



OREGONrural
ACTION
SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE



Issue: Winter 2014; Volume 13 Number 01



Planning for a New Year!

Before entering into the year of 2014, Oregon Rural Action staff and leadership held a successful work session to develop an operating plan to guide our efforts over the next year. Facilitation was provided by members Jim and Fuji Kreider. With professional consultants at the helm, we were able to craft a comprehensive plan. This work session was focused on two of five priorities developed by the board in the 2014 strategic plan. Other priorities include governance, capacity development, systems and processes, membership and fundraising, we chose the latter two to explore in the operational plan.

Highlighted in this plan are specific benchmarks to be accomplished by the end of the year to ensure Oregon Rural Actions success as a relevant organization. Membership results in activating and educating more citizens to be a part of the change in local, state and national level issues that directly or indirectly impact our way of life in rural Oregon. Fundraising ensures that we will have the necessary funding to pursue the projects and issue tracking that rise to the surface from ORA membership. One without the other stands incapable in the path of opposition, crises, and legislation that angers us all on a daily basis.

There are many ways that you can take part in making your organization thrive in 2014. The best way is to recruit! It means taking a serious moment with your neighbors, friends, family, and even acquaintances, to engage in a formal conversation about the challenges in their lives they are

passionate about. Building membership builds power to address challenges through democratic actions and community building activities.

Together we can make positive change!

by Thomas Stratton



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The Furrow is published four times a year by Oregon Rural Action. Oregon Rural Action supports and encourages community organizing around locally identified issues. Our members work together to promote healthy and sustainable rural communities and to ensure that all people have a choice in the decisions, policies, and systems that affect their lives.

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Why healthcare?

Social justice is part of Oregon Rural Action's mission.



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After full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (“Obama Care”) in the year 2017, it is projected that at least 20 million Americans will still be uninsured. The number will most likely be much higher due to many Republican dominated states are refusing to expand Medicaid coverage available to them at no cost. At Oregon Rural Action (ORA) we support the progress made by Obama Care, but believe it cannot provide universal, affordable, and high quality coverage.

For the past four years Oregon Rural Action has been working to make a shift to homegrown prosperity and resilience in the communities in which we live and work. We encourage family farmers and ranchers as well as their in-town neighbors, to organize together and strengthen local food and energy systems, in turn promoting social justice through local projects and policy work.

When we talk about local food, it means more than simple proximity to a farm. We associate supporting “local food” with supporting specific values — such as family ownership, local control, small scale, environmental stewardship, community, and ecological diversity. These values are what motivate

people to buy their food directly from the farmer who grows it.

The resilient local-food system Oregon Rural Action is building relies on an abundance of small, diverse, sustainable family farmers scattered all across Eastern Oregon. For this kind of farm to exist, sustainable must mean more than

“Family farms like many other small family businesses tend to return marginal profits. In order to reverse the ever-widening gap between rich and poor in our country, and return hard-working people to the middle class, we must eliminate the burden inflicted on hard working people by our cost inflated health care system.”
Susan Boyd, 4th generation Oregon farmer

environmental sustainability. It must also include economic viability.

Farming is a dangerous and risky business. The work becomes a whole lot less attractive when a farmer knows that he or she is one fall from the hayloft away from losing their land. Many farmers view health and disability insurance as essential elements in protecting their family farms. A major hurdle to recruiting a younger generation to farming is lack of access to affordable, dependable healthcare.

The most important healthcare policy issue to farmers, ranchers, and rural residents is cost. Farmers and ranchers—like other small business owners—have been

forced to pay a lot more for health insurance coverage than big businesses. Extending health care insurance to the uninsured, the challenges of delivering rural healthcare, physician attraction and retention, and access to hospital services are other important issues. Access to affordable, high quality

healthcare is essential to everyone in Eastern Oregon. All of us need good health in order to provide for the needs of our families. Health care is critical to our quality of life and literally a life-and-death issue for farmers, ranchers and rural residents.

Working for healthcare reform is a key part of Oregon Rural Action's mission in promoting social justice. In March 2012 the Oregon Rural Action Board of Directors voted to join Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO)—a new statewide coalition now encompassing 90 member organizations. As a member of HCAO, Oregon Rural Action supports universal, publicly funded healthcare for Oregon, and eventually the United States.

During the past two years through our Health Care Reform Action Team, Oregon Rural Action has become one of HCAO's most active member organizations. Our organization produces educational and

Healthcare Article Continues on Page 3

Why healthcare and ORA continued...

organizing materials used statewide. [One of our members co-chairs the state Mobilization Committee. Another serves as treasurer of Health care for All Oregon and its' Educational Fund.]

The Oregon Rural Action Health Care Reform Action Team includes a dozen persons who attend monthly planning meetings, 45 members who participate in activities other than meetings, 85 members who elect to receive our email updates, and more than 650 eastern Oregonians who have signed statements of support or participated in photo petitions. We have four trained teams, consisting of two speakers, each ready to provide content for house parties and public presentations. We have published 42 letters to the editor or guest columns in local newspapers. We table at community events, participate in parades, sponsor films and have great fun together promoting healthcare reform.

The Oregon Rural Action HCR Action Team offers something for everyone. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at the ORA office, 1119 Washington, La Grande. We hope you will join us. For information contact Susan Boyd boyd@eoni.com or Jim Kreider jkreider@campblackdog.org

By Bill Whitaker

ORA Health Care Reform Action Team Leadership Transition

Congratulations to Susan Boyd and Jim Kreider, new Action Team Co-chairs; Emelie Montgomery-Jones, Secretary; and Bill Whitaker, Treasurer. Cheryl Simpson is now Co-chair of the Health Care for All Oregon statewide Mobilization Committee



Third Annual Women in Ag Conference

March 15th, Saturday, 8-4pm, Walla Walla Community College

The Women in Agriculture Conference (WAI) is for women at all levels of agriculture. Whether you have been farming for years or are just starting out, or whether your operation is large or small, WAI has something for you. This one-day, three-state gathering takes place simultaneously in 28 locations throughout Washington, Idaho, and Oregon and features knowledgeable speakers, inspiring stories, and practical advice on how to improve your farm management skills.

This year's keynote speaker, Heather Darby, knows about change. The proprietor of the Darby Farm in Vermont will share her experience with managing change on the 200-year-old family farm. Her talk will be streamed to all conference locations.

For more information, visit www.WomenInAg.wsu.edu or contact the WSU Extension.

Share Your Email

Are you not getting our emails? You can receive this newsletter and other communications electronically by doing 2 things, email info@oregonrural.org and entering your information on our online form.

Homegrown Prosperity

Time to start with the Community Capital Initiative!

Taking it to the Streets!

ORA ally and partner, NE Oregon Economic Development District, conducted a 2013 public survey that shows NE Oregon is ready to take action for Homegrown Prosperity. Since then, we have been working with a NE Oregon Collaborative on an initiative that will help build regional capital resources through local actions that make capital shift from Wall Street to our Main Streets. More than just a ‘Grow your Own/Buy Local’ effort this new Community Capital Campaign is multi-pronged, multi-partnered and cutting edge (see below). Oregon Rural Action members in all counties are invited to join, learn, share the news and help shift the tide for all. Call or email ORA Director, Karen Wagner to join the movement – consider it an investment in yourself, your town, your rural lifestyle.

So -- What is Community Capital?

There are seven different kinds of “capital,” or resources, which build community wealth: natural, cultural, human, social, political, built and financial. All are part of the “Community Chest”, and the foundation homegrown prosperity.

What problem are we trying to solve?

A sluggish economy. Across the United States, people spend and invest in businesses that are based outside their communities. Sending local resources to Wall Street has led Main Street to experience job loss and a depressed economy. The corporate world is not going to save small towns; we need to save ourselves by redirecting our money inward to local and regional corporations and businesses, not outward to those headquartered elsewhere.

The Michigan-based organization ‘Local First’ recently completed a study of money spent at locally owned versus corporate-owned businesses. They found that of every \$100 spent locally, \$68 stays in the community. The same amount spent with a non-local entity nets just \$43. The \$25 difference comes from the fact that local businesses regularly purchase supplies and services from other local businesses, such as printing and marketing services, accounting and legal services, and goods from other retailers,

manufacturers, small farmers and crafters. The job-creation implications of this are significant.

What is the Plan?

The Northeast Oregon Community Capital Collaborative, led by NEOEDD in conjunction with Springboard Innovations, will launch three distinct but related efforts: a Local Loyalty Point System for retail sales; Local Impact Investment Opportunity Networks (LIIONs) to connect Baker, Union and Wallowa county investors and entrepreneurs; and a series of Educational Workshops for investors and entrepreneurs. How will the Local Loyalty Point System work? NEOEDD and its partners (Oregon Rural Action, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Depts., and others) will launch a campaign that includes membership cards and signage at participating local businesses. Similar to a Safeway club card or a coffee shop punch card, the loyalty points will be offered at various locally owned businesses in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties, and redeemed with special offers and discounts.

How will LIIONs work?

A LIION is a network of citizens who invest locally to support neighborhood businesses, catalyze job growth, cause a “dollar-multiplier” effect of their investment (whereby a dollar kept within the community can be spent many times over within the community), and strengthen community relationships. LIIONs meet periodically to hear proposals from existing local businesses seeking financing. Investors make private arrangements with businesses they are interested in supporting. Typically these are simple loans (debt), although partial ownership stakes (equity) are also possible. In all cases, the agreements are solely and directly between the individual and business owner/s.

Why Educational Workshops?

There’s a lot for both businesses and citizens to learn about new investment models. Recent federal laws have relaxed restrictions on how investing can happen. Local investments can be in the form of a loan, royalty payments or an equity share.

Most importantly: Regular people (i.e. “unaccredited investors”) with even modest incomes can make a difference by investing a small portion of their assets in local businesses.

What else will happen?

ORA staff and members, NEOEDD, and collaborative partners will learn about the new investment models and help businesses determine which method will work best for them. We’re excited about models like Direct Public Offerings, which could make it possible for a broad cross-section of the community to invest in a local business. Watch for guest speakers and special events that speak to our needs and opportunities!

How can I get involved?

Join a LIION or other leadership team. Use your loyalty points card often. Participate in the educational workshops to learn more about the expanded legal investment routes, and share that information with others. Contact ORA Director Karen Wagner at 541-975-2411, Karen@oregonrural.org; or NEOEDD Executive Director Lisa Dawson at 541-426-3598 or lisadawson@neoedd.org for more information.

By Karen Wagner



Teamwork!

Blue Mountain Chapter Food & Agriculture Policy Team

Through brainstorming and collaboration this group has chosen to get behind the issue of neonicotinoids in relation to how they harm bee colonies, our food pollinators. This team has also formed also formed three separate subcommittees. A committee has formed for the Food and Farm Guide, Farm-to-Fork Dinner and our Bee Friendly Campaign. The next meeting will be held Wednesday March 16th from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the Oregon Rural Action office.

Blue Mountain Chapter La Grande Community Garden

This year the Garden Committee is focusing their winter energy on getting more involvement from the community. The idea that has been formed is a Grow-A-Row campaign. This campaign asks that gardeners in our community join together in growing specific crops to harvest for the food bank. Community Connections will be the main drop off location. Register your garden as a Grow-A-Row garden now! Contact Thomas@oregonrural.org to let us know who you are, where you are located and what you plan to grow!

Blue Mountain Chapter Energy Team and SolWest

The energy team has been working on Solarize Union County for the last two years. The solarize program brings folks together to purchase solar panels in bulk for a discounted price. The *energy* from the energy team has been transferred to create a successful program for the SolWest Energy Fair that is coming to La Grande June 27-29th.

Snake River Chapter Four Rivers Community Garden

There is much progress being made to get more community volunteers active directly into the garden. The next meeting will be held on March 11th from 3:30pm-5:30pm at the St. Matthews Episcopal Church. The Garden Kick-Off will take place from 12:00pm-4:00pm on April 12th. Activities will include gardening 101, a tool sharpening demo, and more!

SolWest: Steps to Sustainability

What does it mean to live a sustainable lifestyle?

Put simply, “a sustainable life is one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”* Sometimes it’s difficult to know how to simplify our lives and reduce our footprint on the planet’s resources. Find inspiration and information at the 2014 SolWest Fair.

If you are one of the growing numbers of people who wants to move in the direction of sustainability, make plans to attend some of the great workshops being offered at this year’s SolWest Fair at the Union County Fairgrounds. The range of topics covered by our knowledgeable and experienced presenters are grouped into four “tracks”. You’re sure to find what you’re looking for in one or more of these tracks: Renewable Energy Solutions, Food and Land Use, Sustainable Buildings, and Small Steps, Big Changes.

Past workshop titles have included “Designing Your

Homes Solar Electric System”, “Simple Batch Water Heating”, Super Energy Efficient Buildings”, “Cooking with the Sun”, “Electric Vehicles”, and “Principles of Permaculture”. Look for this year’s listing in the 2014 SolWest Program Guide. Additionally, there

will be activities for children of all ages as well as locally sourced food and vendors offering the latest products to help you toward a simpler life.

This years SolWest has us thinking about sustainable transportation. Electric cars from around the region plan to convene in La Grande this summer. Feet powered transportation will be displaying energy at fair as well. The Blue Mountain Chapter of Oregon Rural Action is putting on a fun-run where participants run a 5K or 10K that ends at a place of renewable energy.

Make plans to bring your family and meet your friends at the SolWest Fair, June 27, 28 and 29.

By Peter Farnam & Tova Woyciechowicz

You’re sure to find what you’re looking for in one or more of these tracks:

- **Renewable Energy**
- **Solutions, Food and Land Use**
- **Sustainable Buildings**
- **Small Steps, Big Changes**



Solarize Snake River Valley

Snake River Chapter members in Malheur County have been bit by the bug of Solarize. For 3 years, Blue Mountain Chapter’s Energy Team has put on Solarize Union County. The success of the Solarize programs from Portland to Pendleton to La Grande has made a good model for the Malheur County area. Solarize is a bulk buying concept where a group of people get together, select a contractor who gives a good deal based on volume, find financing through relationships with a lending institution, and generally remove all barriers to installing solar.

Solarize Snake River Valley is underway choosing a contractor. It was decided that the program would include Idaho due to the population centers straddling the border. The contractor will have to be certified in both states.

If you know of any Photo Voltaic installers that might want to bid on the project, please have them contact 541-975-2411 ext 1 or tova@oregonrural.org

By Tova Woyciechowicz

* “Bruntland Report for the World Commission on the Environment and Development”

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11th

Four Rivers Community Garden Meeting

3:30pm–5:30pm

St. Mathews Episcopal Church,

802 SW 5th St. Ontario

SolWest Meeting

5pm–7pm

Oregon Rural Action Office

March 13th

Solarize Tax Incentives/Grants Speakers

7pm–9pm MST

Treasure Valley Community College

Vo-tech Building Room 221, Ontario

March 14th

Blue Mountain Chapter Membership Meeting

5pm–8pm

La Grande Library Community Room

March 15th

Women in Ag Conference

8am– 4pm

Walla Walla Community College

March 16th

La Grande Community Garden Meeting

5:30pm–7:30pm

Oregon Rural Action Office

March 17th

Friends of Family Farmers Listening Sessions

7pm – 9pm

Four Rivers Culteral Center, 676 SW 5th Ave, Ontario

March 18th

Health Care Reform Action Team Meeting

5:30pm–8:30pm

Oregon Rural Action Office

Friends of Family Farmers Listening Sessions

7pm – 9pm

Fort Union Grange, 63161 Gekeler Lane, La Grande

March 19th

BMC Food & Ag Policy Team

5:30pm–7:30pm

Oregon Rural Action Office

Friends of Family Farmers Listening Sessions

7pm–9pm

W.E. Grange, 43828 White Eagle Road, Pendleton

April 3rd, 10th, 24th

Growing Farms: Successful

Whole Farm Management

5pm–8pm, plus April 19 , 9am–3pm

OSU extension Island City

April 12th

Four Rivers Garden Kick-off

12pm–4pm

802 SW 5th St. Ontario

April 17th

Don Huber GMO and Glyphosates

5:00pm–6:30pm

TBA, Eastern Oregon University

George Mann Benefit Concert for health

care reform organizing (see blue pull-out)

6pm–8pm

McKenzie Theater, Eastern Oregon University.

George Mann is a pro union, pro 99%, pro veteran, anti-war singer/songwriter who was musical partner to Julius Margolin. A former union organizer, George sings songs from the last century of labor and social activism and his own powerful and funny takes on the state of the nation. Albums include “Until you Come Home” and “Patience in These Times.” Tickets are available at ORA office and Direct Music Source. Suggested minimum contribution \$7.

May 10th

La Grande Community Garden Kick-Off

11am–4pm

La Grande Community Garden

May 13th

“Is the Affordable Care Act Financially

Sustainable?” Dr. Gerald Friedman, Economist,

Times and places TBA, Eastern Oregon University

May 17th

First La Grande Farmers Market

9am–1pm

Max Square

June 27th-29th

SolWest Fair (see article)

Union County Fairgrounds

Bee Friendly committee

Our pollinators are in trouble! Both honey bees and native pollinators numbers are falling drastically. Let's roll up our sleeves to help our little friends who supply 1/3 of the food on our fork! We can start by providing pollinator habitat for the critters and education for local folks. Stay tuned to find out about the Blue Mountain Chapter Food & Agriculture Policy Team Bee Friendly sub-committee. Contact Jennifer to find out about coming events and/or how to make seed bomb. The next Policy Team meeting is March 19th at 5:30pm at the ORA office.

Jennifer Moore is a Chinese Herbalist and Acupuncturist, Bee enthusiast, long time Eastern Oregon resident is leading this effort. "I'm by no means an expert, but I have learned a lot about Pollinators in the last few weeks, and found a real passion for helping them. The way I see it, the problem is industrial ag, globalization & machine mind. The solution? Small ag, localization, and resacralization of life (this means YOU!)".

Note: If you have seeds to bring to the next meeting please do-pollinators love wildflowers, especially things from the mint, aster, or carrot family. Jennifer will bring the bomb ingredients, and something to protect the table!

Contact Jennifer Moore 541-910-2046 intz_i@yahoo.com



Growing Farms

Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop Series

OSU Small Farm Course Offered for First Time in Eastern Oregon

For the first time, beginning farmers in Northeast Oregon will have access to the Successful Small Farm Management Course developed by Oregon State University. The four part series is designed for farmers in their first 5 years of farming, people seriously considering starting a farm business, and people considering major changes to their farm. The course will provide farmers with the tools and knowledge to manage the biological and financial risks of farming.

The course will take place Thursdays, 5pm-8:30pm, on April 3, 10 and 24 at OSU Extension Office in La Grande (Island City). The series will also include a Saturday Field Day, April 19, from 9am to 3pm. Pre-registration is required and is limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$150 per person, or \$250 for co-owners attending at the same time; includes three dinners and one lunch. Scholarships may be available.

Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/Growing-Farms-Registration> Registration deadline is: March 28

Oregon Rural Action Board of Directors 2013-2014

The Oregon Rural Action board this year consists of nine At-large Directors and one elected Chapter representative from the Blue Mountain Chapter. There are 3 new directors – Bridget, Mitch and Rory, who you can read about below, seven who have been re-elected and continue their long-standing service to the organization (see them on our website) and two out-going Directors – Ramon Lara and Cori Brewster - to whom we are most grateful for their long, dedicated and informed service!

Introducing...



Bridget Thamert, La Grande, OR (2-year term, through Oct. 2015)

Bridget fills a new role on the board - the Membership Director. She is a senior at Eastern Oregon University (Sociology/ Anthropology) and serves on several university committees and boards, including MESA (the Mission for Environmental and Social Awareness), Haven from Hunger food pantry, and the Koinonia Christian Center, and has found her niche in social activism paired with the ORA agenda as a board member. This year Bridget wants to help ORA “bring a greater local awareness about more sustainable, working communities, through the successful social and environmental programs Oregon Rural Action and our partners already have in place”



Mitch Wolgamott, Summerville, OR (2-year term, through Oct. 2015)

Mitch has lived in Union County on a small wood lot he and his wife have owned for 19 years. This setting has fostered a deep love of the rural life style, and attraction to ORA because of its mission supporting rural Oregon. Though he enjoys retirement, being in public service for 26 years (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) Mitch missed being actively involved in supporting rural communities. Service on the ORA board helps fill that void, especially as Mitch is acting as Vice Chair of the Board, and a director on the Personnel Committee. His goal for ORA this year? “I’d like to see ORA increase its public profile so citizens support its mission.”



Rory Becker, La Grande, OR (1-year term, through Oct. 2014)

Rory Becker, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Eastern Oregon University, is also acting as the new ORA Board secretary for 2014. Rory’s interest in ORA goes back to the family homestead in eastern Montana where he grew up in the small farming/ranching community of Circle. Rory notes that ORA’s outreach and information on issues of regional or national importance are the same as those that affect his family in La Grande as well as those facing his family in Montana, and in general, the farm & ranch communities of rural America. “I came on board to help write grants that would benefit ORA and assist our membership in dealing with the issues we face.”

STOP the Trans Pacific Partnership Fast Track!

“Over the past several decades we have had a number of bad trade agreements that have sorely hurt rural American Communities. One of the worst to come along is headed our way. It is called the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP),” says Mabel Dobbs ORA Board of Directors.

Also referred to as the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), Fast Track defers the constitutional responsibility for regulating foreign trade from Congress to the executive branch. In the gamut of TPP’s 29 chapters only five of these deals with traditional trade issues. Other chapters set rules on healthcare policy, domestic environmental, financial and food safety regulations. Remember the Country Of Origin Labeling (COOL) law that we all fought so hard to gain USDA support through the 2002 Farm Bill? COOL and specific GMO labeling laws would be completely undermined within these chapters.

The need for food labeling is garnering support across the nation to provide you and me with the basic right of knowing what is in our food. Congress and Corporate America are going to try and cram another bad trade agreement down our throats with closed meetings and the use of anti-democratic Trade Promotion Authority.



What can you do? _

You need to call your Representatives in Washington, DC and tell them you want them to stop Fast Track on the TPP. Under Fast Track, the White House can put the trade agreement before Congress for an up-or-down vote with limited debate and no amendments, making it very difficult to stop. Don’t let the Trade Promotion Authority shift the democratic balance of power, tell your Representatives that you want them to oppose Fast Track legislation and demand that TPP texts be made public. As a U.S. citizen it is your responsibility to influence the trade agreements that affect your life! You need to do it now as this is happening in the next week or so.

Call the US Capital switchboard is at 202-224-3121 or find your U.S. Congress person:
<http://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>.

Join members in our Floppy Disk Campaign

March 20, 11:30 at the ORA office.

Oregon Rural Action and the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign are collecting signatures on a petition urging the new Senate Finance Chair Ron Wyden to oppose Fast Track. Signatures will be adhered to 5.25” floppy disks and hand-delivered to the tech-savvy Senator in order to drive home the point that Fast Track is an outdated and inappropriate policy-making tool. As Finance Chair, Senator Wyden has the power to either revive Fast Track or stop it.

Find out more at <http://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>
The link to the petition is here:
http://org.salsalabs.com/o/1034/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=15091

By Thomas Stratton, Jeff Mathias, and Mabel Dobbs

Do some digging to educate yourself, www.tppinfo.org or worc.org/fair-trade/

Congrats on 1,000 Likes



Thanks to all of you who help us spread the word through social media!

We are currently surpassing 1,061 likes on Facebook! This means we are having a farther and farther reach to spread the message for the greater good. We appreciate it when you share our posts and events and especially when you take action.

Please make sure you are not just liking, but also following us in order to get the full benefit of the medium!

What more you can do:

You can post relevant, credible information on our newsfeed. Like and share our posts as they come up. Tag us in photos from various Oregon Rural Action events! Encourage your friends to follow us!

Find us at: www.facebook.com/oregonrural or on



twitter @OregonRural or @SolWestFair

By Tova Woyciechowicz



List of Current Board members:

Peter Maille, La Grande, Chair
Mitch Wolgamott, Summerville, Vice-Chair
Mabel Dobbs, Weiser, Treasurer
Rory Becker, La Grande, Secretary
Juanita Lassiter, Ontario, Snake River Chapter Rep
Dave Felley, Blue Mountain Chapter Rep
Bridget Thalmert, La Grande, At-Large
Norm Cimon, La Grande, At-Large
Steve Bartell, Imbler, At-Large
Bob Hanson, Ontario, At-Large
Rob Cordtz, Richland, At-Large
Bill Whitaker, La Grande, At-Large

List of Current Staff:

Jeff Mathias, Organizer
Tova Woyciechowicz, Organizer
Thomas Stratton, Organizer
Susan Hoyt, Office & Membership Manager
Karen Wagner, Staff Director
Jan Alberts, SolWest Coordinator

List of Current Interns/Support:

Vickie Clark, SolWest Assistant
Devan Noblit, Intern

ORA Territory:

Baker, Malheur, Umatilla, Union and
Wallowa Counties

Support Oregon Rural Action by becoming a member or by making a donation online at:

<http://oregonrural.org/join-give>

ORA Membership:

Anyone can join online, on the phone, at our office or through the mail! Minimum annual membership dues: \$60 Business/Organization, \$40 Family, \$30 Individual. However, many people give a small monthly donation of \$10-\$50.

Democracy · Participation · Leadership · Diversity · Cooperation · Justice · Stewardship

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Please let us know your
email address:
info@oregonrural.org

Oregon Rural Action
PO Box 1231
La Grande, OR 97850



Oregon Rural Action is a community-based organization. Our mission is to bring people together to build strong communities. We do this by providing information and tools for local people to use in addressing the issues affecting our communities and by helping community members develop and implement solutions that work. Oregon Rural Action is working to promote social justice, agricultural and economic sustainability, and the stewardship of the region's land, air, and water.

The Furrow

The Newsletter of Oregon Rural Action

The Furrow is published quarterly by Oregon Rural Action with generous assistance from organizations including the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, The Meyer Memorial Trust, Penstemon Fund, Wildhorse Foundation, and members like YOU.

To learn more about the work we do, visit our website at:
www.oregonrural.org.

Contact Tova Woyciechowicz : tova@oregonrural.org

Support Oregon Rural Action by becoming a member or by making a donation online at:

<http://oregonrural.org/join-give>

Be Part of Oregon Rural Action's Sustainer's Circle!

You now have the opportunity to provide ongoing support to Oregon Rural Action with an automatic, recurring contribution from your credit or debit account. As a Sustainer's Circle member you will be a backbone of support and will always have a current membership to ORA.