



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME II NUMBER 3

MARCH-APRIL, 2002

Director's Dialogue:

It is an honor for me to serve as the Executive Director of the Five County Association of Governments, and work with the staff of the Five County AOG, which functions quietly and efficiently throughout Southwestern Utah.

The Five County AOG grew out of an organization known as the Five County Organization which was established in 1957 and included Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties. The Five County AOG, as presently constituted, was established in 1973 with official "Articles of Association" and "Bylaws". Its Steering Committee, or policy body, consists of one commissioner from each county, a mayor representative from each county, and one representative from each county school district. A representative from Southern Utah University and Dixie State College, and all state senators and state representatives whose districts extend into the five county area may serve on the Steering Committee as non-voting members.

The Association was created because local elected officials recognized that problems of growth and development often transcend the boundary lines of existing local governments. Local elected officials recognized that intergovernmental cooperation on a regional basis is an effective means of pooling the resources of local government as a multi-county region. In addition, program development on the regional level keeps program management and decision making closest to the people and realizes economies of scale resulting from the shared regional staff.

I believe it has been clearly demonstrated during the past three decades that a shared staff directed by local elected officials is a highly efficient and effective way to conduct various types of planning and deliver specific services to the local governments as well as the citizens of Southwestern Utah. (John S. Williams)

Announcing Southwest Utah's 9th Annual Human Services Public Forum

It's time once again to come together as a community to discuss human services concerns and issues that affect our community. Join political leaders, agency representatives, local businessmen, low-income individuals and concerned citizens for the Ninth Annual Human Services Public Forum. Issues such as transportation, health care, better jobs, education, child care and many others affect our community and our nation. They affect all people-- those who experience it first hand and those who know it through their work, their church, their family, and their neighbors. Concerned citizens from each of the five counties in southwest Utah are invited to meet together to discuss, prioritize and provide input that can make a difference in human service needs on the local level.

Dates and times for each of the County Forums are listed below:

Beaver County

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Beaver High School

150 North Main
Beaver, UT
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Garfield County

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Panguitch Fire Station

40 North 100 East
Panguitch, UT
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Iron County

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Paiute Tribe Meeting Room

440 N. Paiute Drive
Cedar City, UT
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Kane County

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Kanab Library

374 North Main
Kanab, UT
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Washington County

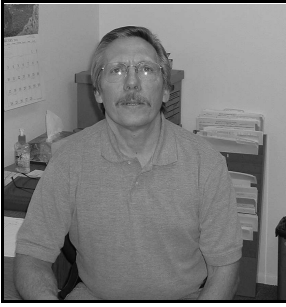
Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Dixie State College

225 South 700 East - Gardner Center
St. George, UT
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Reminder: Senator Robert F. Bennett is convening the first annual **Rural Utah Business Technology Conference** at the **Hunter Conference Center at Southern Utah University on May 28-29, 2002.**

Staff Spotlights:



Doug Carlson was born in Phoenix, Arizona where he attended grade school and high school. He graduated in 1971. Upon graduation, Doug attended a carpenter training program and became a journeyman carpenter. He has been working in the construction field for the past thirty-two years, and enjoys working with his hands.

Doug is married to a sweet lady named Renita. They have raised six wonderful children and have twelve beautiful grandchildren, which they enjoy very much.

Doug and Renita moved from Las Vegas to Cedar City one year and eight months ago to work in the Weatherization Program for the Association of Governments. Doug truly loves the work and enjoys knowing that he is helping others. He finds this very rewarding. He also enjoys reading the Bible, the outdoors, and spending time with his family. Doug says everyone at the AOG is very friendly and he enjoys working with the staff.



Brian Jackson grew up in Caliente, Nevada. In 1996 he and his wife moved to Cedar City. They have three children ages 5, 4, and 10 months. He enjoys spending quality time with his family, camping, hunting, and fishing, etc.

Brian joined the staff of the Association of Governments in September, 2000. He finds enjoyment from the benefits of helping others in the

Weatherization Program. Brian says that he works with some of the best people he knows, and "Life is Good!!"

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federal program locally administered by the Five County Association of Governments and managed by the Utah Department of Community Development/Office of Energy Service. The program is designed to help residents in the five county area—who meet federal low-income guidelines—to lower their utility bills and improve the comfort of their homes and is available to both homeowners and renters year-round.

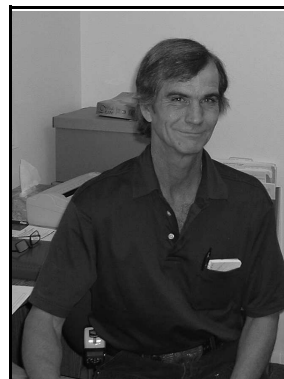
Applications are available at the Five County AOG office,

906 North 1400 West, St. George, Utah or by calling 435-673-3548, and at Senior Citizen Centers and H.E.A.T. offices. Applicants are required to complete an application submitting verification of income, a utility fuel history, and a renter's agreement (if applicable). Applicants who qualify for the H.E.A.T. program are eligible for Weatherization; however, an application must be completed and sent to the Weatherization office.

Upon eligibility, an audit is performed on the home to determine what measures can be taken to make it more energy efficient. Some of the typical measures taken to improve energy consumption in homes are:

- ◆ **Heating safety and efficiency - Furnace tune-ups and replacement of filters and thermostats**
- ◆ **Installation of attic, wall, or floor insulation**
- ◆ **Weatherstripping and caulking**
- ◆ **Installation of water saving showerheads and energy saving light bulbs**
- ◆ **Replacement of broken glass in windows - window replacement, if allowed by energy audit**
- ◆ **Installation of water heater jackets**
- ◆ **Other work as deemed appropriate by energy audit and on-site home inspection**

The hardest part of our job is getting to all those who qualify in a timely manner. Due to the great response to this program and the demographics of the Five County area, applicants may not be contacted for their home energy audit for 8-10 months. Our crew, Kirby Lambert, Doug Carlson, Bryan Jackson, and Ferl Chamberlain work year-round to complete weatherization measures for qualified homes.



Ferl Chamberlain joined the staff at Five County Association of Governments in January, 2002. He was hired as an additional crew worker to assist with the Five County Weatherization Program.

Ferl is the father of three children and grandfather of two girls. When he is not playing with his grandchildren, you can find

him in the hills fishing or just enjoying the quiet.

RSVP Recognized for 30 Years of Service

In 2002, the National Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, one of three programs of the National Senior Service Corps, celebrates 30 years of providing meaningful volunteer opportunities for men and women over age 55. From the original eleven programs put in place three decades ago, RSVP has grown to a corps of more than 450,000 senior men and women serving in 760 communities across the United States, including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

This locally directed but federally funded grant program was created as a result of the Older Americans Act of 1965. A pilot project known as SERVE (Serve and Enrich Retirement by Volunteer Experience) was launched in Staten Island, NY. Through SERVE, senior volunteers are recruited to share their skills and experience in service to their community. The success of the program demonstrated the valuable resource of senior volunteer service and led to an amendment in 1969 to the Older Americans Act establishing the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In 1992, the program was renamed the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program to reflect the new reality that not all older volunteers are retired. Additionally, the age required to join RSVP was lowered from 60 to 55.

It was 1986 when Five County RSVP, sponsored by the Five County Association of Governments, was introduced in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties. Jean Herring served eight years as director. Linda Sappington was hired to direct the program in 1993. Today, the program in southwestern Utah has an enrollment nearing 1200. Flexible assignments allow senior men and women of various skill levels and expertise to tackle community needs and participate in community events. Volunteers mentor children, support homebound elderly, assist law enforcement and health care professionals, and prepare tax returns for elderly and low-income individuals. RSVP volunteers choose opportunities which best fit active lifestyles. They use skills gained in careers, or try their hand at something completely new and different to their life experience.

"With the energy and experience of our current volunteers, and the new wave of baby boomers joining us, we see RSVP's role expanding into every aspect of the community," notes Sappington. "RSVP's role is to make it possible for good things to happen in the community. By the time those who are now 40 turn 60, it's not going to be the exception to volunteer. It will be expected."

In his State of the Union Speech on January 29th, President George W. Bush called "for every American to commit at least two years . . . four thousand hours over the rest of your lifetime . . . to the service of your neighbors and your Nation."

"Our country needs citizens working to rebuild our communities. We need mentors to love children . . . [we need] to expand and improve the good efforts of . . . the Senior Corps to recruit more than 200,000 new volunteers".

In journalism, "30" means "the end of the story". Based on the President's most recent call to service, it would seem RSVP's 30-year story may be - not an ending - but a really good start! (Linda Sappington)

Foster Grandparent Program in Place in Five County Area

Thanks to generous donations from the Dixie Health Care Foundation, Five County Association of Governments and others in the community, the new non-federally funded Five County Foster Grandparent Program is now able to help meet the needs of children in schools, correctional institutions, Head Start programs and day care centers. Agencies providing services to children throughout the community have been eagerly anticipating this third program of the National Senior Service Corps since its "sister" program - Senior Companions - became a fully functioning, federally funded program last year.

Foster Grandparents give children much-needed attention to change their lives. Foster Grandparents help children learn to read, care for those with disabilities and offer an arm-around-the-shoulder to those who are struggling in a variety of ways. Last year across the United States, Foster Grandparents mentored 145,000 children; provided parenting information, baby care and safety tips to 11,000 teen parents; provided one-on-one support to more than 27,000 youth who were at-risk for getting in trouble with the law, and tutored over 115,000 K-12 students.

Effective immediately, the Five County Foster Grandparent Program is recruiting, training, and placing senior men and women at a variety of sites in Washington and Kane counties. Like Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents must be over age 60 and below 125% of the federal income guidelines (\$10,837 in a single person household - or \$14,512 for a couple) to qualify for the stipend of about \$200 per month, plus limited meal and mileage reimbursement. And, like Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents must be willing to commit up to 20 hours per week working with children in such locations as Washington and Kane county schools, Millcreek Young Parents Program, DOVE Center, The Learning Center for Families, Head Start, Youth Crisis Center, Family Support Center, Paiute Tribe, Children's Justice Center and other organizations working with at-risk youth.

This is NOT a live-in program. Foster Grandparents mentor, listen, teach, share, assist and provide healthy role models to kids - in exchange for a small stipend. Interested? Call RSVP at 674-5757 for more information or an application. (Linda Sappington)

Community Development Block Grants to be Awarded to Southwestern Utah Communities

The impact of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in southwestern Utah will be highlighted next week.

Governor Mike Leavitt has proclaimed the week of April 1-7 "Utah Community Development Week." As a result, the Community Development Block Grant program, administered by the Utah Division of Community Development, will present a check for \$150,000 to the Garfield County community of Tropic to build infrastructure for a planned multi-family housing project for lower income residents. Another \$150,000 check will be given to Iron County for the construction of an ambulance garage in Parowan.

The presentation will occur Wednesday, April 3, at 1p.m., at the Cedar City Housing Authority at Mountain View Suites, 364 South 100 East, Cedar City. Local elected officials will deliver brief remarks about the local impact of Community Development Block Grants.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (diamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, April 10, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Parowan Public Library, Meeting Room
16 South Main Street; Parowan, UT

Wednesday, May 8, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Panguitch City Library, Meeting Room,
25 South 200 East; Panguitch, UT

**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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