

NOSORH REGION D  
HENDERSON, NV. MAY 25, 2011

Alison's Meanderings on  
*Engaging Rural Communities*  
"Dedicated to Caroline Ford"

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The Truth In Rural

- Schott: "If you've seen one rural community, you've seen one rural community..."

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TRUE—RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE NOT IDENTICAL!



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**Engaging the Rurals**

- Early Kitchen table politics—Caroline Ford method
- NOSORH’s rural grass roots leadership exploration

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**Being Watched  
Watching ourselves**

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**Frigate in Flight**

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### Community Leaders Focus Group– What Are We Learning

- Emerging leadership vacuum
- “For a long time, everyone involved has been older/retired; at 45, I’m often the youngest person in the room.”
- “... a lot of the same people involved in the same things for a long time. That brings a lot of experience to the table, but also runs the risk of “burning out” leaders.”

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### More rural leader quotes...

- “A lot of the younger people are preoccupied (and rightly so) with just trying to make a living; many are raising families while working one or more jobs.”
- “We need to listen to the younger generation and take advantage of their youthfulness. The older generation doesn’t always want to change – we need to let the younger generation run with its ideas and give them the chance to succeed or fail”.

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### We asked what’s needed...

- “People willing to step up and be mentors to the next generation.”

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Giving more than love...

- If we want to help rural communities, what can we give them?
- New knowledge?
- New ideas?

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Masked Boobies in love

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Rural Youth

- Can SORHs engage rural youth?
- Can NOSORH create a national rural youth leadership initiative?
- Can we wake a sleeping giant? A sleeping baby?

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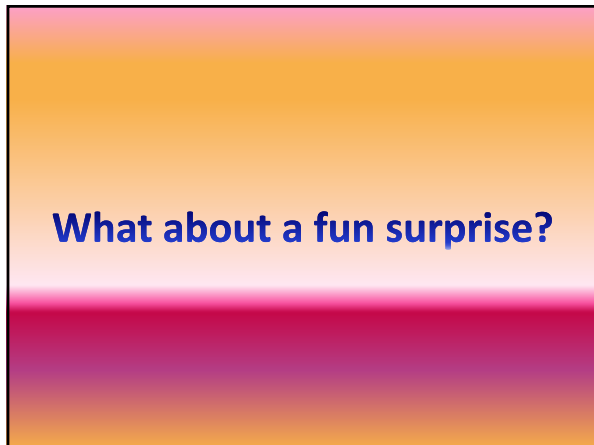
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We all like surprises!  
Young people especially...

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But youth also  
need a watchful eye

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The case for a rural youth mentoring program

- Kitchen table youth focus groups
- Rural leaders as mentors
- Using the facts to convince grant making agencies
- Taking flight through a pilot project

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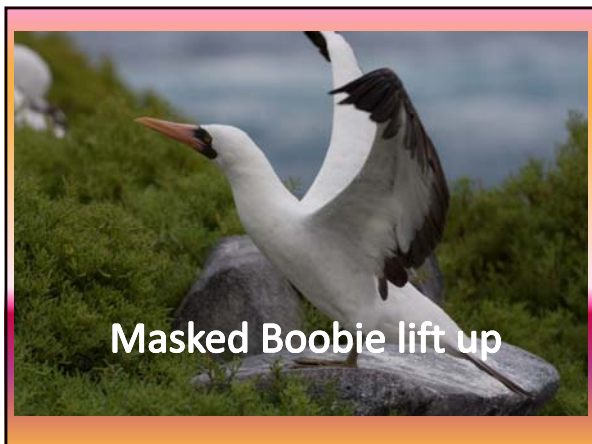
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Under a friendly old rural  
SORH (sore) eye...

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**We can nurture and grow  
rural youth  
Into strong leaders**

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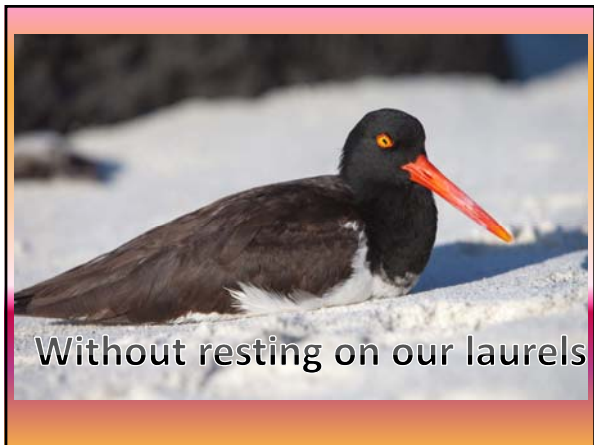
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Without resting on our laurels

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By taking it slowly and  
doing  
It right...

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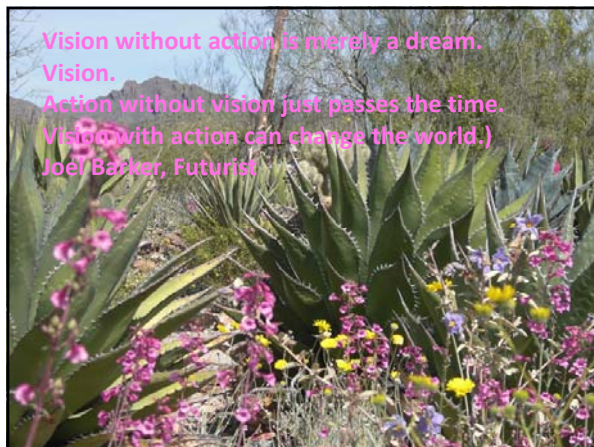
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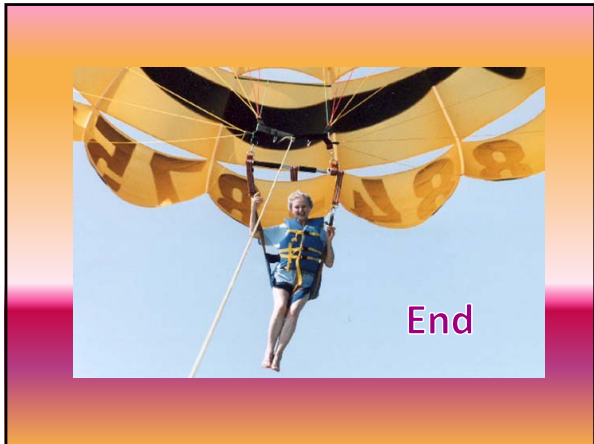
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