New Director Takes Office

NODA's new Executive Director takes office July 2017. Jonathon Cross from Okeene, Okla., accepted the position. A graduate from OSU with a degree in Agriculture Economics, Cross worked as a Blaine County employee prior to running for and winning the District 2 Commissioner position. While serving as commissioner he also served as a member of the NODA Board of Trustees and brings over 20 years of experience to this position.

Cross has been married for 28 years and has three children (17-24 yrs.). His hobbies and personal interests include quail hunting with his German Wire-Haired Pointer, running a small cow/calf operation, caring for three horses and watching old westerns (black/white or color, makes no difference 😊). He has coached his kids in sports and loves to watch baseball (cheering for Yankees and Royals) and football (rooting on Dallas and OSU Cowboys).

Cross said he has enjoyed seeing NODA's programs and all that has been accomplished for our cities/towns/ counties and is excited to be a bigger part of it. He is looking forward to moving into new directions and providing a bright and positive future for NODA staff and NODA's eight county area.

Happy Retirement Leroy Lage

After serving on the NODA Board of Trustees for over 22 years, Leroy Lage has retired. Lage began serving on the board in 1995 as the Blaine County city/town representative. For many years he was the City of Watonga treasurer and retired from that elected position in April 2015.

While on the NODA board Lage served as chair, vice-chair, and treasurer. His knowledge, experience, humor and friendship will be missed!

Marc Bolz, NODA Chair, thanks Leroy Lage for his years of service to NODA.
Area Fire Departments Enhance Their Fleets

Dale Township Fire Department (in Kay County) was able to improve their fleet by enhancing two vehicles to meet the needs and demand of their area. Pictured to the left is a 2017 Ford F350 cab and chassis purchased with NODA REAP dollars, and the apparatus was purchased from Cooper Creek Manufacturing (in Loyal, a participating NODA community) with local match funds. The vehicle pictured to the right is an AM General 6x6 received as part of the DOD Defense’s Federal Excess Physical Property program. Local matching funds helped in the conversion.

The Manchester Fire Department was able to convert this 2010 Freightliner all-wheel drive into a fire-fighting tanker.

Training the Next Generation

NODA Rural Fire Coordinator Cecil Michael and Manchester Fire Chief Todd Lohmann received some assistance with flowing fire hydrants from a couple of local future firefighters.
REAP TRAINING
Aug. 15, 2017  1 pm & 6 pm
NODA Conference Room
2901 N. Van Buren - Enid, OK

Join us and learn about the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) and how to complete the FY18 REAP application. If you want to apply you need to attend a session.

REGISTER TODAY!
Contact Jennifer or Deanna 580-237-4810

GIS/CIP Mappers Unite

During a break at an April CDBG Training several GIS/CIP administrators from Oklahoma COGs found time to connect with each other. This wonderful group of ladies works hard for their areas to supply CIPs, comprehensive plans, and mapping. Pictured are: (L to R) Susmita Som-NODA; Clorisa Brown-COEDD; Amie Judd-SODA; Jennifer Phipps-EODD; Cindy Olis-ASCOG.
NODA Family Experiences Work at Capitol

Bayli Hyde had an opportunity to work as a page for Senator Roland Pederson through the Senate Page Program. The program allows high school students to spend 4 days at the Senate performing different functions, including running errands throughout the building, temporary staffing for Senate Offices and working in various Senate Committees as well as on the Senate Floor. Daughter of Marci Hyde, NODA Board Secretary and Town of Burlington Clerk/Treasurer, Bayli is familiar with a lot of the programs NODA offers its cities, towns and counties. During her time of paging Bayli took opportunities to remind Senators how important programs like REAP are to rural communities and thanked them for their support of this program.

GEARY FD IMPROVES ISO RATING

The Geary Volunteer Fire Department (GFD) provides fire suppression services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials mitigation at the operations level, and rescue technician level services within the City of Geary’s 142-square-mile response area. Under the leadership of Fire Chief Jeff Choate the Geary FD has improved their ISO rating from a 7 to a 4-4Y. Chief Choate says the improvements are due to a new 12 inch waterlines (including funds from NODA REAP) and annexation to the I-40 area, the construction of a new fire substation about a quarter mile from I-40, three new engines (funded by donations and tax dollars) and two brush trucks. Chief Choate has been humbled by the amount of support from the community, county and NODA Rural Fire Coordinator Cecil Michael.

Chief Choate sends a huge thank you to the many citizens for their generous donations. He thanks Michael for all of his guidance on the process and Blaine County for agreeing four years ago to split tax dollars with area fire departments.

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