

Newsletter

Brought to you by the heroes at the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments



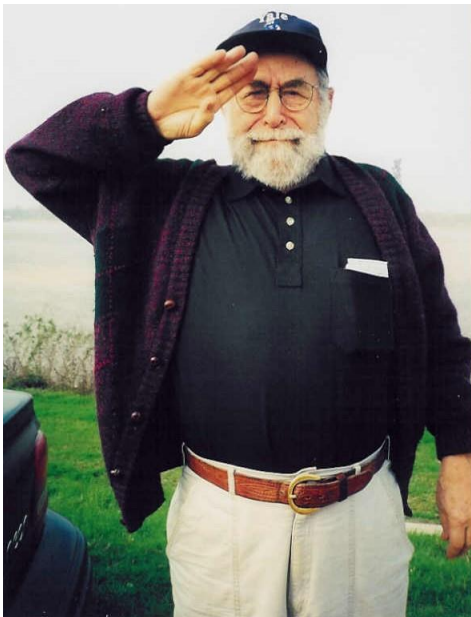
Serving Our Vets: Turning 100

As you all know, we come to work each day ready to serve our communities. In October, the Benton County Veteran Services Office had the unique opportunity to help celebrate the 100th birthday of one of their local veterans, Milton “Mickey” Cohen.

Mickey served in the Army as an infantryman on the European front of World War II. He was injured in the line of duty and was awarded a Purple Heart for his sacrifice and service; he was then honorably discharged after spending over a year in the hospital.

Nora, his wife, stated her husband wore many hats in his life post-military. “First, he worked in his father’s fruit and vegetable store, then he became a machinist to help with the war efforts,” she smiled as she continued, “he used his GI Bill to study silversmithing and then got a degree in occupational therapy. He worked at a clinic for children with cerebral palsy in West Virginia using his occupational therapy skills. He also joined his sister in creating decorations for many big department stores, opened a picture frame shop in New York, opened an art gallery in Philadelphia, and ended his working life there. But, he has always considered himself an artist and craftsman, and he writes beautifully too.”

Thank you for your service and sacrifice Mickey!



Working in connection with Nora and Lumina Hospice, a drive-by birthday party was arranged to honor and celebrate Mickey. The Hot Air Band provided live music while neighbors, loved ones, and community members stopped by to wish him Happy Birthday, enjoy cupcakes, and honor Mickey.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments’ Benton County Veterans Service Office provided flowers, balloons and presented Mickey with a Challenge Coin as a thank you for his service and sacrifices. This celebration is a great way to remind us why we work so hard.



The COG Awards CARES Grants!

Toledo & EDALC Oregon Prospector

Toledo and the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) received \$2,950 for Oregon Prospector research and data entry. Oregon Prospector, managed by Business Oregon, is a robust mapping and property marketing tool, but currently, there are only two properties listed in Lincoln County. Commercial property for sale, buildings for lease, and buildable land inventory throughout the county will be listed on Oregon Prospector.

Eugene Innovation Hub

The City of Eugene received \$5,400 to purchase equipment to 'Zoom enabled' classrooms in the Innovation Hub at 942 Olive Street. The Innovation Hub houses entrepreneurial services in the Eugene area. Onward Eugene partnered with the Eugene Chamber of Commerce to support and build a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in early 2020. The young organization had to quickly pivot in the pandemic and shift all its programs and outreach to a virtual environment.

Newport & EDALC Strategic Planner

Newport along with the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC), received \$4800 to develop a regional information tool on the web. This tool will allow multiple organizations to easily share their priority focus areas and active projects. EDALC hopes that once this tool is developed, it can be deployed to other communities through the Ford Family Foundation's Community Website Partnership Program.

Mid-Valley Partnership Website

The Mid-Valley Partnership (MVP), consisting of Lebanon, Sweet Home, Philomath, Adair Village, Brownsville, Harrisburg, Monroe, and Halsey, received \$10,000 to define the geographic boundary, values, and goals for economic resiliency in the MVP region. A website will be created with new branding that unifies all eight cities committed to the partnership. The website will serve as a regional resource connecting local businesses to resources for recovery and expansion.

Sweet Home Downtown Streetscape

The City of Sweet Home received \$10,000 toward their Streetscape Project. A public plaza, street furniture, signage, pedestrian lighting, public art, and landscaping will be added to create a vibrant downtown. Parking will be made uniform and easier. Additional outdoor spaces will allow more flexibility for local businesses by providing space for dining, pop-up markets, and public events. The total project cost will be \$75,000.

Springfield Chamber of Commerce Tech Upgrade

Springfield received \$10,000 to upgrade technology at the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber provides vital training to local businesses, leadership workshops to employees and employers, and a variety of other programs. Local community partners hold meetings and training at the Chamber also. This grant will provide basic technology needed for in-person meetings and the option of hybrid events with more advanced technology.

Coburg Community Commercial Kitchen

The City of Coburg received \$7,277 for commercial appliances. The lower floor of the historic IOOF Hall located in the downtown corridor of Coburg will be used as a gathering space for events, visitor's center, office for Main Street staff, and to display artifacts. In addition, the remodeled commercial kitchen will enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem and community resiliency by providing a communal kitchen in the event of a disaster.

Cottage Grove Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE)

Cottage Grove received \$10,000 to help fund the placement of a RARE member to assist with the implementation of the Cottage Grove Local Foods/Local Places Community Action Plan. Grant funding will also be used to fund the development of a website and media content highlighting food entrepreneurs in South Lane County. The RARE coordinator will work with diverse partners enhancing existing commercial kitchen spaces and building stronger supply chain connections for farmers



OR PTC DCI

OR PTC DCI is the system used to implement the federally required electronic visit verification for all of our consumers who receive in-home services through the Oregon Project Independence and Medicaid Long Term Care Services and Support Program.

November is Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American heritage month, and there's no better time than now to continue (or start!) learning about the rich culture and resilient history of the Native communities in our region.

We are lucky to have the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians as a member of OCWCOG and to have the Siletz community located in the Cascades West region.

Visit the Confederate Tribes of Siletz Indians website to learn more about their rich history here:

<https://www.ctsi.nsn.us>

Thank you, and congratulations to all our consumers, providers, and staff who worked with Oregon Provider Time Capture Direct Care Innovation (OR PTC DCI).

The state chose to implement this system to meet the federal requirements for providers in which they enter their authorized and worked time electronically. The time entered into the system allows us to then issue payment for the providers.

Every single person has contributed to the initial and ongoing success of this new system's implementation.

As of 10/28/2021, 81% of all providers statewide have entered their time for the last period timeframes. This is a fantastic percentage for this early in the implementation process. Before the roll-out, we only had an 86% statewide submission rate with the prior voucher model.

Additionally, the state has also already made huge progress to successfully meeting the Federal Electronic Visit Compliance, and currently has a 69.2% statewide compliance rate for the time being submitted at the time that care is being provided (as opposed to submitting historical entries). Central Office has stated this is a phenomenal percent as it exceeds many other states around the country!

