

## Regional Videoconferencing System Awards

The Videoconferencing Recognition Program was initiated to recognize outstanding levels of videoconferencing usage among MAG member agencies and committees. The intent of this program is to encourage continued videoconferencing use over the long term, resulting in fewer vehicle miles traveled and reducing air pollution. Awards were presented for Calendar Year 2003 accomplishments at the March MAG Management Committee meeting.



The award for:

- **Most Videoconferences by a MAG Member Agency** went to Guadalupe, which had a total of 36 videoconferences.
- **Most Videoconferences by a MAG Committee** went to the MAG Building Codes Committee with 8 videoconferences.
- **MAG Committee With the Most Remote Videoconference Participants** went to the Management Subcommittee on 2005 Population Options, since they had 24 remote participants at their committee meetings.
- **Most Miles Saved by a MAG Member Agency** went to Wickenburg with 4,557 miles saved.
- **Best Use of Multipoint Videoconferencing** went to Valley Metro, which had more than

Management Committee Chair Terry Ellis presents awards to: (top to bottom, left to right) Guadalupe Town Manager Tom Morales; Building Codes Committee Chair Bob Lee; Chair of the Management Subcommittee on 2005 Population Options, George Pettit; Wickenburg Town Manager Shane Dille; Valley Metro Management Committee Chair, Mike Hutchinson and MAGTAG Chair Greg Binder.

180 people attend the April 1-2, 2003 Valley Metro Ozone Workshops via multipoint videoconference.

- The one-time award for **RVS Committee Champion** went to the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group, which has consistently promoted the RVS and is a champion of the technology.

Congratulations to all winners!

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

## Apache Junction and Buckeye Get Live Demo of RVS

In February, staff from Buckeye and Apache Junction participated in live videoconference demonstrations. The interactive videoconference included a PowerPoint presentation about the RVS, a discussion about various potential uses and benefits of videoconferencing, and a question and answer session with MAG staff in Phoenix.

"Our mayor and city manager have been using the RVS to attend MAG meetings and work with consultants. We wanted to familiarize more of our staff with the technology and encourage them to use it too," said Bryant Powell, Apache Junction Assistant City Manager.

Joe Blanton, Buckeye Town Manager, sees possibilities for the system. "Now that we have a person on staff dedicated to handling our information technology needs, we feel more comfortable about using the RVS. My staff members are looking at using it for training and workshops and to attend some MAG meetings."

MAG staff is available to give a similar demonstration for any MAG member agency that requests one. Call Heidi Pahl, Telecommunications Planner at (602) 254-6300 to schedule a demonstration.

## Litchfield Park and Retirement Planning via Videoconference

Litchfield Park used its MAG RVS unit to videoconference with the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) during which attendees received information on retirement planning. 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](mailto:juliec@asrs.state.az.us).



Heidi Pahl provides a demonstration of the system to Apache Junction (above) and Buckeye (below) via videoconference.



## RVS Usage – Just the Facts, Please

For the first two quarters of Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, there were 113 documented audio conferences and videoconferences. Of those, 52 were audio conferences and 61 were videoconferences. A total of 450 people attended one or more conferences from a remote location. In the first six months of FY 04: 22,728 miles were saved, 1,178 hours were saved, and \$56,114 were saved by using the RVS. Keep up the good work!

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

## New RVS Informational Materials Available

MAG has just published new informational materials about the RVS. "Our original RVS publicity materials were several years old, so we updated them, consolidated the information and gave them a fresh, new look," said Heidi Pahl, MAG Telecommunications Planner. "The two brochures are perfect for informing new elected officials and staff members about the RVS. The first brochure, called "Connecting Communities" gives them general information about MAG and the RVS. The second brochure, titled "Videoconferencing is for You!" is a quick, practical overview on how to use the RVS," she stated.

In addition to the brochures, three "How-to" Guides have been published to help MAG member agencies. The topics are: Job Interviews via Videoconferencing, Videoconferencing Around the World, and RVS Protocol and Etiquette Tips for Committee Chairs. Each document is a one-page, step-by-step help guide to using the RVS for specific situations. "We have had a lot of requests for information in these areas, so we put them all together in an easy-to-use format to better meet the needs of our member agencies," said Heidi Pahl.

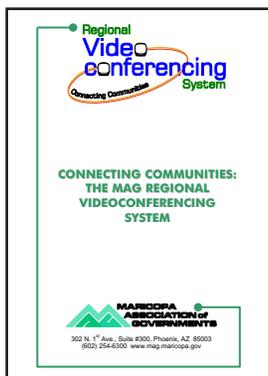
The brochures and guides are available on the MAG Web site under resources on the RVS Project page: [www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=403](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=403)

## Improved Sound Quality for Audio Conferences

As part of recent enhancements to the MAG RVS, MAG provided each member agency that submitted a letter of authorization with a Polycom SoundStation Premier EX speakerphone. If you have questions on how to use this phone, please contact the RVS Help Desk at (602) 452-5095.



*Thank you to Barbra Hart, Maricopa County RVS site coordinator, for providing the lighting on short notice for Governor Napolitano's visit to MAG.*



**Need Help? Just Call Us!**

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