

the Courthouse Journal

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*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

**August 4, 2005
Issue No. 24**

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Courthouse Journal*

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**SAVE the DATE!!
Oct. 4 – 7, 2005**
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WACO

**Annual
Conference**
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**HILTON
Vancouver
Washington
360.993.4500**

**Watch for
Registration
Materials
August 16, 2005**

WSAC Annual Conference is Nearly Here

Registration materials are out and it's time for everyone to plan to attend this year's exciting 99th Annual Conference in Vancouver, Washington. The Conference is entitled "Working Together to Build a Better Future". It will be held at the brand new Hilton Vancouver Washington from September 20 – 23, 2005. The title is inclusive of several important priorities of WSAC including the need to increase the involvement of our members in presenting WSAC priorities to key stakeholders, the exchange of successful strategies to meet local challenges between counties, and celebrating our successes in working together with our members, the legislature and the executive branch.

While the national and state economy is gradually improving, these remain challenging times for all levels of government. Both the state and counties face structural difficulties in our available revenue sources while the public sends mixed messages demanding additional services while limiting our ability to pay for them. Accountability to the public is even more important. Whether it is the Priorities of Government (POG), Government Management and Accountability Program (GMAP) or the new performance audit process, there will be an increase of these examinations of government programs and services to rebuild the public trust.

In addition, at the same time that we need to exchange best practices of serving the public among our peers to maximize those limited dollars and be as efficient as possible, it is equally important to recall why we entered public service and improve our skills at engaging our major funding partners. Along those lines, the Annual Conference is delighted to have a number of energetic keynote speakers such as Dr. Patt Schwab who will remind us of the need to retain humor in the workplace; Bruce Vincent of the national organization Provider Pals that introduces urban communities to the rural birthplace of agricultural and natural resource products; and Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams of DSHS discussing her new initiatives in social services in which counties play a key role.

Besides our outstanding keynote speakers, a variety of interactive workshops will engage the audience. These will range from **HB 2163**, the legislative mandate to reduce chronic homelessness; implementation of new court funding; exchanging jail solutions and challenges; building safer roads reducing both the human and financial cost to counties; the Northwest Area Foundation Washington grant to improve economic health in rural communities and the implementation of the POG process in local government to the challenging topic of where the urban growth area boundaries meet the need for

additional public schools.

Social highlights will occur throughout the conference with the President's Welcoming Reception Wednesday evening; a delightful

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.

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CPO PROGRAM

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dinner event at the historic Pearson Air Museum, the oldest operating air museum in the United States, which includes music from the big band era on Thursday evening and a variety of prize drawings; and an exhibitor fair filled with a variety of vendors offering key products to make your counties operate at their best and highest levels.

There will be an opportunity for a variety of roundtable discussions among the members and it is also planned that all the workshops will focus more on interaction with the audience than on just providing one-way speeches.

Note: This is also the time for elections for both the full Association and District officers. WSAC will be electing a new secretary-treasurer from the east side of the state as well as confirming the moving of existing officers up through the chairs. This holds true for both the Western and Eastern Districts. Candidates for either WSAC or District offices should let either Bill Vogler or Paul Parker know of their intentions and plan on getting a statement out to publish in the Courthouse Journal before the Conference. Remember, the Journal only comes out every two weeks, so plan the completion and submittal of your statement accordingly. The Journal will be published on August 19, September 2 and 16 before the Conference.

For the first time, all registrations are to be completed on-line at www.wacounties.org/wsac. The DRAFT Agenda (*subject to change*), Conference Information and Registration or Exhibitor Information and Registration are your available choices. If you have any problems

registering please call (509) 335-2811 or contact via e-mail - emmps@wsu.edu.

There are a variety of categories for registration and make sure you get the best prices simply by registering early.

If you have any questions regarding Agenda items please call Jean Wessman or Ginni Peppert, 360-753-1886.

We are very excited about the conference this year and encourage you to attend.

Skagit County Commissioner Appointed To Lead National Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Skagit County Commissioner Ted Anderson was appointed chairperson of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee. Newly elected NACo President and Umatilla County, Ore. Commissioner Bill Hansell appointed Anderson to the post at NACo's 2005 Annual Conference on July 19 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Public Lands Steering Committee deals with all matters relating to federally owned public lands, including tax immunity problems; shared natural resource payments; payments in lieu of taxes; and federal land management programs.

"Commissioner Anderson is an excellent addition to NACo's leadership team and will be a powerful advocate for public lands on Capitol Hill," NACo Executive Director Larry Naake said.

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

Elections, Licensing and Recording

WACO Candidate Filings

The following are WACO officials who are running for one-year unexpired terms this fall. (*Denotes incumbent)

Clallam County

Assessor:

Mike Hopf (acting assessor) (NP)
Pamela Rushton (NP)

Treasurer:

Judith Scott (NP)*

Cowlitz County

Assessor:

Terry McLaughlin (D)*

Clerk:

Roni Booth (D)*

Jefferson County

Clerk:

Ruth Gordon (D)*
Tammi Rubert (D)

Kittitas County

Auditor:

Jerry Pettit (D)*
Lisa Young (R)
Robert Eaton (R)

Lewis County

Sheriff:

Steve Mansfield (R)*

Spokane County

Assessor:

Ralph Baker (R)*

Election Workers Honored

Longview Daily News 7-20-05

Secretary of State Sam Reed honored local poll workers Tuesday,

and he and another top elections officials told them they still have jobs to do -- even though all Cowlitz County elections will be conducted by mail from now on.

"When I started working in elections, everyone voted at the polls," Reed told 75 poll workers honored at a reception hosted by Cowlitz County Auditor Kris Swanson. "It was a great neighborhood feeling, but our society and lifestyles have changed," he said. "It's sad in many ways. The ceremonial aspect of voting and the sense of community will be lost." However, Reed said, he believes new traditions will form. He believes families will come together to discuss issues and candidates and that people will gather to talk about voting issues. "In this day and age, voting by mail fits most people's lifestyles," he said.

State Elections Director Nick Handy joined Reed as a guest speaker, and he told workers they still have a job to do --- to help get people out to vote. "You have been on the front lines of democracy, and you can be ambassadors for elections."

Cowlitz County commissioners, on Swanson's recommendation, voted last month to conduct all future elections by mail, eliminating the need for dozens of poll workers to staff balloting places, check-off voters' names from precinct rosters and secure their ballots. Many

Cowlitz County poll workers have served in that capacity for decades. Virginia Parkhill, 76, of Kelso, worked her first election in 1949, when Harry Truman was president. "I remember there were lots of people (coming to the polls) and they all came in to vote," she said at the Tuesday reception, held at the Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center at the fairgrounds. She added that she remembered the days when ballots were counted by hand, not machine. Margaret Hamby of Longview said she started working at the polls in 1977. "I noticed there were no people of color doing positive things," said Hamby, who is black. "I wanted to do something just for my enrichment."

Swanson asked poll workers to share their memories, and she was peppered by several. "Do the voters realize they voted for Mickey Mouse more than any other person?" one poll worker quipped. Another worker said she was fascinated by the old poll books. One woman, she noted, started voting at 21 and never missed an election through many years. The worker said she was disappointed when the computerized sheets were introduced that eliminated that historical background. Hamby said working as a poll worker was a positive experience that she'll miss. "I feel like I've lost something, but I'm going to stay in touch," she said. "They're not going to get rid of me."

General Government Issues

Apply for Prestigious Innovations Award

Harvard University invites you to apply for the "Innovations in American Government Award".

Administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership

with the Council for Excellence in Government, the Innovations Award is heralded as the premier public-sector award in the nation. It is given annually to programs that serve as examples of creative and effective government at its best.

All units of government—federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial—within the United States are eligible

to apply.

Each of the winners of the 2006 Innovations Award will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities.

Applications and additional information are available at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu Applications are due by September 15, 2005.

Association News

Ending the Cycle of Recidivism...

Now Soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFP) from NACo Member Counties!

Second Year Funding for the Seed Grants Program to Divert Mentally Ill Offenders from Jail to Treatment

NACo is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds for member counties to develop and/or expand programs that divert non-violent mentally ill offenders from jails to community-based treatment. Please visit NACo's website, www.naco.org/tchassistance in the Criminal Justice section to download the RFP guidelines and application or contact Lesley Buchan at (202) 942-4261 or lbuchan@naco.org for assistance/more information.

Remember your efforts to begin or expand a program to address mentally ill offenders will serve to improve services to individuals with mental illness, save county dollars, and improve public safety.

Proposals due by September 9, 2005. Apply today!

WACO Distinguished Service Award Nominations Open

Nomination forms for the 2005 WACO Distinguished Service Award are currently available from the WACO office. This award was created in 1985 to recognize retired or former county officials who have made outstanding contributions to county government and to their communities. WACO members may nominate any former WACO member whether or not they are from the same county.

To qualify for the Distinguished Service Award, a nominee must be a former WACO member, out of county government five or more years, and must have served in office a minimum of five years. In addition, consideration will be given to innovations and contributions that the nominee has made within their county; participation in WACO; various committees and organizations in which they were involved (local, state, association or national levels); affiliate participation; and community service. There is a point system consisting of 10 points for each

category, and 40 points are needed to qualify for the award. Only one award will be presented in a given year.

Please contact WACO office to obtain a nomination form. Completed forms must be mailed back to WACO, marked AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE, no later than **AUGUST 31**. Qualifying nominations will be reviewed by the Award Selection Committee. If there is an award winner, he or she will be honored at the Annual WACO Conference, in Vancouver, the first week of October.

All nominations will remain confidential.

Assessors Attend Conference in Spokane Next Week

The Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA), will hold its 108th Annual Conference in Spokane, August 8-11. Their host, Spokane County Assessor Ralph Baker, has an interesting and informative agenda planned. Presentations will include a report by the State Board of Tax Appeals, the Secretary of State's Office on

Association News (continued)

digital archives, further discussion on the next generation of the digital office, public disclosure laws and what they mean to assessors, automation of designated forest and open space timber using GIS, and the advantages and disadvantages of an annual revaluation cycle. Several panel discussions including valuing low income housing and new annexations and de-annexations will also take place. It should be a great event.

Clark County First to Join NACo Courthouse Campaign

By: Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Community Svcs Associate

Clark County is the first county in

the state of Washington to join the National Association of Counties' (NACo) ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign. The county joins 43 other counties throughout the nation in addressing energy efficiency in county-owned buildings through this program. Enhancing the energy usage of county buildings saves taxpayer dollars and helps the environment. By participating in this voluntary, cost-free program, NACo will assist Clark County in assessing the current energy performance of the county's facilities and in determining what energy efficient improvements are beneficial next steps.

The county will have the

opportunity to take advantage of NACo's online trainings, educational resources, and nationwide peer-to-peer networking. NACo also assists participating counties in joining the national ENERGY STAR program in order to benchmark against other similar buildings. Following that step, NACo and the county can work together to earn an ENERGY STAR label for one or more of the county's courthouses or office buildings.

To learn more about the NACo ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign or to join the County Energy Efficiency Network, please contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org or 202.942.4224.

Boards and Commissions

Transit Mobility Advisory Openings

The Office of Transit Mobility is requesting participation on two committees from WSAC members. They would like to have at least one representative from the counties for each of the committees, and if there is interest up to two on each. The difference in the work of the committees is that the Advisory Committee will be more of the policy oriented group suitable for a county elected official, while the grant technical work group will focus more on the evaluation and prioritization process of the grants program suitable for perhaps a public works director. For individuals who would need to travel, there is some travel expense reimbursement and the potential to participate via conference call when

traveling is not an option.

Advisory Committee

Initially, the Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to the Governor and department to identify the following:

- > Identifying interim goals for the Office of Transit Mobility;
- > Measurable performance objectives for the Office and the grant program;
- > Confirm interim criteria for the first year grants.

After the first of the year, the Advisory Committee will continue to meet to:

- > Formulate recommendations for the 2006 Office of Transit Mobility strategic business plan and final grant criteria;
- > Provide advice and recommendations on a quarterly

basis on the implementation of the business plan and grant program.

Grant Technical Work Group

The work group will meet to provide recommendations on the structure and policies by which the Regional Mobility Grant Program should be guided for the first cycle of grants. The Grant Technical Work Group will suggest initial grant criteria and will recommend evaluation and prioritization processes for grant applications.

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees please e-mail your letter of interest to Barbara Warden, bwarden@wacounties.org. If you have questions please call (360) 753-1886.

Training and Upcoming Events

CPO Training in Spokane

There's still room...REGISTER NOW for Aug 24th Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool Details available through our website: <http://www.cpoprogram.org>

Aug 24th - Ethical Dilemmas

4 Core Credits

Cost: \$120

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Through lecture and small group discussion, case studies and group activities, participants review the ethical environment within which public officials must function as well as the standards they are expected to meet. This training provides both new and seasoned elected officials and public administrators with an understanding of statutory standards, core principles and the ability to apply these principles in their own county organization.

- Enhance knowledge of the foundations of Ethics
- Discuss Ethical Sources and approaches
- Provide simple Decision-making models
- Increase awareness of problems and responses
- Core Principles (simple rules) involved in ethical behaviors for public officials
- Conflict of Interest issues
- Personal advantage/gain

Courthouse Ramblings

Dr. Barry Logan, Director of the Washington State Patrol Forensic Services Laboratory Bureau, has announced that Ken McDermott, currently the chemistry supervisor in the Kelso Crime Lab, has been named as manager of the newly constructed Vancouver Crime Laboratory. The lab will open in a few weeks.

Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander paid his first-ever visit to Pend Oreille County last week. The invitation to visit was extended to the Justice by County Clerk Fawn Opp. Justice Alexander was in that part of the state attending the 9th U.S. Circuit Court Judicial Conference in Spokane.

Mason County Coroner Martha Reed and Douglas County Sheriff Dan LaRoche were seen making the best of a bad situation last Sunday as they shared a "chemo" session at a Seattle Hospital. Sheriff LaRoche will undergo a stem cell transplant this Friday while Martha is waiting for a bone marrow transplant. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers and want them back among us soon!

San Juan County Commissioner Rhea Miller will be resigning her public office as of July 31, 2005.

"Life's opportunities do not always coincide with elected terms of office," stated Commissioner Miller. "I have been honored to serve in public office for 10 1/2 years. It's been an

incredible experience. I have given it all I have to offer. I now need to take advantage of new opportunities coming my way."

Rhea Miller is currently in her third term as County Commissioner. "More than anything I have wanted to keep our communities healthy by supporting our working people, whether through resources for childcare and families, the owner-builder code, affordable housing, skate parks, the mobile processing unit, or water catchment. I have tried to listen and be fair, and yet make firm decisions - to hold the whole."

As a Commissioner she gained a national reputation for her work in making San Juan County the first jurisdiction to successfully ban jet skis. She has been recognized for her leadership on resource protection on "Good Morning America Sunday" and "CBS Sunday Morning." She was the keynote speaker for the national gathering of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1997. She serves as the Governor's appointee to the Puget Sound Council and served on the State and Federal Long Term Oil Spill Risk Management Panel. She was asked to testify for the Federal Ocean Commission and was a panelist at the Governor's Forum for a response to the Federal Ocean Commission Report. She has served on the Board of Directors for the North Sound Mental Health Administration for her 10 1/2 years and is proud to have succeeded in securing the Human Services Building in the former Windermere Building. She has also been the liaison for the County with the surrounding Tribes.

Commissioner Miller will be leaving for New Zealand on August

2nd at the invitation of the Waitaha, an indigenous people of New Zealand. A New Zealand agency has offered an expense paid trip and honorarium in November to conduct workshops on affordable housing and alternative techniques on building. There has been renewed interest in her book within the scientific community. She will also be accompanying the Waitaha in the Americas at a date yet to be announced.

Commissioner Miller recommends that the choice of her successor take into consideration several factors:

- 1) Be a strong presence - able to walk into any state office or any Congressional office or speak to any Department Head or Elected Official as a strong advocate for our citizens
- 2) Be a quick study - already steeped in community matters
- 3) Have the ability to listen to and relate to the broad spectrum of our community - to be a good steward of this community
- 4) Be dedicated to quality of life consistent with our citizens' vision statement
- 5) Be dedicated to maintaining families and diversity within our community
- 6) Be dedicated to the protection of our natural environment
- 7) Be fiscally responsible
- 8) Support appropriate economic development that sustains our agriculture, forest, and marine resources

Commissioner Miller expresses deep gratitude for her experience as an elected official in this wonderful County. She has great confidence in the remaining members of the Board of County Commissioners and the successor of their choice.

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>AUGUST 2005</u>			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	August 8-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Board Only 2006 Rate Setting	Prime Hotel at SeaTac (formerly Wyndham Gardens)	August 18	(360) 586-0466
Ethics – CPO Program	Spokane	August 24	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
Meet the Media – CPO Program	Spokane	August 25	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
<u>SEPTEMBER 2005</u>			
LABOR DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	September 5	(360) 753-1886
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Juvenile Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 11-13	(360) 753-2175
WA Finance Officers' Association (WFOA) Annual Conference	SeaTac	Sept. 13 -16	(360) 753-7319
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	Sept. 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpd
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Special Assault Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 14 -16	(360) 753-2175
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards & Insurance Advisory Committee	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 15	(360) 586-0466
International Association of Assessing Officers' (IAAO) Annual Conference	Anchorage, Alaska	Sept. 16-21	(360) 753-7319
13 th NW Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course & Equipment Exhibition	Seattle, WA - hosted by University of Washington	Sept. 19 - 20	Christy Roop Pack (206) 543-5539
WA State Assn of Local Public Health Officials	Hilton Vancouver Washington, Vancouver	Sept. 19 - 20	(360) 753-1886
Communicating with Generations – CPO Program	Hilton Vancouver Washington, Vancouver	Sept. 20	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
WSAC 99 th Annual Conference & Fall Western District	Hilton Vancouver Washington, Vancouver	Sept. 20 – 23	www.wacounties.org/wsac
Assn of County Human Services	Hilton Vancouver Washington, Vancouver	Sept. 21 - 23	(360) 753-1886
<u>OCTOBER 2005</u>			
Washington Association of County Officials' Annual Conference	Hilton Vancouver Washington, Vancouver	October 4–7	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) ACE Committee (HR & Payroll Only)	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	October 12	(360) 586-0466