

MAG Honors Congressman Ed Pastor Through Lifetime Achievement Award

As part of an evening recognizing regional excellence, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to U.S. Congressman Ed Pastor.

The award was presented during the biennial Desert Peaks Awards evening, a premier event recognizing projects and individuals that best represent the tenets of regionalism.

“Tonight we are recognizing an individual who has been a driving force in Arizona for nearly 40 years,” said MAG Chair Michael LeVault, mayor of Youngtown, in bestowing the award before a crowd of 265 people. “As a congressman, Representative Pastor has never forgotten his community, and continues to address the issues that affect this state.” Congressman Pastor, who has spent 23 years in Congress and many more in public service, announced in February that he would be retiring when his term expires.

Born in the small mining community of Claypool, Arizona, Representative Pastor was the first member of his family to attend college, graduating from Arizona State University with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, which he taught in high school. However, he was soon to find he had another type of “chemistry” — a chemistry for public service. Pastor went on to get a law degree and joined Governor Raul Castro’s staff to help enforce the Civil Rights Act. He was elected to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in 1976, where he served three terms before leaving to run for the seat vacated by the late Morris K. Udall.



Pastor was lauded for being a fierce advocate for transportation dollars for the Valley, spearheading legislation to provide funding to build the Valley’s light rail system. He has secured millions more for buses and maintenance operations. He has been a key supporter of efforts to revitalize the Salt River, an ardent supporter of immigration reform, a strong education advocate, and he has a deep interest in the arts—helping to fund a number of museums and cultural centers. He has helped local governments equip fire-fighters and law enforcement with the tools they need.

Accepting the Lifetime Achievement award on his behalf, Verma Pastor read a statement from her husband.



Verma Pastor accepts the award on behalf of Congressman Pastor.

“It has been my privilege these past 38 years to work alongside leaders and advocates in our community on transportation projects, environmental projects and other policies to improve our region. Hopefully, I have played some small part in making the lives of Arizonans easier and more efficient. I am humbled and honored to accept this award,” she read. “(T)he Maricopa Association of Governments...has long been dedicated to the collaboration of local governments and entities to work toward bettering the metropolitan Phoenix area...I commend you all for your effort to work within the community to address the many needs of our fellow Arizonans. Please accept my sincere gratitude for this honor and my best wishes for your present and future endeavors.”

For more on the Desert Peaks Awards, see page 6

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Michael LeVault, Town of Youngtown

I am honored to have been elected to continue to serve as the chair of MAG for the next year. The question now becomes—what's next? Looking to the future, the economic news is troubling. Revenues continue to be lower than expected. A recent Joint Legislative Budget Committee report found revenues for fiscal 2014 grew by only 2.8 percent, the lowest growth rate since fiscal 2010. The report warns that Arizona could start fiscal 2016 with a \$1.2 billion deficit. What will this mean for our region? It is critical that we double and redouble our efforts, as local governments, to help grow the economic pie for Arizona.

MAG will play an important role in this effort. Transportation enables and facilitates economic development whether it involves streets, freeways, transit, or bike paths. We need to be mindful that key economic targets are part of the decision-making process in choosing and implementing transportation projects. MAG also has a wealth of data. The MAG staff is working with member agencies to better understand their strengths and opportunities by analyzing and applying that data. MAG is also a forum for bringing together municipal and business partners. This is especially evident in the MAG Economic Development Committee, where best practices are shared and strategies developed.

MAG is also using technology to work on the economy. Our two

best examples are the websites [GreaterPhoenixRising.com](#) and [ConnectBIEN.com](#). [GreaterPhoenixRising.com](#) is a portal open to the world, demonstrating why this region is a great place to start a business. [ConnectBIEN.com](#) (Building an International Economic Network) connects businesses in Arizona with our top two trading partners, Mexico and Canada.

Although MAG has made significant strides in working on the economy, it is not enough. We must focus on the creation of high-paying jobs. This requires supporting and improving our educational system. President Michael Crow at Arizona State University is working diligently to increase the number of STEM graduates, while University of Arizona President Ann Weaver Hart is working with the city of Phoenix on a new research facility in downtown Phoenix called the Biosciences Partnership Building. MAG is working with all of the major universities in Arizona to support research grants.

As American industrialist Henry Kaiser said, "Problems are only opportunities in work clothes." The 'great recession' was a wake-up call for our region. MAG has answered that call and changed the way it does business. As the chair of MAG, I am confident that by continuing to work together, we can build a prosperous and resilient economy for future generations. 



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of the MAG region. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

- Mayor Michael LeVault**
Town of Youngtown, Regional Council Chair
- Dennis Smith**, *Executive Director*
- Valerie Day, Leila Gamiz, Bob Hazlett, Denise McClafferty, Brande Mead, Amy St. Peter**, *Contributors*
- Kelly Taft**, *Editor*
- Gordon Tyus**, *Graphics*

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	Mayor Jackie Meck Buckeye, <i>At-Large Member</i>	
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Chandler continues to be a strong supporter of MAG and the region. That was especially evident during June's Desert Peak Awards ceremony when we were fortunate to have a part in three of the winning award categories: the Public/Private Partnership Award (No Burn Campaign), the Regional Partnership Award (recycling efforts) and the Regional Excellence Award, which I was humbled to receive. Chandler will continue to look beyond our borders to identify needs and solutions for the betterment of the region.

—Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler



Last month, I was both humbled and honored to be appointed by my colleagues on the Avondale City Council to serve as Avondale's new mayor. As I embrace this new role, I have become acutely more aware of the impact agencies such as MAG have on our communities' ability to plan and prepare for the future. MAG helps to drive regional initiatives forward that benefit all Valley communities, providing us with a united voice, mission and sound long-term planning. Avondale recently set out to define its identity through a citywide branding initiative. After several months of extensive research and community outreach, we found common themes in the feedback we received that helped us to shape the story of Avondale. Avondale is a community proud of its accomplishments, a city that is dynamic, driven and poised to take on the future. Avondale is Aspiring, Achieving, Accelerating. As I look forward to serving the residents of Avondale, I am also honored to be representing my city on the MAG Regional Council, and to be a part of this greater regional effort.

—Mayor Kenneth Weise, Avondale



El Mirage would like to see the West Valley visioning process outline all the major economic and infrastructure assets—for El Mirage and the entire West Valley. By having a comprehensive, strategic vision, the West Valley will be able to move forward as a region and secure strategic partnerships that will help realize projects of regional significance for the West Valley and the state.

—Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage



I strongly believe in collaboration among governmental entities. This summer, the results of long-standing cooperative work were realized: for the first time in almost 44 years, Maricopa County has met federal dust and particulate standards. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the county's plan to reduce dust and particulate levels in the air and acknowledged the county had achieved three consecutive years of reduced air pollution. This is good news for residents across the region and I join in congratulating the stakeholders in this important effort.

—Supervisor Steve Chucuri, Maricopa County



With the Loop 303 nearing completion, Surprise will now be part of the regional transportation system, which will better position us to attract new jobs and business growth for the benefit of our residents, community, and the region as a whole.

—Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise

Scottsdale Kids Get Tough On Trash New PSA Unveiled at Press Conference



Littering is dangerous, disappointing and disgusting, at least according to some pretty savvy Scottsdale kids. Participants who completed the *Don't Trash Arizona, Kids!* outreach campaign this summer are featured in a new public service announcement (PSA). The PSA was unveiled at a press conference in July. The kids are leaving the educational program with strong opinions about litter, how it affects the environment, and how to prevent it from happening altogether.

"You should know if you put something big in a truck, it could fly out if you don't tie it down," Maya Honig, 12, said after seeing photos of mattresses and couches on Arizona's highways.



Don't Trash Arizona, Kids! was sponsored by MAG at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale. During educational workshops, the children were challenged to apply what they had learned by writing an essay, shooting a video, or snapping photos of litter. Contest winners were chosen to appear in the PSA.

To debut the PSA, Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane met with the kids who participated in the program and commended them for their awareness efforts. The PSA asks the kids to answer questions about litter, and captures their honest reactions to images of litter on Valley roads.

"These kids are Arizona's future drivers, and it is really important to instill a strong, anti-littering message with them now, before they get their driver's licenses," said Mayor Lane. "We are thrilled to have these intelligent and dynamic kids willing to act as ambassadors on behalf of Arizona's environment." 

Regional Profile: F. Rockne Arnett



F. Rockne Arnett,
Chair, Citizen's
Transportation
Oversight
Committee



CTOC Chair a "People Person"

When you meet F. Rockne "Roc" Arnett for the first time, chances are he will ask you about yourself. Not only is he truly interested in learning about you, he has found it to be incredibly valuable in forging partnerships.

"For young people getting into any business, this would be the advice I would give. Before I do business with anyone or tell my story, I say, 'Tell me about yourself. Tell me about your family. Where did you go to school?' And when people start talking about themselves, they think well of you. That's a trait that I learned early on in my sales career. Being a 'people person,' I thoroughly enjoy learning about other people. I really do enjoy it, it's a delight."

Born in Eastern Arizona, Arnett has lived in the Valley since the age of seven. He spent the first 38 years of his career brokering risk and insurance services to clients. He has served on the MAG Regional Council for 17 years, first as a member of the State Transportation Board and then as the Governor-appointed chair of the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC). But he is perhaps best known as the president and CEO of East Valley Partnership, a coalition of civic, business, educational and political

leaders dedicated to the economic development and promotion of the East Valley.

"I have never worked so hard in my life, but I've never had so much fun. It really has been a rewarding hoot—bringing together, collaborating and connecting people," he says.

The group recently hired an advertising agency to help establish a unique brand for a vital region in Arizona. "I told them when they came, 'you need to know we are not Phoenix. We are East Valley, we are not Phoenix.'"

However, through surveys with CEOs nationwide, the agency soon convinced the partnership that it was important to put Phoenix in the name. The area is in the process of being branded as "PHX East Valley," with the new tag line: "Talent, growth, and opportunity in the Phoenix East Valley." That captures not only the location and cachet of Phoenix, but continues to preserve the assets and history of the East Valley.

For Arnett, the Valley's vision for the future must include two key components: finding funding for economic development, which includes financing infrastructure for transportation, and creating a new educational environment.

"There is an absolute, critical demand for a culture for education," says Arnett, who notes that even members of his own family have left college to find a job and care for families. "We need to attack education at the grass roots—maybe even in grade school—to get kids ready substantially earlier. We need to convince them that the culture of education is a college degree and to be skills-ready at an early age so that we change the culture."

Another issue on Arnett's priority list is finding funding to help move the Valley economy from a construction-based economy to a technology-driven economy. "But that is going to take a vote of the people, and we would have to embrace some kind of self-imposed investment to make that happen."

Arnett may be one who could get the job done. His group was actively involved in promoting Proposition 400 in 2004 to successfully extend the half-cent sales tax for transportation.

"I consider one of the great opportunities for me as an individual was to participate in that Prop 400 experience," says Arnett. "Unfortunately, with the downturn in the economy, we lost about \$6 billion out of our \$16 billion program, so there needs to be some way we replenish that and expand it."

A former string bass player who played jazz at the old Sands Hotel in Tempe, today Arnett's hobbies revolve around spending time with his 20 grandchildren, ranging from age 4 to 22. During speaking engagements, Arnett always shows a photo of his multi-generational family as his motivation. "That's one of the main reasons I keep doing this. I want this to be a better place for my grandkids," he says. 🏔️



Roc Arnett with his wife, Sydney, their children and 20 grandchildren.

Mexico Delegation Visits Valley to Discuss Business Opportunities

A delegation of more than 20 high-ranking officials from Mexico visited MAG in June to further enhance efforts to strengthen business, agriculture, tourism and industry connections between the state of Sonora and the state of Arizona.

In a meeting and roundtable discussion, Deputy Samuel Moreno Terán, State Congress of Sonora, said he brought the delegation to the region to seek opportunities to enhance commerce on both sides of the border.

“By working together, regions in Arizona and Sonora will experience success—success for one will ensure success for everybody,” said Deputy Moreno.

MAG Chair Michael LeVault told the group that the Valley has intensified efforts to develop economic opportunities with Mexico, citing the recent partnering agreement in April to form the Arizona Sonora Binational Megaregion as just one example of the significant strides being taken between the two states.

“Deputy Moreno personally recognized the importance of coming to MAG to continue the conversation regarding business opportunities within the megaregion, and he pledged to work to enhance jobs on both sides of the border,” said Mayor LeVault. “As local elected officials who also serve in a regional capacity through MAG, we are the caretakers of our communities, and it is up to us to find ways to leverage the assets of Arizona and Sonora to further economic development on both sides of the border,” he said.

The meeting was just one of a series of joint economic development efforts to take place in the past year. Along with the partnering agreement signed in April, Sonora has hosted two binational economic forums, the city of Phoenix is opening a Trade Investment Office in Mexico City (with funding assistance from MAG, the city of Tucson, and the state of Arizona), and MAG and its partners recently initiated BIEN—Building an International Economic Network—to improve freight and trade. The primary focus of the effort is a business-to-business website, ConnectBIEN.com, which uses a custom-designed web tool to connect businesses in Arizona, Mexico and Canada. The website, currently in a soft launch stage, recently reached 300 subscribers. 🏞️

2014 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Results

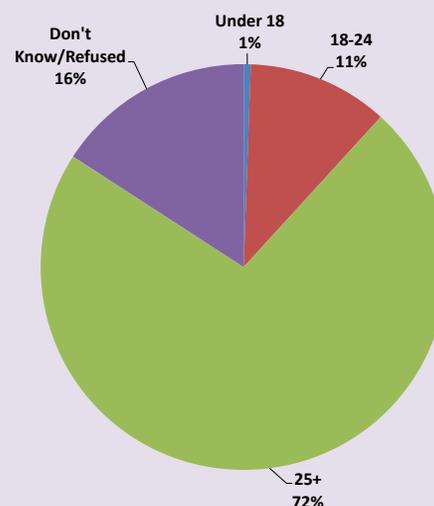
On any given night, there are 5,918 people experiencing homelessness throughout the region. This is according to the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count. On January 27, 2014, hundreds of volunteers surveyed homeless men and women staying in shelters and sleeping on the street. The purpose of the count is to collect data to provide a one-night snapshot of the number of people who are homeless. The results of the count are summarized in the table below.

2014 Homeless Count Results					
	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven	Street	
Total Number of Persons	2,558	2,282	25	1,053	5,918
Number of Children (under age 18)	717	1,096		6	1,819
Number of Persons (18-24)	209	272	2	118	601
Number of Persons (over age 24)	1,630	909	23	929	3,491
Subpopulations					
Chronically Homeless	76		9	318	403
Homeless Veterans	100	161	1	48	310

The Point-in-Time Homeless Count, coordinated by MAG with volunteer street count coordinators in the region, is part of a national effort to identify the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The count is part of the application to HUD for homeless assistance funding. The funding provides transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and supportive services to approximately 60 programs in the region.

For more information about the count, contact Brande Mead, Human Services Program Manager, at bmead@azmag.gov, or by phone at (602) 254-6300. 🏞️

2014 Point-in-Time Count: Age of Unsheltered Persons



2014 Desert Peaks Awards Recognize Regional Excellence

During a special ceremony in June, MAG honored partnerships and individuals selected to receive the 2014 Desert Peaks Awards. The prestigious regional awards are presented to those agencies and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism.

The Desert Peaks Awards were distributed in six categories: Public Partnership, Public-Private Partnership (two recipients were selected for this honor), Professional Service, Regional Partnership, Outstanding Economic Development Champion, and Regional Excellence (two recipients were selected for this honor). Below are those people and projects deemed to best represent the highest standards of regionalism.



Public Partnership

Northern Parkway – Phase One (Sarival Avenue to Dysart Road)

The first phase of Northern Parkway—from Sarival Avenue to Dysart Road—broke ground in February 2012 and opened to traffic in December 2013. This is the first phase of a five-phase project that will ultimately become a 12.5 mile, high-capacity parkway connecting Loop 303 to US-60 (Grand Avenue). It will provide a vital east-west route in the central portion of the West Valley, with convenient access to Luke Air Force Base. While most high-capacity highways in the Valley are owned and built by the state, Northern Parkway is an exception. The project faced the challenge of going through multiple jurisdictions in its pathway, including three cities, the county, and a federal military facility. Northern Parkway covers

varying levels of urban development, and partnership and cooperation allowed the initial highway concept to evolve into a design that addresses the needs of the individual jurisdictions, as well as the region. Northern Parkway promises to attract commercial and industrial opportunities along the Loop 303 Corridor, and offer residents direct access to Glendale’s sports and entertainment district. West Valley residents have already begun to enjoy a shorter, smoother commute.

Partnering Agencies: Arizona Department of Transportation; City of El Mirage; City of Glendale; City of Peoria; Federal Highway Administration; Luke Air Force Base; Maricopa County Flood Control District; Maricopa County Department of Transportation.

Public-Private Partnership

(Two recipients were selected in this category)

Don't Let Our Air Go Up in Smoke Winter No Burn Campaign 2013-2014

The winter holidays mean Valley families gathering around their fireplaces, chimineas and firepits. These seasonal traditions also mean increases in asthma and other lung problems when woodburning results in unhealthy airborne particles known as PM-2.5. In an unprecedented effort to maintain compliance with air quality standards, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department partnered with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on an aggressive, widespread, bilingual outreach campaign. The campaign had five goals: to increase awareness of No Burn days within the community; to change behavior by offering alternatives to woodburning on No Burn days; to improve air quality during a traditionally challenging time of year; to prevent violation of the federal PM-2.5 standard; and to avoid costly and burdensome requirements associated with nonattainment. The collaborative



Public Partnership Award Recipients—Northern Parkway - Phase One

AKS

ards
Excellence
Cooperation

2014

Maricopa Association of Governments



Public-Private Partnership Award Recipients—*Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network*



Public-Private Partnership Award Recipients—*Winter No Burn Campaign*

effort included more than 70 business, industry, health, environmental and government stakeholders. The campaign was a success: there were no air quality violations for PM-2.5 and the region stayed in attainment with national health-based air quality standards.

Partnering Agencies: Amanda Reeve, Polsinelli; American Lung Association in Arizona; Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; Arizona Department of Transportation; Arizona General Contractors Association; Arizona Rock Products Association; Bashas' Family of Stores; City of Glendale; City of Mesa; City of Phoenix; Jeff Munn, Broadcaster; KTVK-3TV, Arizona's Family; Maricopa County Air Quality Department; Ralph Sampson, National Basketball Retired Players Association; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Salt River Project (SRP).

Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network

There are currently 463,000 people aged 65 years and older in our region. By 2020, that number will increase to 700,000. The Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network consists of more than 20 organizations collaborating toward the goal of better connecting older adults with people of all ages in their communities. The Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network provides assistance to communities wanting to be more inclusive of older adults, and includes an interactive

website—Connect60plus.com. Pilot programs range from time banks, where participants exchange volunteer hours, to connecting seniors with transportation options. The network helps leverage the time and talents of older adults while connecting them in more meaningful ways to their communities. Pilot sites have been established in Phoenix, Tempe and the Northwest Valley, while a fourth project is beginning in Scottsdale. Additional communities are participating in the discussion, utilizing the theme that what one community innovates, others can share. The Greater Phoenix region was recently selected as one of the nation's top age-friendly communities.

Partnering Agencies: AARP Arizona; All Saints' Episcopal Church & Day School; Area Agency on Aging Region One; Arizona Department of Economic Security; Arizona Department of Health Services; Arizona Grantmakers Forum; Arizona State University; Benevolla; Central Village; Chicanos por la Causa; City of Peoria; City of Phoenix; City of Scottsdale; City of Tempe; Duet; Foothills Caring Corps; Grantmakers in Aging; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County; Neighbors Who Care, Inc.; Pfizer Foundation; Sun Health; Tempe Community Council; Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Valley Metro; Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.



Professional Service Charles P. McClendon

Charles P. McClendon, known by most simply as "Charlie," served the residents of Glendale, Avondale and the region for nearly three decades. McClendon's commitment to public service began in the MAG region in 1985, when he began a 17-year career with the city of Glendale. McClendon joined the city of Avondale in 2002



Charles McClendon accepts the Professional Service Award

Continued on page 8

2014 Desert Peaks Awards (continued)



and he was appointed city manager in 2004. Upon this appointment, he became Avondale's representative on the MAG Management Committee, where he became one of MAG's longest tenured members.

He served as chair of the committee from 2008 to 2009. He was especially involved in population demographics and served as chair of the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee. He also served on a census advisory subcommittee and on a task force to develop guidelines that would define the operating policies and procedures for the MAG organization. McClendon left the city of Avondale in 2014 to become the city manager of Cathedral City, CA, leaving behind a legacy of partnership, cooperation, and excellence that will continue to be felt in the MAG region for many years to come.

collection drive with area schools to promote "no plastic bags" in the blue recycling bin, divert the bags from the landfill, and educate residents that bags can be recycled at grocery stores; Girl Scout recycling workshops and creation of a recycling badge; the development of a "Recycling Rewards" program; a "My-Waste" mobile phone app; a curbside and drop-off textile recycling program; a "Club Blue" young recyclers program; and other idea-sharing programs. The open, informal meetings have created a forum and culture for sharing ideas, developing programs, encouraging innovative educational and outreach opportunities, and promoting regional recycling and diversion.

Partnering Agencies: City of Chandler; City of Mesa; City of Scottsdale; City of Tempe; Town of Gilbert; Town of Queen Creek.

Regional Partnership East Valley Recycling Alliance



The East Valley Recycling Alliance consists of six East Valley cities that combined expertise and resources to further regional recycling, education and outreach efforts. The cities, along with the city of Casa Grande, formed the East Valley Recycling Alliance in October 2012. Since then, the group has worked together in a regional approach to share marketing strategies, training materials, and innovative recycling education efforts. Projects have included a joint bid request for promotional items; a "bench the bag" contest and



Outstanding Economic Development Champion Award Recipients
—Luke Forward Campaign

Outstanding Economic Development Champion

West Valley Partners—Luke Forward Campaign

Luke Air Force Base is the largest active duty F-16 training base in the world, but in 2009, West Valley leaders recognized that a transition to the new F-35 fighter jet could have a significant impact on the base, the region, and Arizona. Fourteen jurisdictions—known as the West Valley Partners—came together to advocate for the selection of Luke as the primary training base for the new F-35. Working with the nonprofit Fighter Country Partnership, the partners launched a community outreach campaign known as *Luke Forward*. The purpose of the campaign was to generate awareness of the positive economic impact the new mission could have on the region and the state, and to send a strong message to the U.S. Department of Defense that the West Valley was "mission ready." More than 21,000 residents throughout



Regional Partnership Award Recipients—East Valley Recycling Alliance

Arizona registered their support for the F-35 coming to Luke. Support also came from the Governor's Office, Arizona's congressional delegation, and every city and town in the state. The efforts paid off when the Air Force announced that 144 F-35s would be stationed at Luke. Immediate benefits included more than \$100 million in construction projects and improvements, resulting in 3,000 jobs.

Partnering Agencies: City of Avondale; City of Buckeye; City of El Mirage; City of Glendale; City of Goodyear; City of Litchfield Park; City of Peoria; City of Phoenix; City of Surprise; City of Tolleson; Fighter Country Partnership; Maricopa County; Town of Gila Bend; Town of Wickenburg; Town of Youngtown.



Regional Excellence

(Two recipients were selected in this category)

The Honorable Jackie A. Meck, Mayor, City of Buckeye



Mayor Jackie Meck's roots in the city of Buckeye go deep: he's never lived more than seven miles from where he was born. Mayor Meck has made it a mission to build jobs and opportunities in Buckeye, and he has been a passionate advocate for growing his city and the



region. He currently serves on the MAG Executive Committee and the MAG Economic Development Committee. As past president of the Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce, the mayor began a campaign called, "Buckeye is open for business," and he was instrumental in helping transition Buckeye from a town to a city. Transportation issues also have been a key focus for Mayor Meck, who served as chair of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee and as treasurer for the Interstate 11 Coalition. He has also served on the board of directors for Valley Metro. Mayor Meck is the retired general manager of the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District. He also has served on the Board of Directors of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and WESTMARC.

The Honorable Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor, City of Chandler

During his first eight years as the mayor of Chandler (1994 to 2002), Mayor Jay Tibshraeny helped Chandler grow into a major metropolitan city—the fourth largest in Arizona. While he led Chandler through this period of exceptional growth, he continued to focus on quality development. After completing his first term, Mayor Tibshraeny continued his public service as a state senator. During his eight years at the state legislature, he successfully sponsored bills to address problems related to the housing crisis by enhancing regulations on loan officers and increasing penalties for mortgage fraud. He returned as Chandler's mayor in 2011 and was reelected in an unprecedented 6th term. He has focused on sustainable neighborhoods, and was recognized as the 2013 Municipal Leader of the Year by American City and County Magazine for creating, protecting and preserving the Price Corridor. Mayor Tibshraeny has served as MAG treasurer and on the Greater Phoenix Economic Council Board of Directors, Arizona League of Cities and Towns Executive Committee, and East Valley Partnership. 



Sponsorships

The costs of the Desert Peaks program were offset by sponsors. The Platinum Sponsor was CopperPoint Mutual Insurance Company. Gold Sponsors included Chanen Construction Company; HDR Engineering, Inc.; MJ Insurance, Inc.; and Parsons Brinckerhoff. Silver Sponsors included Arizona Association of General Contractors; Arizona Commerce Authority; Arizona Lottery; Arizona Public Service (APS); Arizona State University; Delta Dental Of Arizona; Dickinson Wright PLLC; Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; Lee Engineering; Salt River Project (SRP); and Wilson & Company, Inc. Bronze Sponsors included Burgess & Niple, Inc.; TerraSystems Southwest, Inc.; Triadvocates LLC; and Wells Fargo Bank, N. A.



More than 260 people attended the 2014 Desert Peaks Awards evening.

Grant Helps Spur Collaboration in the Intermountain West

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has awarded a grant to the Maricopa Association of Governments to work with other agencies in the Intermountain West region to conduct outreach and develop strategies for information sharing, with the ultimate goal of expediting key global transportation projects.

also seeks to develop a common operating vision and platform for easier data information sharing, and to develop a risk register—a method of documenting various levels of risks that can stand in the way of successfully achieving the goals and objectives of an activity. Risks may include unplanned events, such as cost increases, unexpected archaeological findings, and insufficient funding.



The \$240,000 Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) grant will fund a multiphase effort. The effort will include conducting outreach to transportation management areas and state departments of transportation in the Intermountain West to identify needs and potential gaps in transportation and data resources. It

“The Intermountain West region is critical to the long term economic vitality of this nation,” said MAG Chair Michael LeVault, mayor of Youngtown. “Once they are fully developed, nationally significant corridors within the region would strategically link the

movement of people and freight. Now is the critical time to address the transportation network and other infrastructure in the region to enhance global competitiveness. Cooperation among the various affected entities will be needed to make this a reality,” he said.

The Intermountain West region is a network of widely dispersed metropolitan regions with diverse land management. Key stakeholders include transportation management agencies, the Western Regional Alliance, metropolitan planning organizations, state departments of transportation, regional intertribal organizations, the Bureau of Land Management, FHWA, the U.S. National Park Service, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other relevant federal, tribal, state and local agencies. The SHRP2 project will bring the agencies together to develop priorities, areas of commonality, and methods of resolving areas of conflict. 



Photo by Sun Health Senior Living

Photo of Local 70-Year Old Sky Diver Wins International Contest

On May 21, 2014, Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) announced the selection of 18 winners of its first “Friendly Faces, Friendly Places” international photo contest, supported by the Pfizer Foundation. Out of the 500 photos submitted worldwide, one local photo was announced as a winner. The photo of Surprise resident Sharon Vizzini skydiving at age 70 placed second in the “Older and Active” category. The photo was provided by Sun Health Senior Living and submitted by the Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network. The winning photographs in the six categories of the competition may be found on the Community AGenda webpage at giaging.org.

Public Provides Input on US-60/Grand Avenue's Future

After nearly two years of study along the Grand Avenue corridor, recommended long-term corridor improvements were presented for public review and comment during two West Valley open houses in June. The public was encouraged to participate in the open houses to discuss the future of the US-60/Grand Avenue corridor and to provide feedback on the recommendations.

The study is the outgrowth of a Partnering Charter signed in 2012 by MAG and its partners: the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT); the cities of El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, and Surprise; the Town of Youngtown; and Maricopa County. The purpose of the charter was to develop the

Corridor Optimization, Access Management Plan, and System Study (COMPASS) for the US-60/Grand Avenue.

"I am pleased the project is nearing completion and I look forward to hearing more about how the recommendations resonate in my community and with other West Valley residents," said MAG Chair Michael LeVault, mayor of Youngtown. "As US-60/Grand Avenue leads the way for a new development pattern in the West Valley, the COMPASS project's recommendations provide a framework from which we can all work to enhance economic opportunities for the region."

Input received from the meetings will help fine-tune the US-60/



Grand Avenue corridor recommendations. Although many improvements have been constructed along the corridor in recent years (such as intersection flyover ramps, road widening, traffic signal improvements, and new landscaping), the study will be used to develop a cohesive, long-term transportation plan. The study is intended to be completed this summer. Visit the project webpage for more study information at <http://us-60compass.azmag.gov/>. 

First Track Northwest Light Rail Extension Celebration

On July 12, Valley Metro celebrated a significant milestone for the Northwest Phoenix light rail extension project. The celebration of the laying of the first track for the extension also marked the halfway point of the project, which is scheduled for completion in early 2016. The light rail line is being extended north on 19th Avenue from the end of the line at Montebello Avenue to Dunlap Avenue.



U.S. Representative Ed Pastor



Above—From left to right: Phoenix City Manager Ed Zuercher; Phoenix Councilmember Kate Gallego; Phoenix Councilmember Thelda Williams; Phoenix Councilmember Daniel Valenzuela; U.S. Representative Ed Pastor; Sundt Corporation CEO Dave Crawford; Valley Metro CEO Steve Banta.



Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton



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A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence

August 2014—October 2014  Vol. 19: No. 3

Fall 2014 Calendar

August 2014

- 5th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 6th 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 6th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 6th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 6th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 12th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 13th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 14th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 14th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 18th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 20th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 26th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 27th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 28th 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG office on the 2nd floor of the building, 302 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. For confirmation, call (602) 254-6300, or visit the website: www.azmag.gov/Events/

September 2014

- 3th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 4th 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 9th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 9th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 10th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 11th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 10:00 a.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 17th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 17th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 22nd 1:30 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 23rd 9:30 p.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 24th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 25th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)

A transit ticket will be provided for anyone who purchased a transit ticket to attend a meeting. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

October 2014

- 1st 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 1st 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 1st 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood) - if necessary
- 7th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 9th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 14th 1:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 15th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 16th 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 20th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 22nd 10:00 a.m. Human Services Coordinating Committee (Saguaro)
- 22nd 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)
- 23rd 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 23rd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 28th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting.