Nonprofit Association of Oregon
2017 Annual Meeting
Portland, Oregon – September 28, 2017
Celebrating 40 Years!
Lilisa Hall’s Talking Points

- What a fantastic discussion – thank you so much Sean!
- Good morning – my name is Lilisa Hall, Director of Membership, Communications and Advancement
- Many of you are aware that NAO is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year...yes, 40 years!
- But NAO couldn’t have come this far without all of you – so thank you for all you do!
- Over the next few minutes, I’m going to take us down memory lane – by decades – don’t worry – it’ll be fairly brief!

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**Decade 1: 1977 – 1987**
- In the late 1970s, there were 639 registered public benefit nonprofit organizations in Oregon...
- The times – they were a changin’
- There was a growing need for social services, grassroots organizations sprang up, and civic and community engagement was burgeoning
- Nonprofits were seeking technical assistance
- In an attic in SE Portland, Kay Sohl and Jean DeMaster hatch an idea to serve nonprofits
- And 40 years ago Technical Assistance for Community Services, NAO’s predecessor was born
- Three staff members share an office with Kay’s adorable Dalmatian!

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**Decade 2: 1987 – 1997**
- There was a growing need for financial-related professional development – and voila! – the Nonprofit Fiscal Managers Association was born
- This was followed by the Executive Directors Network – (that’s today’s Nonprofit Leaders Network). CPAs, attorneys, fund development professionals, human resource consultants, and others all contribute their time and expertise as volunteer speakers
- TACS sponsors the first conference for People of Color
- Recognizing a need for ongoing dialogue, the Diversity Leadership Network was created – today’s Equity and Inclusion Network
- *The Oregon Nonprofit Corporation Handbook* by Kay Sohl and Cynthia Cumfer is published – 3,000 copies are sold within three years!
- Meyer Memorial Trust funds a three-year capacity building grant
- United Way of the Columbia-Willamette contracts with TACS to establish the Nonprofit Organization Information and Referral Helpline – Helpline is born!
- There are 9,667 registered public benefit nonprofits.
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- **Decade 3: 1997 – 2007**
- TACS launches trainings in Bend, Salem, Medford, Enterprise, Astoria
- Some of these transition into today’s Rogue Valley Nonprofit Network in Southern Oregon and Nonprofit Network of Central Oregon
- The Executive Transition Services is created. More than 100 organizations get help in the next five years!
- TACS partners with the Oregon Community Foundation to launch *Oregon Involved* – a movement to connect people to nonprofits in every community in the state
- With a Nonprofit Steering Committee of nonprofit leaders from across the state, as well as 147 founding member nonprofits – TACS creates the Nonprofit Association of Oregon as a membership program under the TACS umbrella
- There are 13,456 registered public benefit nonprofits

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- **Decade 4: 2007 – 2017**
- In mid-2008, Kay Sohl transitions from TACS. As is often the case when founders leave, TACS takes some time to find its footing...Cathy Briggs steps in as Executive Director for less than a year and is followed by Carrie Hoops for 2-1/2 years.
- The Ford Family Foundation, M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust and The Collins Foundation invest in NAO’s work. Other foundations and corporate partners do the same.
- In 2010, NAO adopts its current mission and new bylaws, is formally accepted by the National Council of Nonprofits, and becomes THE state membership association.
  - In October 2012, Jim White becomes NAO’s executive director.
- The work begins to transform NAO into the state membership association and extend NAO’s reach across the state
- In 2016, NAO’s Board commits to deepen our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- There are 19,786 public benefit nonprofits registered in Oregon
- To continue the story into 2017, here’s Sara Curiel Paez and Victor Vasquez ...