Volume 45...Issue 3 May 2017

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

Grandview
Granger
Harrah
Mabton
Moxee
Naches
Selah
Sunnyside
Tieton
Toppenish
Union Gap
Wapato
Yakima
Yakima
County

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

James A. Restucci, Chair

Mayor, City of Sunnyside

Mike Leita

Yakima County Commissioner

Maureen Adkison

City of Yakima City Council

Area 1 — Dan Olson

Union Gap City Council

Area 2 — Janice Gonzales,

City of Zillah, City Council

Area 3 — Mario Martinez

Mayor, City of Mabton

Member At Large
John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair

Meet the New YVCOG Team Member



YVCOG welcomed Alan Adolf, as its new Transportation Program Manager on April 17th.

A life-long Yakima Valley resident, Alan has over 23-years' experience in the transportation industry, most notably in the area of Transportation Planning during his time with Yakima County Public Services and the Yakama Nation Transportation Program.

Alan brings experience in public outreach, non-profit development, and

intergovernmental coordination as the treasurer and facilitator of the Driving Rural Yakima County's Economy (or DRYVE) and TRANS-Action Transportation Advocacy committees since 2006. These organizations have sought to improve public and elected official awareness of the transportation needs of the Yakima Valley and promote federal, state, and local investment in the region's multi-modal transportation systems.

Having graduated from Central Washington University with a Degree in Aviation Management, Alan has worked in a wide range of transportation projects including aviation, freight rail, transit and para-transit services, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and trail systems. Alan also brings experience in grant writing, meeting coordination and customer service.

As YVCOC's Transportation Program Manager, Alan will:

 Administer and coordinate transportation planning and programming activities.



From Executive Director, Larry Mattson



Greetings YVCOG members -

Here are some transportation Tidbits from your Executive Director

Welcome Alan Adolf, YVCOG's New Transportation Program Manager

In early April, your YVCOG team welcomed our newest staff member. Many of you know Alan through his work with Yakima County, DRYVE and TRANSaction, and his prior work with the Yakama Nation. Alan brings a strong planning background and interest in multi-modal transportation to our MPO/RTPO.

Winter was Rough on Our Roads; TIB Offers Emergency Repair Grants

Every now and then I'm reminded of the importance of advocating for our Valley's needs in Olympia and Washington DC. I traveled to Olympia in mid-March with County Commissioner Ron Anderson, Mike Battle of HLA, Inc., Toppenish City Manager Lance Hoyt, and then-County Transportation Planner Alan Adolf, as part of the Valley's DRYVE and TRANSaction groups. That afternoon we met with the Transportation Improvement Board's (TIB) new director, Ashley Probart, and several of his staff. Lance shared with TIB a one-page photographic summary of the damage to Toppenish's streets caused by this winter's snowfall. Not the normal wear-and-tear, mind you; this winter was tough on every city's and county's streets.

Ashley mentioned they were optimistic that funds could be released to help cities recover from this winter's road damage. Within two weeks, TIB's board authorized the funding and the application was posted on TIB's website. The first-come, first-served program is limited to \$5 million total with grants up to \$50,000 per eligible agency. Applications are due by May 31st. Design and engineering work is not eligible or reimbursable; this program is intended to get asphalt on roads quickly using small works rosters, qualified city or county forces, or other TIB-approved means.

I'll be joining a delegation of DRYVE and TRANSaction members traveling to Washington DC in mid-May. Hopefully I'll have good news to share with you after that visit as well.

Jamis Caratton

Continued from front cover

- Develop the annual Metropolitan & Regional Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP/RTIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Represent YVCOG and member jurisdictions at state and local meetings.
- Provide resource assistance to member jurisdictions on transportation planning & transportation funding opportunities.

We are confident that Alan will be a great addition to the YVCOG team! Please feel free to contact Alan to assist you with your transportation needs and any questions you may have.

Alan can be reached at 509-574-1550 extension 107 or directly by dialing 509-759-7981. His email address is <u>alan.adolf@yvcog.org</u>. Please join us in welcoming Alan.

Traffic Counters



YVCOG staff Brian Galloway, Alan Adolf, and Mike Shuttleworth put traffic counter equipment in place at locations in Moxee and Toppenish, starting on April 20. This is to update the annual average daily traffic volumes (AADT) in both jurisdictions and is crucial for obtaining federal funds to upgrade streets and roads.

The information also helps to make management decisions, such as when to carry out:

- Traffic-calming measures
- Walking and cycling improvements
- Traffic and parking regulations
- Other traffic safety measures

If you would like YVCOG to update your jurisdiction's annual traffic counts as well, please contact us at 509.574.1550. We would be happy to assist!



YVOCG's April Classes

By Jessica Hansen—Office and Communication Specialist

(*GROAN!) I remember the email sent out by Larry as if it was yesterday. 'ALL staff are required to attend the upcoming April trainings that YVCOG will be hosting.' What? Even me? Why do I need to go? I have an attention span of a gold fish and the thought of sitting thru two days of trainings sure sounded..... BORING! I mean how does one talk for 8 hours about 'Plain Talk' and isn't Robert's Rules the book I've been using as a paper weight?

AND, just as I had not expected, they both were the BEST.... CLASSES.... EVER! Wait, What? Yes, that's right! Jordan Peabody not only kept my attention for the full 8 hours but I learned so much. I've been rethinking the way I write and not just for work. Jordan taught me ideas should remain easy to understand and the way it is written is crucial for that. I also learned that 3 out of 10 people suffer from some type of a reading "challenge." While writing in plain talk may not solve every one of those challenges, it doesn't

create any new ones either.

Jordan broke writing down and helped me understand that throughout our schooling, we are taught to write with a focus on length. The more advanced our writing assignments, the longer they need to be to get a good grade. Jordan stated that sentence length has a huge impact on reading ease. Ideally, your average sentence should be 20 words per sentence. By conveying key points in 10 words or less results in 100% readability. Jordan's class made so much sense. To-date, this has been the best government class that I have ever attended.

Jurassic Parliament, Robert's Rules of Order, was a great class as well and also had a practical way of

making a long read interesting. After taking the class, I realized that this should have been a required class 5+ years ago when initially hired by a government entity. The coined phrase 'putting the cart before the horse' seems to keep popping into my head. What a difference this class has made on my minute taking. Something



that used to take me hours, now takes me under an hour to do. This has saved me so much time and frustration. I feel like my whole job has gotten easier. It's also helped me with boards that I sit on. I now understand what roles are played, how to keep a meeting on track, and how to re-direct the meeting when they aren't sticking to the topic—faster meetings.

The best part about attending both classes was I really learned so much and I didn't have to travel. The last class I attended for YVCOG was in Olympia. The full day of travel on top of learning about the Public Disclosure Act didn't do much for that gold fish attention span I mentioned earlier.

If you have an idea about a future class or subject (like: clear

business writing, writing policies and procedures, before you hit send—writing emails) that you would like to attend in the Yakima area please let Jessica Hansen know by calling the office at 509-574-1550. We are always looking for subjects and ideas for upcoming meetings.



CAMP HOPE EMERGENCY HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT

By: Andy Ferguson, Executive Director of Transform Yakima Together

Most of you may be aware of the fact that Transform Yakima Together opened up a homeless shelter/ encampment recently but some of you might not be. Even if you are aware, you might not really know what is going on there. So, today I want to give God the Glory and share some of the amazing things that have been happening as well as just a general update. I've left out some of the background information and operational details but will post a longer version on our website for those of you who would like to have the full story. Also, before or after you read this letter, I would encourage you to read Isaiah chapters 58,61 and 62 and consider this in light of Camp Hope. Now for the story.

A "Brief" History of Camp Hope On December 1, 2016, Transform Yakima Together gathered together with Pastors from the Yakima Valley at our monthly Pastors' Luncheon to fellowship and discuss issues of concern to the City and Valley. The subject of homelessness came up as it was a "top-of-the-mind" issue for many in our City.

Subsequently, we had been working with Pastors on a plan to offer homeless people shelter through a tiny home project that



would put tiny homes on church properties. The homeless guests would be "adopted" by the churches but would be taken care of through a program managed by Transform Yakima Together. While we were vetting this program with City and County officials, they asked us if we would be interested, willing, and able to manage an encampment on City-owned property. The key idea being that everyone understood after the previous year's experience that any future encampments would have to be managed to avoid or mitigate the negative issues. After thoughtful and prayerful consideration, we said yes and began working on the plans for "Camp Hope."

Well, saying "yes" was the easy part. There were still many issues to confront and lots of work to do. And the target date to open the encampment was March 22nd.

The lease Agreement for the camp site was formally approved at the March 21st City Council meeting the day before the Camp opened. And final funding approval was given by the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, a local government formed by City and County partnerships, Executive Committee meeting on March 20th, just two days before we opened the camp.

Needless to say, we had been moving forward by faith in anticipation of getting the property and funding approved because it would have been impossible to open on time if we had waited until everything was approved. God honored our faith and we were able to receive our first guests the same day the winter shelters closed. However, the story doesn't end here because getting the property and initial funding was just the beginning of the real work needed to open the camp and get it to a point of full operation.

Transportation has been another challenging issue because the site is not on any public transit routes. We had hoped to be able to add coverage by some of the other transportation providers in the area but that hasn't worked out. Fortunately, Sunrise Outreach has loaned us their van and we are using that to run people into town where then can get on public transit. In addition, People for People will be giving us one of their smaller buses that they are retiring from service. We will have that vehicle in early April and with these two vehicles, we will be able to provide more than adequate transportation for our guests. However, transportation costs were not included in our budget so this is something for which we must raise money.

The tents also became a problem when we were not able to get the military tents for the dormitories on time. We had to make a lastminute decision to buy tents from Cabela's. They gave us a nice discount but they were still pretty spendy and we had to use monies for the tents that were not in our budget. Fortunately, again, people have been generous and we've had most of the cost of those tents covered. We are still looking to buy two more and will be needing to raise the money to do that. We will be getting our large, common-area tent from the military as we have just been approved to get access to the military surplus and donations program.



Despite broadly held negative views of the encampment, many people have come together to make the camp a reality. First of all, our volunteers and staff put in hundreds of hours in the weeks prior to our opening to ensure that we had tents up and ready for our guests by 4 pm on March 22nd. In particular, our Camp Director, Mike Kay, has worked tirelessly over the last two months to see this come to fruition. The City also bent over backward to help us get ready. They worked hard to get us our fencing and power onto the property as well as helping us put down the gravel road into and around the camp. They also provided the picnic tables that we are using in the Camp. YNHS helped us by transitioning the winter shelter participants into our camp and helping to train our people on how to properly register our guests within the required system.

And now I must give special attention to the good folks from the Fruitvale neighborhood where the City had previously been looking to put the camp. Even though they were adamantly opposed to the encampment being in their neighborhood, they were good to their word in supporting the camp where it is. Since the public meeting on March 3rd, they have consistently followed through with offers of help as well as specific significant donations. JD Wans from West Coast Plastics donated 200 pallets that we needed for the flooring inside our tents. Attorney Bob Young donated half the gravel that we needed. Volunteers have given their time and the group took up a collection and raised nearly \$2500 to help us with needed supplies and materials. If the world were made up of people like those in the Fruitvale neighborhood it would be a great place to live!

Other donations have come in from Roy's Ace Hardware who provided our garbage cans for the property. Cascade Fire and Safety provided 10 fire extinguishers which were needed for the camp. Pre-mix Cement has provided gravel at a discount. Peninsula Trucking is loaning us two 40 foot trailers for us to use for storage. And we have people coming by the Camp all the time, especially on weekends, dropping off food, water, and clothing. We're very appreciative.

Food has been an ongoing need as we are still getting our supplies and volunteers coordinated to provide consistently. Sunrise Outreach has been and will continue providing sandwiches for lunch for the camp every day during the week. Our volunteer food coordinator, Debbie Wentworth, is working to coordinate suppliers such as Northwest Harvest Foodbank along with restaurants and grocery stores who are willing to donate. She will also be working with churches and civic groups who want to come and provide meals. We hope the community will continue to support our efforts and are confident they will. A special thanks to Debbie for taking on this huge role!

A couple of very recent "wins" for us is that we have had both a shower trailer and a cooking trailer donated to the camp. It will take a few weeks before they show up on the property but they're on their way! These will be a huge gift to everyone at the camp. Thank you, God.

Going forward, our main needs will be for food, clothing, sleeping bags, and money to cover operating expenses not originally in the budget such as transportation, water, and power. We also need yard keeping equipment – mowers and weed whackers to keep up our grounds. In addition, we'd like to get back to our original plan of putting tiny homes on church properties and helping a broader range of homeless people find their way back into the mainstream of society. This will be a novel approach, as is Camp Hope, in dealing with homelessness but we believe it will have a major positive impact. The budget will be significant but compared to other programs it will be the most cost effective program currently available. This too will require broad community support in order to be successful but we are confident that we can do it – together.

We are already seeing examples of how Camp Hope is fulfilling its name and helping to move people forward in their lives. Here are just a few: David got an apartment and a job. "Cowboy" was also able to secure an apartment and a job. One of the ladies is also getting a job and waiting for an apartment. Betty and Mike, one of our couples are getting services at UGM, which they didn't even know existed before coming to Camp Hope. And two people that are now employed by Camp Hope were previously in the shelters just a year ago and they are grateful to serve.

When asked, "how do you feel Camp Hope has impacted our downtown commerce as compared to last year's 'Tent City'?", Verlynn Best, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce stated, "The difference is night and day! It's a tremendous improvement and I'm hearing really good things throughout the community." - Verlynn Best

We're also hearing directly from the camp residents on what Camp Hope means to them. One middle-aged woman told us, "I use to sleep in the alley behind the Arco. Now I feel safe and I feel like I belong." Another told us, "This is my family." A couple staying at the camp who had been in shelters in both Spokane and Olympia shared, "This is the first time we've gone to bed with food in our stomachs on a consistent basis for months." A testimony of one of our newer residents: "When I came to Camp Hope about two weeks ago, I was treated like family by the staff. I didn't look or smell too good but a staff member allowed me to ride in his very nice and expensive vehicle, just as I was. He took me to McDonalds and bought me a soda and offered to help me because he cared about me. Camp Hope is a family of people and staff that stick together doing what we can to help each other. I'm being given employment training and being taught responsibility and more. My hope is to reach out to the community to ask them to help Camp Hope. Please help us become tax payers by providing us job opportunities and a means to get there so we can have our families back and provide for them."

One of the residents even came up with acronym for Camp Hope:

C – Care

A – About

M - My

P-People

H - Help

O – Our

P – People

E - Emerge



Part of our values at Camp Hope and what contributes to the feeling of family is that we allow people to have their struggles but aren't throwing them out right away. We help them work it out whether it's in a relationship or within themselves. Our goal, and it seems to be working, is to create a caring community and we can sense the "We vibe" – not a "them and us." This is further evidenced by the fact that everyone does chores. The residents also are self-policing, which has helped to deal with bad behaviors, illicit substances, and unwanted drug dealers. We are grateful for these testimonies of God's goodness and the positive environment of Camp Hope and we expect it to continue.

We've enjoyed favorable and consistent coverage by the press. And even the Police are giving us a positive report. One officer said, "this is so different from last year, it's unbelievable. Last year I wouldn't have gone into the camp without several other officers going with me." Local radio host, Lance Tormey stated, "What a difference a year makes! Last year it was all bad news. This year it's all good news, thanks to Camp Hope."

I am incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of so many that have made Camp Hope possible. We believe that the entire community can benefit from this experience by drawing us together rather than the division and rancor of our history. If you haven't had a chance to come visit the camp yet, please come down and say hello and get a tour. Thank you for your interest and support.

To God be the Glory, Andy Ferguson Transform Yakima Together, Executive Director. http://www.transformyakima.com/



Community; Thy Name is Bicycle

Across America, vast sections of our urban landscape stand inaccessible to everyday experience. Choked by congestion and blocked by long-eroded access, many city streets exist as an urban no-man's land. Today's urban metropolis is typically a place where even residents fear venturing out into their own neighborhoods.

Yet, in the face of all this darkness, the bicycle may hold the key to unlocking our urban centers and reclaiming the hearts of our communities. Simple, flexible, elegant and easy, the bicycle serves as an antidote to the hardening of our urban experience.

The experience of riding a bicycle in an urban setting is truly a profound act. Emerging from our urban dwellings with bicycles, we are struck with a sense of awe as we are instantly transformed into self-propelled, self-determined individuals. An easy sense of exhilaration comes when we are being propelled through city streets on a bicycle.

This sense of exhilaration serves to heighten our connection to our surroundings, to open us up to our communities and to our world. It serves to re-connect us to our communities in new, fresh ways. It serves as a platform for greater appreciation of the livability-or concern for the lack of livability-of where we live. We can more enthusiastically embrace our communities when we ride bikes.

This simple act of riding a bicycle is one of heightened concentration, awareness, and mindfulness-on both physical and psychological levels. One is exposed to more hazards on a bike, so one must be more aware of the surroundings. Every dip, bump, twist, and turn is magnified on a bicycle. Much more than in an automobile, a trip on a bicycle heightens our senses and increases our precision. It is eyes and ears. It is breathing. It is looking, feeling, and sensing.

Because of this heightened awareness, the bicycle provides us with an extended ability to take more in, to notice more, and to be more present. We become the eyes and ears on the street, serving the community with our sharpened presence. We meet and talk with people on our street. We are in a more social place on our bikes because we are physically closer to the people of our community, and we are more aware of them while we are there.

Thus, we are in a better position to be more available to anyone in need in our community, to aid someone in distress, to assist someone with directions, or to simply smile and be friendly. On bicycles, we are guardians, stewards, protectors of our community.



On a bicycle, a ride to the grocery store, movie theater, or park is more than mere transportation. It literally brings us closer to our environment, our community. On a bike, we come face to face with where we live; our bodies literally glide through it. We are in more intimate contact with our surroundings, in closer contact with the people and the physical places that make up our urban experience. Thus, bikes help us to be more connected to the people who share our space.

At its heart, transportation itself is a community experience. The typical trip in an automobile in this country is not usually a two-hour commute, or even work-related. The average trip in a car in the U.S. is within a 5-mile radius of our homes, typically for shopping at a local market, picking up or dropping off children at school or activities like soccer practice or piano lessons. These activities, largely community-centered, account for more trips in automobiles than for any other purpose.

And within this 5-mile radius of where we live-the heart of our community-bicycles are supreme forms of community-centered transportation. With their ease of use, low cost, and flexibility, bicycles simplify the urban errand and make life easier for people in cities-in America and around the world. As if by magic, navigating a city center becomes comfortable and easy, and amenities of a busy downtown become more accessible on a bicycle, and thus less stressful and more enjoyable.

Bicycles are the liberators of space in our communities. As we ride in cities everywhere, we transform streets from dark, inaccessible stretches of pavement to prideful places more accommodating to life on a human scale. We literally lighten the load of our streets on bicycles, thus easing the stresses and strains that our streets must bear everyday. In so doing, we gently liberate our communities from the heavy burden of traffic, congestion, pollution, social strife, and struggle. We reconnect to life in our communities by setting our community spaces free, opening them up to our hearts and minds. We take back our cities when we ride our bikes. The spaces we liberate are returned to the people in our community.

The urban bicycling movement causes us to rightfully examine our role in history. The history of human progress is a history of transportation evolution. As changes in transportation dawned on the face of history (chariots, tall ships, steam trains, airplanes, etc.), it shaped human progress. By riding bicycles, we are helping to change the way we think about urban transportation.

On bicycles, we serve to reshape urban experience. On bicycles, we rekindle what it means to live in a city, a community.

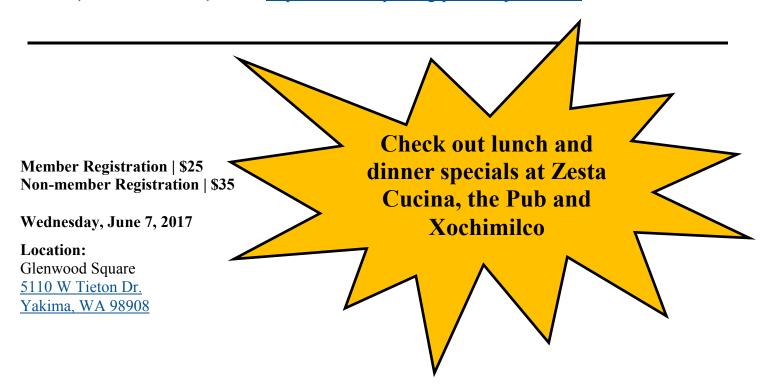


The Young Adult Housing Program By William Denton—Homeless Program Coordinator

The program that will help make it possible for young adults in the Valley to attain their GED and become more stabilized in their housing situations is facing possible elimination. The Young Adult Housing Program which helps those between the ages 18-24 and provides housing assistance and weekly management advice from a casework, might not be funded in the state's new budget. This Youth specific grant has its program residents pay a share of their income or portion of their rent monthly. Typically, residents stay in the program 18-24 months while they are working on school programs such as GED's and training certificates. This program has found a place in many cities helping developmental needs of the young adult populations that don't have family supports that others in their age group may have and this is a very vulnerable group due to people in this age group generally start family's and don't have basic education goals met due to a variety of reasons. These factors place this age group of homeless young adults at risk and if not addressed while these individuals are still in this age group they run the risk of always being homeless during adulthood. If that state senate does eliminate this program in the next budget it would create a step backwards for the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness.

June Public Records Act 101 Training

If you are new to public records work or simply want a refresher this class is for you. We will be covering PRA 101, the legal requirements of the Public Records Act, best practices your agency can use, methods of response with different types of requestors and more. Both WAPRO members and non-members are invited to join us for a 2.5 hour session in Yakima, WA on June 7th, 2017. http://www.wa-pro.org/pra-101-june-2017



There are two sessions available, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each session is identical and space is limited to 40 people per session. Make sure to get your spot early before this valuable training event sells out!

Session 1: 9:00 - 11:30 AM| **Session 2:** 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Instructor: Sheila Friend Gray

Sheila Friend Gray has more than 16 years of experience processing public records requests. She is currently the Seattle Police Department Public Disclosure Officer and is the manager of the Public Disclosure Unit. She currently oversees the management of over 6,000 public disclosure requests the Department receives each year. She collaborates with the City Attorney's Offices, media and other organizations both externally and internally to respond to requests. In addition, she teaches for the Records Academy at the Washington State Criminal Justice Center.

Please note: No registrations or payments will be taken onsite, and payment for this event must be received by the WAPRO office by Friday, May 26th, 2017. If you are unable to submit payment by this date, please contact the WAPRO office regarding payment status.

Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

When: May 17, 2017

Where: Nana Kate's—432 E Goodlander Rd, Selah, WA 98942

6:30 p.m. - Social 7:00 p.m. - Dinner

Please make checks payable to: Nana Kate's for \$20



Speaker: Washington State Treasurer Duane Davidson

Presentation: The 'LOCAL Program' The LOCAL PROGRAM offers local governments a way to finance essential real estate and equipment over a multi-year period. The major benefits of LOCAL are (1) simplicity and (2) low cost financing. Participants will benefit from the current program rating of low fees and expenses and access to the public bond markets. The LOCAL PROGRAM is administered by the Office of the State Treasurer (OST). http://www.tre.wa.gov/LOCAL/

Menu: Roasted Red Pepper Mousse with house made crackers

Tapas Appetizer Tray

Baby Spring Mix Salad with pears, candied hazelnuts & Balsamic Vinaigrette

Asparagus Spears with almonds and Hollandaise Sauce

Beef Burgundy over Puff Pastry with rosemary roasted red potatoes

Fresh Fruit Tarts with Creme Anglaise

Wine and Beer available for purchase

(Vegetarian, Gluten, Allergy Free - available upon request)

RSVPs due to <u>info@yvcog.org</u> prior to noon on May 12, 2017.

YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator Mike Shuttleworth, Senior Planner Crystal Testerman, Homeless Program Manager John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Admin Brian Galloway, Associate Planner Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist William Denton, Homeless Program Coordinator Alan Adolf, MPO/RTPO Manager

YVCOG: 311 North 4th Street, Suite 204 Yakima, WA 98901

Linked in

509-574-1550 / www.yvcog.org

