



INTERAGENCY CONNECTION

215 Dean A. McGee, Suite 320, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

<http://www.oklahoma.feb.gov/>

(405) 231-4167

Chair's Corner



LeAnn, Vince Howie, and I recently returned from the national FEB conference in Washington, D.C. This annual conference provides a forum for the FEB executives, directors, chairs, and vice-chairs to hear the

latest program updates from OPM and other agencies, as well as share best practices and discuss issues of common interest between the FEB's. This year's National FEB Conference focused on the FEB's work in making the Federal Government more citizen centered, results oriented, and market based.

Unfortunately, Kay Coles James, the Director of OPM, was unable to attend as she had last year. She was called away to deal with the proposed Department of Homeland Security.

The first afternoon, Vince and I participated in a forum to discuss best practices with the chairs and vice-chairs; LeAnn met with the other executive directors on operational issues. I was extremely proud to represent the Oklahoma FEB and highlight this year's accomplishments. Vince and I also picked up some ideas from the other boards that we will be sharing with you.

On day 2, Dan Blair, Deputy Director of OPM, chaired the panel of representatives of OMB and OPM who provided an overview of five government-wide initiatives on the President's management agenda: improved financial performance; competitive sourcing; expanded electronic government; budget and performance integration; and strategic management of human capital.

Robert Shea, Counselor to the Controller, Federal Financial Management, OMB, presented information on the Performance Measurement Advisory Council ("PMAC") recently developed by OMB (June 2002). The Performance Measurement Advisory Council will provide independent expert advice and recommendations to OMB regarding measures of program performance and their use in

making management and budget decisions. Council members will advise OMB regarding the particular processes and means utilized to assess the effectiveness of Federal programs and initiatives. Council members will draw upon their expertise in creating, implementing, and evaluating performance measurement standards and will make recommendations regarding the types of measures and benchmarking systems that departments and agencies can employ most effectively to track program performance.

John Kalavritinos, Associate Administrator for Competitive Sourcing, OMB, stated that the goal is to have 50 percent of the commercial activities in Federal agencies compete with the private sector. Through this, 50 percent of the competitions are won by public sector due to the expertise and efficiencies that exist in the agency. "The benefits are cost savings and enhanced performance," validating that the tax-paying public is getting the best deal.

Marcus Peacock, Associate Director, Natural Resources Programs, OMB, provided information on the "Performance Assessment Rating Tool" that will be used by OMB to make decisions on budget allocations. (The tool is located at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budintegration/.)

Agencies will be required to utilize this for evaluation; however, they must understand the three common 'myths' of the rating tool.

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Honoring a Great Public Servant



Defense Secretary, William S. Cohen, (left) affixes the ribbon holding the President's Medal for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service around the neck of David O. Cooke, director of administration and management for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon

David O. "Doc" Cooke, 81, the high-ranking administrative director who was known as the "Mayor of the Pentagon" for his work over six decades to keep the gargantuan complex humming, died June 22 at the University of Virginia Medical Center.

"The story of Doc Cooke is, indeed, the stuff of legend and lore -- that, if you cross him, your desk may suddenly be relocated to the North Parking Lot, followed by a ticket for being in the wrong section," Cohen said.

"In his office, you will find one of his favorite pictures -- Doc seated in the chair of the secretary of defense with nine former secretaries standing behind him. Don Rumsfeld [former and current defense secretary] calls this: 'The Godfather and His Henchmen.'

"The real story, of course, is that there isn't a more respected or beloved mayor around."

Cooke was a teacher, bridge-builder, patron saint of recruiting and intern programs and chairman of successful fund-raising drives for charity. "As Doc will tell you," Cohen said, "his management philosophy is: 'Take your job seriously, but not yourself.'"

A way to honor the memory of Doc Cooke:

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund, at the request of the Cooke family, is pleased to announce the formation of the David O. "Doc" and Marion M. Cooke

Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Cooke Memorial Fund will be an addition to FEEA's annual scholarship program. The fund's goal is to endow one or more scholarships each year.

The Cooke family feels the new fund is a fitting tribute to a man who gave five decades of service to the federal government and championed federal employees, both inside and outside the Department of Defense. Doc's contributions to public service and public servants are immeasurable - That his children have chosen to honor their parents by continuing to help federal employees is yet another example of how Doc's generosity reached far beyond his Pentagon office.

Donations to the fund may be made by sending a check to: FEEA COOKE MEMORIAL FUND, 8441 W. Bowles Avenue, Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501, or via credit card by calling FEEA at 303-933-7580 or 800-338-0755.

FEEA is a private charity, primarily funded through federal employee contributions to FEEA, CFC Pledge #1234, and donations to special relief funds. Since 1986, the FEEA Emergency Assistance Program has provided over \$2.5 million in financial assistance to federal families experiencing natural disasters such as floods, fires and hurricanes, and to those experiencing unforeseen personal emergencies such as illness or death in the family. Recently, FEEA provided more than \$300,000 in emergency assistance to federal families affected by the September 11 attacks and will provide full college scholarships to any child who lost a civilian federal employee parent at the Pentagon. FEEA has also provided more than \$3 million in scholarships to civilian federal employees and their dependents. For more information about FEEA, visit www.feea.org or call 303-933-7580.





**SPOTLIGHTING FEDERAL AGENCIES --
Did you Know?...**



Fort Sill National Cemetery

While the name would lead one to believe that it is part of the US Army's Fort Sill, the Fort Sill National Cemetery is actually an agency within the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits and Services.

The Fort Sill National Cemetery will serve approximately 166,000 veterans and family members for the next 100 years. Because of demands, the initial "fast track" operations of this new location are being conducted from a temporary building.

Phase One of the 391-acre facility will include a total of 10,270 full-casketed gravesites, 1,000 in-ground sites, and 1,000 columbaria niches for cremation remains. The new facility is under construction and will be completed by summer of 2003. It will consist of a permanent administration complex, a public information center, two committal service shelters, and columbaria.

Burial in a national cemetery is open to veterans with other than a dishonorable discharge, a veteran's spouse, an unmarried child under the age of 23 attending school, or dependent with a physical or mental handicap that incurred before attaining the age of 21.

There is no charge for burial in a national cemetery. Burial benefits include: the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, a concrete liner (for casket burial), headstone or marker and perpetual care of the gravesite. The Fort Sill National Cemetery will use upright marble headstones. Headstones will be inscribed with a religious emblem, name of descendent, rank, branch of service, war service, and the date of birth and death. Inscription of endearment is optional if space is permitted.

The primary goal of the National Cemeteries is to provide service in a manner reflecting courtesy, compassion, respect, and professionalism.

National Cemetery Administration

The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with a final resting place and lasting memorials that commemorate their service to our Nation.

Oklahoma's two National Cemeteries:

***Fort Sill National Cemetery and
Fort Gibson National Cemetery***

Today, more than 130 years after the first national cemeteries were established, the National Cemetery Administration is responsible for 120 national cemeteries in 39 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than two million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict - from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War - are honored by burial in VA's national cemeteries. Nearly 14,000 acres of land from Hawaii to Maine, and from Alaska to Puerto Rico are devoted to the memorialization of those who served this grateful Nation.

Mission

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors Veterans with a final resting place and lasting memorials that commemorate their service to our nation.

Vision

The National Cemetery Administration provides a lasting tribute to our Nation's veterans by being mission driven, results oriented and customer focused.

Purpose

- To provide burial space for veterans and their eligible family members.
- To maintain national cemeteries as national shrines, sacred to the honor and memory of those interred or memorialized there.
- To mark veterans' graves with a Government-provided headstone or marker and to provide Presidential Memorial Certificates in recognition of their service to a grateful nation.
- To administer grants for establishing or expanding state veterans cemeteries.

To learn more about National Cemeteries go to <http://www.cem.va.gov>.



President's Meritorious Ranking Board

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 calls for senior executives to be compensated commensurate with their performance. The Act established the Presidential Rank Awards Program to recognize a select group of career members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) for exceptional performance over an extended period of time. Rank Award recipients are outstanding leaders. Nominees must consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to public service.

There are two categories of awards. Distinguished Executives are recognized for sustained extraordinary accomplishment (only 1% of the career SES may receive this rank); Meritorious Executives are recognized for sustained accomplishment (no more than 5% may receive this award).

OPM administers the Presidential Rank Awards Program, developing criteria for agencies to use, making final determination of the eligibility of nominees, and convening meetings of Presidential Rank Award Review Boards to evaluate and rate the nominations.

This year, OPM requested the Oklahoma Federal Executive Board to host one of the Boards convened outside of Washington, DC. We also had the opportunity to involve our members and stakeholders in the process.

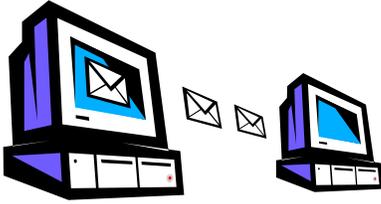
These individuals comprised the Presidential Rank Award Review Board in Oklahoma, evaluating and rating the nominations. Their rankings will be presented to Kay Cole James, Director of the US Office of Personnel Management who will recommend potential winners to President George W. Bush. The President makes the final selections.

We want to thank the raters for spending an entire day from their busy schedules to help with this effort!

<p>Dr. Brian Espe, Veterinarian in Charge</p> <p>USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services</p>	
	<p>Oscar Jackson, Jr. Administrator and Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources State of Oklahoma</p>
<p>Jan Ramseyer Fees Community Connections Coordinator City of Edmond</p>	
	<p>Altha Lee Ripley, Director Constituent Services for Congressman Ernest J. Istook</p>
<p>Michael W. Roach, US Marshal</p> <p>US Marshals Service, Western District</p>	
	<p>Sue Tate, ADR System Director Administrative Office of the Courts Oklahoma Supreme Court</p>
<p>Steven Stokes, Director Oklahoma Office of Handicapped Concerns</p>	



Interagency Connection **Available Electronically**



Electronic distribution of the Interagency Connection is now offered, in order to make our newsletter available to the increasing number of federal executives, managers, supervisors and employees requesting to be added to our mailing list.

Benefits:

- Same day delivery!
- The electronic copy will look exactly as the version that is currently mailed.

How to subscribe:

Send an email (from the email address where you choose to receive the newsletter) to Trish.Plowman@juno.com. Be sure to have ***Interagency Connection*** in the subject line.

Beginning in September, you will receive the ***Interagency Connection*** via your email inbox. It will look the same, and will read the same if you choose to print out a hard copy.



You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer to be able to open the document. Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® is free software that lets you view and print Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files and can be downloaded from the internet at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Good Enough for Government Work?
During the May 2002 Public Service Recognition Week, Federal employees across the nation received wide recognition for their good works.

Of special interest: At the awards ceremony in New York City itself, former U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White spoke passionately about Federal service and took on the critics, saying:

“Government service at its best is, for example: Lois Troupe, the orphan officer of the INS’ NY District, who is rightly among those we honor today, for her tireless and caring work for many years in assisting would-be parents in adopting foreign-born children; government service is about Yau Fen Hu of the Social Security Administration patiently, skillfully and compassionately explaining Social Security and other Federal programs to the non-English-speaking Chinese community so that the programs intended for their benefit too are accessible to them; it is about Chief Petty Officer James Todd of the U.S. Coast Guard leading the crew of the U.S.S. Hawser as the first ship on the scene on September 11th to begin the evacuation of more than ½ million people from Manhattan and then again, at his post, on the scene of the crash of AA Flight 587 in Jamaica Bay. Government service is also about FBI Special Agent Timothy Latterner, and his colleagues on the HIDTA Fugitive Task Force, risking their lives to capture a very dangerous Ten Most Wanted Fugitive on the run from murder and kidnapping charges. Think of all of them the next time you hear “good enough for government work.”

With this in mind...is what you do “good enough for government work”?



Chair's Corner (continued)

Myth	Truth
It makes no difference as to whether an agency utilizes the rating tool or not.	OMB <u>will</u> use to make decisions for budget allocations
If the score is poor, the program will undergo budget cuts	Not the case...perhaps the poor rating is due to lack of resources.

At the website, agencies can also see the common measures developed for some of the federal programs. In addition the CFO Council has developed 16 concrete indicators on “getting to green” (the term used to evaluate your agency’s performance).

Marta Perez, Program Director for Human Capital Performance, OPM discussed the need to “employ, deploy, and develop “strategically.” She encouraged agencies to “look at long term mission accomplishment and the skills necessary. Be sure to have the right talent in the organization to get the job done.”

Dick Whitford, Acting Associate Director, Employment Service, OPM provided information on an element that OPM will add in January 2003 so that applicants can track the status of their applications on www.usajobs.opm.gov. Throughout the session, panels from the various FEB’s discussed their best practices relative to the topic. Dick also discussed OPM’s new pledge to applicants:

- restructuring the hiring process
- utilizing a new logo “Working for America”

He cited that 88 percent of the jobs are in the field.

Max Stier – The CEO for Partnership for Public Service, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to recruiting and retaining excellence in the Federal civil service, spoke about the role of his organization. In next month’s newsletter, I will highlight this organization’s strategy and focus.

Max discussed the three barriers to recruiting and retaining excellence:

1. Lack of information
2. Broken hiring process – too length. Sixty-eight percent of applicants said they couldn’t afford to wait over 4 weeks.
3. “Show me the work” individuals looking for good work.

Michael Byrne – The Senior Director of Response Security for Office of Homeland Security, discussed the new Homeland Security initiatives and the efforts taken to coordinate communications between Federal, state, and local governments. He emphasized the “3 R’s” and “3 C’s” of their mission. In the event of a disaster, they are to Respond, Recover, and Restore. They are to go about doing

this with Commitment, Compassion, and Courage. A former New York fireman and FEMA employee, Michael discussed the fact that, after September 11, no one organization had total responsibility; thus the impetuous for creating the Homeland Security organization. His quote was, “We are blind because we don’t see across organizations.” Homeland Security’s focus is preventing terrorist attacks from happening, reducing vulnerabilities, and to prevent comprising our way of life.

The goal for this new department is to be up and running by 2003. They are asking that the Senate allow those already confirmed in their own organization to be allowed to “take it with them” into the new organization.

I had the opportunity to provide a “40 year historical perspective” of FEB initiatives, honoring the original 10 FEB’s established in November 1961. FEB’s, over the past 40 years, have played an active role in coordinating interagency efforts in things such as the “War on Poverty”, Civil Rights Act of 1964,



the Great Society, Critical Urban Problems, Youth Opportunity Campaign, Welfare to Work, ADR, Succession Planning and a myriad of other initiatives. If it has

been important for Presidents, citizens, or our local members, FEB’s have coordinated, developed, provided, or showcased the issue; each in our unique styles to best serve our areas.

Once again, I found the conference information and worthwhile.



Lindy Ritz, LeAnn Jenkins, and Vince Howie with the original letter signed by President Kennedy, establishing the first FEBs.



THE VOLUNTEER VOICE

A number of years ago, my son spent a great deal of time at Children’s Hospital. Since we lived in the OKC metro area, we had a home to go to at night. My heart broke for those families with sick children who had to sleep in waiting rooms and wash up in the rest rooms. For these families, the opening of the Ronald McDonald House in 1984 was a godsend.

Located at the corner of NE 14th and Lottie, conveniently close to the University Hospital corridor, the Ronald McDonald House provides housing, meals, and laundry services at minimal cost to affected families and little patients. Stays have ranged from one night to six months, and the House can accommodate 16 families at a time. The House has two neutropenic rooms—near-sterile environments for children whose immune systems have been compromised, such as transplant patients.

The McDonald’s Corporation provided seed money for the initial development of the Ronald McDonald House, but now the corporation provides only 5% of the House’s operating costs. The remainder comes from fund-raisers and donations; the Ronald McDonald House is a CFC recipient organization. It is staffed by two full-time and three part-time employees, and volunteers.

The FECC held its July meeting at the Ronald McDonald House. We were treated very hospitably and given a tour and overview of the House by Mary Lou Cozzens, Director of Community relations. The House is currently recruiting volunteers

to help with its fund-raising triathlon to be held August 11, and its State Fair booth in September. If anyone is interested in helping, call Mary Lou at (405) 424-6873.

Events On the Horizon

September starts the busy season for the FECC, with the State Fair Found People’s Booth, followed by the CFC Day of Caring in October.

Found People’s Booth:

Dates: September 13-29, 2002

Shifts/Workers Needed:

11:00AM-3:00PM/ 4 volunteers

3:00PM-7:00PM/ 6 volunteers

7:00PM-11:00PM/ 6 volunteers (This shift sometimes runs longer if children are still present.)

As you can see, many volunteers are needed for this project. Your FECC representative should be getting information out soon. The FECC project manager is Luciann Whitthorne, HUD, (405) 553-7586.

CFC Day of Caring

Dates: October 4-5, 2002

Projects: The project list will be distributed sometime in August. Mike Birdsong, IRS, (405) 297-4014, is the FECC POC for this event.

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.
--Benjamin Disraeli



UPCOMING EVENTS
AUGUST

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event Details. Includes events like Workforce Diversity Council, Agency Visits, Society of Government Meeting Professionals, etc.

Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place.

--Mark Twain

Your Federal Executive Board

The Mission of the Federal Executive Board (FEB) is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal agencies in Oklahoma.

The general goals are:

- Communicate—The FEB provides a forum for member agencies to share each other's initiatives, successes, concerns, challenges, and informs the local community of national interagency policies and priorities.
Coordinate Emergency & Other Inter-agency Actions—The FEB stands ready to immediately facilitate resources of the Oklahoma federal community, whether to aid a member agency in crisis, assist the citizenry in a public emergency, or implement initiatives that affect the federal community.
Facilitate Customer Service—The FEB draws together agencies with common clients so that government services are convenient for the customers.
Partner with Community Groups—The FEB partners with community groups to identify and help resolve challenges.
Reduce Costs and Improve Efficiency—The FEB brings together agencies with common goals to pool experiences and resources so their efforts are complementary and more cost effective.

This newsletter is published monthly as a cost-effective tool for communicating events and issues of importance to the federal community in Oklahoma. If you have news of interest, please fax to the FEB Office at (405) 231-4165 or email to LeAnnJenkins@juno.com no later than the 15th of each month.

Elected Officers:

Chair: Lindy Ritz, Director
FAA-Mike Monroney
Aeronautical Center
Vice-Chair: Vince Howie, Director of Staff
Tinker Air Force Base

Staff:

Director: LeAnn Jenkins
Secretary: Latricia Plowman
Clerical Support: Savina Parks

Please feel free to copy this newsletter & distribute. This is also available at http://www.oklahoma.feb.gov



Through the annual GEICO Public Service Awards, GEICO has acknowledged the outstanding achievements of federal employees and their contributions and service to the nation. This incentive awards program is recognized by the US Office of Personnel Management and has been in place since 1980.

Nominations are currently being accepted for these awards. Winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, including their spouse, a commemorative plaque, and a check for \$2,500.

Four active and one retired federal employee are recognized in the following areas:

- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
- Fire Prevention and Safety
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Traffic Safety and Accident Prevention

Nominations may be submitted in writing, as outlined in the summary provided at: http://geicodirect.com/insproducts/fedpsa_nominate2.html. Each agency or organization is encouraged to submit as many nominations as possible.

The deadline for submitting nominations is October 1, 2002.

If more information is needed, please contact Daryl Glover by phone on 301-986-2798 or by email at Dglover@geico.com.



AdoptUSKids, the new national photolisting website, is here! This site has been developed with the help of adoption professionals, adoptive parents, and prospective adoptive parents from all across the country, and has been in the works since October of 2000. At that time, the National Adoption Center, home of ***FACES of Adoption***, entered into a cooperative agreement with the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to create a new website.

AdoptUSKids is an initiative of the Children's Bureau; it was developed and is being operated by the National Adoption Center. The National Adoption Center's mission is to expand adoption opportunities throughout the United States, particularly for children with special needs and those from minority cultures. It is a private, not-for-profit organization that, since 1972, has found families for more than 18,000 children.

AdoptUSKids plans to present children from every state who are waiting to be adopted. The site offers comprehensive information about the adoption process, on-line training for parents, special features for social workers, and much more.

Many adoption Internet sites now present children, and we encourage families to use every resource available. But **AdoptUSKids** is the only national website that focuses on waiting children. As you get to know this site and use its many exciting features, we think you'll agree that **AdoptUSKids** is something very special!

To learn more, visit their website: <http://www.adoptuskids.org>



One-Day Training Seminar on Pre-Retirement



Be sure you are financially prepared to do all the things you've planned for your retirement!!

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (each day)
LOCATION: MetroTech Economic Development, Oklahoma City
COST: [] \$75.00 per person if registered by 8/9/2002
 [] \$85.00 per person if registered after 8/9/2002
 [] \$15.00 for spouses (if materials are shared)

I am registering for the Wednesday, August 21st session on FERS Only.

I am registering for the Thursday, August 22nd session on CSRS Only.

NAME(S): _____

AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____ FAX: () _____

Agency/Registrant may pay by cash, check, credit card or government voucher.

Mail this registration form to:	Oklahoma Federal Executive Board 215 Dean A. McGee, Suite 320 Oklahoma City, OK 73102
or fax to:	(405) 231-4165

Cancellation Policy: Understanding that unforeseen circumstances may preclude an individual from attending, refunds and cancellations will be permitted through August 16, 2002. However, after that date, registrations must be honored by the individual or agency involved. If you are unable to attend, substitute attendees are authorized and encouraged!



Leadership in the X-treme

Are you ready?

How do you plan for the un-thinkable?

The Why's and How's of Emergency Preparedness and Continuity of Operations



*Sponsored by the
Oklahoma Federal Executive Board*

Tuesday, August 20, 2002

**Holiday Inn
6200 N. Robinson OKC, OK 73118**

An interagency/intergovernmental group dedicated to assisting with these topical issues developed the training and all materials...many thanks for their efforts!

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
COST: \$75.00 per person if registered by 8/9/2002
 \$85.00 per person if registered after 8/9/2002

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____ **FAX:** () _____

Indicate method of payment:

Payment enclosed **Govt voucher** **Credit Card**

Call the FEB Office with Credit Card information, (405) 231-4167

Registration is open to all levels of government, non-profit organizations and industry leaders. **Tuesday's paid registration provides a bonus ½ day training session on Wednesday, August 21.** Please mark if you will be attending or sending a representative to one of the concurrent half-day sessions:

- Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)** (*open to all participants*)
- First responders course on explosives** (*restricted to only govt officials/refs*)

Mail this registration form to: Oklahoma Federal Executive Board
215 Dean A. McGee, Suite 320
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

or fax to: (405) 231-4165

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