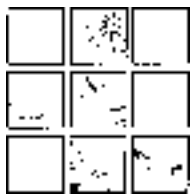




## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN FOCUS • TRANSPORTATION

### TransPlan Adopted by the Lane Council of Governments Board



On June 28, 2001, the Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Board adopted the *Eugene-Springfield Transportation System Plan* or *TransPlan*.

*TransPlan* guides regional transportation system planning and development in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area. Through its policies and projects, *TransPlan* includes provisions for meeting the transportation demand of residents and through-travelers through the year 2015 while addressing transportation issues and making changes that can contribute to improvements in the region's quality of life and economic vitality.

*TransPlan* provides guidance over the next 20 years for over \$1.6 billion in public investment in the area's transportation system including roadways, transit, and bike and pedestrian systems. This investment is roughly 69 percent for the operation, maintenance, and preservation of the existing system, and 31 percent for system capital improvements. The plan also includes land use and demand management strategies to provide a balanced approach in meeting the area's future need for transportation.

The action by the LCOG Board satisfies federal requirements for a regional transportation plan in areas over 50,000

in population. It also facilitates federal approvals of the area's transportation improvement program, and federal action on environmental processes and federal funding for key projects in the Eugene-Springfield area.

*TransPlan* also serves to satisfy state planning requirements for cities and counties and is expected to be adopted by the cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane County, and the Lane Transit District over the next two to three months.

For more information, contact **Tom Schwetz**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4044 or [tschwetz@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:tschwetz@lane.cog.or.us).



## INSIDE

LGS PROGRAM FOCUS  
Transportation  
S&DS PROGRAM FOCUS  
Legislative Update

- 2 Director's Desk
- 3 Region's Transportation Planning Reflects Lane Council of Governments' Long-Standing Role  
Staff Profile
- 4 School Districts Work Together for Students' Benefit  
Lane Education Service District Statistics  
Board Profile
- 5 Data Show Change in School Enrollment Over 30-Year Period  
Lane Education Service District Statistics
- 6 Senior Meals Program Adds Deli Lunch to the Menu  
Staff Profile
- 7 Senior & Disabled Services Excels in State Field Review  
Call Distribution System in Place  
Senior Meals Program Deli Lunch Sites
- 8 Together, Lane Council of Governments and Member Agencies Find Success  
Senior & Disabled Services to Hold Fundraiser
- 9 Senior & Disabled Services Affected by Legislative Actions
- 10 Calendar



by George Kloeppel

---

**“...LCOG is positioned and equipped to continue its tradition of enhancing the quality of life in this region by helping the public sector to more effectively meet the needs of citizens.”**

---

## **Budget and Work Program Guides the Work of New Fiscal Year**

At its June 28 meeting, the LCOG Board of Directors took several substantial actions. Likely having the highest profile was the adoption of the metropolitan area's long-range transportation plan, *TransPlan*. That significant step, taken after many years of work, is reported in a separate story in this issue. But in addition to the transportation plan, the Board also approved a significant amendment to its *Area Plan for Senior and Disabled Services*, adding resources to important programs for clients in Lane County; and it authorized a recapitalization of the LCOG business assistance project's Intermediary Relending Program through a fourth loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Perhaps least visible of the actions taken by the Board last month was the adoption of the FY 2001-2002 *Work Program and Budget* for the agency. Let me offer a few words on that subject:

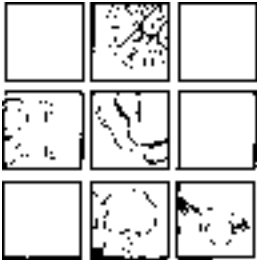
The Board accepted as submitted the recommendation of the agency's Budget Committee, and approved a budget authorization in the amount of \$23,596,377. This was a decrease from the past year's \$26.9 million budget of approximately 12.4 percent. Lest that reduction be misinterpreted, it should be noted that nearly all of it reflects the July 1 transfer of Special Transportation—paratransit—services from the COG to the Lane Transit District. Otherwise, the new year's budget and the work program that it supports could be considered fairly flat, as compared to that of the year just ended. As projected, all operating divisions of the organization, except Senior & Disabled Services, can expect slightly fewer resources with which to work as the new year begins. However, as is always the case, grants and contracts will quite likely come

along in the coming months to offset the shortfall.

As I have frequently observed, LCOG is a *labor-intensive* organization, and our professional staff is, without question, our most valuable asset. The budget for FY 2001-2002 reflects one of the significant *budget assumptions*, approved by the Board last December—that the agency will seek to attract and retain the best possible people to do its work by maintaining compensation that is comparable to the relevant marketplace. To achieve that objective, the new budget increases staff compensation in the form of a salary cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), additional contributions to employee health insurance premiums, and a significant increase in the agency's contributions to the State retirement system. The collective bargaining process between LCOG management and the staff's bargaining unit yielded agreement at year's end on a salary COLA of 1.8 percent. Overall, a staffing complement of 224.3 full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions was approved—an increase of 5.23 FTE from that authorized in the FY 2000-2001 budget.

In my view, the now-adopted budget provides the support and direction for a very productive and successful year for this organization. Constant small course adjustments will of course be made as a result of changing circumstances and needs. But at a fundamental level, LCOG is positioned and equipped to continue its tradition of enhancing the quality of life in this region by helping the public sector to more effectively meet the needs of citizens. A productive year has come to an end and good new year is underway. My thanks to all who contribute to and support our efforts.

## Region's Transportation Planning Reflects Lane Council of Governments' Long-Standing Role



Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) has a long history of involvement in regional transportation planning in

Lane County. In fact, one of the first efforts undertaken by the then Central Lane Planning Council in 1945 was the development of a *Cooperative Long-Range Planning Study* that included a *Streets and Highways* element to “study connections, extensions, and widenings to create an efficient system of traffic thoroughfare”; and a *Transportation* element to study “the provision of rail and truck transportation facilities, including terminals, routes, grade separation, etc.”

Today, LCOG continues to play a central role in the region's long-range transportation plans. As designated by Governor Tom McCall in 1974, LCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Eugene/Springfield area. As such, LCOG provides the modeling and analysis, public involvement, financial analysis, air quality assessment, and coordination among federal, state, and local agencies in the development of a regional planning process for the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area. In addition, LCOG provides staff resources to other member agencies in Lane County in the development of their transportation system plans.

The COG also provides support in writing grants for public works projects, developing focused strategies for specific transportation problems, and designing for better downtown transportation. LCOG assists member agencies in the development of public infrastructure finance tools including systems development charges, local improvement districts, and user rates.

All member agencies benefit from LCOG's broad strategic partnerships. In addition to these agencies, the COG works closely with several State agencies. Staff works with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in the development of Lane County corridor plans and interchange refinement studies. LCOG's committee structure facilitates the development of local priorities for the use of ODOT resources, as well as the coordination of State level plans and policies and local plans and projects. Lane Transit District (LTD) and LCOG staff work together in the development of transit strategies for the Eugene/Springfield area and the surrounding LTD service area. Also, the COG's relationship with the Department of Land Conservation and Development has yielded several planning grants made available to all communities in Lane County.

For more information, contact **Tom Schwetz**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4044 or [tschwetz@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:tschwetz@lane.cog.or.us).



**Paul Thompson**, Senior Planner, joined LCOG in January 1989.

*His areas of expertise include government finance and rate setting, system development charges (SDCs), and policy analysis.*

*Currently, he is working on the Eugene-Springfield Transportation System Plan (TransPlan) Triennial Update, the Highway 126 West Transportation Conditions Report, Eugene Public Works Technical Assistance—SDC Rates Advisory Committee, and a land use allocation model update.*

*To contact Paul, call (541) 682-4405.*



Like so many LCOG Board members, **Jerry Miller** finds the cooperation among member agencies to be the most rewarding element of working with the COG's Board. He enjoys the opportunity to share efforts with other members and "build more long-term and wider based intergovernmental agreements to work toward common goals." As a Lane Education Service District (Lane ESD) Board member and the Lane ESD's representative to the LCOG Board, Jerry's experience with LCOG is also enhanced by the ability to "keep education in the forefront...of other jurisdictions' thoughts" when they might otherwise not consider goals toward which the District strives.

Prior to serving on the Lane ESD Board, Jerry worked for the District as a computer operator. In 1992, after ten years with Lane ESD, Jerry

See **Board** pg. 5

## School Districts Work Together for Students' Benefit

For many years, the Lane Education Service District (ESD) has worked to fulfill its mission of "working in partnership with schools, families, and communities to help students succeed." Comprised of 16 Lane County school districts, the Lane ESD achieves its mission by sharing knowledge, resources, and goals. In turn, each district can ensure that its students receive what the Lane ESD website describes as "an equal chance at a world class education—regardless of the size or wealth of the district in which they reside."

In essence, the Lane ESD is an entity driven by cooperation among its member school districts to provide students with services and opportunities that would not be achievable individually. Through cooperation, Lane ESD offers services and programs that, if pursued by individual districts, would be too costly or would

experience limited demand. In all, as noted on its website, "Lane ESD is able to moderate costs among the districts and conserve public funding. Over 3,000 educators and 50,000 students, along with scores of other members of the community, benefit from the auspices of the Lane ESD."

Initially known as the Intermediate Education District (IED), Lane ESD was formed in 1963 by the State Legislature. Funded through a combination of property taxes, state monies, enterprise efforts, and various grants, Lane ESD remains strongly linked to the Department of Education. Efforts of the ESD are organized into four service areas: administrative support, special education, business support, curriculum/teaching support, and technology/learning support.

For more information about Lane ESD, visit [www.lane.k12.or.us](http://www.lane.k12.or.us).



## Data Show Change in School Enrollment Over 30-Year Period

Data compiled by the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) show that over the last 30 years, while Lane County population has increased, overall public school enrollment has declined. Between 1970 and 2000, school enrollment declined 4 percent; Lane County population increased 50 percent. The greatest enrollment decline, 41 percent, was seen in the McKenzie School District, followed by a decline of 33 percent in Oakridge,

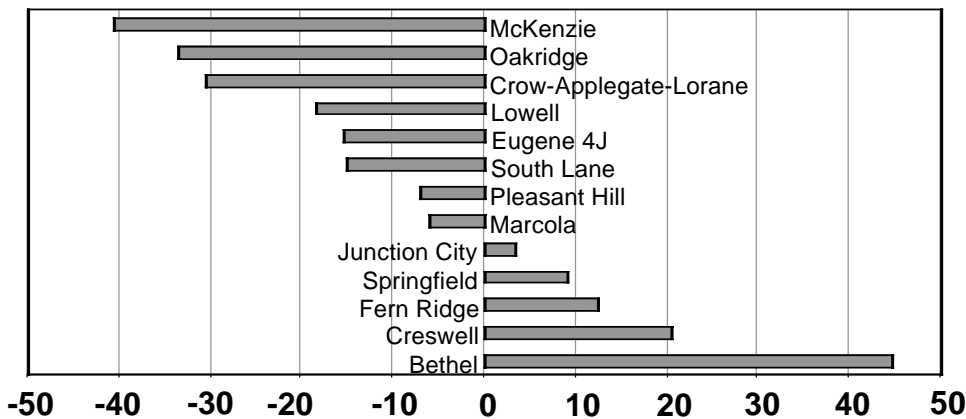
and a 31 percent decline in Crow, Applegate, and Lorane.

Not all school districts experienced enrollment declines. Two of the three metro school districts grew in this 30-year period: Bethel School District enrollment increased 45 percent and Springfield enrollment increased 9 percent. The Creswell, Fern Ridge, and Junction City school districts, all of which abut the metro area, also experienced growth in enrollment.

chose to pursue other career opportunities and left the agency. It was at this time that he was persuaded to run for a position on the District's Board. Successful in this endeavor, Jerry began his first of three terms in 1992 and has sat on the Board since that time. He enjoys the chance to be involved in "finding ways and solutions to equalize service that school districts can provide to their students" and "provide on an economic basis those services that districts could not afford on their own."

Jerry now works as an Office Administrator for Borden Chemicals Research and Development Laboratory in Springfield. When not at work, he serves on several community boards. For the past 12 years, Jerry has served on the Willamalane Park and Recreation Budget Committee, the last three as Chair. He is also on the Springfield Filbert Festival Board and in the past served as coordinator of admissions and as a volunteer and assistant coordinator for admissions and concessions. Jerry is also a member of the Eugene Astronomical Society, Friends of Pine Mountain, and Friends of the Planetarium.

1970-2000 Percent Change in School Enrollment



## Lane Education Service District Statistics

### Mission

Lane ESD is committed to working in partnership with schools, families in communities to help students succeed.

Lane ESD serves 16 school districts in Lane County:

- Bethel 52
- Blachly 90
- Creswell 40
- Crow-Applegate-Lorane 66
- Eugene 4J
- Fern Ridge 28J

- Junction City 69
- Lowell 71
- Mapleton 32
- Marcola 79J
- McKenzie 68
- Oakridge 76
- Pleasant Hill 1
- Siuslaw 97J
- South Lane 45J
- Springfield 19

Serves 50,000 students  
Website: [www.lane.k12.or.us](http://www.lane.k12.or.us)



**Sharon McClintic**, Cottage Grove Meal Site Coordinator, joined LCOG in July 1986. Her focus is ensuring that the Cottage Grove Senior Meals Dining Center and Meals on Wheels run smoothly. Visitors to the dining room regularly comment that it is a "happy site."

In all, Sharon supervises one kitchen assistant and 30 volunteers. Together, they serve on-site, noon-time lunches on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Each month, the site serves 480 meals and volunteers deliver 800 meals to homebound area residents.

Currently, Sharon and her staff are launching the new deli lunch program in Cottage Grove. She reports that the new meal is "going over well" and that she sees "a lot of newcomers visiting the dining room."

See **Staff** pg. 7

## **Senior Meals Program Adds Deli Lunch to the Menu**

Area seniors who are looking for a change at lunch should consider the Senior Meals Program's new deli lunch. The meal is being tested in dining rooms in Veneta, Cottage Grove, and Eugene at Olive Plaza and Northwest Neighbors.

The new lunch is a result of feedback from diners. "The habits of seniors are changing, and the Senior Meals Program is changing with them. Some people have told us that they prefer to eat sandwiches, salads, and soups for lunch, so, deli lunches are being added in four dining rooms on a trial basis through October," says Senior Meals Program Manager **Sandy Karsten**.

For those not eating at the site, all deli lunches can be packed to take out. While lunch specials will vary depending on the day, the selections will include chef's salad, Santa Fe chicken salad, tuna salad plate, antipasto salad, and a garden sub sandwich. Meal sites will also serve the traditional hot meal.

There is no charge for lunch to those over age 60; however, a contribution of \$2.90 per meal is appreciated. Guests under 60 are welcome and are asked to pay just \$5.75 for their meals.

For more information, contact **Sandy Karsten**, Senior & Disabled Services, at (541) 682-4378 or [skarsten@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:skarsten@lane.cog.or.us).



*Dena Foster enjoys the new deli lunch at Olive Plaza. The alternate lighter meals are being tested at several Senior Meal Dining Centers through early fall.*

### Senior & Disabled Services Excels in State Field Review

In mid-April, the Oregon Senior and Disabled Services Division conducted a Field Review of the Lane Council of Governments Senior & Disabled Services (S&DS). In addition to S&DS, similar agencies throughout the state will partake in Field Reviews, a regular process established by the 1999 Oregon Legislature.

This review of S&DS' work practices addressed several elements. The following discussion lists each element, as well as comments pertaining to each.

- *Ensuring easy access to services:* S&DS is "able to screen clients needs immediately in the office, and schedule appointments for an intake interview...92 percent of clients surveyed rated their overall experience with the office as good or excellent." S&DS had undergone changes to its telephone system prior to the review, thereby addressing the need identified by the report to improve telephone access to the agency.
- *Provision of adult protective services:* Consistent responses to handling protective service calls show that professional processes are "practiced and well understood"

by staff. High caseloads and inadequate staffing levels create a backlog of report writing.

- *Proper food stamps benefits administration:* S&DS has a extremely low food stamp error rate: 5 percent better than required.
- *Caregiver retention:* "The In-Home program in this area is very strong...[S&DS has] a solid Client Employed Provider orientation and process for filing job requests...."
- *Provision of quality community care:* S&DS uses "many resources within the community to strengthen the availability of in-home services."
- *Satisfying consumer needs:* "...a sample of the *Customer Service Reports* from the month of March 2001...reflected very positive comments."
- *Supporting a quality, effective staff:* "Staff feel they have the tools they need to do their jobs."
- *Field Review Conclusions:* "The Eugene [S&DS] office is well-established and has policies in place. No concerns were raised as a result of the Field Review Process."

For more information, contact **Ted Stevens**, S&DS, at (541) 682-4432 or [tstevens@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:tstevens@lane.cog.or.us).

### Call Distribution System in Place

On June 19, Lane Council of Governments' Senior & Disabled Services launched a telephone call distribution system on its Information & Referral (I&R) line. I&R, reachable by calling (541) 682-4038, is the number for the

public to call for program and eligibility information.

The new system has several new features, one of which is the ability for callers to reach specific departments

See **Call** pg. 9

**Senior Meals Program  
Deli Lunch Sites**  
**Olive Plaza**  
1135 Olive Street  
Eugene  
11:45 a.m., Monday  
through Friday  
342-3515

**Northwest Neighbors**  
1221 Jacobs Drive  
Eugene  
11:00 a.m.-noon,  
Monday through Friday  
689-8011

**Tony Garcia Service  
Center**  
Veneta  
11:30 a.m., Monday,  
Wednesday, and Friday  
Weekly  
935-7354

**Riverview Terrace**  
925 East Main  
Cottage Grove  
12:00 noon, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, and  
Thursday  
Weekly  
935-9261

#### Cont. from Staff pg. 6

*Sharon regularly schedules activities to keep the senior visitors occupied, including musicians and monthly speakers. She also spends time in the community giving presentations to area service clubs and is currently planning for a November Little Italy fundraiser in Cottage Grove.*

*Sharon may be reached at (541) 942-9261.*

## Senior & Disabled Services Affected by Legislative Actions

by Ted Stevens

Last December, Governor Kitzhaber's 2001-03 budget proposed deep cuts to services for seniors and people with disabilities. The 2001 Legislature, which adjourned on July 7, found ways to avoid most of these cuts.



*Seniors, people with disabilities, and care providers packed the Hilyard Community Center at the first of a series of statewide hearings to take testimony on proposed cuts to programs for seniors and people with disabilities. As a result of their efforts, many programs were saved.*

At this point, Oregon Project Independence, a program that provides home and personal care to senior citizens, is funded for the 2001-03 biennium at 100 percent of its 1999-01 budget level. Also in the 2001-03 budget are funds for long-term care services for people at Medicaid survivability levels 15-17.

The Legislature added back funds to the SDSD's budget to prevent reductions in rates paid for client care to Assisted Living and Residential Care Facilities, and also provide adjustments for nursing home rates.

The last day of the Session brought about Legislative approval to replace cuts made to the Special Transportation Fund. This means that RideSource and

other special transportation services for seniors and adults with disabilities should continue to be available in Lane County.

The 2001 Legislature also passed two bills that concern prescription drugs: a formulary type bill concerning drugs for Oregon Health Plan clients and a new prescription drug program for low-income seniors. Little is yet known about how these programs will operate. Also approved was House Bill (HB) 2294, which gives the Department of Human Services approval to move forward with its reorganization plans.

Unfortunately, the 2001 Legislature took no action to address the funding equity problem plaguing Lane Council of Governments' Senior & Disabled Services (S&DS) and other Type B Transfer Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). It was hoped that the Legislature would pass a bill to correct a long-standing problem with the formula used to compute funding allocations for Medicaid staff in Type B AAAs. This did not occur, so S&DS will continue to operate with fewer funds than similar SDSD offices.

Also unapproved were the locally sponsored bills meant to strengthen the service delivery system for seniors and people with disabilities. These included HB 2172: visitability; HB 2771: guardianship/conservatorship study; and Senate Bills 474 and 475: enhancements to the caregiver program.

For more information, contact **Ted Stevens**, S&DS, at (541) 682-4432 or [tstevens@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:tstevens@lane.cog.or.us).

## Together, Lane Council of Governments and Member Agencies Find Success

Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) collaborative efforts with member agencies have resulted in numerous transportation-related accomplishments. Most recently, these efforts have pertained to the *Eugene-Springfield Transportation System Plan*, as discussed in an accompanying article, as well as to projects in Oakridge, Veneta, and Eugene.

Working with Oakridge staff, LCOG wrote a successful grant for a \$40,000 Community Center Feasibility Study in Oakridge. The study will provide an analysis of the feasibility of such a facility and provide for a master plan. The facility would house all the social service agencies in the community, and provide meeting space for Oakridge residents.

LCOG staff also coordinated efforts with City of Veneta staff to develop a

successful state Local Street Network Funds grant proposal. The \$1.7 million for Phase 1 would extend Eighth Street to connect with Highway 126 and construct a frontage road for commercial and industrial property. Phase 2 of the project is also under consideration if additional funds become available.

Finally, LCOG partnered with the City of Eugene in a successful application for \$1.5 million in federal transportation capital funds to acquire and renovate Eugene's existing historic train depot. Station improvements will include station renovation; enhancing the station's adjacent exterior spaces to create a vibrant, civic destination; and developing the station's capacity to accommodate high volumes of travelers utilizing an expanded train service.

For more information, contact **Tom Schwetz**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4044 or [tschwetz@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:tschwetz@lane.cog.or.us).

### Cont. from Call pg. 7

by making a series of phone pad entries on a touch-tone telephone. While the system is designed for touch-tone phone users, those with rotary phones are automatically transferred to staff.

Early reports show that the system is working well for callers and staff. During the first week of operation, workers were able to answer calls more quickly, and the number of callers who abandoned their call while on hold dropped by 37 percent. Additionally, the call distribution system allows reports of abuse or neglect to reach staff more quickly and efficiently. Also, hospital and nursing facility staff can now leave recorded information that is

necessary to begin the process of requesting a pre-admission screening for a client. This feature allows care providers to pass along information about a client rather than to wait for a return call.

The effectiveness of the phone system is being monitored during its first three months of use. If staff continues to receive positive reports about the effectiveness of the phone system, it will become a permanent part of operations in September.

For more information, contact **Sue Hauk**, S&DS, at (541) 682-2483 or [shauk@lane.cog.or.us](mailto:shauk@lane.cog.or.us).

## Senior & Disabled Services to Hold Fundraiser

*Rosalina's Fine Mexican Dining, located in Oakridge, will be the site of an upcoming Senior & Disabled Services (S&DS) fundraiser. Organized to benefit the Oakridge Senior Meals Program, the event will be held on Monday, August 6.*

*Located at 47720 School Street, one block south of Highway 58, Rosalina's will donate 50 percent of all sales between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to the Senior Meals Program.*

*For more information, phone **Stephanie Dresie Chaney**, S&DS, at (541) 682-4483.*

## *CALENDAR*

### ***August***

9	11:30	Metropolitan Policy Committee	LTD Board Room
9	1:30	Transportation Planning Committee	LTD Board Room
9	3:00	Public Safety Coordinating Council	Juvenile Justice Center
20	11:30	Lane Economic Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conf. Room
23	1:30	Transportation Planning Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conf. Room

### ***September***

11	1:30	Joint Senior and Disability Services Advisory Council Legislative Wrap-Up Meeting	Hilyard Community Center
13	11:30	Metropolitan Policy Committee	LTD Board Room
13	1:30	Transportation Planning Committee	LTD Board Room
13	3:00	Public Safety Coordinating Council	Juvenile Justice Center
17	11:30	Lane Economic Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conf. Room
20	5:30	LCOG Executive Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Small Conf. Room
25	10:00	Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee	LTD Board Room
27	1:30	Transportation Planning Committee	LCOG 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conf. Room
27	7:00	LCOG Board	Florence