

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

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Counties Have Best Session in Years

Despite the state budget crisis, county government had its best legislative session since 1990 (when the state provided local criminal justice funding). At the beginning of the special session, counties had three top priorities:

1. Two years of funding for local public health.
2. Funding for rural counties hard hit by the repeal of the MVET.
3. Passage of the local option revenue/GMA relief bill.

In the final Legislative budget, local public health was funded for two years. Funding for rural counties hard hit by MVET repeal was increased from the \$3 million in the Senate and House budgets to \$5 million. As the special session drew to a close, the final piece of the package, the local option/GMA relief bill passed. The bill provides GMA timeline relief to Jefferson and Clallam Counties and allows Ferry County to opt out of GMA. The revenue provisions permit counties to send their voters proposals to increase sales tax by 0.3% or property taxes for multiple years.

In addition to these measures, counties had other victories. A version of tax increment financing that would allow cities and ports to divert county property taxes without the county's consent died. Efforts to merge the County Road Board with other state boards were thwarted. For the first time, Shorelines implementation was tied to funding. The straight eight hour work day bill protected counties from a large potential liability.

All in all WSAC, WACO and individual counties were effective in getting their message across to legislators. Everyone should take a moment to celebrate. We need to thank the legislators who worked to champion our causes. Many of those legislators have committed to work with us next year on county priorities including ongoing funding for counties without an adequate tax base, local public health funding and criminal justice funding. Then we need to think about how we build on the credibility and relationships we established this year to move the county agenda for next year.

WSAC Summer Convention Only Two Weeks Away! Register On-Line Now!

The *97th Annual WSAC Summer Convention* in Spokane Valley promises to be full of helpful and strategic information. The convention will celebrate our legislative successes and focus on new approaches to budgeting and results-oriented county programs.

Wednesday, June 25 begins with Carl Neu, Founder of the Center for the Future of Local Governance, sharing perspectives on the opportunities for leadership as county elected

officials in these rough and challenging times. We next will look at budgeting through setting priorities of government with Peter Hutchinson, who spoke at our convention last year and helped to design Governor Locke's 2003-05 budget proposal.

Most of the remainder of the meeting on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning will be an opportunity to learn from others in county government -- county engineers, human services, planning, emergency

management, parks, local public health and county administrators. All will share their successes about how they are changing to provide traditional services to the public at a lower cost, or how better services are being provided within existing fiscal constraints.

As an example, the Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors has assembled a workshop featuring Kitsap County's building permit tracking system for the new millennium, Yakima County's cost

recovery for the county's land development review system, and Clallam County's public/private partnerships for Geographic Information Systems. These approaches can be used by other counties to save money and improve service to the public. Come and learn!

Finally, as part of our growing commitment to member education, two CPO training sessions are being offered on Tuesday: an all-day Risk Management workshop which is a CPO Core Course and a CPO elective Tuesday afternoon.

You can register on-line at

<http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/Calendar/SummerConvention/SummerConvention.htm>

Please note the WACCs sponsored 1st Annual Walk/Run **will begin at 6:45 am, NOT 7:00 am** as stated previously. Participants will meet prior to the 6:45 start time in the lobby of the DoubleTree Hotel. If you have not already sent in your registration for the walk/run, it is not too late. We look forward to seeing you there.

Don't miss the 2003 WSAC Summer Convention in Spokane County!

The Courthouse Journal

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

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Budget, Finance, and Taxes

Funding for Counties Hard Hit by MVET Repeal

Counties scored a significant victory in the final budget by increasing funding for county assistance above the levels seen in any previous budget proposal. A total of \$5 million was provided for state fiscal year 2004. The funding allocation was designed to provide the most funding to those counties that lost the largest percentages of their current expense budgets when the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) was repealed by the Legislature after the passage of Initiative 695. The Governor's Budget contained no funding for these counties. The Senate and House passed budgets containing \$1.5 million per year. It is extremely difficult to increase funding in a conference budget when the two chambers are in agreement. Thanks to the counties of all sizes on both sides of the state for contacting their legislators on this issue.

Local Public Health Funding Provided for Two Years

In the final budget the House moved to the Senate position and agreed to provide two years of funding for local public health. A list of the amounts provided for each health district or department are posted on the WSAC web site.

OFM Releases Preliminary Population Figures – Deadline for Appeals is June 20

On June 6 the state Office of Financial Management released its preliminary population estimates for 2003. Each county was mailed a copy of the estimates. Counties and cities may appeal the estimates in writing by June 20.

If you have questions regarding the estimates for your county, you should contact OFM by calling Diana Brunink at (360) 902-0597 or Lawrence Weisser at (360) 902-0588.

A New FAQ Website for the Post Retirement Employment Law

The Post Retirement Employment Bill **SHB 1829** becomes effective July 27, 2003. To read frequently asked questions and answers regarding this new law, visit the Department of Retirement Systems' FAQ website at <http://www.drs.wa.gov/member/1829faq.htm>

The bill provides that a person does not separate from service for retirement purposes if the employee and employer

NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Budget, Finance and Taxes (continued)

verbally agree that the employee will resume employment with the same employer following termination.

This means that the employee would not be entitled to receive retirement payments – because the employee would still be employed. An employee in this situation would be required to repay any retirement benefits received during this period of “non-retirement.” False claims would be subject to criminal penalties.

The bill increases the amount of time—from 30 to 90 days—that local and state government retirees must leave their jobs before being rehired.

Other provisions of the bill:

- The employer must document a justifiable need to hire a retiree
- The rehiring must be approved by specific executives (usually the highest official of the agency or local government), depending on the employer or under rules adopted by a local government employer
- The employer must retain records of the procedures followed and the decisions made in hiring the retiree and provide these records in the event of an audit
- Retirees are limited to working 867 hours per calendar year, except that they may work an additional 1,900 hours over the annual limit during their lifetime
- Retirees who already have worked hours in excess of the limit must count those hours toward their 1,900 hour lifetime limit

- In no case may the combined total of 867 hours and hours counting toward the 1,900 hour life time limit exceed 1,500 hours in a calendar year
- The Department of Retirement Systems and the Employment Security Department shall provide notice to employers about the possible unemployment compensation consequences of hiring retirees

More Details on Sales Tax Streamlining

As we have reported earlier, the Legislature directed the Department of Revenue to form an advisory group to study two issues. The first issue is the impact of “sourcing” sales tax to the address where the consumer takes delivery of the goods. The second issue is to decide if and how the revenue impact of sourcing should be mitigated for jurisdictions that would lose sales tax revenue. This is an important issue for counties. Early data shows that counties and low revenue cities can expect revenue gains from sourcing. Cities with historically high levels of sales tax revenue can expect to lose.

At a meeting with the Department of Revenue, WACO and WSAC staff reached an agreement to split the advisory function into segments. The first group would focus on the technical issues of data collections. The second group will focus solely on the issue of mitigation. The political reality is that any mitigation probably would have to come from the counties and cities that would benefit from sourcing.

The mitigation issue will be contentious. Many counties will argue that sourcing is an appropriate way to begin mitigating the sales tax implications of GMA. Many low sales tax cities see sourcing as a way of mitigating the loss of sales tax equalization. Communities that have been hard hit by the opening of big box retailers in neighboring communities will see this as a significant and welcome change. On the other hand, some of the cities with strong sales tax receipts are still feeling the sting of the manufacturing sales tax exemptions.

Tax Increment Finance Changes Die

Many county staff and lobbyists worked hard in the final days of the legislative session to prevent harmful amendments to the state’s tax increment finance statute. Although counties were in agreement with the original version of the 2003 legislation which would expand the existing tax increment program, legislators who were concerned that counties would not agree to creation of a tax increment district insisted upon a version of **SB 5364** that would allow cities and ports to create a district – and thereby shift a county’s revenue stream to the tax increment district -- without county consent.

The bill was lobbied hard by city and business proponents until midnight of the first special session. Friendly House members helped to keep the current level playing field.

SB 6002 Implementation Discussions Continue

Skamania County Clerk Rena Hollis, President of the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC), met with House and Senate staffs and representatives of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Administrator for the Courts (AOC) to discuss the implementation of **SB 6002**. This bill shifts responsibility for the collection of legal financial obligations of unsupervised offenders from DOC to county clerks.

The issues revolved around the time period between July when DOC stops supervision and in October when county clerks begin collection; adequate notice to the clerk and the offender; and, annual reporting to the legislature. DOC will continue to operate the kiosks for reporting by offenders in the interim period. DOC technical staff met with AOC later in the week to solidify the billing process AOC assumes under **SB 6002**.

The 2003/05 State Operating Budget that passed both houses includes \$1.8 million for county clerks to establish and expand collection programs. WACO is directed to work with county clerks to develop a formula for distribution of the funding. The formula will go before the WACO Board of Trustees for approval

in August to meet a September 1 legislative deadline. The only disappointing note to the \$1.8 million funding is that now it will come from the already-strapped Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) instead of from the state general fund.

More about PSEA

In efforts to balance the 2003/05 Operating Budget, the Legislature has seen fit to fund several items from the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA). Some of the programs include collection of legal financial obligations by county clerks (**SB 6002**), the WSP Crime Laboratories (this portion formerly funded from 5% of County and Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Accounts), and the Attorney General's Homicide Investigation Tracking Systems (HITS) (the state general fund portion). The March forecast estimates PSEA revenues for the coming biennium at \$191 million. The only new revenue is a projected \$16 million for increased traffic penalties from the passage of **SB 6023**.

Child Abuse to Be Local Again

Thursday's Olympian reported that the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is abandoning a centralized system of reporting child

abuse and neglect that has been roundly criticized by child welfare advocates, law enforcement and even Child Protective Service workers. The job will be given back to local offices.

Pacific County Sheriff John Didion and Lewis County Sheriff John McCroskey appeared in Olympia this spring to object to the centralized system and recounted the tremendous delays to law enforcement when reporting abuse cases. The Children's Alliance reported callers put on hold for nearly an hour and delays between reporting and response by CPS caseworkers.

DSHS implemented the Seattle-based centralized telephone intake system last December in response to budget cuts. The system was intended to free up social workers and to ensure consistent intake decisions statewide. Complaints surfaced almost immediately. The transition back to local reporting and assessment will take some work but department officials say they will take the time to do it right.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Local Records Grant Program

Secretary of State Sam Reed announced the 2003 - 2005 Local Records Grant Program designed to preserve and protect the records of local government in Washington State.

The Washington State Archives Local Records Grant Program supports local public records management and preservation efforts. Grants are funded with fees collected by county auditors. This is a competitive grant program; the number of grant applications and the requested level of grant funding generally will exceed the total award amount available per grant cycle. The

grant program project duration will be from January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

"Preserving government records is a vital part of our democracy," said Secretary of State Sam Reed. "The grants program will assist local government agencies in protecting our valuable legal and historical records."

Last year, this pilot program provided \$100,000 in competitive grants to seven local government agencies to improve management of their public records.

Applications for the 2003 - 2005 grant program are due August 1, 2003. The Local Records guidebook and application can be downloaded at www.secstate.wa.gov/archives.

Military and Overseas Citizens to Vote Online in 2004

ESB 5463, the pilot project for military and overseas voting on the Internet, has passed the legislature. The bill died on the House floor calendar during the regular session of the Legislature when it adjourned on April 27. The bill was reintroduced on June 4 during the 1st special session. On June 5, it passed the Senate 45-1 and the House by a vote of 89-8. The measure has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.

Emergency Management

Position Available as WSAC Alternate on E-911 Committee

The WSAC Board of Directors is accepting nominations to fill the position of "alternate" representing Eastern Washington commissioners on the state E-911 Advisory Committee.

Following the recent retirement of Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Graedel, Ferry County Commissioner Dennis Snook, who has filled the alternate position, is moving up to become the primary Eastern Washington representative on the Committee.

Commissioners interested in being appointed to the alternate position should submit brief letters of interest by June 15 to WSAC staff Sophia Byrd, sbyrd@wacounties.org. The WSAC Board of Directors will make the appointment at the June 25 Board meeting.

The Enhanced-911 Advisory Committee is created by RCW 38.52.530, and is directed to advise and assist the state E-911 Coordinator in implementing and operating enhanced 911 services throughout the state. The Committee meets monthly, usually on

the third Thursday, at SeaTac.

Committee members represent diverse geographical areas of the state and include representatives of various public safety entities, county and city legislative authorities, county 911 coordinators, the state Utilities and Transportation Commission, telephone companies and wireless service providers.

E-911 Committee Addresses Revenue Shortfall

The state E-911 Advisory Committee held a special meeting Thursday, June 12 to discuss how to best allocate state funding for county implementation and operations of E-911 service for wireless phones. Recent revenue projections indicate that state funding in the coming fiscal year may not be adequate to cover all of the previously identified eligible county expenses.

Following more than three hours of discussion, the Committee adopted a recommendation that the state E-911 office pay Local Exchange Company (LEC) interface costs for counties with a single primary public safety answering point (PSAP). This will fully fund LEC for 36 counties, but will not fund LEC for King, Pierce, and Snohomish

counties. Initially, the state office had planned to fund LEC for all counties.

In addition, the Committee voted to phase in implementation of E-911 locator service for wireless calls (so-called phase 2 service). While maintaining implementation as a statewide priority, this approach will help ensure state operational assistance for counties that rely on state aid to maintain basic 911 service.

The state office is expected to send out county contracts reflecting these recommendations in the next few days. For more details and county-specific information, contact the state E-911 Director, Bob Oenning, at (253) 512-7011.

Panel Meets to Address Indigent Defense Issues

The Washington State Bar Association's Blue Ribbon Panel on Criminal Defense met for the first time May 29. The group plans to meet at least through the end of the year in an effort to define the strengths and weaknesses of the current trial-level public defense system and to make recommendations about what the Bar can do to help improve the system.

Emergency Management (continued)

The Panel was established by the Bar's Board of Governors and includes representation from counties, which fund all trial-level criminal indigent defense. Franklin County Commissioner Neva Corkrum represents WSAC and Thurston County Prosecutor Ed Holm represents WAPA on the panel.

The panel intends to coordinate its substantive review of current defense practices with funding analysis being developed by the Court Funding Task Force, a broad-based study group established last year by the Supreme Court. The two groups may develop recommendations to the Legislature regarding standards for public defenders as well as funding.

Trial-level indigent defense costs have long been a serious issue for WSAC members, who reported spending nearly \$65 million to provide these services in 2001.

EMC Task Force Moves Ahead With Local Plan

The state Emergency Management Council's (EMC) Task Force on Local Program Assessment has adopted a year-long work plan to examine and report on local governments' ability to provide for comprehensive emergency management, including new homeland security requirements.

The work plan and two staff positions are contingent on funding, which could be announced in a few weeks. At a Task Force meeting June 5, a representative of the state Emergency Management Division said that he would include the Task Force work plan in the state's application for federal homeland security funds. Washington is budgeted to receive about \$29 million from the federal fiscal year '03 supplemental budget.

The Task Force, co-chaired by Thurston County Commissioner Diane Oberquell and Bridgeport Mayor Steve Jenkins, began its work in January with a limited-scope survey of emergency management planning and programs in

counties and cities. All counties and 81 percent of cities responded to the initial survey; however, many jurisdictions provided conflicting and sometimes incorrect information.

This early data stimulated discussion among EMC members about local elected officials' knowledge of emergency management practices, inter-jurisdictional coordination, and whether adequate resources are being provided for local planning and programs. These are among the issues the task force hopes to examine in its newly adopted work plan.

Franklin County Emergency Management Director John Scheer will present more detailed information about the Task Force's work at the Emergency Management session at the WSAC convention Friday, June 27.

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Water Legislation Reaches Governor's Desk

The House and Senate finally reached agreement on significant water legislation. Tuesday evening, the last day of the first special session, saw passage of three major water bills, **SB 5028**, **HB 1336** and **HB 1338**.

HB 1336 provides watershed planning units' authority for phase four implementation. It allows planning units to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 per WRIA for each of the first three years of phase four implementation (and up to an additional \$25,000 per year per additional WRIA); up to \$50,000 per WRIA for years four and five (and up to an additional \$12,500 per year per additional WRIA). A local match of 10 percent is required. Ongoing funding is conditioned upon the Department of Ecology's receipt of a sufficiently detailed implementation plan by the end of the first year. The bill also provides the ability for state agencies to implement an adopted plan by policy,

procedure or agreement with planning unit consent. It also allows for a county to opt out of watershed planning and plan adoption hearings. A county that opts out is not bound by watershed plan obligations.

In addition, the watershed plan is deemed to satisfy the department's watershed planning authority for components addressed. The department must rely upon the plan, which is deemed a primary consideration in determining the public interest related to watershed planning.

HB 1338 provides greater flexibility in the use of municipal water rights, allowing municipal water suppliers to exercise water rights for future growth. It also requires conservation, consideration of water reuse and directs the Department of Health to write new water conservation rules.

SSB 5028 addresses the relationship between water quantity and water quality. A recent case raised the issue of whether DOE may, through an

enforcement order, restrict a water right based upon a claim that a water right holder violated state water pollution control law by causing insufficient instream flow in rivers from which the holder diverted water.

The bill clarifies that exercise of any water right claim, permit or certificate granted under state law to withdraw or divert water does not constitute "pollution" under state water pollution control law administered by DOE. DOE may not rely on state water pollution control law it administers to condition, limit, regulate or control any claim, permit or certificate to withdraw or divert water. The bill also increases penalties for violation of water rights statutes.

Planning for 3rd Annual Methamphetamine Summit Underway

Planning is underway for the Methamphetamine Summit III. The Summit is entitled "Sharing Success and Building Collaboration to STOP Meth in Washington State." It will be held September 15 – 17, 2003 at the Vancouver Inn at the Quay in Vancouver, Washington. On the evening of the 15th, there will be a casual reception welcoming the attendees and invited guests. On Tuesday, September 16, the day is broken out between keynote speakers and workshops. Keynoters include Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Drug Courts, Dave Rodriguez from HIDTA, Jason Moulton of Safeway, Jim Kopple of the National Crime Prevention Council and Beverly Watts-Davis from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The workshops will include sessions focusing on seven priorities: 1) education and prevention; 2) meth court family services; 3) meth-impacted families and drug-endangered children; 4) youth as part of the solution; 5) organizing a meth action team; 6) community awareness and local media strategies; and 7) identity theft – fraud and forgery – economic crimes connected to drug abuse. The final event on Thursday afternoon will be a break-out of each county's meth action team. In the evening there will be a local public awareness forum taking place at the hotel organized by local sponsors.

On Wednesday, September 17, the Summit will conclude with another period of keynote speakers and a several hour long session of electronic voting on priorities organized through the assistance of the Stuart Elway Polling group. The luncheon is marked by the introduction of several drug court graduates and accompanying guests who assisted in their success such as a counselor, family member, court representative, etc. The anticipated adjournment is 2:00 PM.

Summit planners have invited or are

considering inviting the following list of dignitaries - Governor Gary Locke, Lieutenant-Governor Brad Owen, U. S. Representative Brian Baird, Clark County Commissioner Craig Pridemore, Clark County Sheriff Garry Lucas, King County Sheriff Dave Reichert, Chief, Washington State Patrol Ronal Serpas, and the local legislative delegation.

Save the Date postcards should be mailed shortly.

Learn Creative Ways to Deliver Human Services in Tight Times

Come to the WSAC Summer Convention on June 26 at the Spokane Valley Doubletree. Beginning at 9:45 Thursday morning and repeating at 11:00 the same morning, be prepared to learn some of the counties' most creative and innovative ways of delivering human services in these tough economic times. Kasey Kramer, Director of Spokane County Community Services, Donna Bosworth, Chemical Dependency Coordinator, Thurston-Mason Counties, and Sharon Saffer, Director, Walla Walla County Human Services with her able assistant, Shelly Ray, Manager, Crisis Response Unit will deliver the uplifting news that services can still be provided even as counties are faced with declining revenue and the number of persons needing assistance is climbing. And not only provided but improved!

Each of the counties will describe what they are doing to change the way business is done. Each has changed or is planning to change their service delivery system and each has planned alternate ways of providing crisis services especially, either through the establishment of a crisis triage center or evaluation and treatment facility or bringing crisis services back in-house. New partnerships have been developed both in-house and with the community and providers.

Come to the Summer Convention and learn how you can still serve the most vulnerable members of your community even better and more cost-effectively.

In addition, Secretary Dennis Braddock, DSHS, will provide his personal view of the session just concluded and what he sees for the future as the state's economy continues to recover very slowly. Secretary Braddock is scheduled to speak for just a few minutes right after the administrator's panel on Thursday morning at 9:30. This is your chance to catch him up close and personal and ask that burning question you have about DSHS.

Rural Health Grant Opportunities from the Health Resource and Services Administration

In Federal Fiscal Year 2004, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will award 25 Rural Health Outreach Grants, averaging \$185,000, and 25 Rural Health Network Grants, averaging \$182,000. Priority eligibility for these grants is given to rural local public health agencies. Applications for both grant programs will be available on June 16, and are due on September 12. For additional information contact Lilly Smetana, (301) 443-0835 or lsmetana@hrsa.gov.

Legislature Passes Prescription Drug Plan

After ten years of trying, the Legislature finally was able to approve the first major effort to lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and the disabled. Representative Eileen Cody and Senator Alex Deccio worked continuously to reach a compromise bill and succeeded in putting one before both houses and getting it approved. Governor Locke has indicated that he will sign the bill into law.

Residents older than 50 and disabled individuals whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level will be able to participate in discount drug-buying plans negotiated between pharmaceutical companies and the state. Currently, about 177,000 residents falling into these categories do not have

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

any prescription drug coverage.

Further, the Department of Social and Health Services is directed to seek a federal waiver that would allow the state to create a prescription drug benefit for low-income people.

The most controversial part of the plan is that it includes a preferred drug list for state purchasing programs. It is hoped this will encourage pharmaceutical companies to hold down their prices as they work for spots on the list. The pharmaceutical lobby opposed

this provision. It is important to note, that doctors are still able to direct pharmacists to “dispense as written” which allows dispensing of drugs not on the preferred list. The preferred drug issue was hotly debated among Republicans in the Senate before most of them joined the Senate Democrats to approve the bill.

Association News

NACo Western Interstate Region Gains in Numbers and Strength

The NACo Western Interstate Region (WIR) last week approved a by-laws amendment to increase involvement and participation by member states. The by-laws allow each state to now appoint two members to the WIR Board.

Washington, like many western states, will now have a member from a rural county and one from an urban county.

Anticipating the by-laws change, the WSAC Board of Directors has appointed Kitsap County Commissioner Chris Endresen to join Klickitat County Commissioner Joan Frey as Washington's two WIR representatives. WIR officers are President Don Davis (Commissioner, Rio Blanco County, Colorado); First Vice-President Donna Ruffing (Commissioner, Niobrara County, Wyoming); Second Vice-President Connie Eissinger (Commissioner, McCone County, Montana) and Immediate Past President George Enneking (Commissioner, Idaho County, Idaho).

In addition to the states represented above, WIR members include Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Utah. WIR Conferences and activities focus both on the unique issues facing counties of the Western United States, including natural resources management, rural development, and federal lands management as well as unique problems facing the west in areas such as transportation.

WSAC Seeks Bids for 2006 Summer Convention

Meetings don't happen – they are planned! And, believe it or not, it is time to start planning the 2006 WSAC Summer Convention. The convention

alternates between east and west according to the Association bylaws. The Convention will last three or four days and should take place as close to the last week in June as possible.

Conference location requirements are:

- 175 - 200 sleeping rooms
- 9 meeting rooms, minimum; capacity 25 to 300

Year - Site

- 1972 - Olympia
- 1973 - Spokane
- 1974 - Seattle
- 1975 - Yakima
- 1976 - Vancouver
- 1977 - Wenatchee
- 1978 - Olympia
- 1979 - Spokane
- 1980 - Ocean Shores
- 1981 - Pasco
- 1982 - Kelso
- 1983 - Yakima
- 1984 - Everett
- 1985 - Spokane
- 1986 - Ocean Shores
- 1987 - Richland
- 1988 - Vancouver
- 1989 - Yakima
- 1990 - Tacoma
- 1991 - Wenatchee
- 1992 - Ocean Shores
- 1993 - Yakima
- 1994 - Bellevue
- 1995 - Kennewick
- 1996 - Kelso
- 1997 - Spokane
- 1998 - Tacoma
- 1999 - Lake Chelan
- 2000 - Ocean Shores
- 2001 - Yakima
- 2002 - Bellevue
- 2003 - Spokane
- 2004 - Tacoma
- 2005 - Kennewick
- 2006 - (Now taking bids for Westside)

For more detailed information please contact Ginni Peppert at (360) 753-1886.

WACME to Meet in Spokane Valley

The Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) will meet next week at the Spokane Valley Doubletree Hotel. The WACME Association Business Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m. Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel, WACME President, will preside.

June 19 is set aside for training from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with an open invitation for law enforcement to attend as well. Topic areas during this course include Differential Diagnosis of Common Medical Problems; A Private Detectives View of Finding Someone; The Mexican Consulate on the Cultural Differences in Dealing with Death; and, updates from NW Tissue. Please contact Deb Fullerton at the Criminal Justice Training Commission to register at (206) 439-3752 for Course #9365.

County Clerks to Meet in Silverdale

Kitsap County Clerk Dave Peterson will host the Washington State Association of County Clerks in Silverdale the week of June 23. A golf tournament on Monday and welcoming reception will precede the start of business on Tuesday.

In August 1907, Whitman County Clerk Hugh G. Todd sent a letter from Colfax to every county clerk in the state expressing the view that "great good would come to the public service from the meeting of various clerks of the state in annual convention." Todd, along with clerks from Pierce and Spokane Counties united in a call for the First Annual Convention to meet in Tacoma on November 2, 1906. Seventeen clerks responded to the call. At that meeting, a constitution and bylaws of the association were adopted and officers elected.

Boards and Commissions

DRS Advisory Committee Nominations – WACO and WSAC Members Eligible

The term of office for the active Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) representative appointed to the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) Advisory Committee is scheduled to expire on June 30. Those interested in the position should contact either WACO or WSAC for a nomination form by June 25. A resume is also required.

The Advisory Committee is composed of 12 members appointed by the Director of DRS. The Director looks at a number of factors when reviewing candidates, including geographic representation, term length, gender diversity, ethnic diversity and community or professional history.

The Advisory Committee discusses matters related to all of Washington State's retirement systems. Utilizing feedback from organizations' members, the committee functions as advisors for DRS and communicates retirement-related issues and concerns with the Director.

WACO Member Needed for Local Government Advisory Committee

WACO will be appointing a new member to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) this month and is looking for those interested in serving a three-year term. WACO has three members on the Committee and one position is now open.

The LGAC takes a lead role in setting statewide financial policies, including

accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting. The Committee makes recommendations to the Legislature and responds when lawmakers change policies affecting the BARS prescription. In addition, the Committee advises the State Auditor about issues relating to the prescription of a uniform financial reporting system. Members of the Committee are appointed by the State Auditor's Office, local government associations and state agencies.

The Committee meets at least three times per year. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in August. Please contact WACO if you are interested in serving on the LGAC.

Training and Upcoming Events

<i>Training or Workshop</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
JUNE 2003			
Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners' Conference and Training	Spokane	June 18 - 19	www.wacme.org
CPO Training - Risk Management: Striking a Balance Between Control and Chaos	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 753-1886
CPO Training - Building County MUSCLEPOWER in These Challenging and Frustrating Times	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 753-1886
JULY 2003			
CPO Training - RESOLVE Conflicts and Build Relationships (WCRP Sponsored Elective Course)	Spokane	July 30	(360) 753-1886
SEPTEMBER 2003			
WAPA Special Assault Training Program	Leavenworth	September 3 - 5	(360) 753-2175
WAPA Juvenile Training Program	Leavenworth	September 7 - 9	(360) 753-2175
CPO Training - Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials	SeaTac	September 30	(360) 753-1886
NOVEMBER 2003			
CPO Training - Making a Difference in County Communications: Speak and Write More Confidently	TBD	November 6	(360) 753-1886
April 2004			
WAPA Spring Training Program	Spokane	April 21-23	(360) 753-2175

Interested in Re-developing Contaminated Properties in Your Community?

There are two more weeks to register to learn first hand from those in the field and tour Tacoma's magnificent waterfront redevelopment – June 23-24.

Redeveloping a former corner gas station, a junkyard or an industrial site can be a daunting task. Yet, many of these vacant sites hold the key to improving a communities' livability, increasing its tax base, creating jobs, and achieving infrastructure efficiencies by "reusing what we already have." Land, roads, sewer, water systems and often buildings already exist on these sites. Upgrading these existing infrastructures can greatly reduce municipal installation, operating and service costs.

While many developers would rather create a safe investment by building or expanding onto greenfields (never used land), most want a safe and livable community to further secure their investment. Under new brownfield legislation enacted last year, former methamphetamine labs can also be cleaned up as a brownfield, in certain circumstances.

Former contaminated sites are also being returned to parks or public access areas by utilizing engineered barriers when a complete clean site cannot be achieved. By encouraging redevelopment of brownfields, communities and economic development practitioners' can help create a more attractive place from which to live and do business.

Remember -- redevelopment of

brownfields properties is a real estate and business deal with an environmental component. There are only two weeks left to register for the Brownfields Redevelopment Workshop sponsored by the International Economic Development Council. Come learn from those in the field, hear and see what is being redeveloped in the Northwest.

Register online today for the Tacoma Redevelopment Workshop at <http://www.iedconline.org/>

If you have questions about the workshop, please call Sharon Kophs at the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development at 360-725-4032 or email at SharonK@cted.wa.gov.

Training and Upcoming Events (continued)

Summer Training Opportunities You Won't Want to Miss

As we all gear up for summer, our training calendar winds down just a bit. We do have three great CPO training opportunities you won't want to miss if your schedule will allow you to attend:

June 24 – Spokane Valley – 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Core Course (4 Credits)

Risk Management: Striking a Balance Between Control & Chaos

In this course, working risk management specialists will explain how understanding the employing the principles of sound risk management can mean the difference between focusing limited county resources on reacting to situations and effecting meaningful long-term improvements. This course is the final core course offering in our first cycle toward completion of the Certified Public Officials program. If you currently have 12 core course credits, you will want to attend this class to complete your core requirements. We will begin repeating the core courses in the fall at the Joint Conference with the Ethics course. The Risk Management course will not be offered again until 2005. **The registration deadline has been extended until June 18.**

June 24– Spokane Valley – 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Elective Course (2 credits)

Building County Musclepower in These Challenging and Frustrating Times

This powerful and thought-provoking workshop will serve as a prelude to the sessions planned for the WSAC Summer Convention. It will help frame perspectives and strategies for working in “partnership” with the state to preserve the vitality and sustainability of service delivery at the “point-of-service” local government level in response to the diverse needs of people within our communities. This workshop is for anyone who wants to begin to develop a strategy and learn techniques to develop more “CLOUT” at the state and federal level in affecting policy and resource allocation and distribution. **Registration deadline has been extended until June 18.**

July 30 – Spokane – Elective Course (4 credits)

RESOLVE Conflicts and Build Relationships

This course is being sponsored by, and the majority of the cost is being underwritten by the Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP). We are all faced with resolving conflicts on a daily basis. The RESOLVE conflict resolution method will give you the tools to address conflict in ways that solve problems, improves your relationships with others and allows for better planning. These tools have been used successfully by hundreds of organizations, including many public entities to solve problems, resolve conflicts and negotiate through differences. The workshop is interactive and entertaining, you will have fun as you learn these techniques. The full course description and registration will go in the mail on June 16. **Registration deadline is July 23.**

To connect to course information and registration form:

<http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/MemberServices/CPO/Registration/calendar.htm>

Ferry County Undersheriff Dies in Crash

Undersheriff Matthew Lane (41) was killed Friday, May 30, when an aircraft crashed on Sherman Pass between Republic and Kettle Falls. A volunteer search and rescue pilot, Rudy Ohland also died in the accident. The two were the only occupants of the 1956 Cessna 172 which was involved in a search and rescue mission when it crashed shortly after 10 a.m. They lost their lives when the single engine Cessna crashed into a power line right of way about 200 yards north of Highway 20 and two miles down the east side of Sherman Pass.

Undersheriff Lane has been in law enforcement in Ferry County since the mid 80's. He was with the Republic Police Department and then joined the Ferry County Sheriff's Department. He was appointed Undersheriff in 2000. Lane and his wife Ginny have two young daughters. He and his wife were very involved in community and youth activities.

Lane was shot in the face by Kenneth Atwood in north Republic in late April, 1999 when he answered a call about a man assaulting a neighbor over a dog. He had several surgeries to repair the damage done in the shooting.

The memorial service for Matthew Lane was held Thursday, June 5 at the Republic High School football field. Undersheriff Lane's family, friends and the members of his department are in our thoughts and prayers.

Vacancies filled in King and Lincoln Counties

The King Council has voted to appoint Steve Hammond to fill the vacancy created by the death of Kent Pullen. The council selected Hammond from a list of three names submitted by the King County Republican party. The other nominees were State Senator Pam Roach and former state Representative Phil Fortunato.

Lincoln County Appoints New Commissioner

Lincoln county Commissioners appointed Dennis Bly from Harrington also from a list of three names submitted by the Lincoln County Republican Party. Commissioner Bly will replace former County Commissioner Bill Graedel who resigned over personal health reasons.

Jefferson County Commissioner Wrinkle Resigns

Newly elected Commissioner Wendy Wrinkle submitted her resignation last week after five months in office. In a letter dated May 30th she submitted her resignation effective June 15, 2003 and said, "I have determined that I cannot meet the demands and responsibilities of the position while maintaining my personal health, which suffered from three hospitalizations during the last months of the campaign and just prior to taking office. I want to assure everyone that I have been advised that my current condition is one which should right itself with appropriate lifestyle changes."

The Board of commissioners will appoint from a list of three names to be nominated by the Jefferson County Democratic Party.

Our Thoughts Are With Jackie Bradley, Okanogan County Clerk

We are sad to report that Okanogan County Clerk Jackie Bradley's husband, Bob, passed away last week. Funeral services were held on June 10. Bob has attended nearly every Clerks' conference since Jackie took office in 1973 and he will certainly be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jackie during this very difficult time.

A Change in Leadership is Coming to the Public Land Survey Office

After 31 years with the Department of Natural Resources, and 22 as the Manager of the PLSO, Don Fitch is going to retire, effective June 30, 2003. His replacement will be Gwen Roy, from the DNR's Survey Section. Gwen will be the fifth person to manage the program, since its inception 52 years ago, in 1951. Don and Gwen are currently doing a rather unique thing for state government; cross-training, well before Don's departure in an effort to expose Gwen to all of the various types of activities associated with the PLSO.

Calendar of Events

	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
2003 MEETINGS			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Conference	Okanogan	June 16 - 18	(360) 336-9370
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Annual Conference	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	June 16 - 19	(360) 378-2171
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 18- 20	(360) 753-2175
Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference	Red Lion Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane	June 18- 20	(360) 753-4137
Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference	Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale	June 23 - 27	(509) 427-9431
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 586-0466
WSAC 97 th Annual Summer Convention	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24 - 27	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Milwaukee, WI	July 11 - 15	www.naco.org
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Vancouver	July 16 - 18	(360) 786-5585
IACREOT Conference	Denver, CO	July 29 - August 3	www.iacreot.com
WCIP Board of Directors Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 21	(360) 586-0466
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Fall Conference	Red Lion, Kennewick	September 8 - 11	(360) 336-9370
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 9 - 12	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting	Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla	September 11 - 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Moses Lake	September 17 - 19	(360) 786-5585
WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting, WCIP and WCIF Board of Directors	WestCoast Hotel, SeaTac	September 18	(360) 586-0466
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	September 29 - October 3	(360) 753-7319
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 1	(360) 586-0466
WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 2	(360) 753-1886
WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee Meeting	Yakima	October 15	(360) 586-0466

Calendar of Events (continued)

L & I Retro Fall Meeting	TBD	October 16	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Fall Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	November 17 - 20	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Seattle	November 19 - 21	(360) 786-5585
2004 MEETINGS			
NACo Legislative Conference	Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, DC	February 27 - March 2	www.naco.org
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 - 9	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 - 23	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 - 27	(360) 486-2380
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June (TBD)	www.sheriffs.org
WSAC 98 th Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 - 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 - 20	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 - 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 - 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 - 18	(360) 486-2380
2005 MEETINGS			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 - 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 - 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 th Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 - 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 - 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 - 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 - 7	(360) 753-7319

Calendar of Events (continued)

2006 MEETINGS			
WSAC 100 th Annual Summer Convention	TBD	June TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 - 26	www.naco.org
2007 MEETINGS			
NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org