

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

October 21, 2004
Issue No. 25

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Joint WACO/WSAC Conference Held in Spokane

WACO and WSAC members met jointly at the Red Lion Inn at the Park, in Spokane, October 4-8. Over 300 county elected officials and county employees met throughout the week in both joint and separate meetings. Presiding over the conference were WACO President Mary Dodge, Douglas County Treasurer, and WSAC President Dave Carey, Walla Walla County Commissioner.

Pre-conference activities included a huge turnout for the open house at the new Digital Archives Building, in Cheney, and a well-attended golf tournament on a beautiful, sunny Monday at Hangman Valley Golf Course. Tuesday evening as the bulk of attendees were arriving, an icebreaker reception was held.

The conference began in earnest on Wednesday with opening ceremonies and the presentation of the colors by the Spokane County Sheriff's Honor Guard Unit. Both presidents called the meeting to order and welcomes to Spokane were provided by Phil Harris, chair of the Spokane County Commission; Brad Stark, Spokane City Council; and Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk.

The keynote speaker was William B. Conerly, Ph.D., a leading northwest economist who gave an excellent talk on the Economic Outlook for Washington State. His discussion covered emerging trends and forecasts both nationally and in this state and took a look at the new challenges of growth for Washington.

The luncheon speaker was Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., president of Gonzaga University, who gave a fascinating presentation concerning ethical minimalism and maximalism and examining trends in ethics. His theme "Ego In, Ego Out" drew a very positive response from the group and a new way to look at ourselves.

Both gubernatorial candidates appeared before a packed house on successive days. Christine Gregoire, current Attorney General, and Democratic candidate for Governor, discussed her plan for "The Right Direction for Washington State," and former State Senator Dino Rossi, the Republican candidate for Governor, presented his plan for the state, "Forward Washington." Each candidate received hospitable welcomes and standing ovations.

Other joint meetings included a discussion of the costly demands on county jails made by treating persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system rather than through more appropriate treatment channels. Those participating were Senator Linda Evans-Parlette, Douglas County Sheriff Dan LaRoche and Spokane County Jail Administrator Dick Collins. In addition, a session was held covering key issues for the Hispanic Community in Washington including Yakima County Auditor Corky Mattingly (elections and voting), Uriel Iniiguez, Governor's Commission on

Hispanic Affairs (health, education and criminal justice) and Bob Sandoval from the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (farm worker housing). Moderating was Jesse

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Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

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

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A presentation on court funding was made to the joint boards by Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, Washington State Supreme Court, and Administrator for the Courts Janet McLane.

On Wednesday evening, WSAC held a banquet and dessert social honoring President Dave Carey, as well as to honor departing members. WACO members gathered for "It's Five O'clock Somewhere", a tropical themed reception in honor of President Mary Dodge.

During the conference there was a 28-booth exhibitor fair, both WACO and WSAC adopted their 2005 Legislative packages (as well as a Tri-Association package), NACo President Bill Hansell (Umatilla County, Oregon) was in attendance, and the annual banquet was held Thursday night with entertainment from a local high school string quartet and choir.

Leading the Associations next year will be the new WACO President, Thomas Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk and WSAC President Betty Sue Morris, Clark County Commissioner (see related articles in this issue of the Courthouse Journal).

There will not be a joint conference of WSAC and WACO in 2005, however, both organizations will be meeting at the new Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, in Vancouver, Washington. WSAC from September 20-23, and WACO from October 4-7. The groups will again meet separately in 2006, with WSAC in Spokane, and WACO in Wenatchee.

WACO Officers Elected for Ensuing Year

Spokane County Clerk Thomas Fallquist was elected president of WACO during the annual fall conference in Spokane, October 4-8. The WACO membership also voted for the following officers and trustees: Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel, President-elect; Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart, vice president; Skagit County Assessor Mark Leander, Secretary-Treasurer; Thurston County Clerk Betty Gould, Trustee-at-Large Position 2; and Pacific County Sheriff John Didion, Trustee-at-large Position 4.

Leaders Say One Message is What it Takes

During one of the WACO business meetings in Spokane, on October 7, President Mary Dodge introduced two former WACO presidents who were instrumental in passing the \$100 million criminal justice fiscal assistance package brought forth to the legislature in 1990: Valoria Loveland (1990) and Norm Maleng (1993). Loveland is currently the Director of the Department of Agriculture, former State Senator and former Franklin County Treasurer. Maleng has been King County Prosecutor since 1974.

Loveland and Maleng spoke to the core mission of WACO and what the organization provides in terms of services to its members and the role that the members can play in order to make a difference throughout the state. The most powerful message from Maleng and Loveland was that when something needs to be done at the legislature in order to make a positive impact on every county, the members must all agree on one

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

message and one message only. Because the counties are currently in such a financial crisis, they reminded everyone of the 1990 storm of elected officials from counties and cities, large and small, banding together to solve a statewide problem.

Against all odds and with tremendous difficulties with the legislature, WACO, WSAC and AWC formed a coalition in 1990 with one message: counties and cities were no longer able to provide sufficient funding for criminal justice, and the diversion of money from other offices to help with law enforcement costs would break local government. The legislature *must* provide funding.

It took two special sessions of the legislature, but the organizations stayed on task, *resisting all partial solutions*, until the \$100 million aid package for cities and counties was approved to fight crime. One of the major components of the legislation at that time was the quarterly distribution of fixed percentages of the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) to cities and counties.

Since the voters approved an initiative to cut the MVET to a flat \$30 fee in 2002, counties and cities have lost millions of dollars and need to start looking for permanent funding sources for not only criminal justice, but public health services and in other critical areas.

Generalizations and multiple lists of proposals do not provide a united front. Maleng and Loveland seemed to convince the WACO membership that another coalition like the one in 2000 may be in order in the near future.

WSAC Members Turn-Out for Joint WSAC/WACO Conference in Spokane

When WSAC affiliates are included, WSAC numbered over half of those in attendance at the Third

Annual Joint Conference held October 4 – 8 in Spokane at the Red Lion Inn at the Park. For the first time, the WSU Extension affiliate held its meeting with county elected officials and really turned out, participating in both District Meetings and the Rural Issues Subcommittee. WSAC members were pleased with all aspects of the conference from the facility to the speakers to the social events.

Elections and Legislative Package Highlight WSAC Business Meeting and Legislative Steering Committee Meeting: At business meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, WSAC elected new officers and adopted the 2005 Legislative Package. The full Legislative Package will be sent to all WSAC members by e-mail.

A unanimous ballot was cast for Commissioner Betty Sue Morris, Clark County, to assume the office of President and Commissioner Dean Burton, Garfield County, to assume the office of Vice-President. After voting throughout Wednesday and Thursday, Commissioner Glen Huntingford, Jefferson County narrowly edged out Councilmember Carolyn Edmonds, King County, for WSAC Secretary-Treasurer.

After the election results were announced, WSAC membership confirmed both the new officers and members of the WSAC Board of Directors for 2005. The 2005 WSAC Budget was then adopted. Kathleen Davis, WSDOT Director, Highways and Local Programs Division announced Douglas County as winner of the Project Excellence Award for a great bridge remodel project. County Engineer Jolene Gosselin accepted the award.

President Dave Carey gave moving remarks as the now Past-President and Bill Vogler delivered the Executive Director's report for the year.

Two items discussed at Wednesday morning's Legislative Steering Committee meeting will be brought back for the next LSC meeting in December. These are both in the growth management area and specifically were a need for additional clarity on the definition of "essential public facilities" and guidance regarding findings of invalidity and its impact.

Board of Directors meetings: On Tuesday, the WSAC Board of Directors met on a number of topics, including the financial statement through August, the current organizational chart for WSAC staff, the current status of the business development plan including a possibility of WSU funding the administration of the CPO training, appointments to the County Bridge Replacement Advisory Committee, the formation of a technical committee on Counties of the Future to work with CTED, approval of the ACHS bylaws revision with one friendly amendment, a report on the Tri-Association Legislative Proposal and a discussion of the site selection for the 2006 Fall Conference which will be held in Spokane. All items were approved and/or moved forward to the general membership as appropriate. The next general meeting of the Board will be held November 19 at Sea-Tac at the Prime Hotel (formerly the Wyndham Gardens directly across from the airport).

District Meetings: Both Western and Eastern Districts held meetings following the Business Meeting on Wednesday.

Steve Harbell, Grays Harbor County Extension Director helped to facilitate a discussion at the WSAC Western District meeting about community engagement. Efforts undertaken by counties west and east were shared by Extension Directors and Commissioners

alike. A handout based on the discussion will be distributed to Commissioners and Council members.

At its business meeting, the Western District elected as its President Jefferson County Commissioner Dan Titterness, as its Vice-President Kitsap County Commissioner Patty Lent, and Island County Commissioner Bill Byrd as Secretary-Treasurer. Mason County Commissioner Jayni Kamin was selected as the WSAC Board Representative at-large. The next Western District meeting is scheduled for Kelso, June 9 - 10, 2005.

Margaret Viebrock, Douglas County Extension Director, facilitated a discussion regarding the community engagement workshops at the Eastern District meeting. Whitman County's innovative engagement of the public at its County Fair was highlighted. The Eastern District also held a roundtable discussion that focused on the success of counties working together to pass legislation using the cougar management pilot program as a model. During the Business Meeting portion, they elected Greg Partch, Whitman County, as Eastern District President, Merrill Ott, Stevens County, Eastern District Vice-President, and Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan as Secretary-Treasurer. At-Large Board-of-Directors member from the Eastern District is Leo Bowman and alternates are Buck Lane, Asotin County, and Dennis Bly, Lincoln County. The next Eastern District meeting is scheduled for May 19 - 20 in Kennewick.

WSAC Sessions: A WSAC session entitled "Pathways to Slow the Rise of Health Care Costs - Ideas and Roundtable" was moderated by Mike Shelton, Island County, and Merrill Ott, Stevens County. It

included presentations from Mark O'Connell, Executive Director, Wisconsin Counties Association, and Caroline Whalen, Deputy County Administrative Officer, King County Task Force on Health Care and generated much discussion about county success in limiting health care cost increases.

WSAC also held a separate session on transportation issues with an update on the state transportation plan from Dale Steadman, Member, Transportation Commission and Doug MacDonald, Secretary of the Department of Transportation. The key message from the speakers was the need for cities and counties to work together with the department to come in with an agreed-upon, unified request for funding.

The Urban County Caucus and the Rural Issues Subcommittees also squeezed in time to meet. New officers were chosen in both. The Rural Issues Subcommittee will be led by Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan, and Mark Linquist, Wahkiakum, and the Urban Caucus by Chris Endresen, Kitsap, and Gary Nelson, Snohomish. The Urban Caucus focused on transportation and a report from each county present on what their priorities will be in 2005. The Rural Issues Subcommittee spent their time discussing new rules on feedlots with Valoria Loveland, Director, State Department of Agriculture, the recent Skagit County water litigation with Gary Rowe, Skagit County's Administrator, and round table with the WSU Extension agents.

On Wednesday evening, WSAC held a banquet to honor those members who will not be returning. Those in attendance who will not be back were Max Golladay, Kittitas; Bill Lehning, Cowlitz; Harold Moss, Pierce; Darcie Nielsen, San Juan; Don Scheibe, Asotin; Dave Schultz, Okanogan; and Bob Talent,

Skamania. All were soundly and fondly roasted and applauded by their fellow members. President Carey closed the evening with the WSAC President's Dessert Social.

Thanks: Key to the success of the Conference was the involvement of the many exhibitors who completely filled all available space. Kudos to Ginni Peppert of WSAC staff for her work with all of them. She introduced the Exhibitors at lunch on Wednesday and one of the fun parts of the conference was then explained. Each participant received a passport with which they were to visit each exhibitor and get the appropriate space stamped. If they visited all the vendors, they were eligible to participate in a drawing for some great prizes that were awarded Thursday afternoon. In addition, many of the vendors also had individual drawings for prizes. Not only was the vendor fair fun, but mutually beneficial contacts were made by both vendors and conference attendees.

WSAC staff wants to take this opportunity to thank all the WACO and WSAC members and staff who made this year's conference absolutely unforgettable!

Chief Justice Addresses Joint Boards

The Honorable Gerry Alexander, Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, addressed the Boards of WACO and WSAC when they met in Spokane recently.

Justice Alexander, along with State Court Administrator Janet McLane and Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Executive Director Jeff Hall, outlined the set of legislative proposals formed by the BJA Court Funding Implementation Committee. The recommendations are intended to alleviate court funding problems in trial court operations, indigent defense services

and civil legal aid.

The proposals include state assumption of some jury fees, state assumption of part of district and municipal court judges, an increase in filing fees, and establishment of a local trial court improvement account. The account would be funded in each jurisdiction by 50% of the savings realized as a result of state funding. The account would be dedicated to the courts and not subject to appropriation by the legislative authority.

The courts are also asking the state to assume 100 percent of the cost of parental representation in dependency matters and provide \$12.5 million in funding for criminal indigent defense.

Last of Courthouse Visits Set

Since mid-August, WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler and WACO Executive Director Debbie Wilke have traveled a few thousand miles and met with a few hundred

county officials, commissioners, and council members in 30 of the 39 counties. Jim Potts, WSAC Farmworker Housing Outreach Coordinator, joined them on several of the junkets.

Last week was spent circling Mt. St. Helen's under brilliant blue skies and views that were beyond incredible. In November, Bill and Debbie will complete the tour of the northwestern corner of the State and all the islands leaving only Thurston and King Counties unvisited. Those visits are being scheduled for December.

Besides changes to the landscapes, most notable were the aggressive plans of many counties to resolve the fiscal crises in their counties by enlisting the support of their communities for local tax options. In prior years, there was a definite reluctance to test the electorate. Although Pacific and Stevens Counties did not garner enough votes for their measures in the primary election, several others have proposals on the general election ballot. Those include Kittitas, Yakima and Ferry Counties.

The highlight of every courthouse visit is always the opportunity to spend quality time with the officials there. Often, this is the only opportunity all year to focus the discussion on their county only. The September round also included tours of the Potlatch Paper Mill in Lewiston, Idaho, a mainstay of the Asotin and Garfield County economies; the Asotin County Aquatic Center; the Benton County Jail; and the Benton County Morgue. It is always an inspiration to view a community's dreams when they become reality.

In addition to learning the issues in the counties, both directors are eager to hear how WACO and WSAC can serve all their members even better.

Washington Counties Scholarship Fund Receives \$ 9,710 in Donations

When county officials met in Spokane two weeks ago they to raised \$6,710 in addition to the \$3,000 donation given by Nationwide Retirement Solutions. The county clerks and the county coroners led the group with \$1,500 donations from each association. The county commissioners and affiliate members raised \$1,267. The county assessors raised \$850 followed by the county treasurers with \$635, and the county auditors with \$595. The prosecuting attorneys raised \$70, county sheriffs \$10, and the Washington Association of County Commissioners/Council Clerks donated \$100. In addition to the affiliate groups generously donating to the Scholarship Fund, WACO President Mary Dodge requested a \$5 donation for pictures taken at the WACO President's Reception on Wednesday evening and an additional \$183 was raised.

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund has awarded more than 51 college scholarships to the children of county employees. Currently, five scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 are awarded each year.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please make the check payable to:

Washington Counties Scholarship Fund

Mail to: **Washington Counties Scholarship Fund**

Attn: Brenda Bamford
206 Tenth Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Please make a note of your Association or Affiliation group on your donation. Further information is available at:
www.wacounties.org

...and Thank you!

Budget, Finance and Taxes

DOR Lid-Lift Publication Revised

The Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR) has reissued their publication entitled Levy Lid-Lifts (RCW 84.55.050). The first brochure was printed in June 2004 and after many county prosecutors took issue with the ballot language, DOR took another look

and agreed with the prosecutors. The new brochure, dated September 2004, reflects the changes to the ballot language for both temporary and permanent lid-lift proposals. With the ballot language as an exception, the rest of the information remained unchanged.

You may obtain a copy of the new brochures at <http://dor.wa.gov>

or by calling the Department's Property Tax Division at 360-570-5900.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

County Jails Eligible for Pharmaceutical Discounts through State Procurement Program

The Washington State Department of General Administration may be able to assist county jails in reducing the cost of providing prescription drugs for inmates.

Under a bulk purchasing contract authorized through the state purchasing cooperative, jails can receive discounts on many prescription medications as well as on pharmaceutical distribution services. The distribution element is particularly important for jails that do not maintain in-house pharmacists.

For more information about joining the state purchasing cooperative and participating in this contract, contact state procurement officer Sheila Mott at 360-902-7438 or smott@ga.wa.gov.

Law School Hosts Meeting to Discuss Public Defense

Two distinguished panels will present their views and potential solutions to the current public

defense problems in Washington State at the American Judicature Society's annual meeting 8:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, October 22, at the University of Washington Law School.

The program is free and open to the public.

County officials may want to attend to learn more about what is expected to be a key issue in the 2005 legislative session. WSAC members identified indigent defense funding as a priority for the coming session.

The first half of the program will summarize the Washington State Bar Association's (WSBA) recent "Blue Ribbon Panel on Criminal Defense Report." Speakers are Seattle attorney Marc Bowman, who chaired the WSBA panel; Robert Boruchowitz of the King County Public Defender Association; Ken Armstrong of the Seattle Times; and Edward Holm, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney. The moderator is U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik.

A second panel will discuss potential legislative solutions to the public defense problems. Speakers are Wayne Blair, chairman of the

state Court Funding Task Force; Joanne Moore, director of the state Office of Public Defense; Jon Ostlund, Whatcom County Public Defender; and Justice Susan Owens of the Washington State Supreme Court. The moderator is David Ammons of TVW.

To ensure adequate materials are available, attendees are asked to RSVP to either Christine Bain at 206-382-1830 or Ann Gabu at 206-624-4900.

Environment, Land Use and Resources

WSAC Eastern Counties to Meet Again with Ecology on Watershed Planning

The WSAC Eastern District along with the Department of Ecology has scheduled a follow-up meeting to the July 7 discussion on with Ecology on watershed planning. This follow-up meeting will take place on October 22 at the Moses Lake Convention Center from 10:00 - 2:00. Derek Sandison, Central Washington Regional Director and Dick Wallace, Special Assistant to the Director of Ecology both will be attending to present Ecology's response to issues raised at the previous meeting. Wayne Madson, WSU Extension, again will provide facilitation.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Derek Sandison, dsan461@ecy.wa.gov or 509-457-7120 if you will be attending.

For directions to the Moses Lake Convention Center, click <http://www.moseslakecc.com/visitor.html>

Ecology Releases Guidance Document on Instream Flows and Future Out-of-Stream Uses

The Department of Ecology has released a new guidance document entitled "Setting Instream Flows and Allocating Water for Future Out-of-Stream Uses." This guidance document is designed to identify technical and rulemaking considerations for developing rules setting instream flows and allocating water for future domestic uses. It is not intended for use in watersheds where the state and the watershed planning unit have already agreed on instream flow levels, mechanisms to protect instream flows (e.g.

closures), and allocations for future out of stream water uses.

The guidance document has four parts:

- Developing instream flow levels and closures to be adopted by rules.
- Allowance for future out-of-stream water uses in conjunction with setting instream flows.
- Applicability of the maximum net benefit test to rules setting instream flows and allocating water for future out-of-stream uses.
- State decisions to approve changes to instream flow priority dates set by the Watershed Planning Act, Chapter 90.82 RCW.

It will guide Ecology as it develops instream flow recommendations (for basins where no recommendations have been developed) and in proposing options for providing water for future uses. Ecology indicates that the document "reflects our latest thinking, and we are open to any suggestions to make it more useful." If you are interested in seeing an example of how Ecology has used this guidance, look at the draft instream flow rule for the Samish watershed.

SubBasin Plan Public Hearing Schedule for October and November 2004

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has released the following schedule for public hearings on SubBasin Plans developed by watersheds over the last year. For more information on any hearings, contact Judi Hertz at 503-222-5161.

Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 pm
Wenatchee Convention Center –
Gala 1 & 2
201 N. Wenatchee Avenue
Wenatchee, WA

Wednesday, October 27, 6:15 pm
Eugene Water and Electric Board –
Training Room
500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene, OR

Thursday, October 28, 6:30 pm
Hampton Inn
100 Highway Two West
Kalispell, MT

Wednesday, November 3, 6:30 pm
Pendleton City Hall –
Council Room, 2nd Floor
501 SW Emigrant, Back entrance
Pendleton, OR

Thursday, November 4, 6:00 pm
Holiday Inn & Convention Center –
Lewis and Clark Room
1249 Tapadera Avenue
Ontario, Oregon

Thursday, November 4, 6:30 pm
Joe R. Williams Bldg –
Hall of Mirrors (West Side)
700 W. State Street
Boise, ID

Monday, November 8, 6:30 pm
Heathman Hotel –
Chief Concomly Room
7801 NE Greenwood Drive
Vancouver, WA

Tuesday, November 9, 6:30 pm
Oregon State Office Bldg
800 NE Oregon St, Room 120-C
Portland, OR

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

Wednesday, November 10, 6:30 pm
Best Western Hood River Inn –
Gorge room
1108 E. Marine Way,
(Exit 64 - off I-84)
Hood River, OR

Monday, November 15, 6:30 pm
Quality Inn & Suites –
Riverboat Room
700 Port Drive
Clarkston, WA

Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 pm
(after Power Plan hearing)

Coeur d'Alene Resort
1115 South Second St
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Funds for Watershed Protection in the West

The William C. Kenney Watershed Protection Foundation supports nonprofit organizations working to protect, preserve and restore watersheds in the West. Support is provided for multi-constituency campaigns focused on critical wild rivers in the Western United States, including Alaska,

Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, as well as in British Columbia. The Foundation provides support for place-based campaigns focused on specific western rivers or river systems, as well as for policy development campaigns working on regional or national policies and laws. Applications are accepted year-round. Visit <http://www.kenneyfdn.org/> for more information.

Association News

County and Regional Planning Directors Meet

Twenty members of the WSAC affiliate for planning directors, the Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors, attended their annual joint conference with their city counterparts in Chelan on September 14-17.

Mark Towers presented a session on Agile Government. His message addressed changing the workplace culture to become more focused, flexible, fast, friendly and fun. The Risk Pool also sponsored Nicki McCraw, an employment law specialist with Carney, Badley and Spellman, who spoke to a wide range of issues of importance to managers. George Arimes of the Horizon Centre conducted a session assisted by Dick Anderwald, Steve Erickson and Bill Bailey of Yakima County on the evolution of the development review system at Yakima County. The conference provided an opportunity for

planning directors to have interactive discussions with the city directors and representatives of the departments of Ecology and Community, Trade and Economic Development. Scott Merriman, WSAC, led WSACRPD discussions on upcoming legislative efforts.

Special recognition was given to outgoing WSACRPD President Andy Meyer, AICP, and to Dick Anderwald, AICP, recently retired from Yakima County. Dick, who has been a valuable resource for the profession, was bestowed the title "Past President Emeritus" of WSACRPD.

WSACRPD officers for the 2004-2006 term are: President Jerrod MacPherson, Franklin County; President-Elect Phil Bakke, Island County; Eastern Vice President Clark Posey, Columbia County; Western Vice President Hal Hart, Whatcom County; and Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kulaas, Douglas County.

WACME Training a Big Draw

The Blood Spatter Analysis Class offered by the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) in conjunction with the WACO/WSAC Joint Conference in Spokane earlier this month drew 44 death investigators from around the state.

Bothell Police Officer Daniel V. Christman taught the eight hour course during which students learned to identify, collect and document bloodstain evidence. Content included bloodstain, target surface, trajectory and velocity characteristic, transfer and impression patterns and hands-on lab work.

Continuing education credits are available for those maintaining the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (AMBDI) requirements.

Boards and Commissions

Jail Industries Board Seeks WSAC Member

The Washington State Jail Industries Board of Directors will have a vacant position created by the upcoming retirement of Commissioner Bill Lehning. A Board position is reserved for a county commissioner or county council member selected by WSAC for a three year term. This appointment will be effective from January 2005 – December 2007.

The Jail Industries Board was established by the Legislature in 1993 to help establish a state-wide jail industries program designed to promote offender rehabilitation through meaningful work experience and reduce the costs of incarceration. The 1993 legislation laid out a number of duties for the Board aimed at balancing the interest of business and labor groups with the need to get more offenders working at the local level. Other duties include encouraging jail industries data collection and linkages between work and education. Board work is conducted at four meetings per year held at various locations around the state.

The new WSAC member will join a diverse group representing local government interests appointed by the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Corrections and Jail associations, County Clerks, the Prosecuting Attorneys, and the Association of Cities. Other Board members appointed by the Governor represent business, labor, crime victims and state agencies with interests in criminal justice, employment, and economic development.

Membership on the Board represents a challenging opportunity for a commissioner or council

member to shape the future of offender work all across Washington. The Board will be encouraging the growth of enterprises owned and operated by local jurisdictions and seeking to broaden the dialogue about the appropriate uses of offender labor. The Board needs strong leadership from WSAC in order to maximize its contribution to corrections and county government.

For more information about the Jail Industries Board, please call Jill Will, Executive Director, at 360-486-2432 or jwill@cjtc.state.wa.us. Address an email or letter of interest in serving to Bill Vogler at WSAC. The WSAC Board will select a new representative in November.

Opening on Affordable Housing Advisory Board

With the departure of Darcie Nielsen for more exciting climes (Turkey!), there is now a vacancy for a Western Washington county official on the Affordable Housing Advisory Board. This is the key board that advises the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development on housing issues. It provides an important opportunity for counties to be heard as issues such as farm worker housing, housing development in the unincorporated areas, special needs housing and housing for middle-class workers are debated.

This is a gubernatorial appointment. WSAC has two positions, one for Western Washington and one for Eastern. The Eastern Washington Position is currently held by Mary Hunt, Douglas County Commissioner. The Board consists of 21 members – 18 of which are appointed by the Governor. The list includes positions

with expertise in residential construction, mortgage lending, real estate sales, apartment management and operation, for profit housing developer and non-profit housing developer, homeless shelter operator, lower income representative, special needs, public housing authority, and the Counties. There are three ex officio members, the CTED Director, DSHS Secretary, and the Executive Director, Housing Finance Commission.

They generally meet quarterly in the Sea-Tac area.

The Board was established in 1993 for the purpose of analyzing solutions and programs to address affordable housing for all segments of the state and special needs populations. This includes financing for acquisition, rehabilitation, preservation or construction of housing, use of public land and buildings as sites for affordable housing, coordination of state initiatives, identification and removal of barriers to development and placement of affordable housing, stimulation of private and public sector cooperation in the development of housing, and development of solutions and programs affecting housing.

If you are interested, please contact Jean Wessman, WSAC staff, as soon as possible.

Boards and Commissions (Continued)

WSAC Seeks New Representatives for Shorelines Hearings Board

One of the six seats on the Shoreline Hearings Board is designated, by statute, for a county representative. WSAC is looking for commissioners, councilmembers and county staff interested in representing counties on the Board due to the departure of the current WSAC representative, San Juan County Commissioner Darcie Nielsen, at the end of the year.

WSAC, by board adopted policy, submits a list of county representatives to the Shorelines Hearings Board for appointment on cases. First preference goes to currently sitting commissioners and

councilmembers, second preference for current staff supported by their county for this responsibility, and third preference for former county officials whom the Board wishes to keep available to serve.

The WSAC Board will designate new county representatives to the Shorelines Hearings Board at its November 19, 2004 meeting. Please submit a letter of interest to Paul Parker, WSAC Assistant Executive Director, by November 5, 2004.

New Members Needed for County Road Administration Board

As current commissioners leave office, two vacancies will exist on the County Road Administration Board

(CRAB) after January 1, 2005. CRAB, a state agency that oversees county road operations, is managed by a board that consists entirely of county elected officials and county engineers.

One position will be available for a commissioner or councilmember from a county with a population over 125,000 and another for a county commissioner from a county with a population from 12,500 to 125,000.

The WSAC Board will appoint the new CRAB Board members at its November 19, 2004 meeting. Please submit a letter of interest to Bill Vogler, WSAC Executive Director, by November 5, 2004.

Courthouse Ramblings

Mason County Human Resource Director **Skip Wright** will be retiring at the end of October. Wright has been Human Resource Director since 1995 and will be moving on in his retirement to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. A farewell reception is planned for him on Friday, October 29th in the Mason County Commission Chambers, 411 North 5th Street, Shelton from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Good luck, Skip!

What's in a name?.. Stevens County Sheriff Craig Thayer -- who is also the President of the Washington State Association of County Sheriffs (WSACS) -- has announced a name change for their Association. It is now the **Washington State Sheriff's Association (WSSA)**. Sounds good to us!

Grant County Coroner **Jerry Jasman** has a new e-mail address. Please make a note of it:
gcc@grantcountycoroner.org.

Training and Upcoming Events

WSAC, WACO, AWC and the State Co-Sponsor Local Government-Tribal Communications Workshops

November 12, 2004 - Lower Elwha Klallam/Port Angeles

November 16, 2004 - Nespelem

December 14, 2004 - Toppenish

December 15, 2004 - La Conner

December 17, 2004 - Lacey

In these five full-day workshops, neighboring city, county, public port and tribal government leaders will build their understanding of the four P's in each other's governments:

- Process & Structure – how decisions get made
 - Protocols – how and when to approach people
 - People – who to contact to meet your needs
 - Passions – which issues your neighbors care about and why
- Each workshop will begin with

an overview from a variety of tribal and local government experts. Gordon James, representing the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, will set the stage with an overview of tribal structures and protocols, in general. Bart Freedman, a Preston Gates & Ellis attorney, and Marty Loesch, attorney with the Swinomish Tribe, will follow with an overview of Indian law that impacts relations between tribal and local governments.

Next, you will work with your neighbors to identify how your own governments work – how are they different or the same? Through facilitated discussion, you will start the process of understanding your neighbors. In the afternoon, the focus will turn to models of

cooperation. This session will begin with a panel presentation and end with another opportunity to apply your unique situation to the model through facilitated discussion with your neighbors. We expect that you will leave this forum with practical information and a specific plan to continue developing productive intergovernmental relations.

The registration fee for city, county, port and tribal officials is \$75 per person. The fee includes the cost of lunch, materials, and speaker/facilitator fees. Register online at www.awcnet.org - go to Calendar and click Tribal and Local Government Communications Forum. Simply email AWC's Tech Support Staff at awctechsupport@awcnet.org to receive the login id and password that you will need to enter AWC's "Members Only" section.

Cancellation and refund requests must be received in writing by Eunice Gonzalez, at euniceg@awcnet.org, 1 week prior to the workshop you select or payment is expected. Those not registered by then must register onsite and will be charged a \$10 late fee.

For those entities that cannot afford the registration fee for this forum, a limited number of scholarships are available. Please apply only if you truly need financial assistance.

Mark the scholarship box in the payment section of the registration form if you are in need of a scholarship. These will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. An AWC/GOIA/WSAC/WPPA staff person will contact you if you are not eligible. Otherwise, you will be awarded the scholarship and registered for the workshop.

Central Washington University Offers Economic Outlook Conference

Central Washington University holds its annual Economic Outlook Conference on October 26 at the Samuelson Union Building on the Ellensburg Campus.

Speakers include Dr. John Mitchell, noted Oregon economist, speaking on "A Burden Expansion" and retired WSU Professor Dr. Desmond O'Rourke discussing the "Washington Agricultural Outlook for 2004-2005". During lunch Dr. William Beyers will discuss "The New Economy and Implications for Rural Washington".

Cost is \$50. For further information, look at www.cwu.edu/~cob/ or call Conference Coordinator Rory Kolste at 206-406-1284 or 509-312-0443.

For Your Benefit from the Washington Counties Insurance Fund

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

Employers see a role for HSAs in their benefit programs – sooner rather than later. Although health savings accounts (HSAs) were introduced very recently as part of the Medicare reform legislation, they seem poised to take root quickly.

HSAs are individual tax-favored accounts that employees can use for current medical expenses or as a savings vehicle for future expenses. Employers of all sizes are expressing interest in this type of plan. In fact, a recent survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting suggests that very large employers (20,000 or more employees) and very small employers (10-49 employees) will be the first to offer them and most are likely to do so by 2006.

When asked which of their employees would be most likely to participate in a high-deductible health plan and HSA, the majority of the employers surveyed (61%) believed it would be their higher-paid employees. Just 13% believed it would be their lower-paid employees. More than two-fifths (44%) believe their healthiest employees would be the most likely to participate, while 28% believe their least healthy employees would be most likely to participate.

Motivation for offering HSAs

For large employers (500 or more employees), the top two reasons to offer an HSA are to promote employee involvement and accountability in purchasing health care services and to reduce or control the organization's spending on health care benefits. Small employers (10-499 employees) picked the same top two, but in reverse order.

Nearly half of large employers say that a likely motivation for offering an HSA would be to provide a savings vehicle for post-retirement medical coverage. Interestingly, significant portions of both those employers that currently offer retiree medical coverage and those that do not say they are interested in this use of HSAs.

More than one-fourth of employers say they would offer the plan to provide a more affordable medical plan option for employees.

Plan design and administration

Survey respondents were asked to assume they had decided to offer a high-deductible plan with an HSA for 2005 and then to respond to two questions about plan design. The majority (61%) said they would set the individual deductible at the minimum, \$1,000, while 17% said they would set it at \$1,500 and 11% at \$2,000. Only 10% would set it above \$2,000.

Nearly two-fifths (39%) said they would not make any contribution to the HSA account. About a fourth (24%) said they would contribute \$500; 17% said they would contribute \$1,000; and 5% said they would contribute \$1,500. Only 6% would contribute the maximum of \$2,600. For 77% of employers, their contribution amount was lower than the deductible amount they selected; for 13%, it was the same; and for 10%, it was higher.

HSAs may be administered not just by health plans, but by any vendor qualified to administer an individual retirement account (IRA). Employers seem willing to accept non-traditional vendors – only a slim majority (57%) said they would prefer a health plan should they offer an HSA. An IRA administrator is preferred by 14%, while another 14% would prefer a bank or other financial institution. The remainder would prefer employees to choose their own administrator.

For more information about Washington Counties Insurance Fund, please call (360) 586-0466.

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
Calendar of Events online – www.wacounties.org For your convenience training and workshops are bolded .			
<u>NOVEMBER 2004</u>			
Washington STATE	ELECTION DAY	November 2	http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/
EMC Task Force	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	TBD	(360) 753-1886
VETERANS DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	November 11	(360) 753-1886
WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	Nov. 15 – 18	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services	Spokane County	Nov. 17 - 19	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Insurance Pool – WCIP Planning	Red Lion at Columbia Center, Kennewick	November 18	(360) 586-0466
WA Counties Insurance Fund – WCIF 2005 Budget	Red Lion at Columbia Center, Kennewick	November 18	(360) 586-0466
WSAC Board of Directors	Wyndham Hotel, SeaTac Airport	November 19	(360) 753-1886
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	Nov. 25 and 26	(360) 753-1886
<u>DECEMBER 2004</u>			
Washington STATE	Election results – Last day for SOS to certify.	December 2	http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	Tentative - TBD	December 3	(360) 753-1886
Newly Elected Officials Training	Phoenix Inn, Olympia	December 7 – 9	(360) 753-1886
EMC Task Force	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	December 9	(360) 753-1886
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Winter Meeting & Banquet	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle	December 9-10	(360) 753-2175
Washington STATE	Resolutions – Last day to file for 2/8/05 special election.	December 23	http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/
Washington STATE	Initiatives – Last day to file signatures for Legislature.	December 2	http://www.vote.wa.gov/calendar/
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	December 25	(360) 753-1886
NEW YEARS HOLIDAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	December 31	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

<i>JANUARY 2005</i>			
Washington STATE	59 th Legislative Session Begins	January 10	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 13	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	January 13	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 14	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 27	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	January 27	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 28	(360) 753-1886
* Info and registration on all Certified Public Official (CPO) Training - http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/Course%20Calendar.htm			
** A special Tuition-Free Course offered by the National Mass Fatalities Institute in partnership with the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office			

November County Calendar

- 2 General Election. RCW 29.13.010
- 11 Veteran's Day - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 15 City and other taxing district budgets shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority. RCW 84.52.020
- 25 Thanksgiving Day - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 26 Day following Thanksgiving - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 30 The county legislative authority and the governing body of each taxing district within the county authorized to levy taxes directly, shall certify to the county assessor the amount of taxes upon property. If the levy amount is not certified to the county assessor by this date, the assessor shall use no more than the certified levy amount for the previous year for the taxing district. RCW 84.52.070 .

Attachments

Records a Click Away at Archives

The Spokesman-Review, by

Hannelore Sudermann

October 5, 2004

New building, Web site help keep past present

With the promise of saving valuable and endangered public records, state officials opened a new \$14.3 million archives building just down the street from Woodward Field on Eastern Washington University's campus in Cheney on Monday.

They boasted about their 17,000-square-foot brick and glass building where state workers will salvage valuable electronic government records. At the same time, they introduced the state's archives Web site, a new service that will help people easily access state and local legal records, such as marriage licenses, birth certificates and military records.

If you want to find a copy of your marriage license or, for that matter, your grandparents' license, you can go to the state archives Web site and type in the name, said Adam Jansen, the state's digital archivist. This access will be a boon to some of the archives' biggest customers, such as genealogists and lawyers, but it also will make the archives friendlier to the infrequent user, Jansen said.

He demonstrated the site at a news conference Monday morning. "Come on, come on," he said, urging the computer system to move faster as an image from his laptop was projected behind him. A few minutes and a few clicks later, the 2003 marriage record of a Spokane resident popped up. Jansen then quickly ordered a certified copy

"This is a great tool for our public," said Chelan County Auditor Evelyn Arnold, a partner in the online digital records effort.

She explained how delicate paper documents and film records can be damaged by public use. With the online access, anyone can access the material without damaging it, she said. And, instead of driving to the county that might have your record, you can get on the computer and look for it any time and any day, she said.

Besides widening access to the public, the digital archives will help preserve the many public records that are born electronic, said Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed.

If, for example, Lincoln had written the Gettysburg address on a laptop, without a digital archive it might be lost, he said. Today in state government, substantive issues are discussed over e-mail or are recorded by electronic means. Unless the government does something to capture and maintain that information, it could be lost forever, said Reed.

"Electronic records have been disappearing at an alarming rate because we've had no means to preserve them," he said. "These are records we need to make public policy, to conduct day-to-day business and to prepare for the future."

Once Reed took state office, saving electronic public records and making them widely available ranked among his top priorities. "It frankly took a while to convince the Legislature," said Reed.

But after working with county auditors, he established a surcharge on records to help pay for the effort.

"I really treasure what previous generations have done in terms of preserving history," he said, adding that now it's time for him to do his part.

Microsoft Corp. and EDS, an information technology services company, designed the system that would take data from a variety of electronic platforms and consolidate it for the state's archives. The system also backs up the information and provides a digital lock that protects the integrity of the original documents. The partnership also designed the Cheney-based digital archives to hold up to 800 terabytes of information, which equals about 200 billion pages of text.

In addition to the digital rooms, the new building also has classrooms for Eastern students and faculty, as well as 40,000 cubic feet for storing the paper records of the 640 government agencies in Eastern Washington. Some of these documents date back to 1883.

"While there are 2.4 million records on the system now and the material is rich and diverse, it's by no means complete," said archivist Jansen.

Users can find marriage records for Spokane, Snohomish and Chelan counties, for example, but most of the rest of the state marriage licenses have not yet been put online.

Still, those interested in glimpsing at the state's history can access the site and get a look at some of Washington's founding documents and its earliest census records. The digital archives can be accessed at www.digitalarchives.wa.gov.

Attachments (Continued)

Clark County awarded \$5 million grant to reduce methamphetamine abuse among mentally ill

Vancouver, WA – Clark County's Department of Community Services has been awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million grant to integrate mental health and substance abuse treatment services. The grant was awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The chief goal of the grant is to reduce methamphetamine abuse among the seriously mentally ill people in the county.

Approximately 930 methamphetamine users with co-occurring mental health disorders in Clark County are not receiving publicly funded treatment.

Treatment will be provided through the use of two evidence-based practices. They include the Matrix Model and Assertive Community Treatment through a single care coordination team - a first for Clark County.

The program is called Co-Occurring Methamphetamine Expanded Treatment (COMET). It will work with adults, 18 years of age and older, who are methamphetamine dependent and also diagnosed with a serious mental health disorder.

The grant opportunity aims to build a fully integrated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary behavioral health practice modeled after SAMHSA's Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System of Care (CCISC).

While most practitioners, clinicians, service providers, stakeholders and administrators recognize the need for the

integration of substance abuse and mental health services, the work of changing systems must be undertaken through a deliberate and all-inclusive incremental process.

Methamphetamine production in Clark County appears to be growing. From 2000 to 2001, the number of reported methamphetamine laboratories and dumpsites increased by over two-thirds (Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse, 2003).

While the availability of methamphetamines and the rate of abuse remain high, many are seeking treatment.

In the last five years, Clark County treatment admissions for methamphetamine use have doubled. Of the five largest counties in Washington State, Clark County has the highest treatment admissions rate (158.5 per 100,000 in population) for primary drug of methamphetamine (Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse, 2003). Of these, about 25 percent have mental health disorders.

Clark County's Department of Community Services has secured and managed \$14.4 million worth of new grants since 1998.

The chief beneficiaries of these grants are Clark County citizens who receive services from mental health, youth, alcohol and drug, housing and homeless programs.

Clark county Contact: Geoff Knapp, Public Affairs, Dept of Community Services, (360) 397-2130.