

ETCOG HAPPENINGS

ETCOG PRESENTED FIVE AWARDS TO REGIONAL EAST TEXANS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

ETCOG honored regional citizens who exemplify excellence in performance, innovation, and contributions to the community at its 88th Semi-Annual Board of Director's Meeting on March 20, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Activity Center in Hallsville, Texas. Award criteria and recipient information is as follows:

REGIONAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - JASON F. WRIGHT OF TYLER, TEXAS

This award is designed to honor a citizen of East Texas who has contributed to the well-being of the East Texas Region. Jason is U.S. Senator Ted Cruz' East Texas Regional Director. In this capacity, he is the lead liaison between the Senator and 1.4 million constituents in a 35-county region.

REGIONAL CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - CITIZENS 1ST BANK

The Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year award honors a corporate partner in East Texas that has contributed to the well-being of the East Texas Region. Citizens 1st Bank and the Perkins Family Foundation announced the Citizens Promise scholarship program for Rusk ISD. The program pays tuition at Tyler Junior College for the top 50% of the graduating classes.

REGIONAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD - MAYOR CARSON JOINES, CARTHAGE, TEXAS

The Regional Statesmanship Award recognizes a local, state, or federal official that has demonstrated valuable dedicated service to regional cooperation. Carson served 30 years in public service in Carthage until his recent retirement as well as 24 years on the ETCOG Executive Committee. He is also a member of Rotary Club, Panola County Economic Development Foundation, Carthage Economic Development Corporation, Carthage Improvement Corporation, Texas Municipal League Region 15, and the Texas Department of Transportation Segment Committee.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE SERVICE AWARD - JOHN THOMAS COOPER, AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Regional Committee Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a sustained, dedicated commitment to ETCOG efforts and activities. John Cooper has been a member of the Aging Advisory Committee representing Marion County for the past 27 years and also serves as a Certified Volunteer Ombudsman.

ETCOG EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD - NINA MAYHAN, TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

The ETCOG Employee of the Year is nominated and voted on by ETCOG Staff and the top three candidates are presented to the ETCOG Selection Committee for consideration. Nina has served as an employee of GOBUS and its predecessors for 22 years.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Reception for Mayor Carson Joines

ETCOG will honor Mayor Carson Joines of Carthage, Texas, for 24 years of dedicated service on its Executive Committee with a reception at ETCOG Offices.

Tuesday, April 15, 2014
ETCOG Offices
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Advisory Committee Orientation

Welcome new Advisory Committee members! Join us for a session about the East Texas Council of Governments, a breakout session with your new committee, and lunch. The ETCOG Executive Committee and East Texas Regional Development Company boards will conduct a joint meeting after lunch.

Thursday, May 8, 2014
Tyler Rose Gardens
8:30 am - 2:00 pm

2014 REACH CONFERENCE PLANNED & RE-BRANDED

REACH

CONFERENCE

The Regional Education on Aging, Caregiving, and Healthcare Conference is a collaborative effort providing educational workshops, plenary sessions, and networking opportunities for professionals, caregivers, and anyone interested in Aging issues. Taking into consideration the diversity of Aging concerns, we will include local, regional, and state service providers and educators to address a variety of topics that may be of interest to anyone who works with older adults, their caregivers, or their families.

23rd Annual REACH Conference
REACH for the Stars: Turning Knowledge Into Action
October 9-10, 2014
Maude Cobb Activity Center
Longview, Texas

AREA AGENCY ON AGING PARTNERSHIP & TRAINING

The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas (AAA) is looking for individuals who work with the aging and disabled community interested in becoming partners in the Health Information Counseling & Advocacy program of Texas to offer benefits counseling services. The AAA will be hosting free training in Benefits Counseling I on April 15-16, at ETCOG offices in Kilgore. The training will offer 11 of the required 25 hours to become certified in Benefits Counseling I and provide attendees with information on webinars and conference call training to complete their certification. For further information or questions, please contact Juanita Beason at (903) 218-6512.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS EAST TEXAS' YOUTH CONFERENCE SUCCESS



Workforce Solutions East Texas Board hosted and sponsored the 9th Annual Regional Conference for Youth Professionals, themed "Best Practices in Youth Services," on February 25th in Tyler. The conference, hosted at the UT Tyler Ornelas Center hosted 69 attendees. Featured speakers included Paul Vitale of Vital Communications, Brian K. Aspell of Champion Cooler, the Deputy Superintendent of Longview ISD and Workforce Solutions East Texas Board member, Andrea Mayo, and Angie Flores Reinford from Training with Angie. The guests spent the day learning how to better engage and connect with the youth today and many earned CEU credits.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT PRIORITY HEARINGS

Criminal Justice Grant Application Priority Hearings (scoring of grants) will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at ETCOG in our new conference room. Any agency that applied for JAG, JJDP, VOCA or VAWA funding from the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division must attend this meeting. Agencies with any questions, please contact Stephanie Heffner, Director of Public Safety at 903-218-6461.

East Texas Council of Governments

3800 Stone Road Kilgore, TX 75662

Phone - (903) 984-8641

Fax - (903) 983-1440

www.etcog.org

ETCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY); 1-800-735-2988 (Voice); 1-800-662-4954 (Español).

