

# the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties

**July 1, 2004  
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## So Many Meetings in So Little Time....

WACO and WSAC members and staff spent a busy two weeks in June as they met in separate sessions for annual conferences and training session around the state. County assessors started the round of meetings in Moses Lake on June 14 followed later that week by the county auditors who gathered in Bellingham. Last week the county coroners, prosecutors, county clerks and treasurers

traveled both east and west to conclude the summer schedule. The WSAC 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention also took place last week. The subject matter at the meetings ranged from forensic odontology to the archives and even the elk met, so be sure to get all the details in this issue of the *Courthouse Journal*, Association News Section.

## WSAC Votes Yes to Bylaws Changes

WSAC membership voted to change their bylaws last week during the Annual Summer Convention in Tacoma. One change was to eliminate the Annual Summer Convention (which is held in June) after 98 years and replacing it with an annual meeting held during the Joint WACO/WSAC Fall Conference. After much discussion it was agreed that holding one meeting a year alternating between the east and west side of the state would help hold costs down for the counties. It was also decided that the meetings would be held in the Spokane, Seattle or Tacoma areas in order to encourage more participation by private vendors so that WSAC and WACO would receive increased revenues. The 2004 Joint Fall Conference will be held in Spokane at the Red Lion Inn at the Park.

President Dave Carey discussed the new direction that the Board was moving in to help hold association dues down in future years while increasing outside revenues. He has already sent a letter to

every member with his explanation for the need to set a new direction for this association. He also reported that the WSAC officers had met and briefed the WACO officers on developing new business opportunities. Three WACO officers, President Mary Dodge, President-Elect Tom Fallquist and Immediate Past President Barb Cory all attended the convention. President Dodge told the members that WACO will be discussing these changes at it's board meeting in August.

In addition to the bylaws change for the annual meeting the membership also approved adding all past presidents that are elected members to the Board of Directors. Mike Shelton, Bylaws Committee Chair, explained that by adding the past presidents the Board would gain the experience of years of involvement in the association. There were other minor changes to the bylaws. The new amended bylaws will be posted to the website as soon as possible.

## **WSAC Board of Directors Takes Action on New Business Development Plan**

At the Summer Convention in Tacoma the WSAC Board began the process of developing a new

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

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#### **CPO PROGRAM**

**Julie Conlan**, Manager

business plan for the Association. They have retained Steve DiJulio of Foster, Pepper & Sheffleman, PLLC as special counsel to help develop a county services center that would be able to provide a number of services for all counties to use. The plan would include such services as human resources, labor consultants, technical services such as computer programs and cooperative purchasing.

The Board also approved the hiring of a third party administrator for the Washington Counties L&I Retro Pool to handle large claims for the member counties and authorized a new governance structure for the pool.

### **WSAC Board Offers Scholarships to Attend NACo Conferences**

The WSAC Board of Directors has approved a new \$500 scholarship to eligible members to attend NACo conferences during the next year. The Board made the decision to offer three scholarships after receiving a bonus payment from NACo for counties that had re-joined them during the past year. The Board wants to promote more participation in NACo and felt by offering the scholarships some counties that do not have the resources to attend a national meeting may be able to participate with the help of these scholarships.

Members who are interested in attending a NACo meeting and would like to apply should submit a letter to the Executive Committee explaining why they need assistance and that they are willing pay the remaining costs of attending the meeting.

While it is possible to still register for the NACo Conference in Phoenix it is very late and the late registration fee is considerably higher. The meetings that may be of interest to you in 2005 are:

- NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC, March 3 – 4
- Western Interstate Region in Tacoma, WA, May 26-29
- NACo Annual Conference in Honolulu July 15-19

See the Full Calendar of Events at <http://d30060429.purehost.com/wsac/Calendar/Calendar%20of%20Events-WEB.pdf>

### **WSAC Eastern District and Ecology to hold Roundtable Discussion on Watershed Planning**

Mary Hunt, President of the WSAC Eastern District has invited Eastern Washington Commissioners to participate with the Department of Ecology in a facilitated Roundtable Discussion on Watershed Planning on Wednesday, July 7, 2004. Linda Hoffman, Director of Ecology, and Ecology staff working on watershed planning, will be there, along with former Representative Gary Chandler, prime sponsor of HB 2514, the Watershed Planning legislation. Meeting facilitation will be provided by Wayne Madson, WSU Extension.

This Roundtable will take place at the Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake from 10:00 until mid-afternoon. Lunch will be available for \$13. Please bring a check in that amount and RSVP by 4:00 p.m. Friday to Debbie Eberle, Central Regional Office, Department of Ecology, so that an adequate number of lunches are ordered. **Ms. Eberle can be reached at 509-575-2680 or [debe461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:debe461@ecy.wa.gov).**

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

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## ***Budget, Finance and Taxes***

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### **PILT Checks 3 Months Earlier than in the Past**

In a news release on June 17<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced the distribution of more than \$224 million to county governments whose jurisdictions contain tax-exempt federal lands. This year's PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) total represents an increase of \$6.1 million more than Fiscal Year 2003. The President's FY 2005

budget includes \$226 million, the largest ever request made by a President. The request represents an increase of nearly 70% more than the funding levels provided five years ago, in FY 2000.

The money for PILT comes from commercial activities on federal lands such as oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing and timber harvesting. These federal payments may be used for any governmental

purpose. PILT payments have been used to help improve local school, water, and road systems. Payment eligibility is reserved for local governments that provide services such as those related to public safety, environment, housing, social services, and transportation, and that contain nontaxable federal lands.

### **State Agency Offers Assistance – Bar Association Promises Partnership on Indigent Defense**

During a presentation at the WSAC Convention last week, the director of the state program for appellate public defenders offered to address individual inquiries about trial-level indigent defense issues in the counties. And the executive director of the state Bar Association promised to work with counties to secure state funding for public defenders.

Their messages fit well with the Convention theme of “partnerships.”

Although she cautioned that her office has limited resources, Joanne Moore, director of the state Office of Public Defense, said she would welcome calls from county commissioners and would do her best to offer ideas on how counties can improve oversight of existing public defender contracts. However, Moore said her ultimate goal is to get the state to pay for trial-level indigent defense services in both criminal cases and civil child dependency cases. To that end, Jan Michels, executive director of the

Washington State Bar Association, asked the counties to join the Bar in lobbying the Legislature for permanent state funding for indigent defense.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee later that day approved a legislative package that includes indigent defense reform and state funding as a 2005 legislative priority.

Moore and Michels shared the podium with Chelan County Superior Court Judge T.W. “Chip” Small and King County attorney John Cary. Judge Small reviewed the U.S. constitutional mandate that requires indigent criminal defendants be provided effective assistance of counsel. He also explained the process judges use to determine indigency and how it can be that 85 percent to 90 percent of felony defendants qualify for a free attorney. Cary, a business lawyer and incoming president of the King County Bar Association, discussed findings of the state Trial Court Funding Task Force.

All of the speakers came to the WSAC convention with views shaped by their participation in recent statewide studies of trial-court funding and public defense. These

studies found, among other shortcomings, that Washington State is 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in providing state funding for trial court functions, and that this state is among only a handful that do not contribute any resources to support public defenders in the trial courts.

Washington counties provide about 85 percent of court funding and nearly 100 percent of trial-court indigent defense funding. Indigent defense alone costs the counties about \$78 million per year. Yet, one study estimates that nearly twice as much may be necessary to achieve recommended attorney caseloads and administrative support on a statewide basis.

In recent months a high-profile newspaper series, reports by the ACLU and the Washington State Bar Association, and an ACLU lawsuit have highlighted what they describe as fundamental problems in public defender programs around the state that compromise the constitutional guarantee of effective legal counsel for criminal defendants.

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## ***Environment, Land Use and Resources***

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### **Task Force on Permitting Processes Meets**

Last session, the Legislature passed **SCR 8418** creating the Joint Select Legislative Task Force on Permitting Processes (Task Force) to evaluate and make recommendations to the legislature regarding the permit processes established by certain local governments. The Task Force only applies to the six counties in which an inventory of buildable land is required and the cities over 50,000 in population within them.

The Task Force will focus on the development regulations adopted under the Growth Management Act and the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act. The resolution also creates an advisory committee that includes the broad spectrum of stakeholders who are involved with permitting. WSAC staff is representing the counties in these discussions.

During the first meeting, the advisory committee brainstormed the range of issues and opportunities with permit processes. Legislative staff will compile the list of issues and opportunities. Once the list is

compiled, WSAC staff will send them out for review and comment.

The Task Force anticipates making some recommendations to the 2005 Legislature.

### **Pre-proposal to Amend Solid Waste Handling Standards**

Several weeks ago, multiple parties met with the Department of Ecology to express concerns about the solid waste handling rules and their affect on construction projects. One of the outcomes was an agreement that Ecology would start the rulemaking process to work through the concerns expressed in the meeting. This rulemaking will amend the definitions of "clean soils and dredged material" and "contaminated soils and dredged material", and the approach to managing soils containing contaminants, set forth in chapter 173-350 WAC, Solid Waste Handling Standards. Numerous stakeholders have expressed concern with the current approach to managing soils containing contaminants. The current rule provides a very flexible system for managing soils and dredged material. Our intent is to provide greater certainty and a more

consistent statewide regulatory system.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/activity/2004/wac173350.html>

### **Lewis County and the Farm Bureau Host Legislative Tour**

Earlier this year, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearing Board delivered Lewis County a ruling on and about the designation of agricultural lands of long term significance. The ruling basically said if lands were capable of growing a crop and had good soils, they must be designated agricultural lands of long term significance. If this ruling stands, the county would be required to re-designate a majority of the county as agricultural lands of long term significance.

Therefore, Lewis County and the Farm Bureau hosted a tour to help the Legislature understand the steps the county took to designate lands; the potential consequences of the decision and provided suggestions on how to amend the Growth Management Act to provide additional flexibility and criteria.

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## ***General Government Issues***

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### **Archives Oversight Committee**

The Archives Oversight Committee met on June 15, 2004 in Bellingham at the Northwest Regional Archives. Diana Shenk welcomed the committee and showed the committee some of the historical documents that are held at

the facility and offered a tour as well. The committee discussed several issues such as, the Grant Program for local governments, Budget, Security Microfilm project, 2005 proposed legislation and plans were made for a reception to celebrate the opening of the Eastern Washington Regional Archives & Digital Archives in

Cheney. The reception is being planned for October 4, 2004 in conjunction with the WACO/WSAC Joint Conference. Minutes to the meeting will be posted on the WACO website at [www.wacounties.org/waco](http://www.wacounties.org/waco)

## **The Pumphandle**

*By Carolyn Edmonds, King County Councilmember*

### **Local Recipes for Healthy Eating - It's a Weighty Issue**

We would all like to do something to address the "obesity epidemic." After all, 15 percent of U.S. children are overweight and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that poor diet and exercise will lead to more than 400,000 early deaths a year—perhaps exacting a higher toll than cigarette smoking. But what exactly can be done? More important, what role should local governments, health jurisdictions and schools play in responding to the current epidemic?

Fortunately, there are many steps that communities can take, from providing more recreation facilities to serving healthier school lunches. But there is no one-size-fits-all-solution that works with every community across the state. Any effort to improve nutrition and increase physical activity is likely to be more successful if it is developed from the grassroots, addresses local needs, recognizes local strengths and limitations, and has the support of the community.

That is why the State Board of Health pulled together a coalition of statewide groups and community organizations to sponsor community forums where local people can develop and promote homegrown ideas. Participants include county commissioners and local board of health members, school board members, public health and medical professionals, and school nurses,

dietitians, teachers and administrators. The idea is that by working together, we can make it easier for children to choose health-promoting food, be physically active and be ready to learn at school.

The forums are being hosted by six local health jurisdictions across the state —Benton-Franklin, Clark County, Thurston County, Island County, Tacoma-Pierce, and Public Health—Seattle & King County. Other statewide members of the coalition are the Washington State School Directors' Association, the Department of Health, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the University of Washington Center for Public Health Nutrition, the Washington State Parent Teacher Association and the Washington School Food Service Association.

Three of the six scheduled forums have been held and the remaining three probably will be scheduled in the fall. Based on feedback from participants and early results from a formal assessment of the process, the forums held to date have been very successful. The trick now will be helping communities follow up on the plans and commitments that came out of these meetings.

If you're concerned about obese, overweight, undernourished or inactive kids in your county or community, I have a couple of suggestions. First, if you are invited to one of these forums in your community, please attend. The support of elected officials is especially critical. Second, if you are interested in providing leadership on this issue, consider helping to put on this type of forum in your community. Materials from these

forums—including such things as examples of local solutions, slide presentations, organizing tips and model press releases—are available from the Board's Web site at [www.sboh.wa.gov](http://www.sboh.wa.gov). Or you can contact me and I'll be happy to work with Board staff to get you what you need.

### **State Announces Regional Hearings on 5-Year HUD Plan**

Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (DCTED) has just announced their five regional hearings on the 5-Year HUD plan for how the state will optimize federal housing and community development resources including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), HOME Investment Partnership Funds (HOME) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and other resources.

To ensure DCTED is targeting these resources most effectively, five regional meetings are being held across the state to seek input from individuals, organizations and local governments who partner with us to meet the housing and community development needs of the state.

The five meetings will be held from 1 – 4 pm at the following locations:

**EVERETT - Wednesday, July 7**  
Best Western Cascadia Inn  
2800 Pacific Av., Everett, WA 98201

**CENTRALIA - Thursday, July 8**  
Centralia Historic Depot  
210 Railroad Av., Centralia, WA

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## Public Health and Human Services (continued)

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98531

### **TOPPENISH - Tuesday, July 13 –**

Yakima Nation

Cultural Heritage Center

100 Spilyay Loop, Toppenish, WA

98948

### **BREWSTER - Wednesday, July 14**

109 S. Bridge St., Brewster, WA 98821

### **SPOKANE - Thursday, July 15**

Hampton Inn

2010 Assembly Rd., Spokane, WA

99224

Directions are available on the DCTED website: [www.cted.wa.gov](http://www.cted.wa.gov) under Housing Services or Local Government/Community Development Programs/CDBG. For more information please call (360) 725-3006.

### **Partnerships for Healthy Communities**

The WSAC Summer Conference focused on the theme of partnerships and Thursday members heard a presentation on a new type of partnership we are beginning to see here and around the country – public health and land use. Dr. Ngozi Oleru, Director of Environmental Health, Public Health – Seattle and King County and Tom Hauger, Manager, Comprehensive and Regional Planning, City of Seattle, talked about how they are beginning to work together to broaden the view of land use decisions to include their impacts on the public's health. Decisions made at the local level around zoning and land use can either positively or negatively impact health. For example, ensuring there are safe places to walk in neighborhoods and locating residential areas together with

libraries, stores, etc. can encourage walking. Many considerations go into land use decision-making, including cost, but we have the opportunity to begin to also think in terms of healthy communities when making those decisions.

### **Farmworker Housing: Locke's Labors Won**

*Published in the Seattle Times*

In Gov. Gary Locke's last summer in office, his 6-year-old commitment to make farmworker housing the state's top public-housing priority is paying dividends for rural communities reliant on migrant labor.

Friday, the latest temporary labor camp for workers helping to harvest the Wenatchee Valley's \$35 million cherry crop opened at Pangborn Memorial Field in Douglas County. The camp, comprising 35 tents on cement slabs and communal eating, cooking, laundry and bath facilities, filled up the first day with about 210 workers. The project solved an urgent problem created when the Department of Natural Resources, concerned about fire safety on state lands and forests, said it would clamp down on unauthorized campers.

In six years, the state has become a critical partner in dealing with the difficult but necessary task of accommodating a temporary workforce in safe and affordable housing. In 1999, the Legislature approved a 10-year capital plan to assist. The approach includes developing permanent housing, supporting temporary camps and easing housing emergencies.

The temporary Pangborn camp

responds to the unique nature of the cherry harvest, which usually lasts two weeks in a given area. The camp provides a place where workers can stay for about six weeks while cherries ripen in the valley's different elevations.

Douglas County, working with the two local port districts, applied for a state grant of about \$1.1 million to establish the camp, the idea of a consortium of growers, housing and social advocates and state and local officials. The Port of Douglas County is leasing the land to the state for five years while its industrial area benefits from the infrastructure upgrades.

The goal of the governor and industry is to have more housing provided on the farms. In the meantime, the Pangborn camp is taking pressure off the region, helping keep the workers, the community and the surrounding forests safe.

Locke is commended for his attention to this important aspect of Washington's agriculture economy. The next governor would do well to follow his lead.

Full story:

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/editorialsopinion/2001969217\\_wor\\_kered01.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/editorialsopinion/2001969217_wor_kered01.html)

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## ***Transportation and Public Works***

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### **Secretary Doug McDonald, WSDOT, Gives Update**

Secretary Doug McDonald, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), was the closing speaker for the WSAC Annual Summer Convention. He talked about the importance of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) and how WSDOT intends to

use it with the Legislature. The WTP will provide the data and funding recommendations to the Legislature. He acknowledged local governments do not have adequate funding to meet the transportation needs at the local level. The needs at the local and state level are so great the Legislature will have to prioritize what it funds. So far, there are

several themes that are occurring that are important to local governments. There is a significant need for safety improvement on two lane rural roads; improving the ability to move freight at the local level by improving all weather roads and multi-modal access; and preservation and maintenance.

## Association News

### **Yakima County Planning Director Anderwald Retires – You're Invited**

Please join us in honoring Dick's outstanding service to Yakima County. A retirement dinner will be held Friday, July 9, 2004 in honor of Yakima County Planning Director Richard F. Anderwald, who is retiring after 31 years of service to Yakima County. The event starts at 5:00 pm with a no-host bar, followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. It will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Yakima Gateway Hotel, 9 N Ninth Street, Yakima. Cost is \$20.00 per person. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, July 6 to Terri Cyr (509) 574-2230.**

### **County Assessors June Meeting Held in Moses Lake**

Yakima County Assessor Dave Cook presided over the Washington State Association of County Assessors June Meeting in Moses Lake on June 14-16. Laure Grammer, Grant County Assessor hosted the event at the Hallmark Inn. Pre-conference, on Monday, June 14, there were a couple of social events planned including a golf tournament and a boat cruise on beautiful Moses Lake. The Golf Tournament was won by the team of Dave Cook, Steve Marks, Franklin County Assessor, Pat Dull, Douglas County Chief Appraiser, and Mark Maxwell, Washington State Department of Revenue. The team posted an impressive 5 under par.

Tuesday morning's opening session brought a welcome from Leroy Allison, Grant County Commissioner followed by a full day of Committee meetings. The goal of these meetings was to establish

legislative priorities for the 2005 Legislative Session. All the Assessor Committees met including Timber, Education, Ratio, Computer Technology, Open Space, Assessment Standards & their Legislative Committee. The culmination of these meetings produced the 2005 legislative priorities approved by the full body and their business meeting. Those priorities include two WACO priorities:

1. A review by the joint legislative audit and review committee (JLARC) of all property tax preferences, at least once every six years. The proposed legislation would require the review to be completed and a report be prepared by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year a review is completed. The department of revenue would provide the JLARC with the property tax data necessary to conduct the review. The report would include (a) Identification of the populations whose tax liabilities are directly affected by the tax preferences in Chapter 84.35 RCW under review; (b) Identification where possible of the legislative objective in establishing a tax preference and an assessment of the extent to which the preference has accomplished that objective; (c) An estimate of the additional tax revenues that state and local governments would collect if a tax preference is eliminated; and (d) An analysis of the change in the distribution of property taxes if a tax preference is eliminated. In addition the legislation would repeal obsolete tax preference

2. review statutes in 43.136 RCW. Removing the provision that sunseted in 2004. 84.70.010 RCW currently states that subsection (2) does not apply to taxes levied for collection in 2005 and thereafter. The Assessors would remove that language and continue to apply the abatement to property that is destroyed in whole or in part, or is in an area that has been declared a federal disaster area and has reduced in value by more than twenty percent as a result of a natural disaster.

They also approved two affiliate legislative priorities which include:

1. Legislation to correct the 2 year death window in Open Space back to its original form (prior to 1994). The goal is to add a provision to current Statute to make a transfer, sale or inheritance an event where taxpayers could remove their property from a program without paying a compensating tax. RCW 84.34.108(k) would be expanded to include the sale, transfer or inheritance of land within two years after the death of the owner of at least a fifty percent interest in the land if the land has been assessed and valued as classified forest land, designated as forest land under Chapter 84.33 RCW, or classified under this chapter continuously since 1993.
2. Modify the additional tax and penalty provisions in the open space program. The proposed legislation would change the additional tax required to be paid when land classified under the open space program as farm

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## Association News(continued)

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and agricultural land is removed from classification. The additional tax would be reduced from the benefit received in the prior seven years to the benefit received in the prior three years. The proposal would also remove the 20% penalty for all open space classifications.

### County Auditors Hold 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Bellingham

Whatcom County Auditor Shirley Forslof welcomed the Washington State Association of County Auditors in Bellingham on June 16–18. The conference theme was “Team Building, together.” After opening ceremonies on Wednesday, Secretary of State Sam Reed addressed the county auditors, followed by Whatcom County EMS Deputy Director Neil Clement who spoke to the group about Emergency Management for the rest of the morning. In the afternoon former legislator and now motivational speaker, Randy Dorn led an invigorating session titled “Change without Pain.” The afternoon ended with an excellent session on “Team Building” facilitated by Cora Johnson. The evening held many more surprises as the WSACA Legislative Committee presented the captive group with a number of legislative awards. However, this was no ordinary awards dinner.....the presenters were dressed and completely in character as the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.” The group roared with laughter as the presentation came to an end, and everyone gave a huge round of applause to Pierce County Auditor Pat McCarthy, Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, Pierce

County Chief Deputy Auditor Keri Rooney and Thurston County Chief Deputy Auditor BG Sandahl, not just for their fantastic performance, but for their hard work and dedication during the legislative session.

On Thursday, June 17, State Auditor Brian Sonntag and State Treasurer Mike Murphy spoke to the group over breakfast. The rest of the day was devoted to a “Leadership Preference” session led by Nancy Campbell of the Dan Evans School of Government, University of Washington. Department of Licensing Director Fred Stevens spoke to the county auditors during the lunch hour. The President’s Reception concluded activities for Thursday evening, and the conference wrapped up on Friday with the WSACA Annual Business meeting. The new officers for the Washington State Association of County Auditors for 2004-2005 are: President, Corky Mattingly; Vice-President, Donna Eldridge; Treasurer, David Bowen; and Secretary, Norma Brummett.

### WACME Meets in Chelan

Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel presided over the Annual Conference of the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) at Lake Chelan last week. Several prosecutors who serve as ex-officio coroners in their counties joined coroners and staffs from a dozen other counties.

True to the long-standing WACME tradition, the business meeting was held in the evening, this year on Monday, June 21. Committee reports and updates were given on issues including SIDS Protocols, Child Death Reviews, and

legislation. Following, representatives from the Northwest Tissue Center and the Northwest Lions Eye Bank presented the benefits of the programs and discussed procedures to enhance the donation of organs and tissues by families of deceased persons.

Tuesday was devoted to training. Brian J. Jarvis, a police chief from New York State, presented “Investigative Aspects of Elder Death Investigations” and discussed case studies, types of elder abuse, its prevalence and signs of abuse, neglect and homicide. He also cited elder death interdisciplinary review teams as an effective way of identifying and preventing abuse of the elderly.

“Forensic Odontology” was presented by Dr. Peter Hampl of Tacoma. Odontology is the study of bite marks to both identify human remains from dental records and also to match bite marks to individuals in criminal investigations. The most famous bite marks in Dr. Hampl’s case studies belonged to the infamous Ted Bundy and were used to convict him of murder in Florida.

### WAPA Follows WACME to Chelan

As the sun fell in the western sky and the county coroners were leaving training, Walla Walla County Prosecutor Jim Nagle, WAPA President, was calling the governing Board of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) to order. The June 22 evening meeting preceded three full days of training on both the criminal and civil tracks.

In the business meeting, officers were elected: President Russ Hauge, Kitsap County; Vice President Ron

## Association News(continued)

Shepherd, Lincoln County; Secretary Randy Gaylord, San Juan County; Treasurer John Henry, Garfield County. Snohomish County Prosecutor Janice Ellis and Cowlitz County Prosecutor Sue Baur were newly elected to trustee positions. Those named will take office effective January 1, 2005.

The continuing legal education sessions for criminal deputies and prosecutors included advanced trial advocacy, crime scene reconstruction and case law updates. The civil side of WAPA attended sessions on liability issues, public disclosure, county ordinances, enforcement of criminal judgments, contract law and land use. Ethics credits are required annually and that course was offered to all attending.

### **Yes, Even the Elk Met...**

We're not talking the fraternal brotherhood here but rather a herd of ten elk that crashed a social function during the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) in Skamania County. The event was held at the home of Skamania County Clerk Rena Hollis who hosted the four day conference.

WSACC President Betty Gould, Thurston County Clerk, presided as the business meeting of the association evolved into intense sessions ranging from vacation of records to collection of legal financial obligations. Special guests included Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, State Court Administrator Mary McQueen, and Interim Court Administrator Janet McLane.

Thursday was devoted to roundtable discussions of a myriad of issues and processes and a vendor fair. Regional State Archivist Sherry

Bays presented a records retention/destruction session and described the new archives facility on the Eastern Washington University Campus and the status of the digital archives there, which will be the first in the country.

The highlight of the WSACC Annual Conference is always the announcement of the "Clerk of the Year," the clerk nominated by her peers for outstanding contributions to the association. This year the award went to Cowlitz County Clerk Teri Nielsen. Teri has served as the Director of Communication for WSACC for a number of years, has appeared before the legislature for the county clerks, and has spent hundreds of hours on various committees.

It was a "first" for the Legislative Star Award this year when it was given in appreciation for the work she has done to Washington State Senate staff attorney Fara Daun. Fara is assigned to the Senate Children and Family Services and Corrections Committee chaired by Senator Val Stevens and worked very closely with the WSACC Legislative Committee over two years to ensure the successful implementation of a senate bill which shifted the collection of all criminal legal financial obligations from the Department of Corrections to county clerks.

The conference concluded on Friday with a discussion of legislative proposals for the 2005 Legislative Session. WSACC officers will serve one more year.

### **County Treasurers Meet in Vancouver**

The Washington State Association of County Treasurers (WSACT) met in Vancouver, June 22-25 for its 98<sup>th</sup>

Annual Conference. Presiding was San Juan County Treasurer Kathy Turnbull. Opening ceremonies included a beautiful array of patriotic songs by a local school acappella group of three young men, and a humorous and interesting welcome by the City of Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard.

The week was full of excellent educational workshops and presentations, including the new Check 21 federal law, debt management requirements, financial issues, bankruptcy practices, maintaining budgets and investing. Business meetings and a roundtable discussion were also held.

During lunch on two days, speakers Arlene Johnson, executive director of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, and Elson Strahan, president of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trusts, presented fascinating information about the rich history of Clark County. An evening was also spent at the Pearson Air Museum, after the group had seen the video "One Place Across Time", recounting the importance that the Air Field had played in both World Wars, as well as the significance of Fort Vancouver.

Many thanks to Clark County Treasurer Doug Lasher and his staff member Kathleen Smithline who coordinated the conference, as well as to WSACT Education Chair Katie Jungquist, Skagit County Treasurer.

New officers elected for the ensuing year were President Judi Morris, Jefferson County; Vice President Ilene Thomson, Yakima County; Secretary Lisa Frasier, Mason County; and Treasurer Bob Lothspeich, Whitman County. Grays Harbor County Treasurer Ron Strabbing was re-elected as the

## Association News(continued)

WSACT representative to WACO for a two-year term. The northeast WA representative is Linda Fisher, Lincoln County, and the SW WA representative is Tracy Shawa, Pacific County.

The 2005 WSACT conference will be held in Yakima, June 20-24.

### Counties Partner for Success at WSAC Convention

Over 200 WSAC members, staff and speakers participated in their 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention last week in Pierce County. Nearly every speaker addressed the need for continued intergovernmental cooperation and partnership. From indigent defense to watershed planning, many ways exist to more effectively and collaboratively use our limited resources.

Following a moving rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," by Tacoman Deneen Grant, NACo President-Elect Angelo Kyle, from Lake County, Illinois, kicked off the Convention with a welcome from counties across America. He

also read a poem about the power of individuals working together as one.

University of Washington Professor Jon Brock talked about "Why partnership matters," and Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland provided experienced advice on how to partner successfully, along with his frequent partners Bill Wilkerson of the Washington Forest Protection Association and Billy Frank, Jr. from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. Practical tips for working together with others and for keeping off the front page were shared by WSU Extension and by consultant Margaret Norton-Arnold.

Luncheon keynoters Don Brunell, President of the Association of Washington Business and Dick Davis, President of the Washington Research Council, provided an excellent overview on Wednesday of the state business climate and recommendations for improvement. Thursday's Luncheon Keynoter, Wolfgang Opitz, Deputy Director of the Office of Financial Management, asked counties to help work with the state to design a bridge over the gap

for mental health care created by new restrictions on federal Medicaid funding.

Friday morning, Democratic gubernatorial candidates Christine Gregoire and Ron Sims shared their views and perspectives on issues of interest, including educational opportunities, economic development and the state's tax system. Republic candidate Dino Rossi did not attend due to a prior commitment.

The Conference-wide dinner at the Washington State History Museum Wednesday evening, followed by an ice cream social at the Sheraton Tacoma, were the social highlights of the Convention. On Thursday evening at the Engineers' Banquet, Ross Kelley, Spokane County Engineer was announced as the Engineer of the Year -- Urban and Brent Holman, Skamania County, was the Engineer of the Year -- Rural. The Clerks' Annual Fundraising Auction was so successful that many bidders walked away with their prizes wearing barrels and suspenders.

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## **Boards and Commissions**

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### **WSAC Updates Boards and Commissions at Annual Convention**

WSAC membership voted on the following appointments and nominations to various Boards and Commissions last week during the Annual Summer Convention in Tacoma.

#### **Appointments made were:**

##### County Road Administration Board

Dave Carey, Walla Walla County  
Dean Burton, Garfield County  
Jim Whitbread, Stevens County  
Brian Stacey, Pierce County

##### NACo Board of Directors

Kirke Sievers, Snohomish County

##### Water Rights Task Force

Don Munks, Skagit County  
Frank Brock, Franklin County (Alt)

##### Snowmobile and Non-motorized Advisory Committee

Mike Blankenship, Ferry County

##### Emergency Management Council Alternate

Malcolm Friedman, Stevens County  
County Design Standards Committee

Jonathan Brand, Kitsap County  
Bob McEwen, Snohomish County

##### Joint Legislative Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes

Michael Dobb, Pierce County

#### **Nominations made were:**

##### Transportation Improvement Board

Jeff Monsen, Whatcom County  
Leo Bowman, Benton County

##### Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board

Bill Byrd, Island County

##### Pipeline Safety Committee

Leo Bowman, Benton County

##### Statewide Trails Program Task Force

Mike Blankenship, Ferry County

#### **Confirmations of appointments made by the Governor were:**

##### Council on Aging

Sue Miller, Franklin County

We would like to thank all of the nominees and appointees for their hard work and valuable time commitment.

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## ***Training and Upcoming Events***

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### **Need Solutions? Find them in July - CPO Training**

#### **“Communicate, Build Trust and Engage your Community”**

*The cost for this full day workshop has been set at only \$60 per person.  
This includes materials, guest speakers, instructors, breaks, and lunch.*

YOU may be asking –

**How do I get more community involvement?**

**What other tools can I use? Is there another way to discuss impacts?**

Come learn new ideas and share your successful experiences.

Your citizens keep asking –

**Where is my money being spent?**

**What are the services I am paying for?**

We hope that each county will bring a team of 8-10 elected leaders and department heads who will be committed to developing their County Communication Plan.

“Communicate, Build Trust and Engage Your Community” will give you ideas, practical advice and tools you can take with you to use immediately. You and your team will walk away with a preliminary action plan outlining the processes you will use to involve your citizens and receive their input in the difficult decisions ahead.

**Registration and Location information is available at our website:**

<http://d30060429.purehost.com/CPO/CPO.htm>

OR call Julie Conlan, CPO Program Manager (360)-753-1886

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## Courthouse Ramblings

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King County Sheriff Dave Reichert was awarded Sheriff of the Year by the National Sheriffs' Association this week, during the Annual Conference of that organization, in Seattle. More than 3,500 sheriffs and other law enforcement professionals attended the meeting. Reichert was recognized in part because of his role with the Green River Task Force and the arrest and conviction of Gary Ridgway in the Green River serial killings. Reichert, who is running for Congress in the 8<sup>th</sup> District, served as President of the Washington State Association of County Sheriffs over the past two years.

\* \* \* \* \*

We send our deepest condolences to the colleagues, friends and family of Pacific County Chief Deputy Treasurer Marsha Bond, who passed away on June 17. Marsha had been with the treasurer's office for 29 years. A celebration of her life was

held on June 25.

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Life may have its "ups and downs" but the server in the Washington Counties' Building must have set a new record this week. A blanket e-mail was sent to all WACO members at noon on Tuesday to determine the extent of the problem and asking anyone receiving this message to simply type "yes" and hit "reply." The responses started arriving at 8:46 a.m. on Wednesday and to answer Cowlitz County Assessor Dean Takko's question – "Did anyone answer no?" – the answer is yes – Pacific County Assessor Bruce Walker said "No, I didn't get it." Another safe remark from Bruce is "I had server problems once – so I asked for another waiter".

\* \* \* \* \*

Walla Walla County Coroner Steve Ames has announced his retirement

effective 5:00 on June 30. Steve has served Walla Walla County citizens long and well since he was appointed to the position in 1978 and he deserves our thanks too for all the dedication he has shown on statewide issues involving death investigations. In addition to the everyday duties of a county coroner, Steve's responsibilities drew national attention whenever executions occurred at the State Penitentiary. Steve cited that the job has been "interesting, challenging, and rewarding," but "the time and commitment needed to perform the task have left little time to enjoy family and everyday life." So, Steve, enjoy for many years to come! We wish you well!

# Calendar of Events

<i><b>Meeting</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Information</b></i>
Calendar of Events online – <a href="http://www.wacounties.org">www.wacounties.org</a> For your convenience training and workshops are <b>bolded</b> .			
<b><u>JULY 2004</u></b>			
INDEPENDENCE DAY	WCB CLOSED	July 5	(360) 753-1886
<b>CPO - Community Engagement Workshop</b>	<b>Mount Vernon</b>	<b>July 7</b>	<b>* See below</b>
<b>CPO - Community Engagement Workshop</b>	<b>Puyallup</b>	<b>July 8</b>	<b>* See below</b>
EMC Task Force Meeting	WCB, Olympia	July 8	(360) 753-1886
<b>CPO - Community Engagement Workshop</b>	<b>Longview/Kelso</b>	<b>July 9</b>	<b>* See below</b>
<b>CPO - Community Engagement Workshop</b>	<b>Wenatchee</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>* See below</b>
<b>CPO - Community Engagement Workshop</b>	<b>Tri Cities Area</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>* See below</b>
<b>CPO - Community Engagement Workshop</b>	<b>Spokane</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>* See below</b>
IACREOT 33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference	San Antonio, TX	July 15 - 24	(360) 397-2003
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 – 20	<a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a>
<b>WA Counties Risk Pool – Risk Managers Training</b>	<b>Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>(360) 586-7447</b>
WA Counties Risk Pool Summer Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 20 - 22	(360) 586-7447
WA Counties Risk Pool – Board of Directors Workshop	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 21	(360) 586-7447
Association of County Human Services	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 21 - 23	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Risk Pool Annual Board	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 22	(360) 586-7447
<b><u>AUGUST 2004</u></b>			
WA Association of County Officials Board of Trustees Meeting	WA Counties Building, Olympia	August 4 - 5	(360) 753-7319
EMC Task Force Meeting	WCB, Olympia	August 12	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	Oxford Suites, Yakima	August 12	(360) 753-1886
WA State Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting	Oxford Suites, Yakima	August 13	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Insurance Pool Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 19	(360) 586-0466

## ***Calendar of Events (continued)***

<b><u>SEPTEMBER 2004</u></b>			
LABOR DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	Sept. 6	(360) 753-1886
EMC Task Force	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	Sept. 9	(360) 753-1886
<b>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys – Juvenile Training Program</b>	<b>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</b>	<b>Sept. 12 – 14</b>	<b>(360) 753-2175</b>
Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA) Fall Conference	Everett, Snohomish County	Sept. 13 - 16	(425) 388-3446
Washington STATE	Primary Election Day	Sept. 14	<a href="http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/">http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/</a>
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	Sept. 14 – 17	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc">www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc</a>
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	Tentative - TBD	Sept. 16	(360) 753-1886
<b>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys – Drug Training Program</b>	<b>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</b>	<b>Sept. 15 – 17</b>	<b>(360) 753-2175</b>
Association of County Human Services	Grays Harbor County	Sept. 15 - 17	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Insurance Pool Board	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 16	(360) 586-0466
WA Counties Insurance Fund Board	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 16	(360) 586-0466
Insurance Advisory Committee – 2005 Renewal	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 16	(360) 586-0466
Washington STATE	Resolutions - Last day for filing of special election to be held in conjunction with the general election	Sept. 17	<a href="http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/">http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/</a>
Washington STATE	Committee Week-end - House and Senate	Sept. 20 - 21	
* Info and registration on all Certified Public Official (CPO) Training - <a href="http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/Course%20Calendar.htm">http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/Course%20Calendar.htm</a>			

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## ***Calendar of Events (continued)***

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### **July County Calendar**

- 1 Final day for taxpayers to file valuation appeal petitions with the county board of equalization (or within 30 days after the date an assessment or value change notice has been mailed, whichever is later). RCW 84.40.038
- 4 Independence Day - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 12 The county auditor shall notify, in writing, each elective and appointive county official to file with the auditor's office, on or before the second Monday in August, an estimated budget for the ensuing fiscal year, including receipts from sources other than taxation. RCW 36.40.010
- 15 Assessment rolls to be filed with the county board of equalization, by the county assessor. RCW 84.40.320
- 15 The county board of equalization shall meet. Minimum session, three days; maximum session, four weeks. RCW 84.48.010
- 26 - 30 Declarations of candidacy shall be filed from the fourth Monday of July to the succeeding Friday, for the September primary election. RCW 29.15.020
- 31 Every county official must report to the Public Disclosure Commission, on an L-5 form, their lobbying activities for the previous quarter (April-June). It is recommended that these L-5 forms be accumulated in the office of the county commissioners and forwarded on behalf of the entire county. RCW 42.17.190  
NOTE: ". . . in-person lobbying by any elected official of such agency on behalf of such agency or in connection with the powers, duties or compensation of such official" need not be reported.
- 31 New construction for which a building permit has been issued shall be valued for assessment purposes as of this date. Such values may be added to the tax roll up to August 31. RCW 36.21.080
- 31 Mobile homes for which building permits have been issued shall be valued for assessment purposes as of this date. Such values may be added to the tax roll up to August 31. RCW 36.21.090