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Staff Member Spotlight Steve Allen

With the recent notice by Gene Morse of his pending retirement as Director of the Elevator Inspection Program, the NWCCOG is pleased to announce Steve Allen as Gene's replacement. Steve has been with the NWCCOG since June 2006, when he was hired as an Elevator Inspector.

Originally from Eugene, Oregon, Steve moved to Summit County having been recruited as a master electrician. He worked in that field for several years before taking advantage of a job opening as Elevator Inspector in 2006.

As the new Director of the EIP, Steve will transition from performing inspections to working more closely with the State of Colorado, Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), keeping up with standards and regulations. He'll also be the primary interface with local officials and elevator companies as his team works to keep elevators and other conveyances safe and in compliance.



When asked what he likes best about working with the NWCCOG, Steve said, "They go out of their way to be fair with their employees. They are always straight-shooters and above board. I really like that."

Steve thinks people would be surprised to know how many community services are provided by NWCCOG. From loans for small businesses, to support for seniors, to travel arrangements for vets - the NWCCOG does a lot. "I think," Steve remarked, "they were even involved in the Swan Mountain Bike path construction several years ago!" And he's right. It's just one more way this organization supports our communities.

In his spare time, Steve enjoys prospecting and relic hunting. He likes to hike through the woods with his gold pan and pick, looking for gold and mining relics. When asked if he's had any luck finding gold he replied with a chuckle, "I can't tell you that!"

We're excited to have Steve at the helm. Gene Morse will continue to help with the transition for the next several months and we will provide a spotlight article of Gene's career in an upcoming newsletter.

Board Member Spotlight

Tom Clark



Tom Clark, Mayor of Kremmling since 2002, has been involved with the NWCCOG for 13 years. He's served on the Executive Committee, as Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, and as chair of many other committees.

Originally from Miami, Florida, Tom moved to Colorado in 1971 to attend college at the Colorado School of Mines where he received a BS in Mining and Engineering. He's loved Colorado ever since.

The thing Tom likes best about working with the NWCCOG is, "working with staff and elected officials from all levels of

government to accomplish common goals that benefit us all."

Tom thinks people would be most surprised to know the diversity of projects the NWCCOG works on in our communities. The work impacts so many communities with such far-reaching influence.

As you might imagine for someone with a mining degree, Tom enjoys exploring various mountain areas, and working on his placer mining claim in northern Grand County where he finds gold, garnets, and hematite. He also enjoys fishing, boating and rafting.

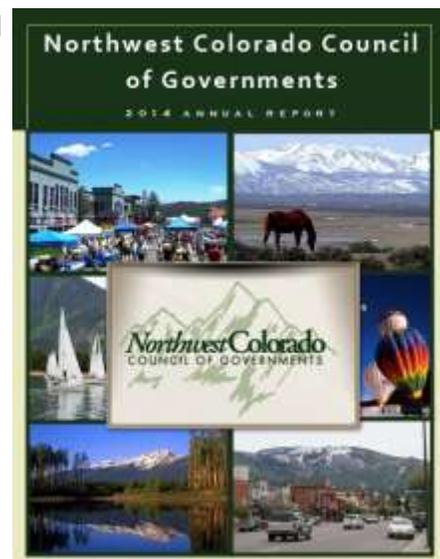
Besides all of his outside activities, Tom is a dedicated volunteer for which we are truly grateful -- we're also really grateful for that coat!

2014 Annual Report - Ready for Review

The NWCCOG is proud to announce our 2014 Annual Report is online and ready for viewing. If you've ever wondered how diverse our programs really are, this terrific report gives you an idea of how much we impact our Region 12 area and the surrounding communities.

We receive about \$213,000 in membership dues and leverage that into almost \$4.8 million in revenue that we use to provide the many programs for which we are responsible. In just a few short pages you'll have a better understanding of our contribution to your communities.

[You can read it here.](#)



Open Enrollment comes to a Close - Northwest Connect for Health Colorado HUB Report



The three-month Connect for Health Colorado Open Enrollment Period ended February 15, for 2015 health insurance coverage. We saw many successes and many challenges during this enrollment period.

Marketplace insurance enrollments rose in all nine of our counties (Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit.) State-wide, all but one county had higher enrollments over 2014 enrollments. Our health coverage guides worked tirelessly to educate communities about health insurance and enrollment availability. Each Assistance Site was over-capacity to assist consumers.

While we consider our efforts to have been very successful, we recognize there are still concerns and frustrations as we continue to work through policy and

system issues.

Because there are still challenges to overcome, Connect for Health Colorado has negotiated with insurance carriers to allow consumers who have started the 2015 insurance application process between November 15, 2014, to February 15, 2015, to enroll in an insurance plan outside of the open enrollment date. Also, there will be retroactive effective dates allowed for consumers who may need retroactive coverage.

Our Health Coverage Guides showed great patience, tenacity, problem-solving skills, and compassion for their consumers. Connect for Health Colorado is seeking feedback from all field staff. The HUBs are participating in the work flow designs and system enhancements to help to improve the systems and direction of Connect for Health Colorado.

Our commitment to continuous improvement is ongoing as we develop strategies for outreach and education for the next year's open enrollment period. We look forward to system enhancements and collective efforts between the state and Connect for Health Colorado.

	2015	2014
EAGLE	2,081	1,596
GARFIELD	1,717	1,026
GRAND	625	589
JACKSON	49	40
MOFFAT	194	187
PITKIN	1,101	898
RIO BLANCO	102	71
ROUTT	1,639	1,437
SUMMIT	1,303	1,068
TOTAL	8,719	6,912

*includes health and dental insurance plans

Healthcare Enrollments Comparison

Save the Dates!

We're hosting educational opportunities, participating in forums, and planning a big celebration. Please take a moment to review what we've got in store for you in the next few months:

The "Start-Up Ski Summit" - March 27th Elevate Co-Space

The first-ever *Start-up Ski Summit* is an event bringing together start-ups across the Front Range and the Colorado Rocky Mountains to Summit County. The goal is to elevate Colorado's tech and innovation.



Join us for a morning of networking on lifts and then panel discussions on "The Collision of Snow and Technology" and "Financing your Start-up" in the afternoon. Meet other entrepreneurs, designers, and investors from Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Frisco, Vail and other Colorado mountain towns.

The event includes a Financing Panel that will start at 3:45 and features Anita Cameron - Director of Business Lending from the NWCCOG Loan fund as a panelist. Peter Adams from Rockies Venture Club and Gabby Tinner from Quandary Crowdfunding will also be panel members.

The session will be moderated by Jeff Schell, from Rocky Mountain Patent.

For additional information [click here](#).

April 14th AND April 30th - "Insider Tips to a Bullet Proof Loan Application Workshop"

First Session:

Date: April 14, 2015

Time: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Northwest Colorado SBDC 325 Fiedler Ave. Dillon, CO 80435

Fee: Free - Please RSVP

For more information and to register - [CLICK HERE](#)



Second Session

Date: April 30, 2015 !

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Location: CMC Campus Steamboat Springs

Fee: \$15.00 includes lunch

RSVP to Randy Rudasics at 970-870-4491 or rrudasics@coloradomtn.edu

Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending for the Northwest Loan Fund, will cover the following topics:

- The Art of Business Lending
- Why lenders need the items they require
- Cash flow vs. Profit and Loss Projections
- Management Verses Market
- Credit Scores & Collateral
- Loan Term, Interest Rates, Balloon Payments

- How long does the process take?

May 20th - Senior Awards Ceremony

You are invited to our **27th Annual Senior Awards Ceremony** at the Summit County Community and Senior Center on May 20th. We hope that you'll be able to join us and celebrate those who make a difference in the lives of older adults every day!



Every year, we honor the older adults in our communities who have selflessly volunteered their time and talents. We also honor Friends Of Seniors, who serve older adults in many capacities. Nominations are being accepted for a Regional Senior Of The Year and Regional Friend of the Seniors.

Nominations will be accepted until April 15. Please contact Erin at noc12@nwccog.org / 970-468-0295 with questions or to RSVP for lunch.

Rotary Club of Summit County Honors Laurie Patterson with Professional Excellence Award

Laurie Patterson, Mobility Assistant with the Regional Transportation Coordination Council RTCC, was awarded the Rotary Club of Summit County's Professional Excellence Award for 2014.

This award is granted to employees who demonstrate a consistent focus on developing their skills and abilities. The employee exhibits dedication to achieving excellence in everyday practices and behavior related to their profession or vocation.

The awards are based on the employee's overall skill and ability, achievements and accomplishments, ethical and personal integrity, and dedication to their organization.

Laurie was nominated by her supervisor, Susan Juergensmeier, a member of the Rotary Club of Summit County. We're proud that Laurie was one of only five recipients of the award for 2014. Thanks Laurie!



Laurie Patterson (l) receives award from her supervisor and Summit Rotarian, Susan Juergensmeier

Request for Proposal Released



The NWCCOG, serving as the local Aging Disability and Resource Center (ADRC) operating agency, has released a Request For Proposal (RFP) for contracted facilitation services for the Region 12 ADRC Advisory Council. The RFP describes the services and scope of work under the contract. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for this project, the proposal and submission information is on the NWCCOG website - [just click here](#).

Proposals are due March 30, 2015.

Questions can be directed to Jean Hammes, Program Director, Alpine Area Agency on Aging NWCCOG-Community Living Services Division, 970-468-0295 ext.107 or via email aaa12@nwccog.org.

2015 National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Leadership Institute



For four days in February, forty leaders from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) member agencies were in Washington, D.C. taking part in the 8th Annual n4a Leadership Institute.

Participants were guided through techniques for building communications, team work, and leadership skills to help make them more effective agency leaders.

To date, three Community Living Services Division staff at the NWCCOG have been accepted to this particular professional development approach. Jean Hammes and Erin Fisher attended the Leadership Institute in 2013 and 2014 respectively. This year Susan Juergensmeier attended the Leadership Institute. Susan is pictured in the second row, second from the right.

This is an extremely valuable opportunity for the development of leadership skills as our programs work together on the newly formed Community Living Services Division. More on the Community Living Services Division in the next newsletter.

2015 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Full Council Meeting

Location: Town Hall - Minturn

Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting

Location: Gypsum Town Hall
Time: 10:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Full Council Meeting
Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting
Location: Garden Level Classroom, Eagle County Administration Building, Eagle
(tentative)
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting
Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

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