

the Courthouse Journal

WWW.WACOUNTIES.ORG

Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

April 15, 2005
Issue No. 15

*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

Budget, Finance & Taxes
Pages 3-4

**Courts, Public Safety, Law
& Justice**
Page 4

General Government Issues
Page 4

**Elections, Licensing
& Recording**
Page 5

**Environment, Land Use &
Resources**
Pages 5-6

Courthouse Ramblings
Page 6

**Public Health & Human
Services**
Page 7

Association News
Page 8

Good Things
Page 8

**Training & Upcoming
Events**
Pages 9-11

Calendar of Events
Pages 12 - 13

ESSB 6050 is Still Moving

By a party-line vote of 5 to 4, the House Finance Committee gave ESSB 6050 a “do pass” vote after adoption of a striking amendment that changes the distribution of a tax on satellite dishes to cities. The striker retained the county distribution formula.

Call House Rules members now. It is county officials who can maintain the momentum and push ESSB 6050 through the House Rules Committee and out of the House at which point, ESSB 6050 will go to a conference committee where hopefully the House and Senate will reach a consensus and permanently fund cities and counties with no tax base. ESSB 6050 is the only vehicle for doing that.

ESSB 6050 left the Senate with a funding source of 1.6% of the real estate excise tax that is sent to the Public Works Trust Fund. A week ago the House Capital Budget amended the bill, stripping its funding source and referring it to the Finance Committee. At that

point, ESSB 6050 gained the support of television cable companies and general contractors and lost the broad based bipartisan support the Senate version enjoyed. A detailed explanation was included in the cover story of the Courthouse Journal last week.

As county officials continue to call their legislators, the message remains the same:

- The Legislature needs to provide an ongoing permanent solution to this problem. It is important to get this bill to conference.
- Some counties rely on this funding for nearly half of their general fund budget. The general fund (Current Expense) funds criminal justice and other services mandated by the state.
- Failure to provide this funding for distressed cities will cause many of those cities to shift costs to the counties – worsening county budget problems.

Bill Signings

The Governor has five days excluding Sundays to take action on any bill passed by the legislature (from the date the Governor receives it), provided adjournment does not occur within those five days. If no action is taken, the bill automatically becomes law. The Governor has 20 days to take action if the legislature is not in session. Bills are

effective 90 days after the end of the regular session – that date is July 24, assuming that the legislature adjourns on April 24, the 105th day of session, unless the bill has an emergency clause which make it effective immediately, or names a specific effective date. Any interested party may attend a bill signing where a picture is taken with the Governor and

each participant is given a pen to commemorate the occasion. To be notified of a signing, call the Governor's office at (360) 902-4111.

The Courthouse Journal

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.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131 or www.wacounties.org.

WACO STAFF

Phone (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
Michelle Hagen, Deputy Director
Christina Bridston, Programs Coordinator
Brenda Bamford, Financial Operations Mgr
Kathie Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC STAFF

Phone (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director
Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director
Maureen Morris,
Urban Counties Deputy Director
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director-
Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director-
Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing
Michael Shaw, Interim Policy Director-
Transportation & Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director-
Public Health & WSALPHO Administrator
Jim Potts, Coordinator-Housing Outreach
Tom Robinson, Coordinator-Timber
Trina Bannister,
Finance & Administration Director
Ginni Peppert,
Events Planner & Administrative Assistant
Barbara Warden,
Business & Administrative Assistant
Tom Jensen, Technology Project Manager

CPO PROGRAM

Julie Kaufman,
Certified Public Official Coordinator

Senator Hargrove and Representative Cody Bills Take Final Steps

Both Senator Hargrove's bill, **SB 5763**, and Representative Cody's bill, **HB 1290** have now passed the opposite house with striking amendments that were put on them on the floor of the House and Senate respectively. To see the full texts, pull the bills down from www.leglink.leg.wa.gov. The most recent versions of the bills as passed on April 14 or the striker amendments by Cody and Hargrove respectively dated April 14. Note there were also amendments to **SB 5763** to the striking amendment – an additional amendment from Cody deleting the sales tax, a Sommers amendments deleting the long-term effectiveness study, and several from Rep. Lantz about patient rights and the enhanced services facility. To have the whole picture you need to pull down both the striker and the amendments to the striker. They will eventually be rolled into one giant bill. **HB 1290** only has the one striking amendment from Sen. Hargrove.

Very briefly, Senator Hargrove's bill is very similar to what it was when it came out of the House Appropriations Committee except the long-term study and the 1/10th sales tax are both stricken as is the fully integrated ITA which was to go into effect in 2009. The pilots still are in the bill, both for the combined crisis response and secure detoxification facilities and intensive case management. In addition, the bill includes the Chemical Dependency professionals in the Children's Administration Community Service Offices, closing

the treatment gap for both adults and youth, integrated screening and assessment and clarification on 6358 from last year about exchange of information between CD/MH and DOC and the local jails. The changes to the involuntary medication section of statute were dropped in their entirety due to an inability to come to agreement in the time allowed. Those discussions are anticipated to continue this summer within the context of the Mental Health Task Force.

Representative Cody's bill, **HB 1290**, is very similar to the version that came out of the Senate Human Services Committee except the pilot procurement project in King County has been deleted. Instead, the Department will initiate a procurement process via a RFQ no later than October 1, 2005 which sets the parameters and criteria that an existing RSN must "substantially" be able to meet. If that RSN meets those criteria, they may remain in existence. If they fail or choose not to respond to the RFQ, the Department is authorized to put that region out for bid to another entity and that process would begin with a RFP issued March 1, 2006. The criteria include "cost-effectiveness, adequate residential and service capabilities, effective collaboration with criminal justice agencies and the chemical dependency treatment system, and the ability to provide the full array of services as stated in the mental health state plan, and shall meet all applicable federal and state regulations and standards."

The definition of a designated mental health professional now matches the Hargrove bill and is defined as a mental health

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

professional designated by the county or other authority authorized in rule to perform the duties specified in this chapter. Just a technicality, the current Hargrove bill has a place where that definition authorizes the state to designate the mental health professional and that will be fixed in conference.

There is a continue emphasis on the use of evidence-based practices but the definitions of the types of best practices now match those in the Hargrove bill as used by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

One little surprise that we apparently missed in one of the earlier versions of **HB 1290** on the

Senate side was the addition of the independent mental health ombudsmen which now resides in Sec. 803 of the Hargrove bill **SB 5763**. There is no recognition of the fiscal impact nor is the function located anywhere like the old bills from prior years did by locating it in CTED. There is also now a discrepancy in the allowed administrative costs (10% in one section and 2% in an old section of law) which will be clarified in the conference committee.

Both bills got huge majorities as they came out. The Hargrove bill passed 73 - 22 with 3 excused, in the House, and the Cody bill passed 45- 0, with 1 absent and 3 excused, in the Senate. They will now go into conference to sort out any remaining

differences.

WSAC wants to thank everyone who worked on these bills from both inside and outside the Legislature. They are both integral bills to the future of both mental health and substance abuse treatment in Washington. Special thanks are due the two prime sponsors, Representative Cody and Senator Hargrove, for their tireless efforts on behalf of persons with both disabilities and their willingness to work together on these two important pieces of legislation.

Now if we can just restore the full \$82.2 million!

Budget, Finance, and Taxes

Assessor Priority Bill Signed by Governor

SHB 1502, property tax abatement, was signed into law by the Governor, Thursday, April 14. Lewis County Assessor Diane Dorey, Pacific County Assessor Bruce Walker, Thurston County Assessor Patricia Costello, Cowlitz County Assessor Terry McLaughlin, and prime sponsor of the bill Representative Dean Takko were all on hand to watch this legislation being enacted. Although Representative Takko sponsored seven bills that passed this year's legislature, this was his first bill to be signed.

This legislation will reinstate a law that sunseted in 2004 and reduces the property tax on destroyed property or property damaged by a natural disaster in the year in which the destruction or damage occurred. The bill did make one change to the previous statute stating the tax relief is not available for property that is destroyed or

damaged voluntarily.

The legislation takes effect 90 days after the adjournment of the session. Property destroyed between January 1 and the effective date of the legislation will not be eligible for the relief as there was no law in place from that date to enactment of the new law.

Historic County Courthouse Assistance Funding in Both House and Senate Budget

Both the Senate and House versions of the Capital Budget contain a section creating a Historic County Courthouse Fund sought by WSAC and WACO. The Senate Capital Budget includes \$9 million and the House Capital Budget proposal includes \$10 million for matching grants for courthouse preservation and renovation, including work completed since January 2003. If enacted into law, the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, with guidance from an advisory committee including

county representatives, will adopt criteria for receiving the funds.

Previous issues of *the Courthouse Journal* have listed the estimated improvement costs, including preservation of historic features, by county. For more information, call Paul Parker at WSAC.

County Treasurers' Cleanup Bill (WACO/Treasurers' Priority)

SHB 1158, county treasurers' administrative procedures, passed the Senate this week, the House concurred with the Senate amendment, and the bill is on its way to the Governor's office.

Automated REET System (WACO/Treasurers' Priority)

P2SHB 1240, funding the development of an automated system to process real estate excise taxes (REET), passed out of the House Finance Committee Friday morning, with the agreed-to Governor's request language to help

Budget, Finance, and Taxes (continued)

balance the budget (about \$47 million). The agreement was that all REET collections must be transmitted to the state by the last business day of the month, including all revenue received through the

second preceding day before the last day of the month. In return, there was an increase in the 1% treasurers' administration fee to 1.3% to offset the money that will be lost by the counties on the float. \$3.9 million

will be placed in an account for grants to the counties to assist in REET technology.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

WACO Priorities Pass

SSB 5242, possession of weapons by inmates in county jails, passed the House with a vote of 95 yeas and 3 excused on Wednesday. SSB 5242 expands the definition of weapon from "deadly weapon" to "any weapon" that is knowingly possessed and likely to cause serious bodily harm. The requirement to prove "intent" is also removed.

SSB 5035, forensic pathology, passed the House as well, but will require the concurrence of the Senate due an amendment in the House. SSB 5035 eliminates the forensic pathology specialist program at the University of Washington and

requires the Forensic Investigations Council to report back to the legislature by December 1, 2005 with recommendations for a successor program, if any. The Legislature will need to approve any future state forensic pathology programs.

County Clerks' Bill Languishing

HB 1471, authentication of documents, spent a long, long week in the Senate Rules Committee before it was finally "pulled" to the floor Thursday evening. At this writing, six hours before cutoff, the tension mounts.....

General Government Issues

County Auditor/WACO Priority Bill Passes

SHB 1386, increasing the surcharge on recorded documents from \$2 to \$5 for the preservation of historical documents, passed the Senate on Tuesday night with a vote of 28 yeas, 16 nays, and 5 excused. The bill was passed in its amended version where the fee is increased from \$2 to \$5, but \$1 will remain with the county

commissioners for historical preservation. The bill will now go back to the house for concurrence, and then will be delivered to the Governor for her signature.

County Auditor Privacy Bill Passes!

HB 1385, restricting personal identifying information from being included when a document is

presented for recording, passed the Senate on Monday with a vote of 49 yeas, and 0 nays. The bill will now be delivered to the Governor for her signature. WACO has asked to be notified when the bill is scheduled to be signed. If you are interested in attending the bill signing please let us know, and we will contact you when a date has been determined.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Subagents Fee Increase Passes

SB 5518, increasing the subagent service fee for changes in certificate of ownership and preparation of an affidavit of lost title from \$8.50 to \$10.00 and the subagent service fee for renewing a vehicle registration or other service from \$3.50 to \$4.00, passed the House with a vote of 93 yeas, 3 nays and 2 excused. The bill is on its way to the Governor.

Primary Date Change (WACO/Auditors' Priority)

At this writing, on cutoff day for bills to pass the opposite house, **ESHB 2027**, moving the primary to the third Tuesday in August, has not yet come up for a vote on the Senate floor.

Election Reform

Several of Secretary of State Sam Reed's election reform bills are on their way to the Governor's desk.

HB 1749, strengthening review and correction of county election procedures, passed the Senate. **SB 5564**, requiring the Secretary of State to prepare a manual of election laws and rules, and **SB 5565**, informing out-of-state, overseas and service voters of rights and procedures, passed the House.

ESSB 5499, clarifying and standardizing various election procedures, passed the House Thursday night and will head back to the Senate for concurrence on House changes.

SHB 5743, enhancing voter registration recordkeeping, passed the House without the House State

Government Operations and Accountability amendment, and is on its way to the Governor.

Paper Trail

ESSB 5395, requiring voting devices to produce paper records, has passed the House and is headed for the Governor's office.

Mail Ballot Elections

SHB 1754, authorizing county-wide mail ballot elections, passed the Senate, and will go back to the House for concurrence on Senate committee amendments. At this point, the bill does not include a requirement for vote by mail. The Senate version of the bill, **SB 5744**, is on the House calendar.

Environment, Land Use and Resources

GMA Reform Efforts Stymied -- Is an Initiative Next?

Efforts by counties, cities, the American Planning Association – Washington Chapter, farm and business groups, and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to extend timelines for GMA updates and to clarify the role of “best available science” came to an end this week when negotiations with the environmental community reached an impasse. Although, Futurewise and other groups in the environmental community agreed with other participants at the table that factors besides science may be used by a county or city legislative body in adopting programs and regulations to designate and protect critical areas, they insisted on a

provision that would require costly monitoring programs in those situations where there was a departure from science.

It is expected now that some of the business and development groups that have been working to reform GMA requirements will begin to draft a citizen initiative addressing property rights and, perhaps, repealing portions of the Growth Management Act. Such a measure would be prepared for consideration in 2006, either as an Initiative to the Legislature or an Initiative to the People. Proponents are encouraged by a sweeping property rights initiative that will effectively roll back much of Oregon's land use planning and regulation was passed in November 2004.

The only significant measure to survive at this point is **SHB 2171**, which provides most counties and cities a one-year delay in critical areas updates – and allows continued access to key state grant and loan funds, such as the public works assistance account and the Centennial Clean Water Fund. But even that measure is threatened by disagreements between House and Senate members over how much relief to provide for which jurisdictions.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Revision Nears Passage

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for the acquisition and development of outdoor

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

recreation and habitat conservation areas. Counties, cities, ports, park and recreation districts, school districts, state agencies, and tribes are eligible to apply. Grant applications are evaluated annually and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation submits a list of prioritized projects to the Governor and Legislature for approval.

The Legislature typically funds the WWRP at between \$40 and \$50 million for a biennium. Half of the funds appropriated are for habitat conservation, and are allocated according to a statutory formula for critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat. The other half of the funds are appropriated for outdoor recreation, allocated by formulas established in statute for state parks, local parks, trails, and water access sites. A portion of each account is left unallocated. So far, the Gregoire budget includes \$45 million, the Senate budget \$47 million and the House Budget \$50 million.

ESSB 5896 creates two new WWRP funds – for riparian protection and for farmland preservation – and improves the coordination of state land purchases and local government processes.

Measures of the most interest to counties include:

- The riparian protection account is created to distribute funds for the acquisition and enhancement or restoration of riparian habitat.
- The farmlands preservation account is created and funds may be used by counties or cities (not by the state) for the acquisition of farmlands, their enhancement or restoration, or both.
- Criteria for grants for habitat conservation and outdoor recreation are revised to include such considerations as consistency with land use, shoreline, watershed, and recovery plans, inclusion of noxious weed control

management plans, and the statewide significance of critical habitat projects.

- Lands acquired by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife using funds from the habitat conservation account are subject to payments in lieu of property taxes and for weed control. Lands acquired by state agencies using funds from the riparian protection account are also subject to payments in lieu of property taxes and for weed control.
- State or local agencies must review a proposed project application with the local government with jurisdiction over lands proposed for acquisition with WWRP grant funds.

The bill has passed both the House and Senate, with differences to be worked out over the next several days.

Courthouse Ramblings

Former Whatcom County Auditor **Wella Hansen** passed away April 10, at 100 years of age. She went to work for the auditor's office in 1939 and won election to the office in 1958, serving as auditor for 20 years before her retirement. Hansen was very active in WACO, and while in office, she was the force behind legislation to allow counties to keep interest from invested money that sat idle in banks until warrant checks arrived. Nowadays, that equates to \$2 million a year in Whatcom County. Hansen was awarded the WACO

Distinguished Service award in 2002 and attended the Annual Conference, in Wenatchee, to receive the honor. Hansen is survived by her stepdaughter, Patricia Knapp (a former Jefferson County Auditor); a stepson; eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Public Health and Human Services

HCR 4410 – Establishing the Joint Public Health Financing Committee Passes House

HCR 4410 passed the House this week in a bi-partisan fashion. Speakers on both sides of the aisle spoke in support of the Resolution. This resolution is the next step in a ten year legislatively mandated process that created the Public Health Improvement Plan and directed the development of performance standards for the public health system in Washington. Additionally, the legislative mandate directed the identification of the gap in current funding from the amount needed to meet the standards. The work of the Public Health Improvement Partnership over the last ten years has developed the standards and identified that gap. HCR 4410 brings that information to a joint legislative committee to review and make recommendations to the Legislature. Senators need to hear how important this resolution is to counties and to the future of the public health system in Washington.

On Site Sewage Bill (E2SHB 1458) Stalled

E2SHB 2458, in its current form, has the support of many Puget Sound County Commissioners/Boards of Health and local health departments. It represents intensive work throughout the entire session by all of the stakeholders to produce a bill that, with funding, can be implemented at the local level and meets the needs of the environmental community as well. Bill sponsors have heard the counties concern about unfunded mandates and have ensured, through bill amendments, that funding will be

provided or it will not go into effect. It provides funding for the Puget Sound Counties to implement the bill (and, concurrently would also help fund the implementation of the new State Board of Health Rule currently under revision). However, the bill is not without opposition and because of this, its fate is uncertain. It's down to influence, negotiation, and vote counts.

SHB 2085 – Regarding Cleanup of Waste Tires Passes Senate

SHB 2085 passed the Senate this week. The bill was amended in the Senate so now returns to the House for concurrence. The bill reinstates the fee on the sale of new tires for the purpose of cleaning up unauthorized legacy tire piles. It also calls for a study that will, among other things, consider local government needs in terms of cleanup of existing piles and enforcement necessary to prevent future unauthorized tire piles.

ESSB 5736 – Air Ambulance Service – Delivered to Governor

ESSB 5736 requires conducting an evaluation of the feasibility of subscription air ambulance service. This bill arose out of a critical need in San Juan County because of the loss of a similar service a few years ago. Without this service, the cost of air ambulance services is, for many families, prohibitive. This can become a life or death situation for folks on the islands because ferry service is not 24 hours a day. While the genesis of the bill was the situation in San Juan County, the possible need for such a service may also apply to many remote areas of Washington. The Legislature

responded to the need and under the leadership of Senator Spanel, the effort was successful.

SB 5831 – Concerning Well Construction – Delivered to Governor

SB 5831 increases the fees charged for well construction and well decommissioning. Local health departments that accept delegation from the Department of Ecology for well inspections will see an increase in the fees that they receive from the State to perform the inspections. The increased fee will also allow for more well inspections to occur.

Association News

NACo Selects Commissioner Angel for NYU County Leadership Institute

NACo has recently announced that Kitsap County Commissioner Jan Angel has been selected to attend the New York University County Leadership Institute this June. Commissioner Angel was selected from five interested WSAC members. The County Leadership Institute, a joint effort of New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

and the National Association of Counties (NACo), helps a select group of county officials forge collaborations that unite public, private, and nonprofit interests in broad-based efforts to address the complex challenges facing county governments. Up to 30 participants – Leadership Fellows – participate in this three and a half-day program held yearly in New York City.

The County Leadership Institute follows a number of different approaches to create a dynamic

learning environment. Presentations by NYU faculty who are leading thinkers and practitioners are combined with site visits to meet innovative leaders in the New York metropolitan area. In peer-to-peer learning sessions, participants reflect on their own experiences. Simulation exercises allow participants to practice what they are learning in the program.

WSAC's Board of Directors provides a scholarship to pay for the tuition.

Good Things

Pacific County Health & Human Services Director Receives Award

Kathy Spoor, Director of the Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department, received the 2005 Outstanding Contribution to Rural Health Award at the 18th Annual Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference in Spokane on March 24. This award is based on demonstrated leadership skills, someone with vision, foresight and dedication in the field of rural health. Kathy has held the position of Director for about 13 years. She oversees about 30 different programs and supervises a staff of 12, including seven R.N.s in two offices, one in South Bend and one in Long Beach.

Spoor said, "Public Health wasn't really what I thought I wanted when I started nursing, but once I got into it, I found that I really enjoyed it. I started working with individuals and families in their homes. It was really challenging at times, but awfully rewarding. I found that I could make a difference. Now my role as a director is more

making a difference in our community. We focus more on prevention, where my role in the hospitals was intervention."

The award cited especially Spoor's work to develop a Health Improvement Partnership among all the health care providers throughout the county. She spent several years earning the trust of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe. The Tribe's Director of Health Services said that primarily because of Spoor, the Tribe has been included in all local and regional health planning efforts and that she has been a huge advocate and supporter of the health and wellness efforts of the Tribe. Spoor has hired bilingual staff and made sure that materials of the department are translated for the local Southeast Asian and growing Hispanic populations.

Spoor engages the help of the community to prevent potential problems. Local businesswoman Sharon Rockett worked with her to found "HUGS," a non-profit foundation to provide programs for children in the community. Rockett said, "Kathy has written several grants that have funded daycare and

school facilities, a skate park, and two playgrounds. I stand in awe of her capacity to make things happen."

Spoor is also one of 33 semi-finalists for the nationwide Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program. This national award honors ten outstanding individuals who overcome daunting odds to expand access to health care and social services to underserved and isolated populations in communities across the United States. Each is awarded \$120,000, of which \$105,000 is designated for program support to strengthen and sustain their work in their local community and \$15,000 is a personal stipend for study and personal growth. Nominees must be catalysts for change and have significant impact upon the larger community. Spoor should know the outcome about mid-May.

Clearly, Kathy Spoor is an outstanding example of the talented and dedicated individuals working for county government. Our congratulations to her on this outstanding achievement.

Training and Upcoming Events

Spring 2005 Western District Meeting Goes to the Mountains

The Spring Western District Meeting is heading to Mt. St. Helens for a volcanic eruption of a good time. The District Meeting will be held June 9 – 10 at the Kelso Red Lion. Please join us for a rousing and informative meeting capped by a grand tour of Mt. St. Helens and a barbeque dinner at Cowlitz County's very own Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center. Hoffstadt is situated on the edge of the South Fork of the Toutle River Valley where it has an expansive view of the mountain and the valley below. The valley is often frequented by elk herds grazing near the banks of the streams below.

The District Meeting's agenda is packed with informative panels with all the latest news from Olympia on elections, transportation, the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee and water quality. In addition, WSAC staff will provide a legislative wrap-up covering the hot items that we were successful in getting enacted during the 2005 session such as mental health funding and reform, expansion of substance abuse treatment, court funding and indigent defense, continued public health funding, chronic homelessness funding, and more. We are hopeful we can announce success in obtaining funds for low tax-base counties and a successful transportation budget as well. We've also invited the new Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services Robin Arnold-Williams to speak at lunch on Thursday and are hopeful she will be able to fit us into her schedule. And finally we've allowed time for the members to have a roundtable discussion among themselves to air their concerns and particular areas of interest.

Registration materials and a draft agenda will be arriving soon. Please complete them as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Ginni Peppert or Jean Wessman, WSAC staff. **Note:** the Western District will be electing a new Secretary-Treasurer at this meeting. If you are interested, get those campaign speeches and a nominating member ready. *Please join us in Kelso on June 9 – 10.*

2005 Spring Eastern District Meeting Goes to the Banks of the Mighty Columbia River

Come one, come all to the 2005 Spring Eastern District Meeting at the Red Lion Columbia Center in Kennewick on May 19 – 20 just a short walk away from the Columbia River. The Eastern District Meeting will highlight an ample amount of time on Thursday for roundtable discussions among the members to voice their favorite issues. Thursday will also include a panel representing the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC) including members from Walla Walla County who can inform the group on how this mouthful of a name actually can work to streamline your local permitting processes to make both you and your constituents much happier. Right after lunch on Thursday, WSAC staff will brief the members on the hopefully recently concluded 2005 Legislative Session and our successes in bringing home both money and good policy for you. This will include mental health reform and funding, expanded substance abuse treatment, court funding and indigent defense, public health funding, chronic homelessness funding and many more. We are hopeful we can announce success in obtaining funds for low tax-base counties and the transportation budget as well. In addition, there will be presentations from the U.S. Office of Defense Preparedness out of Austin, Texas and your own Washington State Emergency Management Association plus a continuation of the informative workshop on Rural Economic Development facilitated by Victor Vasquez from the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development on Friday morning.

Our entertainment highlight for Thursday night will be an evening at the world famous Hedges Winery. This will include wine-tasting and dinner. The registration packets have been sent out so you have no excuses for not completing them and returning them to WSAC. Also, please think about the topics you would like to cover during roundtable and give your Eastern District officers a call - Greg Partch, Whitman County, Merrill Ott, Stevens County, or Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan County. If you have any questions, please contact Ginni Peppert or Jean Wessman, WSAC staff. *We're looking forward to seeing you in Kennewick on May 19 – 20.*

Training and Upcoming Events (continued)

NEW CPO WEBSITE!

All information about the program can now be found online at <http://www.cpoprogram.org>. Please check back frequently for updates and changes to the course calendar. In our efforts to give notice about training, courses may be added or changed. Program Manager Julie Kaufman maintains this site, so email her with any questions/comments. *If you are in need of transcripts for previously taken courses, please email the program manager.*

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS HERE...

Register now for April 19 County Budget and April 20 Human Resources, both in Union Gap, Washington. Please visit the website for complete information.

Dates & Locations

April 19 - County Budget: Making Money Work

April 20 - Human Resources: Understanding the Legal Issues of Managing Public Employees

About these Workshops

Registration check-in: 8:30 - 9:00 am

The Program: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

April 19 - County Budget: Making Money Work

The field of local government is challenging, requiring current job knowledge and constant skill refinement in order to provide the public with the best service possible. A key to success is making the county budget work. This training will provide essential information to equip you to meet the demands of your position. Through lecture, small group discussion and activities you will learn more about county government budget.

TOPICS

- County budget basics including budget facts, planning and forecasting, preparation and administration
- County revenue sources, restrictions, fund balance, and forecasting techniques
- Capital budget requirements and techniques

INSTRUCTOR

Glenn Olson, Office of Budget and Information Service Director, Clark County. Glenn's practical approach to county budget has an effective impact on participants.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

April 20 - Human Resources: Understanding the Legal Issues of Managing Public Employees

This CPO training will provide you with the skills needed to effectively manage personnel while minimizing the risk that your county and/or you will be sued. The laws relating to public employment have changed dramatically over the last decade and the risks associated with non-compliance have also increased substantially.

TOPICS

- How to take personnel actions while minimizing employment discrimination challenges.
- What is an "employee with a disability" and what must be done to provide accommodation?
- The "dos and don'ts" of hiring employees.
- How to effectively conduct performance evaluations.
- How to investigate and document in order to make discipline and discharge decisions stand up.
- Personnel files – who do they belong to and what access to them is required
- Attendance issues, including FMLA requirements.
- How to successfully work with unions.
- The HR function: Do you need an HR Department? In County government, who is the employer?

Training and Upcoming Events (continued)

INSTRUCTOR

Bruce Schroeder, an attorney with the Summit Law Group is a frequent speaker at Human Resource conferences and training events in Washington. He is knowledgeable on a wide range of employment and labor relations issues and is an accomplished trainer. Bruce is well known for his practical, common sense approach to tough personnel issues. He represents a number of county and city jurisdictions on labor and employment issues.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

County elected officials, department heads and senior management staff. This course is offered as a "Core Course" for the Certified Public Official Program (CPO). Four (4) core credits will be given to those completing the course. All county officials are encouraged to attend any CPO course that meets your individual training needs even if you do not plan to pursue certification.

LOCATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

The workshop programs will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Registration check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.

April 19 AND April 20 site

Yakima Valley Restitution Center

2403 S 18th St
Union Gap, WA 98903
Phone 509-574-2830

Directions:

Exit I-82 South at Valley Mall Blvd in right lane. Turn right on Rudkin Rd, left on Rainier PL, and right on to S. 18th St

REGISTRATION AND FEES

The workshop registration fee is **\$120** per person, which includes the cost of meals, refreshments and workshop materials. Please register by April 15. Registration information is available through our website <http://www.cpoprogram.org>

CERTIFICATION CREDITS

The Certified Public Officials (CPO) Program was designed in response to Washington State County Officials' request for training and continuing education. The CPO Program was developed in collaborative partnership with agencies committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of elected and appointed county officials in Washington State.

Calendar of Events

<u>APRIL 2005</u>			
Washington STATE	Sine Die - 59 th Legislative Session Ends	April 25	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Spring Training Program	La Quinta Inn, Tacoma	April 27-29	(360) 753-2175
<u>MAY 2005</u>			
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys-Support Enforcement 2005 Training	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	May 2-6	(360) 753-3953
WA State Association of County Auditors' Elections Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	May 9-12	(360) 753-7319
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Support Staff Training Program	WestCoast Ridpath Hotel, Spokane	May 11-13	(360) 753-2175
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) - Collision Investigation 2005	La Quinta Inn & Suites/Conference Center, Tacoma	May 17	(360) 586-7447
Assn of County Human Services	Kennewick	May 18-20	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Spring Eastern District	Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center, Kennewick	May 19-20	(360) 753-1886
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) - Collision Investigation 2005	Best Western Lake Inn & Conference Center, Moses Lake	May 19	(360) 586-7447
WA State Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs' Spring Conference	Coast Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23-26	(360) 486-2380
NACo – Western Interstate Region Conference	Tacoma, WA	May 25 - 27	http://www.naco.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About_NACo/Committees_and_Caucuses/Western_Interstate_Region/Western_Interstate_Region_Intro.htm
MEMORIAL DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	May 30	(360) 753-1886
<u>JUNE 2005</u>			
WA State Assn of Local Public Health Officials	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	June 1 – 2	(360) 753-1886
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) District Court Training Program	Holiday Inn Select, Renton	June 2 - 3	(360) 753-2175
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' Annual Conference	Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 5-9	(360) 753-7319
WSAC Spring Western District	Red Lion Hotel, Kelso	June 9 - 10	www.wacounties.org/wsac
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual June Conference	Ellensburg Inn, Ellensburg	June 13-15	(360) 753-7319

Calendar of Events (continued)

Washington State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference	Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center, Walla Walla	June 14-16	(360) 753-7319
Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' (WACME) Annual Conference & Training	Campbell's Lodge, Chelan	June 20-21	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference	Red Lion Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale	June 20-24	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Annual Conference	Clarion Hotel, Yakima	June 20-24	(360) 753-7319
Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) Annual Conference	Tri-Cities	June 21-24	(360) 753-7319
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Summer Training Program	Campbell's Lodge, Lake Chelan	June 22-24	(360) 753-2175
National Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference	Louisville, Kentucky	June 25-29	(360) 753-7319
Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Annual Conference	San Antonio, Texas	June 26-29	(360) 753-7319
International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers' (IACREOT) 34th Annual Conference	New York, New York	June 29 – July 6	(360) 397-2003 or joanne.mcbride@clark.wa.gov
<u>JULY 2005</u>			
INDEPENDENCE DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	July 4	(360) 753-1886
2 nd Annual Pend Oreille Valley Lavendar Festival	Pend Oreille County	July 9-10	http://www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us/
Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Annual Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 13-14	www.pria.us
National Association of Clerks, Recorders and Elections Officials (NACRC) Annual Conference (with NACo)	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 15-17	www.nacrc.org
National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 15-19	www.naco.org
National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA) Annual Summer Conference	Portland, Maine	July 17-20	(360) 753-7319