



# FEB News & Events

## Oregon Federal Executive Board

Partnerships for a More Cost Effective Federal Government

[www.oregon.feb.gov](http://www.oregon.feb.gov)



Volume 4-04

January 2004

### In Brief . . .

- **Emergency Preparedness:** As of Jan. 9th, the Homeland Security Advisory System was lowered to ELEVATED (Yellow) for most of the country. Airports and airlines will keep their high alert status. Officials are still concerned about continuing threats, but the conditions that led to the Orange alert level have passed. Please remain observant, and if you see any suspicious activity, contact the Federal Protective Service (Acting Area Commander Bob Carstensen, wk: 503-326-5811, cell: 503-793-2204) or the 24-hour Homeland Security Mega Center at 1-888-280-3405.
- **Hazardous Weather Alert System:** The winter storms of Jan. 5-8 challenged all of our hazardous weather alert procedures, and for the first time in years. While the choice with regard to opening or closure is up to each individual agency, the Oregon Federal Executive Board (OFEB) had agreed in early Dec. to compile the decisions made by a core group of local federal agencies and share those decisions with the entire federal community, so as to hopefully help others with their assessment. Communications were conducted that week starting at 5:30 a.m. via phone, e-mail, voice messaging and the OFEB web site. Your feedback is welcome with regard to the process, as we will be evaluating it to consider further refinements.
- **BLM Competitive Sourcing Study:** The OFEB Administrative Services Committee meeting on Dec. 10th featured a presentation by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on their most recent Most Efficient Organization (MEO) Study. Debbie Norton and John Kieth reviewed the process applied and lessons learned from their latest competitive sourcing study of road and field maintenance positions. You can download their PowerPoint presentation from the OFEB web site, at [www.oregon.feb.gov](http://www.oregon.feb.gov).
- **Needs Assessment Surveys:** The OFEB wrapped up a series of needs assessment surveys in mid-December. This study was conducted amongst federal agencies in our region to help us better tailor our programs and services for the coming year. The results are still being compiled, so watch our February edition of FEB News & Events for a summary.

- **New OFEB Training Concepts:** January will include the evaluation of several new training concepts the OFEB has been testing: Financial Planning for Federal Employees, Federal Wellness, and "Life After 50," a career and life planning seminar for those approaching or beyond the big five-oh. Look for e-mail and newsletter announcements about future sessions for all of these programs, or check the OFEB web page.

### Local Combined Federal Campaign Sets New Record at \$1.5 Million Pledged

We didn't think it could be done in 2003. Amidst the continuing economic slump in the region, the shadow of competitive sourcing and the retirement of some of the most generous donors, Ron Johnson, Executive Director of the OFEB, said



Doug Batchelor, U.S. Postal Service HR Director (right), and his Asst. Karyn Coons are proud of their postal colleagues' CFC efforts.

"I'll be surprised if we raise over \$1.4 million."

Well surprise, Ron. Our colleagues in the Columbia River/Willamette Valley region have again demonstrated their outstanding generosity, breaking our CFC donation record for the third year in a row. As the campaign closes, 6,440 federal colleagues have pledged over \$1,500,000. U.S. Postal Service employees alone contributed over \$420,000, topping their record from 2002. Final campaign totals are still being tallied, but additional results and info can be found at [www.oregon.feb.gov/cfc.htm](http://www.oregon.feb.gov/cfc.htm).

We will celebrate our success with two luncheons, which have been rescheduled from their original dates due to the winter storms of Jan. 5-8. All agency directors, campaign coordinators and keyworkers are invited (see dates below). Please **RSVP by Jan. 23rd** to Nancie Pruitt at 503-226-9384 or [nancie\\_pruitt@pcez.com](mailto:nancie_pruitt@pcez.com).

#### Tuesday, Jan. 27th

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Best Western Mill Creek Inn  
3125 Ryan Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97301

#### Wednesday, Jan. 28th

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Lloyd Center  
1441 NE 2nd Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232

## OFEB CALENDAR

January 2004	
<b>1/13, 8:30-10 a.m.</b>	<b>Policy Committee Meeting</b>
<p>Postponed from Jan. 6th. Agenda includes considering "Life After 50" training, brief review of '03 and look ahead to '04.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> ODS Tower 601 SW 2nd Ave., 20th floor Portland, OR 97204</p>	
<b>1/14, 2-4 p.m.</b>	<b>Shared Neutral/ADR Committee</b>
<p>Monthly meeting to discuss and enhance mediation services for our member organizations; includes reports from training, personnel and marketing sub-committees.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Robert Duncan Plaza 333 SW 1st Ave., 10th floor Portland, OR 97204</p>	
<b>1/20-21, 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>CSRS Retirement Seminar</b>
<p><b>Location:</b> Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg. 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 272, Portland</p> <p>Day 1: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (registration 8:00 a.m.) Day 2: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$100 for federal employees, \$40 for non-federal spouses. To register, contact Mary Ceciliani at 503-326-3010 or <a href="mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com">mcecilia@pcez.com</a>.</p>	
<b>1/23, 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Public Affairs Committee Meeting</b>
<p>Quarterly meeting to address issues facing federal Public Affairs professionals. Agenda includes training options, and federal agency service promotion through local media.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Green-Wyatt Federal Bldg. 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 315 Portland, OR 97204</p>	
February 2004	
<b>2/3-4, 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>FERS Retirement Seminar</b>
<p><b>Location:</b> Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg. 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 272, Portland</p> <p>Day 1: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (registration 8:00 a.m.) Day 2: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$100 for federal employees, \$40 for non-federal spouses. To register, contact Mary Ceciliani at 503-326-3010 or <a href="mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com">mcecilia@pcez.com</a>.</p>	
<b>2/12, 10:30-12 noon</b>	<b>Minority Business Opp. Committee</b>
<p>Monthly meeting to enhance opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses to earn government contracting jobs.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Port of Portland 121 NW Everett St. Portland, OR 97209</p>	



January 2004

## FEDERAL AGENCY FOCUS

**Agency Name:** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Director:** Bob Graham, State Conservationist  
**Address:** State Office, 101 SW Main, Suite 1300  
Portland, OR 97204  
**Phone:** 503-414-3201  
**E-Mail:** [bob.graham@or.usda.gov](mailto:bob.graham@or.usda.gov)  
**Web Page:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>  
**Service Area:** Oregon

**Agency Purpose:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, puts nearly 70 years of experience to work in assisting owners of America's private land with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources. Local, state and federal agencies and policymakers also rely on their expertise. They deliver technical assistance based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs. Their work is conducted with individuals, communities, Tribal governments, governmental agencies and private-sector organizations at all levels; helping protect life and property after fires, floods, and other natural disasters; conducting natural resources surveys and analyses; and helping land users develop conservation plans for their land. The NRCS' partnership with local conservation districts serves almost every county in the nation, and the Caribbean and Pacific Basin. Participation in their programs is voluntary.

**Mission:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

**Vision:** Harmony between people and the land

**Local Profile:** In Oregon, NRCS employs over 230 individuals in 34 field and project offices, the Water and Climate Center and the state office. The agency works with key partners – local soil and water conservation districts, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, USDA's Farm Services Agency, Tribal representatives and others – to conserve natural resources on private and tribal lands. Because of Oregon's unique resource concerns, NRCS employees are involved in everything from improving water quality on Tillamook dairies and increasing irrigation efficiency in the Klamath Basin to reducing soil erosion on irrigated crops in eastern Oregon. In addition, employees work to conserve critical wildlife habitat, improve range and forestland quality, and conserve water and soil resources, with the goal of keeping private lands conservation in the hands of landowners and managers.

## COMMITTEE CORNERS

### Policy Committee

**Next Mtg.:** Jan. 13, 8:30–10:00 am, ODS Tower, 601 SW 2nd, 20th fl., Portland.

**News:** Topics include a new “Life After 50” training proposal and brief review of 2003/look ahead to 2004.

### Administrative Services

**News:** The BLM Most Efficient Organization Study (MEO) was featured at the 12/10/03 meeting. Debbie Norton and John Keith shared the lessons learned from the BLM’s road and facilities maintenance study.

### Combined Federal Campaign

**News:** The Columbia River/Willamette Valley CFC raised over \$1.5 million for the first time in history. Campaign coordinators, keyworkers and agency heads are invited to one of two celebration luncheons (see article pg. 1).

### Emergency Preparedness

**News:** The hazardous weather alert system was tested during the snowstorms from Jan. 1 - 9. This system will be evaluated to gauge its effectiveness (see pg. 1).

### Employee Retention & Development

**News:** The OFEB has been testing two new training opportunities: Financial Planning for Federal Employees and a Federal Wellness Program. Plans are also underway for a “Life After 50” career analysis session, slated for late January or February.

### Minority Business Opportunity

**Next Mtg.:** Feb. 12, 10:30 am–12 noon, Port of Portland.

**News:** The next meeting will welcome new officers and review plans for the coming year.

### Public Affairs

**Next Mtg.:** Jan. 23, 9:30–10:30 am, Green-Wyatt Bldg, 1220 SW 3rd. Ave., #315, Portland.

**News:** The January agenda features a discussion on federal public affairs training needs, with Doug Morgan of PSU’s Executive Leadership Institute and Madeline Turnock of the Portland Public Relations Society of America presenting. Promotion of federal agency services through local media will also be discussed.

### Shared Neutrals/ADR

**Next Mtg.:** Jan. 14, 2–4 pm, Duncan Plaza, 333 SW 1st Ave., 10th floor, Portland.

**News:** Progress on the development of a strategic plan and the compilation of a 2003 annual report are topics for the next meeting.

## OFEB Policy Committee Officers

*OFEB Chair:*

**Cathy Callahan**, National Labor Relations Board

*At-Large Members:*

**Anne Badgley**, Regional Ecosystems Office  
**Michael Campbell**, Bureau of Land Management  
**Randy Crockett**, Social Security Administration  
**Lucy Devenney**, Willamette National Cemetery  
**Kathy Eaton**, Bureau of Land Management  
**Janice Goodwin**, Nat’l Agricultural Statistics Service  
**Bob Graham**, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Harry T. Hall**, Fed. Energy Regulatory Commission  
**Captain Paul Jewell**, U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety  
**Jerry Lorang**, Veterans Affairs Regional Office  
**Lt. Col. Charles Markham**, Army Corps of Engineers  
**Les Miller**, Army Corps of Engineers  
**Lynda Stelzer**, Bonneville Power Administration

## Committees & Chairs

### Administrative Services

**Kathy Eaton**, Bureau of Land Mgmt., 503-808-6092  
**Lynda Stelzer**, Bonneville Power Adm., 503-230-4966

### Combined Federal Campaign

**Randy Crockett**, Social Security Adm., 503-326-6309

### Emergency Preparedness

**Les Miller**, Army Corps of Engineers, 503-808-4400

### Employee Retention & Development

Staffed by **Ron Johnson & Jeff Sargent**, 503-326-3030

### Minority Business Opportunity Committee

**Mary Witty**, SBA, 503-326-5105

### Public Affairs

**Michael Campbell**, BLM, 503-808-6031

Shared Neutrals/Alternative Dispute Resolution  
**Fran Petersen**, Bonneville Power Adm., 503-230-5860

## OFEB Staff

**Ron Johnson, Executive Director:**  
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