

MAG Members Taking Advantage of RVS in New Fiscal Year

According to RVS data compiled for the first quarter of FY 2004, more MAG member agencies are initiating videoconferences than ever before. Almost 30 percent of all conferences this quarter were held at the request of a MAG member agency. "Our member agencies are taking increasing advantage of the convenience of the RVS to conduct business. The Town of Guadalupe led the way in RVS usage, initiating eight videoconferences, all of which were for in-custody arraignments with the courts. In September, the Town of Fountain Hills conducted five job interviews using videoconferencing technology," said Heidi Pahl, MAG Telecommunications Planner.

The top member agency users of the RVS in FY 04 Q1 were: Guadalupe, which participated in nine videoconferences, Fountain Hills, which participated in six videoconferences, and Chandler and Gilbert, which each participated in seven audio conferences.



Guadalupe uses videoconferencing for in-custody arraignments.



Wickenburg staff members participate in a live demonstration.

Wickenburg Staff Gets Live RVS Demonstration

In December 2003, department directors at the Wickenburg Town Hall participated in a live demonstration of the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS). City Manager Shane Dille, and staff from the Community Services, Finance, Fire, Human Resources, Library, Planning, Police, and Public Works departments attended an interactive videoconference with a presentation from MAG staff in Phoenix. The presentation explained the RVS, its history, benefits, and common uses of videoconferencing technology. A question-and-answer session with staff followed the presentation. "We are excited about using the RVS more frequently for MAG meetings and Town business. It will certainly cut down on many hours of driving into Phoenix for our staff and save us money as well," said Shane Dille.

MAG staff is available to give a similar demonstration for any MAG member agency that requests one. To schedule a demonstration, contact the RVS Office at (602) 452-5095.

RVS
 Help Desk
 602-452-5095
 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) Retirement Overview Meeting Offered Via Videoconference

On November 13, 2003 the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) held its first retirement planning overview meeting using the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS). ASRS staff gave a one-hour retirement planning overview from a MAG videoconference meeting room to the Town of Carefree videoconference meeting room. Fourteen staff from the Town of Carefree received the retirement information remotely via PowerPoint. All meeting materials were e-mailed to Carefree staff in advance of the meeting. Carefree RVS Site Coordinator Jim Keen said, "by videoconferencing and not driving to the ASRS meeting, Carefree staff saved a total of 32 hours and 968 vehicle miles were not traveled."

Chanda Washington, ASRS Senior Benefit Advisor, conducted the meeting from MAG and said, "ASRS is very excited to use this new technology and looks forward to building a partnership with MAG."

Heidi Pahl added, "MAG staff is excited to provide this opportunity to our member agencies," adding that videoconferencing will reduce travel, save time, and improve meeting attendance.



Beginning January 1, 2004, the Member Services Division of the Arizona State Retirement System will be working with MAG in offering the one-hour ASRS Overview meeting using the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System. The meeting covers benefits as an active member, service purchase, and retirement calculations.

If you are interested in knowing more about using videoconferencing for the ASRS Overview meeting, please contact Julie Crerand at (602) 240-2143, or e-mail at juliec@asrs.state.az.us.

El Mirage Gets New RVS Unit After Fire at City Hall

The City of El Mirage recently received a new videoconferencing unit after a fire damaged their old one. In July 2002, a fire broke out at the El Mirage



Left: Damage to the El Mirage City Hall after the fire in July 2002. Right: Pat Tillman, El Mirage Information Technology Manager, tests the new videoconferencing system.



City Hall and damaged the building and its contents, including the city's original RVS videoconferencing unit. El Mirage staff was moved to interim quarters and arrangements were made to purchase and install a new unit for the City. Pat Timlin, El Mirage's Information Technology Manager, said, "I'm very excited to have the videoconferencing unit back. I've already used it to attend MAG meetings and plan to use it even more. Our staff is looking at using it for City business as well."

If you are interested in videoconferencing with El Mirage, their new ISDN number is 623-974-0419. Please contact your site coordinator to program this number into your videoconference unit.

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