

# Agenda Item Number 6.

## Comments from the Executive Director

**Presenter:** George Kloeppel

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Background:**

**1. Board Meeting Schedule**

Three of our six Board meetings in 2005 are “spoken for.” See attached schedule. However, our need for a host at the **next** Board meeting on February 24 remains high. Interested jurisdictions are encouraged, perhaps “strongly urged,” make that “fervently asked,” to step forward. If no member government host is forthcoming, we will plan to hold the February meeting at the LCOG office.

**2. Successful Fundraisers at Mazzi’s and Down to Earth for Meals on Wheels, El Torito’s Next**

The Meals on Wheels fund-raiser at Mazzi’s on October 26 generated over \$2,300 for the program. Down to Earth (store) also supported the program with a “donation day” on November 28, in which 5 percent of all sales from both stores were donated to the Senior Meals Program. The next event will be on Thursday, February 24 at El Torito’s (that’s the day of our next Board meeting). Each on of these fund-raising events works differently, but in February, El Toritos’s will donate 25 percent of all food (and non-alcoholic beverage) sales to MOW. “Coupons” will be needed and they will be available after the first of the year. On behalf of the staff and the advisory committee, we thank the Board members who have participated in these fund-raisers.

### **3. Public Official Training in February**

Every other year, after newly elected officials are seated, LCOG facilitates a free, two-hour training session led by attorneys from our Legal Counsel, the firm of Harrang Long Gary Rudnick. The session has been well-received in the past and is open to all officials, elected and appointed, in the region. Topics covered include: legal authority of local governments, structure and process (including the legal issues around land use and personnel matters), limitations on the authority of public officials (touching on public expenditures and the laws related to public meetings, public records, real property and contracting), government ethics, and liabilities... a full-meal deal, complete with an extensive hand-out summarizing the points made. But wait, there's more! Because the firm is particularly engaged with and knowledgeable about the nuances of Ballot Measure 37 implementation, we will have a brief discussion of that subject as a part of the session. The 2005 Training Session has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 10. The location is yet to be established, but invitations will be distributed widely right after the first of the year. Board members are urged to attend and to encourage participation by fellow-members of local governing bodies.

### **4. Appreciation Dinner**

It's coming! It's coming! The LCOG Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, January 27, at the Center for Meeting and Learning at Lane Community College. The social hour will begin at 6:00 and the dinner at 7:00. The program will include awards for special contributions to our region during the past year, entertainment by a very talented group of young people from the Bethel School District, and an address by Lane Shetterly, the Director of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. Another important aspect of the program lies in the opportunity that the event affords for interaction and networking among the members of the "extended regional family." Invitations and registration information are attached to Board members' "name tents" and the broad public distribution is planned for Monday. Please plan to attend and bring your colleagues.

**5. United Way Certification of LCOG Programs**

Last summer, the Executive Committee authorized the staff to respond to an invitation from United Way and to seek certification of LCOG's Senior Connections and Senior Meals programs for possible United Way support. This was significant inasmuch as "public agencies" have not historically been admitted to the funding system of United Way of Lane County. Ted Stevens was able to report to the Executive Committee last month that we had been granted "Unconditional Certification" for both of these important programs. Based upon United Way's review of the information we submitted, our certification will remain in effect through 2008. As Ted reported to the Committee, United Way funding could be made available as soon as July 2005, but more likely would be available to us in July 2006. It is important to note that, while we will be listed as a "certified service provider" in United Way publications and are eligible to compete for funding, certification does not guarantee funding. We are grateful for the consideration given to these programs by United Way.