



## Torrey, Sullivan, Hynix Among Award Recipients At 2003 Appreciation Dinner

More than 100 elected and appointed officials and active citizens were on hand to recognize award winners at the Lane Council of Governments 2003 Appreciation Dinner, held on January 15 at Lane Community College. In

LCOG presented Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey with the Outstanding Elected Official award, and Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing America received the Regional Award of Merit for Economic Enhancement. Mike Sullivan, Manager for Financial and Urban Services in Eugene's Planning and Development Department; David Hauser, President of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce; and the regional "Public Area Network" team were also honored.

Mayor Torrey's award was presented by Cottage Grove Mayor Gary Williams, who described Torrey as an effective leader, and one who has been "proactive and inclusive in his attention to community affairs." Williams praised Torrey for his substantial contributions to the well-being of both the City of Eugene and the region as a whole.



Mayor Jim Torrey, at the podium, presented LCOG's Outstanding Citizen Award to Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce President, David Hauser.

addition to the awards presentation, the evening featured an address by LCC President Mary Spilde and the presentation of the 2003 LCOG Annual Report.

In presenting Mike Sullivan with LCOG's Outstanding Public Employee Award, Eugene's City Manager, Dennis Taylor, praised Sullivan as

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## Musings for the New Year



by George Kloeppel

At LCOG's 2003 Appreciation Dinner last month, I was called upon to present the agency's Annual Report. It was a familiar task, after a good many similar presentations over the years. Yet, as I considered the remarks that I would make, I realized that there were both striking similarities and vast differences from one year to the next for this council of governments. While the programs and subjects addressed by LCOG usually change at a rapid rate, our fundamental purpose has remained constant for over 58 years. As an association of local jurisdictions, we remain dedicated to improving the region's quality of life by helping local governments to provide their services efficiently and effectively.

But how can we accomplish that objective? After presenting the Annual Report, I shared with those attending the Appreciation Dinner some personal musings about what LCOG's stakeholders could

*"While the programs and subjects addressed by LCOG usually change at a rapid rate, our fundamental purpose has remained constant for over 58 years."*

do to make this organization even more effective. The five statements that follow were offered to the audience in the hope that they would spark further ideas and discussion about what must be done to continue addressing our mission. Do they resonate with you?

1. We must continue to be *entrepreneurial*—building better mousetraps that meet the real needs of our community;
2. We must be willing to be *innovative*—not constrained to do things the way they've always been done, but to constantly use technology and the best practices learned elsewhere to achieve more;
3. We must strive for maximum *impact*—prioritizing our efforts to achieve the most important results;
4. We can not shy away from our best *aspirations*—dreaming is healthy, and essential, if we are to make progress; and
5. We must emphasize the *sustainable*—making sure that our efforts pass the sustainability sniff test and that our products will last.

With a new year and innumerable challenges upon us, my hope—perhaps resolution—would be to apply these standards to the choices that must be made. I urge readers of this column to refine and improve upon them. Have a safe and prosperous 2004.

## Emerald People's Utility District Celebrates 20 Years of Success

From heavy snowfall to wholesale rate negotiations, Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD)'s third decade has already been an eventful one, and the strength of the utility district has shown its value. EPUD became an operating utility in November 1983, and 20 years later, the utility continues to enrich both its customers and the region as a whole.

saving nearly \$850 (the equivalent of 8½ months of free power).

The recent holiday season brought several inches of rare snow in the Willamette Valley, but EPUD's rural, tree-covered territory suffered only a few minor outages, thanks to tremendous tree-trimming efforts over the past few years. EPUD customers praised the utility's preventative measures with

calls, notes, and letters to the *Register-Guard*.

Not only was EPUD there for its own customers after the storm, it was able to respond when Consumers Power in Philomath called, needing extra help to dig out of snow. EPUD sent a crew up for a 36-hour nonstop shift and sent another crew a week later that worked there for five days, help-

ing Consumers Power restore service at least a week earlier than it could have on its own.

EPUD also worked with other Lane County utilities to forge a settlement with the Bonneville Power Administration that would have rolled back

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*EPUD lineman Scott Sessums assisted Consumers Power in Philomath.*

The People's Utility District was created by a grass-roots effort led by dedicated people that wanted their utility to be locally owned and controlled, with better reliability and service, and lower rates. The pioneers had the stamina to pass the petitions, endure the fight, and get out the vote. The payoff for residential customers has come in the form of \$7.5 million in savings over the first 20 years, with typical customer

## Board Profile: Richard Eymann Emerald People's Utility District



*Richard Eymann, Emerald People's Utility District*

Emerald People's Utility District board member Richard Eymann began service on the LCOG board in 2003, and the new experience allows him to not only continue his work for EPUD members, but also in assisting other Lane County government leaders in reaching their goals.

Ever since his election to the original EPUD board 20 years ago, Richard has worked to help EPUD to accomplish long-term goals, including educating the public and communicating with other board members. Richard represents EPUD's fifth subdistrict, which includes the precincts of Coast Fork, Camas, Creswell, Goshen, Marcola, and Mohawk.

Born in the Canadian town of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Richard studied business at Dartmouth College and Tuck College of Business Administration. Richard was elected to the Oregon Legislature five times, and served as the Speaker of the Oregon House during the 1973 session and the 1974 special session.

Richard currently lives with his wife Emily in Mohawk Valley, and spends his time farming, learning about electrical energy and radar, and enjoying his large family, which includes seven daughters and a son. The EPUD Board Member is also involved with the Oregon PUD Association, Public Power Council, and Northwest Public Power Association.

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regional wholesale electricity rates by 9.6 percent. Unfortunately, the settlement failed ratification when three public utilities (out of 70 public utility litigants) declined to sign the agreement. Had the agreement been ratified, it would have settled lawsuits that claimed BPA inappropriately offered energy and monetary rebates to private utilities during the recent energy crisis, which in turn forced BPA to raise wholesale rates to public utility customers.

Looking ahead, EPUD will be involved in Earth Day Eugene on Saturday, April 17 with a booth highlighting the Short Mountain Landfill Power Plant as one evidence of EPUD's environmental consciousness. The event will be held at Broadway and Willamette, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and LTD buses will leave the celebration site every half hour for tours of the power plant. Customers can stop by the booth and pick up a free compact fluorescent light bulb.

## Staff Profile: Megan Banks

Megan Banks has been with Lane Council of Governments since November 1996, offering technical expertise on a variety of projects to member agencies.

Having recently completed a Downtown Plan for the City of Junction City, Megan will soon be working on an Economic Strategic Plan for the City of Creswell. Megan also does work with the West Eugene Wetlands program.

Megan was born and raised in San Diego, and worked as a landscape architect there before coming to Eugene

to work as a planner for the City of Eugene. She studied landscape architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and spent a year studying architecture in Florence, Italy. Megan earned a Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon.

After 25 years of playing soccer, Megan has moved on to triathlons in her free time, in addition to hiking and gardening. Megan has been married for 13 years, with two children, aged three and six.



Megan Banks

Megan can be reached at (541) 682-7413 or [mbanks@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:mbanks@lane.cog.or.us).

## Certified Population Estimates Released

Population for Lane County and Its Cities						
Area	2000	2002	2003	2002 - 2003 Numerical Increase	2002-2003 Percent Change	2000 - 2003 Annual Average Growth Rate
Oregon	3,421,432	3,504,700	3,541,500	36,800	1.1%	1.2%
Lane County	322,977	328,150	329,400	1,250	0.4%	0.7%
Eugene	137,893	142,380	143,910	1,530	1.1%	1.4%
Springfield	52,864	53,910	54,720	810	1.5%	1.2%
Cottage Grove	8,445	8,730	8,910	180	2.1%	1.8%
Florence	7,263	7,600	7,780	180	2.4%	2.3%
Junction City	4,721	4,790	4,870	80	1.7%	1.0%
Creswell	3,579	3,840	3,990	150	3.9%	3.7%
Oakridge	3,172	3,680	3,680	-	0.0%	5.1%
Veneta	2,762	3,310	3,480	170	5.1%	8.0%
Dunes City	1,241	1,290	1,310	20	1.6%	1.8%
Coburg	969	990	1,050	60	6.1%	2.7%
Lowell	880	880	890	10	1.1%	0.4%
Westfir	280	330	330	-	0.0%	5.6%
Incorporated	224,069	231,730	234,920	3,190	1.4%	1.6%
Unincorporated	98,908	96,420	94,480	(1,940)	-2.0%	-1.5%

Sources: 2000 Figures from U.S. Census,  
2002 & 2003 population estimate from Population Research Center at PSU

were Coburg and Veneta, which grew 6.1 percent and 5.1 percent, respectively.

Lane County and the cities of Lowell, Oakridge, Veneta and Westfir, with help from Lane Council of Governments staff, challenged the 2000 Census population counts. The Census Bureau responded by

In December 2003, the Population Research Center at Portland State University released the certified July 1, 2003 population estimates for cities and counties in Oregon. These estimates indicate that the state population increased 1.1 percent between July 2002 and July 2003, while Lane County saw an increase of .4 percent. The Lane County figures show a slightly lower growth rate than the previous two years. The fastest growing Lane County cities in this period

making slight increases to the 2000 population counts. Based on city and regional data, however, staff believed the 2000 population totals were even higher than the adjusted figures. In June 2003, LCOG facilitated a meeting with staff from the Population Research Center and the cities in question, which resulted in adjustments to the 2001 to 2003 city population estimates that more closely reflected the data that the cities had compiled.

## 2003 APPRECIATION DINNER



*Left: Lane Metro Partnership Chair, Marcia Edwards, announced that Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing America was the recipient of the Award of Merit for Economic Enhancement. Below: LCOG's Appreciation Dinner provided opportunities for interesting table conversation for elected and appointed officials and active citizens of the region.*



### From DINNER page 1

one who has skillfully managed complex projects and consistently worked to achieve the best outcomes for clients. Noting that Sullivan had worked for Eugene since 1989, Taylor praised his accomplishments with projects having inter-departmental, city-wide and regional significance. Sullivan managed the Hyundai development for the City of Eugene and, later, the Downtown Vision project and the renovation of the Amtrak Station. Taylor noted that Sullivan is currently managing the City of Eugene's efforts on the Federal Courthouse development.

In naming the "Public Area Network" the Outstanding Intergovernmental Team for 2003, EWEB Commissioner and LCOG Board member, Patrick Lanning, described the unique collaboration between key staff members of twelve public agencies as a perfect example of cooperation to find efficiencies to better serve the public. He praised the "PAN" for establishing a "unique fiber-optic service program"

that allows governments to economically utilize communications technology to serve the public.

David Hauser was presented with the 2003 Outstanding Citizen Award by Mayor Torrey. It was noted that Hauser had gone "above and beyond the call of duty," and had not only represented the interests of the Chamber's 1,200 members, but had brought about "tangible, positive improvements that all of the region's citizens enjoy." Hauser was also recognized for spearheading community efforts for improvements to Eugene's airport service; including the addition of America West as a carrier in 1998, Horizon Air's non-stop service to Los Angeles in 1999, and the recent agreement with Delta Airlines to provide non-stop flights to Salt Lake City.

Hynix's Regional Award of Merit for Economic Enhancement was presented by Marcia Edwards, Chair the Lane Metro Partnership board of directors.

The *Regional Focus* is published by Lane Council of Governments on a quarterly basis.

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## LCOG Programs Featured at Tech Fair

LCOG's Dan Mulholland and Robert Lewis were asked to participate in the 2003 Lane County Technology Fair that Lane County Information Services presents each year to the approximately 250 management employees of the county.

Dan was on hand in his role as LCOG Telecommunications Manager of the Telephone consortium that serves local agencies and jurisdictions. Robert, LCOG Video Manager, was in attendance for his participation in two county-based projects.

A video conferencing project will enable rural locations to participate in the judicial process without the need for traveling two or three hours for five minutes of testimony, and the District Attorney's staff not having to travel to the Florence and Oakridge Justice Courts as much. Video conference units were installed in Florence, Springfield and Oakridge Justice Courts, as well as the Forest Work Camp in Alma. Units are also in place

at the Lane County Jail, Lane County Grand Jury Room and the Lane County District Attorney's office. Working with Lane County staff, Dan upgraded the existing data/communications infrastructure to accommodate high quality video conference audio and video from these remote locations. This project will save Lane County a considerable amount of money as the travel time is decreased dramatically.

Internet access to Lane County Board of County Commissioner's meetings has been fine-tuned by Robert and the Information Services staff, and the service went live last month. This new feature, available at [www.lanecounty.org/webcast](http://www.lanecounty.org/webcast), will allow residents to watch meetings from their homes. An indexing feature will give a list of meeting agenda items, with the capability to jump directly to an item in the video. Previously, the only way to follow the meetings with audio and video was through the LCOG Metro TV government channel, Comcast Cable channel 21.



Jane Aggers

## Staff Profile: Jane Aggers Senior Connections Program

Jane Aggers will soon begin to enjoy her retirement, but in the nearly 14 years she has graced LCOG's Senior and Disabled Services with her humor and positive approach, she has left quite a legacy.

Jane joined LCOG in June 1990 as a pre-admission screening nurse. After a couple of years, Jane moved up to the Program Manager position that she held for 10 years. As Program Manager, Jane worked to develop a statewide contract RN program, and led a partnership to develop mental health services for seniors with mobility issues.

The last year and a half saw Jane supervising the Senior Connections program, where she helped transform the Senior Outreach program into Senior Connections. Jane coordinated not only the service element of the program, but initiated the fund-raising activity needed for the program to survive.

Jane was born in Dayton Ohio, where she stayed for her first 20 years. After

spending time in Minnesota, Colorado, California, and Idaho, Jane settled in Lane County, where she has been for 22 years. Jane attended the Miami Valley School of Nursing in Dayton, Ohio and earned a BS in Business from Linfield College.

Professionally, Jane worked as an RN in hospital settings for over 20 years, taught at Idaho State University Nursing Program, and worked for in-home agencies, such as Home Health in Idaho and Family Services in Eugene, before coming LCOG.

Jane and her husband Gordon are relocating to Prineville, where she hopes the pace of life will slow down and that she can enjoy her morning tea in front of the wood stove. After six months of rest, Jane predicts that she will get involved with one of the Central Oregon Council on Aging programs, and perhaps continue to use her nursing training in some capacity.

## S&DS Offices Reduce Public Access Hours

Beginning November 3, 2003, the offices of Senior & Disabled Services, a division of Lane Council of Governments, reduced their hours for public access from eight hours to six hours per day. All three offices – Eugene, Cottage Grove, and Florence – are now open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This change will give support staff and Information & Referral staff two hours of protected time each work day to accomplish tasks which are difficult to

complete while also offering services to callers and walk-in customers. Other S&DS staff members – Case Managers, Senior Connections staff, Adult Foster Home Licensing and Monitoring staff, Financial Service Workers, Supervisors, and Managers – will be available by phone to customers between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., if they are at their desks and not already on the phone. In addition, the agency's Adult Protective Services

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## Computer Applications Enhance Productivity

The productivity of LCOG Senior & Disabled Services' workers is enhanced on a daily basis by agency-developed computer applications. These applications often expand on the capabilities of Oregon DHS-developed programs used by staff in their work administering public benefits for senior citizens and people with disabilities. In instances where state programs aren't available to address common tasks, LCOG applications fill the void, making S&DS' operations unique within the network of agencies doing comparable work across the state.

One example of LCOG's work to assist employees is the database application that S&DS nurses, case managers and support staff use to take, track and manage all referrals for pre-nursing home admission assessments.

Similarly, S&DS Adult Protective Services Case Managers use a recently created "triage" application to take and process protective services complaints, and a companion database to track and report on the status of investigations triggered by those complaints. Prior to the implementation of these tools, this work involved paper systems

and numerous phone calls and emails among affected staff.

A guiding principle of JJ Bienn, LCOG's programmer who creates and maintains these applications, is to leverage work already performed by S&DS staff. Thus, if data is already input by S&DS staff to a state program, she determines how to import that data into our local applications rather than ask staff to enter it a second time. This approach requires skill and diplomacy (with state staff), but the end result saves time, increases productivity, and minimizes workers' frustration.

These local computer applications – Client Tracking, Medical Transportation Scheduling, In-Home Worker Registry, Adult Foster Care Home Log, APS Triage and Investigation Log, and Pre-Nursing Home Admission Screening Log – are the envy of other senior and disability services agencies. They automate activities of value to many employees and, since staff are directly involved in their design, development, and testing, they perform their intended tasks well. S&DS' employees consider themselves fortunate to have access to these productivity tools.

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complaint line will be staffed eight hours per day, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The APS complaint line can be reached by calling 682-4038 and then pressing "3" on a touch-tone telephone.

The decision to reduce public access hours was a difficult one and was made with regret. Last June, due to program reductions relating to Oregon's continuing budget crisis, S&DS was facing a \$1.8 million deficit in its 2003-04 oper-

ating budget. To balance the budget, the agency closed its Springfield office and eliminated 30 staff positions, including half of the clerical support staff. However, because of the way the service cuts were implemented by the state, S&DS did not lose a comparable percentage of clients. S&DS is now serving 10 percent fewer clients with 26 percent fewer employees than it did at this time last year. This imbalance has prompted the changes in public hours.

## AREA PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on LCOG's FY 2004-05 update to its 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2004, starting at 1:00 p.m.

The hearing will be held at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street, Eugene. Copies of the Draft Plan Update are available from Senior & Disabled Services/LCOG, 1015 Willamette Street, Eugene, or may be downloaded from the Senior & Disabled Services website at [www.sdslane.org](http://www.sdslane.org).

## 2004 CALENDAR

### February

5	7:00 p.m.	Boundary Commission	City of Eugene Council Chambers
10	1:30 p.m.	Senior Services Advisory Council	Hilyard Community Center
12	11:30 a.m.	Metropolitan Policy Committee	Springfield City Hall, Library Room
12	1:30 p.m.	Transportation Planning Committee	Springfield City Hall, Jesse Maine Rm.
19	5:30 p.m.	LCOG Executive Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Small Conf. Room
23	11:30 a.m.	Lane Economic Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conf. Room
25	5:30 p.m.	Region 2050 Regional Policy Advisory Board	Springfield School Dist. 19, Board Rm.
26	7:00 p.m.	LCOG Board	Willamalane Pool

### March

4	1:00 p.m.	Update to Area Plan Public Hearing	Hilyard Community Center
11	11:30 a.m.	Metropolitan Policy Committee	Springfield City Hall, Library Room
11	1:30 p.m.	Transportation Planning Committee	Springfield City Hall, Jesse Maine Rm.
12	1:30 p.m.	Disability Services Advisory Council	Ed Luczycki Conference Room
15	11:30 a.m.	Lane Economic Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conf. Room
18	7:00 p.m.	LCOG Board	Lane Community College