

MCGOWAN: Sisters man featured in book on Oregon spirit

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the rugged coast to the west. "I had never camped a day in my life," he said.

He made up for lost time with a vengeance.

McGowan recounted his winding career path before describing the powerful instrument of conservation and community that he and Jan steered in the 1990s.

Under their leadership, SOLV grew from an enterprise that could almost be contained in a shoebox to an operation that conducted huge cleanup operations fielding thousands of volunteers. And it was the nature of that volunteer work that meant the most to McGowan.

He explained that volunteers came from all walks of life, a variety of races and cultures and an array of political persuasions. Working together for a common goal of restoring and enhancing their Oregon-built interpersonal bridges across cultural and political chasms.

It's an ethic that McGowan continues to believe in,

even as the national discourse grows more and more polarized.

He described seven steps in community-building as they played out through SOLV:

1. Association — an opportunity for a variety of people to come together.

2. Dialogue — people working and sharing together.

3. Familiarity — people start to recognize and understand one another.

4. Trust.

5. Consensus — people begin to see that, whatever else might divide them, they do have significant common ground.

6. Shared vision — people come together to define that common ground and to act for the common good.

7. Action — in building a better Sisters, a better Oregon, and maybe a better America.

McGowan continues to act upon his philosophy. He and Jan retired to Sisters (where they were married years ago). Jack has served on the board of directors of the Sisters Folk Festival, has been involved in community emergency planning, and currently serves on the board of directors for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District.

GRANTS: Two Sisters organizations received support

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toward 2020's Tea and Poetry event at the Sisters Farmer's Market. This is a poetry contest open to all ages. Last year's awards were judged by Oregon's Poet Laureate Kim Stafford.

Other organizations receiving grants included:

BEAT: Presenter of children's theater in five Title One schools in Deschutes County.

BendFilm: Celebrating the work of independent filmmakers through the BendFilm Festival and the Women's Film Festival, the grant funds the Power of Film nonprofit promotional video.

COCC Afrocentric Studies Clubs: For the student-led EVOLVE Project at the Tower Theater, March 13 and 14. EVOLVE is a performance experience that explores the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color.

High Desert Chamber Music — to support the 2019-2020 Season.

High Desert Museum

— supporting Little Wonders. Through a partnership with Neighbor Impact, Little Wonders will provide museum memberships and \$10 gas cards to 360 Head Start families, over 80 percent of whom will be from Deschutes County, ensuring children from low-income families have access to unique learning experiences that will help close the opportunity gap in Central Oregon.

KPOV-FM Station 88.9 on your radio has designated its award to provide podcast training for other nonprofit organizations.

Opera Bend: funds will enable this group to present its annual opera performance "The Elixir of Love" to high school students in mid-March.

Tower Theater: funds will pay for Lesson PLAN, which stands for Performing Live Arts Now. Performances are held in the theater and in schools around Central Oregon with the goal that every student should see at least one live arts performance.

Sunriver Music Festival: designated to celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday in 2020.

Ben Westlund was the

force behind legislation creating the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT), which receives its income largely through donations, and for which donors can take a full tax credit. The OCT distributes monies to cultural nonprofits around the state in three ways.

Funds are allotted to five cultural agency partners: the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Humanities, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon State Preservation Office, and Oregon Heritage Commission. They are given directly to statewide cultural organizations through a competitive application process, and they are distributed to 45 county and tribal cultural coalitions around the state. Deschutes Cultural Coalition is one of them, and the grants awarded are from this source.

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