

SCOCOG Celebrates 50

On April 18, 2017 SCOCOG celebrated its 50th. Anniversary at the West Plains Civic Center. Approximately 65 members, citizens, and long-time SCOCOG supporters attended the meeting and dinner which was followed by a presentation by Dr. Brooks Blevins, Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, entitled “Bluecoats, Yellow Dogs, and Red Counties: 175 Years of Political Affiliation in the Ozarks.” Cody Dalton, Assistant Director, also presented age, income, and workforce demographic changes in the Ozarks over the last 45 years. Johnny Murrell, Director, outlined the history of Regional Planning Commissions, and said that SCOCOG was the first Regional Planning Commission in the state of Missouri, dedicated on February 9, 1967.



**All photos courtesy of West Plains Daily Quill*

SCOCOG

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Public Transit - Human Service Transportation Plan to begin

SCOCOG staff is beginning work on the Public Transit - Human Service Transportation Plan. This will be the second time staff will work in coordination with transportation providers to implement the plan with the goal being improvement of mobility for individuals in the region.

Access to public transportation is limited in rural areas, and only continues to grow. Better access to employment, schools, or medical appointments is a continuing need.

The first phase of the process will consist of SCOCOG staff conducting meetings with representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation services and the general public in order to obtain input on mobility options for residents without access to automobiles and public transportation.

Staffers will then be out within the region meeting with individuals at local senior centers, as well and sending out surveys to transportation providers seeking input.