enjoy a full weekend of American Indian activities and events at this year's Comanche Nation Homecoming Powwow in Walters. Grab a seat along the sidelines of the powwow grounds

to see the amazing spectacle of traditional American Indian dancers in full regalia. Categories of dance competition will include gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Intertribal dancing and contests will be held throughout the weekend. Food and merchandise vendors will also be on-hand, so grab an Indian taco or other tasty treat and get ready for American Indian dancing at its finest.



NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

July 27, 2019

**Chisholm Trail Heritage Center
Duncan (580) 252-6692**

Join the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center to celebrate cowboy history with the National Day of the Cowboy event in Duncan. There will be free family-friendly activities for all ages at this indoor, air-conditioned facility.

Visitors will have the chance to see the 4D Experience Theater, watch animatronic Jesse Chisholm near the campfire, listen to live music and meet special guests. The 2019 National Day of the Cowboy event will also feature Oklahoma authors and an Oklahoma basketry artist.

DEHYDRATOR BICYCLE RACE

July 27, 2019

Simmons Center

Duncan (580) 439-4827

Rolling through the low hills of southwest Oklahoma, The Dehydrator is a fun ride with distances ranging from 10-80 miles. Experience the beauty of the surrounding countryside while challenging yourself to the Dehydrator. Participants will cover rolling hills, plains and areas of Stephens County, including a stretch across the Waurika Lake Dam.



The Dehydrator Bicycle Ride features recreational, non-competitive rides that include five distances. Options include a 10-mile flat course, as well as 25-, 50-, 62-, and 80-mile courses. The recreational courses are clearly marked; route maps will be provided when participants pick up their race packet on the morning of the event. Stops will be provided approximately every 10 miles and there will be plenty of fluids, fruit and cookies.

Known for its heat, The Dehydrator stages itself at Duncan's premier sports and activity center, the Simmons Center. Participants will have run of the building, which includes showers, a pool, a sauna and a variety of athletic equipment. A free meal is served for all entrants. Bring your sunscreen, camera and bike, and join the fun.

