

September 11, 2009



From the Home Office
or back to work

Salem – The Labor Day holiday is behind us and the fall is ahead of us. It is going to be a very busy time at the Local Government Center.

District Meetings. District 5, District 4 and District 8 held their fall meetings late last month, discussing hot topics of interest for their districts and learning more about legislative activities past, present and future. The proposed AOC budget for 2010 was also rolled out. It will be voted on by the general membership of AOC at the annual Fall Conference which is scheduled this year for November 17, 18, 19 and 20 at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in beautiful downtown Portland. Registration information and other details will be coming your way soon.

Districts 1 and 3 will be meeting September 16th in Pendleton. District 6 meets September 21st in Salem at the building featured above. District 7 will be meeting September 22nd in St. Helens and District 2 will meet September 24th in Crook County.

Please visit our new and improved website www.aocweb.org for the district meeting agendas and more information about AOC activities in the coming months. Just click on "AOC Calendar" at the top.

Special Session Looms. With the 2009 legislative session now safely in the history books, our elected representatives and senators are looking forward to a "special session" in February, 2010. Their first item of business will be to deal with the Governor's veto of several bills. Then legislators will probably have to deal with a sticky budget situation. There will be another budget forecast from the state economist in November. Voters will probably have a chance to decide the fate of two, possibly three, tax increases in January that the 2009 Legislature passed. It all could be enough to cause a legislator to have nightmares heading into the February special session.



Washington County Chair Tom Brian, Clackamas County Chair Lynn Peterson and Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler at the District 8 meeting

2009 Legislative Summary Now Available!! Want to know what really happened during the 2009 Oregon Legislative Session? The comprehensive AOC 2009 Legislative Summary is now out and can be found at <http://www.aocweb.org/AOC/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7iioa1U42IE%3d&tabid=154> – just a click away from some of the best weekend reading a county official could ever have. Printed copies will be available at the September 14th meeting of the Legislative Committee at the Local Government Center in Salem.

And now a Special Report....

My Day at the Swine Flu (H1N1) Summit
by Morgan Cowling
AOC Policy Manager

On August 21, 2009, Governor Kulongoski welcomed over 800 people to the Salem Convention Center for the Swine Flu (H1N1) Summit. Business leaders, health professionals, local government leaders, educators, utility and water providers all joined with public health experts to talk about what Oregon businesses, schools and government can do to ensure that we are prepared for the H1N1 flu pandemic.

It was clear to me that Oregon counties and county commissioners will have an important role to play in the upcoming months.

- Your local public health administrators are already working with community groups for the most important planning and flu vaccine deployment, they will need your support;
- When there is a public health emergency, counties will work with the Governor and the state to respond;
- As EMPLOYERS of those who deliver important services to your constituency you will have to be ready to deal with the potential threat of losing up to 40 percent of your work force; and
- Your public information work with the public health department and your communications staff will have to work together to ensure that information is delivered quickly and effectively to your constituents.

The Flu Summit provided excellent information around preparedness, response, planning and communications. Materials from plenary and breakout sessions can be found at the Public Health Division's website www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/flu/summit/index.shtml.

Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County, and Mayor John McArdle, Independence headlined the breakout session on local government. Through real local government experience the panelists provided important information for those in local government to consider, including: public health laws and volunteers, personnel policies and leadership.

The link to the breakout can be found at the Public Health Division's website as well. www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/flu/summit/video.shtml. Unfortunately at this time the videos are not yet available but should be shortly.

AOC Legal Counsel Paul Snider joined me at the conference. AOC will be working quickly and swiftly to provide county commissioners with more information on the H1N1 and the county role. Look for it soon.

Thank you Morgan. Stay tuned for more on the FLU, and what you can do, in the very near future. Just remember, sneeze in your sleeve and wash your hands. Frequently.



Meet Kelsey Lewis, AOC's intern. Kelsey is a graduate student at Portland State University. She is working toward a Masters Degree in Public Administration. We've kept her busy learning about Oregon counties, a skill she plans to put to good use in the future.

Did you know??? There are four cities in Sherman County? In a special session August 26th, the Sherman County Court approved a motion to grant to all incorporated cities in the county, the sum of \$100,000 from the current year's receipt of SIP (Strategic Investment Program) funds. The grant "shall only be made to cities in compliance with state and federal budget and audit laws." The county court also approved a motion to grant the Sherman County School District twenty percent of the funds received from the Biglow and Klondike III SIP Agreements during the term of the current court. Those funds may be expended by "the school district at its discretion for any legal purpose." The wind is green in Sherman County.

County College. The 2009 AOC/OSU Extension County College class has one more session, then it's graduation at the Fall Conference. The last session takes place September 17, 18 and 19 at the OSU Food Innovation Center in Portland.

Speaking of County College, Lane County has launched a County College program for Lane County citizens. The program focuses on educating residents about the services the county provides every day. There will be ten sessions, every Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:00. On the agenda for the first session is the AOC produced video *Oregon Counties; Providing Vital Public Services since 1843*.

While we're on the subject of training... The Oregon Local Leadership Institute is out with its calendar of training sessions you might find interesting for you and your staff. AOC is a sponsor of this training program. Sessions are scheduled in Emergency Management and Preparedness, Ethics, Effective Supervision, Land Use Planning and Leadership. For a look at the catalog of classes, go to <http://www.orcities.org/Portals/17/Training/OLLI/OLLIBrochureFall09.pdf>. You can also

contact Cara Fischer at the AOC office. She loves to talk on the phone. She can also be reached at cfischer@ocweb.org.

2009 Oregon Main Street Annual Conference... This year's annual conference is a two day event hosted at Marylhurst University in Lake Oswego, September 17 & 18. The conference provides "Resources and Roadmaps for Main Street Revitalization" to Oregon Main Street communities. Sessions will include topics such as volunteer development, brownfields, utilizing technology, and business retention and recruitment. For more information or to register click this link:

<http://www.clackamas.us/business/mainstreetconference/>

One More Time. Monday, September 14th promises to be a busy day at the Local Government Center in Salem. The Water Policy, Revenue Policy and Governance Steering Committees will meet at 8:00 AM. The Legislative Committee meets at 10:30 and the AOC Board of Directors will meet at about 12:45 or whenever the Leg Committee finishes its business. Agendas and other information can be found at that new and improved website www.ocweb.org.

And that's the way it is, or some of it at any rate. Laura Cleland edits and writes this newsletter along with Eric Schmidt. Special thanks this time around to Morgan Cowling. Mike McArthur is the publisher and therefore responsible for everything that isn't correct.

If you have news from your county you'd like included in the next edition, please drop a note to the *Oregon Trails* staff at eschmidt@ocweb.org.



Mount Hood as seen from Yamhill County
Photo by Becky Stern Doll,
Yamhill County Clerk