

- **Oregon FEB settled into new home**

The Oregon Federal Executive Board (FEB) has finished unpacking and is up and running in their new offices at the Gus Solomon Courthouse, 620 SW Main, Suite 330. GSA helped make the move a relatively smooth one. Phone numbers and email contact for Executive Director Ron Johnson and Management Analyst Jeff Sargent remain the same.

The Oregon FEB became one of the first tenants in the Green-Wyatt Federal Building to vacate in preparation for the \$133 million renovation of the 35-year-old structure. Remaining agencies will be out by October. The remodel will convert the Green-Wyatt into one of the greenest federal buildings in the nation, and will take 3-4 years to complete.



## **Combined Federal Campaign**

- **CFC Coordinator training expands to all corners of the region**

The Pacific Northwest CFC has been growing by leaps and bounds over the past decade. With the addition this year of four more counties (Josephine and Jackson in Oregon, Pacific and Gray's Harbor in Washington), it now serves approximately 26,000 federal employees in 37 Oregon and SW Washington counties. With this comes the need to work even harder to reach out and maintain good communication and relationships with the diverse communities across the vast region.

To do this, Pacific NW CFC Administrative Manager Steve Papp and Local Federal Coordinating Committee Chair Ron Johnson, with input from federal representatives throughout the CFC territory, have been developing new strategies to encourage and inform federal employees about the campaign. This includes more effective training of CFC coordinators, the vital federal volunteers who manage the campaigns in their respective agencies.

Beginning in September, training sessions will take place in Astoria, Bend, Burns, Corvallis, Eugene, Hood River, Medford, Pendleton, Portland/Vancouver Metro Area and Salem. Local federal representatives will lead the training, with Ron and Steve providing support and materials. Locations and times are still being confirmed. For more information, contact Steve Papp, CFC Administrative Manager, at [stevep@unitedway-pdx.org](mailto:stevep@unitedway-pdx.org) or 503-226-9557, or watch the local CFC website at [www.yourcfc.org](http://www.yourcfc.org).

## **Federal Benefits and Employment**

- **OPM issues rebuttal to recent study on federal pay disparity**

Washington, DC - Today, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management released the following statement from Director John Berry:

"Recent press stories regarding pay for Federal employees compared to private sector workers are unfair and untrue. Simply put, these stories have compared apples to oranges. Federal workers are not paid double the private sector. The Cato Institute and USA Today stories quoting Cato staff (and similar statements from the Heritage Foundation) look only at gross averages, including retail and restaurant service workers and other entry-level positions that reduce private sector average pay in comparison to the Federal average, which does not include many of these categories in its workforce.

The Federal workforce today is highly specialized. Thirty years ago, over 22% of our workforce was in blue collar jobs. Now that percentage has dropped by half while the percentage of IT and Health professionals has doubled. Data clearly show that many of these highly specialized workers - doctors, nurses, cyber security professionals - are paid less than their private sector counterparts and are making a significant sacrifice in pay to serve their neighbors.

The wages we pay are fair and the benefits we offer are good. But working for the Federal government is about more than money. People grow up dreaming about working for NASA, or the CIA, or becoming a park ranger, or cancer researcher. We should be applauding these hard-working civil servants - not mischaracterizing them.

It is also worth noting that in this time when so many American families are struggling to make ends meet, the President is committed to making sure the Federal government is spending the taxpayers' money wisely and carefully, and cutting costs wherever possible. Like households and businesses across the country, the Federal Government is tightening its belt. That's why the President launched the Accountable Government Initiative and has pursued a variety of areas to cut waste and boost efficiency from contracting to improper payments, Federal real property, and unnecessary programs."

*Courtesy of the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](http://www.opm.gov), Monday, August 16, 2010*

- **New automatic enrollment program could encourage TSP savings**

A new Thrift Savings Plan automatic enrollment program should encourage federal employees to save more for retirement, but it is too early to tell if the effort is working as intended, officials said during a monthly Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board meeting on Monday.

On Aug. 1, TSP launched a program to automatically sign up all new civilian hires to contribute 3 percent of basic pay to the government securities (G) fund, unless they choose to terminate their contributions or change the amount. Participants also will receive a 3 percent match and a 1 percent contribution from their agencies. If employees leave the enrollment program, they no longer will be eligible for the 3 percent match. The G Fund is the most stable investment of the TSP options.

During the board meeting, Renee Wilder, director of research and strategic planning, said no participation data is available yet, but she doesn't expect to see many people opt out of automatic enrollment, which encourages saving.

"If you can't get your hands on the money, you save it," said Wilder, adding that the board will be tracking the program's participants separately from other enrollees to better understand their behavior.

For the complete story, go to [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=45930&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=45930&dcn=e_gvet).

*Courtesy of [Govexec.com](http://www.govexec.com), August 16, 2010*

- **Civilian agencies get green light to continue insourcing**

The Defense Department might be abandoning efforts to bring contractor jobs back in-house, but don't expect civilian agencies to necessarily follow suit anytime soon.

In an interview on Friday, Daniel Gordon, administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy at the Office of Management and Budget, told Government Executive agencies are free to continue their insourcing initiatives.

"I don't think or would not anticipate issuing guidance that would prohibit agencies from adding federal employees to do work currently being performed by contractors if they think it's necessary," Gordon said. "Let me be clear. If there are 100 contractor employees doing a function, and the agency decides to reduce its reliance on contractors and it decides it needs to have additional federal employees to absorb part of that work ... OMB is not going to tell them in a blanket policy guidance they cannot do that."

On Monday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the Pentagon would phase out its insourcing program, citing disappointment in cost savings during the past year. Defense will continue with planned insourcing transitions for fiscal 2010, but with the exception of some critical functions -- such as beefing up the size of the acquisition workforce -- no more full-time government positions will be added to replace contractors, he said.

Gordon noted, however, that cost has rarely been the primary driver for civilian agencies when deciding whether the public or private sector should perform a function. "It is my clear and strong impression that the number of positions being insourced based solely on a cost savings analysis is very low," the administrator said.

OFPP has instructed agencies to focus their attention on work that is inherently governmental and should not have been outsourced in the first place. Final guidance on how agencies should determine an inherently governmental function is due out in the fall.

For the complete story, please go to [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=45899&dcn=e\\_gvet](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=45899&dcn=e_gvet).

*Courtesy of [Govexec.com](http://www.govexec.com), August 13, 2010*

## **Education and Training**

- **FY2010 Retirement and Estate Planning seminars**

The last of the Oregon FEB's Retirement and Estate Planning seminars for FY2010 will be a FERS session held **Sept. 8-9**, at the Portland Building, 1120 SW Fifth Ave., Conference Room C, Portland, OR 97204.

Popular instructors Loretta Ellis and Marsha Murray-Lusby share their invaluable information with you on how to ease into your post-federal life. All seminars begin at 8:30 a.m., and will be held at the Green-Wyatt Federal Building, Room G70, in Portland. Costs are \$125 for Federal employees and \$75 for non-Federal spouses.

Register online at [www.oregonfeb.us](http://www.oregonfeb.us). Questions? Contact us at 503-326-3010 or [ofebtraining@pcez.com](mailto:ofebtraining@pcez.com).



- **FEMA and Oregon FEB bring cyber security exercise to Portland**

Are you prepared for a complete shutdown of your IT infrastructure due to a malicious cyber attack? Scary thought. Cyber security threats are real and dangerous, and are growing in number and sophistication. They can adversely affect the ability of government and the private sector to provide essential functions and services to our citizens.

The Oregon FEB and FEMA Region X are proud to bring you "Resilient Accord Oregon 2010," **September 9th**, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Red Lion Hotel Portland - Convention Center. Designed for senior decision makers, emergency managers, human resources personnel, IT professionals and public affairs officers, the exercise objective is to increase the awareness of the cyber threat and continuity planning considerations, so you can ensure that you can continue to carry out your mission through such an emergency. This will be the first time this Homeland Security developed model has been conducted outside of Washington, D.C., so regional and national FEMA personnel are expected to join.

The cost to attend is only \$25, and includes a buffet lunch. To register or for additional information, go to [www.oregonfeb.us](http://www.oregonfeb.us) and download a registration form, or contact Jeff Sargent at [jsargent@pcez.com](mailto:jsargent@pcez.com) or 503-326-3030.



- **National Preparedness Month encourages you to be ready for anything**

How often do you think about emergencies or disasters? Probably not very often. Maybe after it happens to someone else. However, taking just a few steps can give you the tools to ensure you and your family's safety in an emergency.

According to the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey, only 36 percent of individuals believed there was a high likelihood of a natural disaster to EVER happen in their community. But disasters happen every day in many different forms – from hurricanes to snowstorms, even localized events such as floods and power outages.

Many people think that it will be easy to grab items from your pantry if disaster strikes. But what if you aren't at home? What if your family is separated? What if you have to leave quickly? What about your elderly neighbor? The Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps encourage you to take a few extra minutes to plan for any emergency. September is National Preparedness Month (NPM) and a good reminder that we all have a responsibility to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. Emergencies will happen, but taking action now can help us minimize the impact they will have on our lives.

This year, NPM focuses on encouraging you and other Americans to take active steps toward getting involved and becoming prepared. Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. We have to work together, as a team, to ensure that individuals, families, and communities are ready. Make a plan, Put together an emergency supply kit. Stay Informed. Work as a team to keep everyone safe.

For more information on NPM or for help getting your family, business or community prepared, call 1-800-BE-READY, TTY 1-800-462-7585 or visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov), [listo.gov](http://listo.gov) or [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov), where you'll find free preparedness resources such as Family Emergency Plan templates, Emergency Supply Kit Checklists, and much more. The Ready Web site also has a special section for kids, ages 8-12, (Ready Kids) and small- to medium-sized businesses (Ready Business).

Emergencies can happen at any time and to anyone. Are you ready?

*Courtesy of [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)*

- **Hands-only CPR, pushy dispatchers are lifesavers**

More bystanders are willing to attempt CPR if an emergency dispatcher gives them firm and direct instructions — especially if they can just press on the chest and skip the mouth-to-mouth, according to new research.

The two new studies conclude that "hands-only" chest compression is enough to save a life. They are the largest and most rigorous yet to suggest that breathing into a victim's mouth isn't needed in most cases.

The American Heart Association has been promoting hands-only CPR for two years, though it's not clear how much it's caught on. The new studies should encourage dispatchers and bystanders to be more aggressive about using the simpler technique. "That could translate into hundreds if not thousands of additional lives saved each year. What are we waiting for?" said Dr. Arthur Kellermann, a RAND Corporation expert on emergency medicine.

An estimated 310,000 Americans die each year of cardiac arrest outside hospitals or in emergency rooms. Only about 6 percent of those who are stricken outside a hospital survive.

For the complete story, please go to <http://www.kval.com/news/national/99542549.html>.

*Courtesy of the Associated Press, appearing on [KVAL.com](http://KVAL.com), July 29, 2010*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST			
4th-5th	<b>CSRS Retirement &amp; Estate Planning Seminar</b>	8:30 am - 4:00 pm 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Location:</b> Green-Wyatt Federal Building 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Rm. G70, Portland, OR 97204 <b>Cost:</b> \$125 Feds, \$75 Non-Fed Spouses.
19th	<b>Oregon &amp; SW Washington Crisis Continuity Coalition (C3)</b>	1:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Location:</b> ODS Tower 601 SW 2nd Ave, 20th Floor Conf. Rm., Portland
23rd	<b>CFC Leadership Team Meeting</b>	1:00 - 2:30 pm	<b>Location:</b> Conference Call
SEPTEMBER			
TBD	<b>Pacific Northwest CFC Campaign Coordinator Training</b>	Various, depending upon location	<b>Locations:</b> Astoria, Bend, Burns, Corvallis, Eugene, Hood River, Medford, Pendleton, Portland/Vancouver Metro, Salem
1st	<b>Shared Neutrals Board Meeting</b>	9:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Location:</b> Small Business Administration Office 601 SW 2nd Ave., Ste. 950, Portland, OR 97204
8th-9th	<b>FERS Retirement &amp; Estate Planning Seminar</b>	8:30 am - 4:00 pm 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Location:</b> Portland Building 1120 SW 5th Ave., Conf. Rm. C, Portland 97204 <b>Cost:</b> \$125 Feds, \$75 Non-Fed Spouses.
9th	<b>"Resilient Accord Oregon 2010" Cyber Security Tabletop</b>	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	<b>Location:</b> Red Lion Hotel-Convention Center, St. John's/Broadway Room 1021 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232 <b>Cost:</b> \$25 per person, includes buffet lunch
OCTOBER			
1st	<b>Pacific Northwest CFC Kick-off</b>	All Day	<b>Location:</b> 37 counties in Oregon and SW Washington
7th	<b>Oregon FEB Policy Committee</b>	1:30 - 3:00 pm	<b>Location:</b> Bonneville Power Administration 905 NE 9th Street, Portland, OR 97232
21st	<b>Oregon &amp; SW Washington Crisis Continuity Coalition (C3)</b>	10 am - 12 pm	<b>Location:</b> TBD

Registration info for all classes: [www.oregonfeb.us](http://www.oregonfeb.us)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee	Latest Developments	Next Meeting, Contact(s)
<b>Policy</b>	The next meeting will be held Oct. 7th, at the Bonneville Power Administration. The June meeting at the Federal Highway Administration offices in Vancouver, welcomed new members Luke Arant, General Services Administration and Lynn Voigt, Farm Service Agency.	<b>Next Mtg:</b> Oct. 7, 1:30 pm <u>Ron Johnson</u> , 503-326-2060 <u>David Ferguson</u> , 503-889-3070
<b>Combined Federal Campaign</b>	Steve Papp, CFC Administrative Manager, is working with the Pacific NW CFC Leadership Team to produce the charity list and plan statewide coordinator training.	<b>Next Mtg:</b> Aug. 23, 1:00 pm <u>Ron Johnson</u> , 503-326-2060 <u>Jeff Sargent</u> , 503-326-3030
<b>Crisis Continuity Coalition (C3)</b>	The committee meets this month, and will discuss national FEMA initiatives, GSA's Occupant Emergency Plan and the next local exercise, scheduled for September 9th. The meeting also welcomes FBI Special Agent Phil Slinkard, who will present the realities of cyber security threats.	<b>Next Mtg:</b> Aug 19, 1:30 pm <u>Dan Des Rochers</u> , 503-889-2206 <u>Gail Dreckman</u> , 503-230-3778
<b>Shared Neutrals/ADR</b>	The Committee held their annual meeting and training session June 15-16 at the Evergreen School District offices in Vancouver. The focus of the training was on Group Facilitation, with Seattle trainers Dee Knapp, Accord & Collaboration Dispute Resolution Services and Doug Nathan of Conflict Matters.	<b>Next Mtg:</b> Sept. 1, 9:30 am <u>Kyle Huddleston</u> , 541-225-6348 <u>Trent Stewart</u> , 503-273-5230

FY 2010 Oregon FEB Policy Committee	Oregon FEB Committees & Chairs
<p><b>Chair</b> David Ferguson, DHS/Transportation Security Admin.</p> <p><b>Vice-Chair</b> Clara Conner, Federal Highway Admin., Vancouver</p> <p><b>At-Large</b> Luke Arant, General Services Administration Rex Cray, Veteran Affairs General Counsel Dan Des Rochers, DHS/Transportation Security Admin. Gail Dreckman, Bonneville Power Administration Roy Fox, Bonneville Power Administration Cmdr. Layne Frambes, DHS/Federal Protective Service Carol Maartense, Social Security Administration, Eugene Cynthia Maltzberger, DHS/Customs &amp; Border Protection Col. Steven R. Miles, Army Corps of Engineers, Portland Dist. Lisa Pozzebon, Veterans Affairs Regional Office Andy Smith, Bureau of Land Management Joyce Sullivan, Social Security Administration, Portland Lynn Voigt, Farm Service Agency Frederick White, Portland VA Medical Center</p>	<p><b>2010 Combined Federal Campaign</b> Cynthia Maltzberger, DHS-Customs &amp; Border Protection</p> <p><b>Oregon &amp; SW Washington Crisis Continuity Coalition</b> Dan Des Rochers, DHS/Transportation Security Admin. Gail Dreckman, Bonneville Power Administration</p> <p><b>Shared Neutrals/Alternative Dispute Resolution</b> Trent Stewart, Portland VA Medical Center</p>
	<p style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"><b>Oregon FEB Staff</b></p> <p>Ron Johnson, Executive Director: <a href="mailto:rjohnson@pcez.com">rjohnson@pcez.com</a>, 503-326-2060</p> <p>Jeff Sargent, Management Analyst: <a href="mailto:jsargent@pcez.com">jsargent@pcez.com</a>, 503-326-3030</p> <p>620 SW Main Street, Suite 330, Portland, Oregon 97205 Ph: 503-326-3010 Fax: 503-326-2070</p> <p style="color: #800040;"><a href="http://www.oregonfeb.us">www.oregonfeb.us</a></p>



### Suggestion Box

If you have any ideas on content you'd like to see in this newsletter or how to improve it, send your suggestions to Jeff Sargent, at [jsargent@pcez.com](mailto:jsargent@pcez.com). Thank you!