

Are You Ready For It?

[GET YOUR TICKETS](#) for RACC's September membership meeting lunch! AI is everywhere and for many local business owners and professionals it can feel confusing or overwhelming. It is important for our members to develop strategies to position their business or organization to utilize AI technology and implement AI solutions that align with the organization to best support productivity and advance efficiency.

Get your tickets now to the chamber's September 15 membership meeting lunch. The lunch program will feature Tim Fahndrich, Co-Founder and CEO of Whirlocal Media. Tim will break down what AI is (and what it isn't), why it matters for small businesses and nonprofits, and how to start using it in simple, time-saving ways.

Attendees will learn how AI can help them:

- Write better marketing content like emails, social posts, and website copy
- How to go beyond marketing and use AI to help with any repetitive task
- Respond to customer inquiries faster and never miss another call again
- Save time and money and get better results on everyday tasks, even if they're not tech-savvy

Whether you're a real estate agent, restaurant or hotel owner, service provider, business of any size, nonprofit or local government, this session will provide clear, real-world examples you can use immediately. The program will also touch on how to move beyond prompting AI and instead let AI prompt you for better, more consistent results.

Chamber membership lunch meetings are held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Complex in the Community Conference Hall from 11:45 am to 1 pm. The lunch buffet opens at 11:45. Advanced ticket purchase is required to attend. Online ticket sales only. Tickets are not available at the door. **The deadline to purchase your tickets is noon on Wednesday, September 10.**

[BONUS SESSION ALERT](#): Season pass holders and RACC members who purchase a ticket to the September membership lunch will also receive a pass to an exclusive, member-only 60 to 90-minute "bonus session" that same afternoon (9/15), after the membership lunch, for those who want to dive deeper into AI and community-based marketing tools they can start using right away.

The Session May Be Over, But the Work Continues

[ACTION ALERT!](#) Members will recall the tough fight during the regular session against SB 916, which grants unemployment insurance benefits to striking workers. Last month, the Oregon Employment Department (OED) proposed draft regulations to implement SB 916. While the proposed rules should be limited to implementing SB 916, the agency took the opportunity to rewrite Oregon's unemployment insurance law to the detriment of public and private employers. As currently written, the proposed rules:

- Give claimants the ability to create new restrictions on the types of work and schedules they are willing to accept.
- Eliminate the ability of the Director to require claimants to accept available work;
- Extend time limits: an absence or illness is not disqualifying unless it takes up more than half of the week.
- Eliminate restrictions on UI related to incarcerations or drug treatment.
- Make significant changes the division's interpretation of "actively" looking for work:
 - Create a new standard for claimants that are "employer attached" and eliminates current four-week limit on temporary layoffs
 - Create a blanket interpretation that employees are "actively" looking for work when they are unemployed due to a labor dispute and there is an expectation they will return to work when the strike ends
- Allow employees to seek only remote work if remote work is typically available for their occupation.

Public comment may be submitted **until 5:00 p.m. today, September 4, referencing 471-030-0036**, to: oed_rules@employ.oregon.gov. Read [RACC's Comment Letter](#).

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING LEGISLATION UPDATE. As you are aware, the Governor called a Special Legislative Session on August 29 to address a funding shortfall for the Oregon Department of Transportation. On September 1, the Oregon House of Representatives passed HB 3991 by the required

three-fifths House majority (or 36 votes) required for legislation increasing taxes (also passing HB 3992 declaring an emergency). The bills will now go to the Senate floor on September 17 for a vote. Prior to the House consideration and vote, the Joint Transportation Funding Committee on Monday, August 25 at 3:00 pm and took public testimony on [LC 2](#), the bill that would [increase gas taxes and income taxes by a combined \\$6 billion over the next nine years](#) to fund state and local transportation maintenance, restore several hundred ODOT jobs, and add funding to local transit districts. Read RACC’s testimony to the committee [HERE](#). Members wishing to reach out to their Senator regarding HB 3991 can find information at [RACC’s “Calls to Action.”](#)

PERMITTING REFORM. The RACC joined more than 500 local and state chambers and business organizations across the U.S. calling on Congress for comprehensive permitting reform. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce delivered the coalition letter to Members of Congress on September 2. Modernizing permitting systems will empower communities and businesses to invest in infrastructure that grows the economy, creates good-paying jobs, and improves quality of life. The coalition united around four key principles:

- **Predictability:** Clear timelines and scope for project reviews.
- **Efficiency:** Improved interagency coordination to optimize resources.
- **Transparency:** Accessible visibility into project milestones and schedules.
- **Stakeholder Input:** Consistent opportunities for input from all relevant parties.

Read the coalition letter [HERE](#).

Small Business Tax Resource Available to Download Now!

To help our members better understand the tax provisions included in an Act recently passed by the United States Congress, the US Chamber of Commerce (USCC) developed a guide for how small businesses can take advantage of the provisions included in the bill. Don’t wait to download this step-by-step [small business tax resource from the USCC](#).

“InUmpqua” Magazine . . . A Member-Exclusive Opportunity

The chamber is accepting advertising reservations in its 2026 *InUmpqua* magazine--a digital business directory, community profile and visitor guide. The online *InUmpqua* is the chamber’s most popular download and is available to visitors, individuals relocating to our area, as well as residents and businesses throughout Roseburg and Douglas County. The chamber also prints a small quantity of the magazine to fulfill out-of-area visitor and relocation requests, as well as providing copies to member advertisers, as inventory permits.

This publication remains one of the best advertising values available. The chamber’s *InUmpqua* magazine is wholly-funded by member advertising dollars. See our [2025 InUmpqua](#) online. Be sure and check out our advertisers; their support allows the chamber to produce this magazine and we are so very appreciative! The reservation contract submission DEADLINE is September 30; ad submission deadline is October 15. Download a copy of the [2026 InUmpqua rate sheet](#) and reserve your space today.

Thank you to our members who have already reserved their ad space!

Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions.

Debbie

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