

Governing Board Member Highlight

M. Lynn Lemon



You may know that Lynn Lemon has served as the Cache County Executive for 5 terms, and on the BRAG Governing Board for 19 years, but you may not know that he worked his way through college by "roughnecking" on an oil rig. A graduate of Utah State University with a degree in Business

Administration and an emphasis in marketing, he always knew he could get some extra money by heading to the Uintah Basin to pick up a shift or work for a few days on the oil rigs. It paid well and allowed him to graduate debt free.

It was at Utah State that he met his wife, Susan. They attended the same singles branch, and she worked on his campaign for Business Senator. He won that election, and Susan's heart. They are the parents of 6 children and 13 grandchildren.

Lynn is a man of many interests. He loves sports, has competed in the St. George Marathon, and the Top of Utah Marathon twice. His son then got him interested in biking, and he has also participated in the Logan to Jackson bike race on 2 different occasions. He's an avid

swimmer, and his extended family have followed his challenge to swim across Hebgen Lake, near West Yellowstone, every year on their family reunion (He actually swims across every day, rain or shine during the time they are there).

Lynn loves to garden. Being raised on a dairy farm in Ioka, his form of relaxing is to dig in the dirt, and he delights all his children, in-laws, and friends with his amazing salsa, all grown from ingredients in his own garden.

Lynn has also been a great supporter of scouting. He has served as a Scout Master on two different occasions, a Varsity Scout Coach, and an Explorer Advisor. But his greatest passion is supporting his children. Whether constructing a Southern Mansion for his daughter's Jr. Prom, attending football, soccer, basketball, and baseball games, dance and drill team competitions, or musical performances, Lynn is dedicated to his family. And now with 13 grandchildren, that opportunity will continue.

- Written by Susan Lemon

Housing and Human Service Agencies Meet to Learn and Coordinate Regional Resources

On Wednesday, April 10, housing and

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human services agency staff, community officials, and others met at the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan to discuss regional housing and human service needs, and to provide information and resources for those in need of the services. The intention of the biannual meeting was to provide brief overviews of services region-wide, and an opportunity for attendees to become better acquainted with each other and become more familiar with various services for their clients.

At the end of the presentations, Representative Ed Redd, who is on the state-wide Social Services and Appropriations Subcommittee spoke and presented a power point about the challenges and complexities of implementing The Affordable Care Act in Utah over the next few years.

Contact Dolores Berkley with questions or for more information at 435.752.7242.

Please submit articles or ideas to

Dolores Berkley at doloresb@brag.utah.gov or call at 435.752.7242

Bear River Association of Governments
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Lieutenant Governor Visits Box Elder County to Discuss Job Growth



Utah Lt. Governor Greg Bell discusses job growth with local officials and economic development specialists in the Brigham City Emergency Services Building. Lt. Governor Bell emphasized the need for better training and education for Utah's workforce.

On Friday, March 29, 2013, Lt. Governor Greg Bell visited with local officials from Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties at the regular BRAG Governing Board meeting to discuss job creation efforts in the region. Around forty-five people attended the meeting including elected and appointed officials, economic development directors and planners, staff from the Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Cache Valley Transit District (CVTD), Utah State University, and others.

After an introduction from Brigham City Mayor and current BRAG Governing Board Chair Dennis Fife, Lt. Governor Bell spoke to the group about the positive things happening in Utah government. He mentioned the recent fiscal problems

in California and several other states across the country, stating that Utah has been very successful in keeping the budget balanced and taxes low. He also praised the state for its quality agriculture, natural resources, family-friendly neighborhoods, good climate, and the state's ability to recruit and retain businesses.

Following the Lt. Governor's remarks, BRAG's Executive Director, Roger Jones, outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was three-fold:

1. To report to Lt. Governor Bell regarding the on-going efforts in the Bear River Region to support business and job growth.

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CALENDAR



Stay Tuned!

The next issue of BRAG Quarterly will include an article on the history of the 100-year-old BRAG building! The "Arimo Block," as it was referred to in 1913 when it was constructed, has been home to a pool hall, knitting mill, hospital, Logan City Offices, and other uses until the mid-1970's, when the District Health Department and BRAG began occupying the building.

BRAG Services

... Lt. Governor continued from pg. 1

2. To hear first-hand from those in the region working to retain existing jobs, attract new businesses, and assist with business start-ups and expansions.
3. To allow city and county officials and all of us an opportunity to critique current efforts and suggest changes or improvements.

Mr. Jones continued by stating that the private sector creates jobs, but the public sector can help to support that job creation.

Other speakers at the meeting included Kristen Floyd, Regional Director for the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS); Jill Rasmussen, Director of Student Services at the USU Brigham City Regional Campus; Jason Yerka, Director of the Box Elder County Small Business Resource Center; Wendy English, BEAR Outreach Specialist; Sandy Emile, CEO of the Cache Chamber of Commerce; and Lisa Duskin-Goede, Bear River Heritage Area Coordinator. Speakers gave overviews of the many programs and resources in the region and in the state, and provided statistics from 2012 which show the great progress that has been made over the past several years.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Lt. Governor Bell took a moment to provide some final remarks and answer questions for the group. He emphasized the need for job creation, education, and workforce training, and advised the group that Utah's workforce is strong, but there is a lack of people who have technical training and science and engineering degrees to fill positions available across the state. He also commented on the Governor's goal of becoming even more fiscally efficient as a state, saying that, "Our efficiency in state government is incredible. And [members of the Governor's staff] convinced the Governor that we can work at a 25% greater efficiency. And so he went prime-time with his State of the State address and said over the next four years we will

become 25% more efficient. That's not small...that's big time! So, we're doing that, but it's going to take a lot of effort."

Following the meeting, a small group of local officials and others accompanied the Lt. Governor on a tour of several local businesses in Box Elder County. These included visits to Storm Products, Inc. in Brigham City, and the Proctor and Gamble facility west of Bear River City, Utah. Storm Products, Inc. designs and manufactures custom bowling balls,



Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell stands with Proctor & Gamble staff next to a large roll of paper towels in the companies paper products manufacturing plant in Box Elder County. The facility was completed in 2011, bringing 200 jobs to the area.

bags, shoes, and other accessories. According to the companies website, "Today Storm Bowling Balls can be found in the hands of many prominent professional and amateur bowlers alike. Storm Products, Inc. has full time representation on the men's and women's Professional Bowling Tours. The Storm name still continues to grow throughout the world (<http://www.stormbowling.com>)."

The 600,000 square foot Proctor and Gamble towel and tissue manufacturing facility was completed in 2011, bringing an additional 200 jobs to Box Elder County. Spokesman John McKay

commented regarding Proctor and Gamble's choice to locate in Box Elder County in a Deseret News interview: "We chose Box Elder for many reasons, including availability of appropriate land and space, its location relative to areas that we most need to ship to, availability of natural resources and skilled workforce, and a strong partnership with state and local leaders (*P&G opens new plant in Box Elder County*, By: Jasen Lee, Deseret News, Thursday, March 17, 2011)."

These businesses and many others have found great success in utilizing the local workforce in Box Elder and other nearby counties. They have enjoyed the opportunity to work collaboratively with various government entities to build partnerships and to educate local officials on ways in which government can support local businesses better.

Please contact Brian Carver, Community and Economic Development Director at BRAG with any questions at brianc@brag.utah.gov or 435.752.7242.

Executive Corner

Roger C. Jones
Executive Director, BRAG

During Lt. Governor Greg Bell's visit to the region in late March, he received reports on many of the job creation efforts of local and State agencies including the Business Expansion and Retention or BEAR Program. He was highly impressed with the information being provided by business owners about the program, as I am.

The modest cost of the BEAR Program which is operating in Box Elder and Cache Counties is shared among the Governor's Office of Economic Development, State Department of Workforce Services and BRAG. Three BRAG staff members are making face to face contacts with local businesses to learn of concerns they have and to ask what information or resources they need to be successful or even expand their employment. Hundreds of contacts have been made over the past several months and followed up with answers and resources.

As one business owner commented, "I have been more than impressed with services that I have been given. It has been helpful to have solutions brought to me. I have found resources that I did not know existed. The staff has been very resourceful and the response time is quick. Thanks a ton! (Beau Lewis, Lewis Cabinet Specialties, Inc. in Tremonton, Utah)."

Following the BEAR program model, Governor Gary Herbert is now asking local governments in Utah to reach out to local businesses to find out what concerns they may have about regulations that impact their business and revise or repeal any unnecessary regulations.

Regional Insights

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program
Volunteers Honored at Annual Dinner



Volunteers for the VITA Program sit in for a photo with BRAG's VITA Regional Coordinator Jodi West (front row, far right). BRAG's VITA program helps families and individuals with low-income file federal and state tax returns.

Beginning in January, 2013, 26 volunteers in Box Elder and Cache Counties began preparing federal and state tax returns for families in the community who qualified based on income levels in 2012. This assistance is part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. After eleven weeks of volunteering their time, the volunteers had a celebratory dinner at Café Sabor in Logan, Utah to receive thanks and recognition for the work they had done.

IRS Representative, Steve Jones gave a presentation showcasing the assistance provided by the volunteers. Preliminary numbers showed that 692 returns had been completed, which is an increase of 222 returns (47%) from the previous year.

Kate Rubalcava, VITA Program Director from Community Action Partnership of Utah also attended. She commented on the fact that all of the volunteers have busy schedules, but they make a huge difference in our community.

"Working with the volunteers is the best part of my job," said Jodi West, the VITA Regional Coordinator at BRAG. "Each of them has had a huge influence on me for their willingness to serve. I will strive everyday to be more like them."

One of the things that volunteers always look forward to is being able to tell a family how much their return will be at the end of each appointment. For many of the families receiving the service, tax refunds are used for basic needs. Because of the services performed by the volunteers, total refunds for this year equaled \$1,192,090! This money is brought back into our local communities, helping families that truly need it.

BRAG staff would like to say, "Thank You!" to this year's VITA volunteers for the many hours spent in service to our communities.

For more information on the VITA program, contact Jodi West at 435.752.7242.