

# the Courthouse Journal

W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

May 10, 2007  
Issue No. 17

Inside the  
Courthouse Journal

Courts, Public Safety, Law  
& Justice  
Pages 2-3

Boards & Commissions  
Page 3

General Government Issues  
Pages 4-5

Public Health & Human  
Services  
Page 5

Association News  
Pages 5-6

Training & Upcoming  
Events  
Page 6

Attachments  
Page 7

Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties

## Registration Open for WSAC Joint Summer District Meeting

WSAC's Joint District Meeting, June 19-22 in Walla Walla, is a new event to bring commissioners and council members together to discuss district-specific and shared issues. County engineers and planners will also hold meetings in conjunction with the Joint District Meeting. The meeting is sponsored by the Washington Counties Insurance Fund.

Register at: <http://wacounties.org/wsac/conference.htm>. The agendas will be refreshed on the site as details are confirmed. Costs are: WSAC Member - **Early Fee** before June 5 - \$275, after June 5 - \$305; Non-Member/State Employee - **Early Fee** before June 5 - \$325, after June 5 - \$355.

Eastern and Western District discussions on Growth Management, Water Rights and Management, Transportation, and Climate Change Initiatives are among those planned along with leadership development activities. "Class of..." breakfasts for commissioners and council members will allow those who entered office at the same time to compare notes.

A golf tournament, hosted by the Walla Walla Commissioners Office, is planned for June 19; separate registration is required via a link on the registration webpage.

The WSAC Annual Conference, with affiliate meetings and a vendor exhibition, will be held in Clark County in November.



Photo: Stacy Shipp, Code Compliance Officer, Walla Walla County Community Development Department

**Want to post a job announcement on our webpage?**

E-mail your info: Subject – “**JOBS - WA Counties**” to [bwarden@wacounties.org](mailto:bwarden@wacounties.org)

**What information do you need to include in your e-mail?**

Visit [Employment Opportunities](#)

## **The Courthouse Journal**

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the **Washington Association of County Officials** (WACO) <http://wacounties.org/waco> and the **Washington State Association of Counties** (WSAC) <http://wacounties.org/wsac>

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501 or [wacounties.org](http://wacounties.org)

**WACO** - (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

**Debbie Wilke**, Executive Director  
**Christina Bridston**, Deputy Director  
**Robin Chase**, Financial Operations Manager  
**Bob Carlton**, Research Associate  
**Kathleen Houts**, Administrative Assistant

**WSAC** - (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

**Bill Vogler**, Executive Director

### *Executive Staff*

**Eric Johnson**, Assistant Executive Director  
**Trina Bannister**, Finance Director  
**Michelle Zahrlly**, Communications Director

### *Policy Staff*

**Sophia Byrd McSherry**, Policy Director-  
*Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice*  
**Jean Wessman**, Policy Director-  
*Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing*  
**Julie Murray**, Policy Director-  
*Transportation, Finance & Budget*  
**Vicki Kirkpatrick**, Public Health Policy Director  
& WSALPHO Administrator  
**Brad Banks**, Policy Analyst  
**Tom Robinson**, Timber Program Manager

### *Operations Staff*

**Ginni Peppert**, Member Services Coordinator  
**Barbara Warden**, Member Services Coordinator  
**Justin Kerrihard**, Technology Manager  
**Beth Dubey**, Member Services Assistant

### **Certified Public Officials Program (CPO)**

**Vacant**, Program Manager  
<http://www.cpoprogram.org/>

# **Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice**

## **Increased Juror Pay Experiment to Continue**

*by Kristin M. Kraemer, Tri-City Herald, May 6th, 2007*

A trial run to see if more Franklin County jurors report for service when they're getting \$60 a day versus \$10 will be extended an additional four months with the passage of the state budget.

The Washington Legislature has set aside \$325,000 to continue the pilot project through October in Franklin and Clark counties and Des Moines Municipal Court. The project initially was funded for eight months -- from Nov. 1 to June 30 -- with \$569,453 for implementation and research. Coordinators say a year should make the study more complete and give them a better idea of whether more money affects the number of citizens showing up to do their civic duty and the diversity of the jury pool in terms of age, class and ethnicity.

"In all three counties, clerks are telling us that they just have happier people reporting. People don't seem so disgruntled with the idea that it may kill today, as well as tomorrow," said Jenni Christopher with the Washington State Center for Court Research. Christopher is the lead researcher on the project. "There seems to be a good impression out there, but all anecdotal at this point."

The Legislature adjourned last month. Gov. Chris Gregoire is expected to sign the budget May 15, said a governor's office spokesman.

Potential jurors are selected from a Franklin County database of 48,165 names from voter registrations and state driver's licenses and identification cards. Some people become upset when asked to put their children into day care, shutter their small businesses or miss work -- occasionally with the loss of their paycheck -- for days or even weeks for \$10 a day plus mileage.

The hope is that the higher stipend will motivate more people to serve and help criminal defendants or parties in a civil case get a jury that represents the county population. The \$10 daily rate was established by state law in 1959, though some counties have opted to raise the amount as high as \$25. Franklin and Benton counties have kept it at the minimum amount. Walla Walla County compensates jurors \$25 a day.

The \$10 rate is widely considered unacceptable for citizens who are relied upon to make important decisions about law, business practice and criminal matters. Laura Stark, jury manager for the Franklin County Clerk's Office, said she is pleased with the project's extension but would like to see the increased pay made permanent for all courts. "It's less of a financial burden for some folk and I think that is important. I don't think your civic duty should be a financial burden for you or your family," she said. "If this can lessen that for some folks, then I think that is great."

Jurors who report for duty have been asked to complete a 20-question survey for the state Administrative Office of the Courts, which asks if the daily amount they are being paid is too much, about right or too little and what they think is reasonable. Christopher said that has provided researchers with some basic background information on the jurors. But what researchers really are waiting for is to compare data from the early stages of the pilot project to the last three months.

Another big piece of the study will start Nov. 1 when Washington State University will assist in a telephone survey, calling a sample pool of jurors

who served under the increased stipend. University folks earlier did an attitude survey of jurors who got \$10 a day.

Questions range from the person's understanding of how the jury system fits into society to what they see as the impediments to serving, Christopher said. The data then will be put into a report comparing the juror yield -- of the number summoned for service, what percentage actually reported and served -- with the hypothesis that a larger percentage turned out for \$60, Christopher said. The report also will address the attitude survey and how well the jurors who served in the three participating courts represented their communities, she said.

The report will be distributed to a number of court committees, including the Board for Judicial Administration, which is comprised of judges from all levels who serve at the direction of the Washington State Supreme Court. Christopher, speaking optimistically, said if the results are as expected, the report will be advanced to the Legislature. However, it may have to wait a year because the report likely will be completed in early 2008 in the middle of the next legislative session, unless policymakers streamline the proposal. "It's a pretty strong feeling that it will make a difference...," she said. "It would sure be nice if it translates to some ongoing remuneration."

## **An Invitation to Discuss Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders in the Community**

In **SSB 6325**, the 2006 Legislature directed the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to work with other stakeholder groups to develop "consensus statewide standards, along with any consensus recommendations and proposed legislation" regarding local zoning restrictions on where sex offenders can reside. Pending development of consensus statewide standards, the bill pre-empted local authority to limit where registered sex offenders who have been released from custody may live in a community.

WSAC is one of the stakeholder groups, and representatives of WSAC are invited to a first meeting of all the stakeholder groups Wednesday, June 13, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Tacoma Convention Center, Room 405. Please let WSAC policy director Sophia Byrd McSherry know if you plan to attend the June 13 meeting.

Also, because there are potentially a wide variety of subjects associated with this topic, AWC is asking stakeholders to submit a list of discussion items related to sex offender residency restrictions prior to the meeting. Please submit your discussion ideas to Sophia at WSAC ([sbyrd@wacounties.org](mailto:sbyrd@wacounties.org)) or directly to AWC at [tammyf@awcnet.org](mailto:tammyf@awcnet.org) by June 1. AWC will compile a packet of discussion items and distribute back to the stakeholder groups in advance of the June 13 meeting.

AWC previously convened a city-only work group to discuss this issue, which caught the Legislature's attention last year after several cities had adopted zoning ordinances that arguably "zoned out" all registered sex offenders from the residential areas of the city.

## **Governor to Sign Offender Re-entry Bill May 15**

Governor Chris Gregoire is scheduled to sign **SB 6157**, the offender re-entry bill, Tuesday, May 15. The signing will take place at 11:30 a.m. at the Lakewood City Hall, at 6000 Main Street S.W. in Lakewood.

---

# **Boards & Commissions**

---

## **May 25 deadline for NACo 2007-08 Presidential Appointment Applications**

NACo President-elect Eric Coleman will soon make his presidential appointments for 2007-2008 Steering Committee Leadership. Chair, Vice-Chair, and Sub-committee chair positions are available in a variety of public policy areas and for at-large positions, standing committees and ad-hoc appointments.

The [application form](#) on NACo's website ([http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Presidential\\_Appointments&Template=/cfiles/surveys/presidential/AppointmentForm.cfm](http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Presidential_Appointments&Template=/cfiles/surveys/presidential/AppointmentForm.cfm)) is due May 25. **It is important to note that current WSAC members who serve in NACo leadership positions MUST reapply in order to be considered for continued service.**

Please consider applying for one or more of these leadership roles; Washington State counties have had good representation in our national organization and we hope to continue the strong tradition.

For those who are interested in serving on a NACo Steering Committee, but not in a leadership role, please look for information about that application process in the next issue of Courthouse Journal.

---

## General Government Issues

---

### Grants Available for Local Public Records

Recently, the Washington State Archives, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, announced the 2007-2009 cycle of the Local Records Grant Program. These competitive grants are available to local government agencies to improve the management of their public records. Previously awarded grants have supported the implementation of records management programs, inventories, and preservation of archival and essential records through scanning, microfilming, acquiring metal shelving and archival storage boxes.

"It is imperative we preserve and protect public records for future generations. I look forward to working with local government to permanently safeguard these records," said Secretary of State Sam Reed.

"Thanks to the Archives Oversight Committee, this year we will double the amount of grant monies available, and will award close to \$900,000," noted State Archivist Jerry Handfield.

Along with the increase in grant funds, the Committee also approved increases in the maximum award amounts for this grant cycle and made a change to the Express Grant. Express Grants, available to jurisdictions with populations smaller than 20,000, were split into two categories: an Express Imaging Grant with an award maximum of \$10,000 and an Express Equipment Grant with a maximum of \$7,500. An eligible jurisdiction can apply for one or both of the Express Grants, or the Regular Grant. The Regular Grant maximum is now \$30,000 and all eligible local government jurisdictions may apply for a Regular Grant regardless of size.

Grants training workshops will be held at each of the Regional Branch Archives starting mid May, 2007. Applications must be postmarked by July 13, 2007.

For more information, contact your local Regional Branch Archivist or Julie Woods, Local Records Grants Coordinator at 360-586-0108 ([jwoods.secstate.wa.gov](mailto:jwoods.secstate.wa.gov).)



### NACo's Retirement Plan for Counties Beats Competitors on Fixed-Option Returns

by Lisa Cole, Director, Enterprise Services

Reprinted from National Association of Counties, [www.countynews.org](http://www.countynews.org) Vol. 38 No. 24 • December 25, 2006

NACo's deferred compensation program, administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS), placed first among its competitors for its return on the fixed-return investment option offered to county employees, according to a study conducted by an independent consulting firm.

The NACo program offers county employees the opportunity to earn an investment return at a fixed rate that is established quarterly by Nationwide. In addition, on an annual basis, Nationwide sets an investment rate minimum (or floor) for the year.

The report was released at the fall meeting of NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, held in Franklin County, Ohio. This study has been conducted every year since 1989, and the NACo program has always come out on top. "The study results show that we continue to provide county employees the best retirement program in the country. We are delighted that our 26-year partnership with NRS continues to deliver such a quality program," said Larry Naake, NACo executive director.

Released recently, the competitive interest rate test concluded that Nationwide met its contractual requirement to equal or exceed the top one-third of its competitors. This study reviewed the fixed annuity option offered by Nationwide and its nine largest competitors.

In addition to evaluating the competitiveness of the fixed option offered to county employees, the consultants also reviewed the creditworthiness of Nationwide Insurance and concluded that it is a strong, stable insurer. This part of the analysis provides assurance that participants' funds are being managed by a financially sound organization.

The consultant study is only one feature of NACo's deferred compensation program that distinguishes it from others. As a result of NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, the NACo program is the only one in the country

that receives oversight and is advised by county participants. It also benefits from the oversight and endorsement of 41 state associations of counties.

Deferred compensation is a voluntary retirement savings program that allows county employees to regularly save, on a pre-tax basis, for their futures.

For further information on NACo's Deferred Compensation program, please contact Lisa Cole at NACo at 202/942-4270 or [lcole@naco.org](mailto:lcole@naco.org) or NRS at 877/677-3678 or [www.nrsforu.com](http://www.nrsforu.com).

---

## ***Public Health & Human Services***

---

### **Julie Graham, Public Information Manager for the Spokane Regional Health District to Educate about Bird Flu in Asia**

Spokane's spokeswoman for public health has been chosen to spend at least three months in Southeast Asia helping to spread the word about potentially deadly bird flu. Julie Graham, public information manager for the Spokane Regional Health District, will leave next week to join an international team convened by the World Health Organization to coordinate communications in areas at highest risk for avian influenza.

Graham is expected to travel to several countries affected by the H5N1 virus that has infected 291 people and caused 172 deaths since 2003, according to the World Health Organization. Nine Asian countries have reported outbreaks of the disease, which has the potential to spread to humans, often with fatal results.

Graham will arrive May 11 in the Philippines and travel to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Malaysia. The selection reflects the high caliber of the staff working at the health district, said Mary Verner, chairwoman of the Spokane Regional Health District's Board of Health. Graham will return with practical knowledge about using communication tactics to contain the spread of illness during an outbreak.

Graham will work as a risk communications officer. Her duties will include training field staff to find the best ways to relate vital health information to diverse groups of people. That likely will include persuading villagers to take actions to prevent the spread of illness from family chickens, a common source of bird flu contamination.

Graham has spent a dozen years as a public information specialist in Spokane and has had national-level training, including work in pandemic risk communication with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

---

## ***Association News***

---

### **Endresen Leaves Office to Work for Cantwell Requiring Special Election for Her Replacement**

Kitsap County Commissioner and WSAC Vice President Chris Endresen has announced that she will resign from her seat as County Commissioner and go to work for Senator Maria Cantwell July 1, 2007. Senator Cantwell has asked Endresen to become her State Director and will supervise the district offices within the state. If you click on [http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN\\_19088\\_5512764,00.html](http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_5512764,00.html) you may read about the announcement in the Kitsap Sun; free subscription required to access the site.

Endresen was elected in 1996 and was completing her third term. She was a member of the first all-female board of county commissioners serving with Patty Lent and Jan Angel. Lent was defeated in her election bid last year and Angel has announced she will not seek reelection in 2008.

With Endresen leaving office the position of WSAC Vice President will become vacant at the end of June however the bylaws are less than clear on the replacement process.

The position held by Endresen was originally held by Glen Huntingford, Jefferson County Commissioner, until he lost his re-election bid in 2004. He was replaced by Carolyn Edmonds who lost her re-election bid in 2005. Endresen replace Edmonds in 2006. This has all resulted in the last two presidents being from eastern Washington and possibly for a third consecutive time if Secretary-Treasurer Mary Hunt moves up.

The Bylaws spell out two requirements. Article 5.2 provides that the secretary-treasurer shall succeed the vice president. Article 5.6 provides that a candidate for vice-president shall be from the opposite side of the state as the president. The specific language of the two bylaws follow:

Article 5.2 of the WSAC bylaws states that, "If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer shall succeed to that office. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Secretary-Treasurer the following procedure shall apply:

(a) If the vacancy occurs within sixty days of a regular general membership meeting, an election to fill the vacancy will be held at that meeting.

(b) If the vacancy occurs more than sixty days in advance of a regular general membership meeting, the Board shall appoint a successor to serve until the next regular general membership meeting, at which meeting an election will be held.

Succession to an unexpired term shall not affect the officer's eligibility to be elected to a full term." Article 5.6 states that "Candidates for the office of Vice President must reside on the opposite side of the Cascade Mountains from the candidates for the office of President."

As a result of this conflict in the bylaws the Board of Directors will make an interpretation for clarification at their Board Retreat on May 24, 2007 and send out a notice to all members the following week. The notice will determine if a western or eastern district member will fill the vice president position which will then determine whether there will be a resulting vacancy in the secretary-treasurer position.

---

## **Training & Upcoming Events**

---

### **Washington Counties – Full Calendar of Events**

<http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events-WEB.htm>

### **Mark Your Calendars - WSAC Announces the 2007 Regional Forums**

In anticipation of the next meeting of the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee, WSAC will be holding four Regional Forums to hear and discuss what issues members are most interested in and concerned about. ALL MEMBERS are welcome and encouraged to attend these Forums. In an effort to be as accessible to as many people as possible, the Forums will be held in Stevens, Franklin, Skagit and Cowlitz counties. Please find the dates and locations below:

#### **Northeast Regional LSC Forum**

**May 16 (Wednesday)** Stevens County  
**10:00 a.m. to Noon** Park Place Restaurant  
995 S Main Street, Colville, WA

#### **Southeast Regional LSC Forum**

**May 18 (Friday)** Franklin County  
**10:00 a.m. to Noon** Commissioner's Chambers (*Courthouse*)  
1016 N 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pasco, WA

#### **Northwest Regional LSC Forum**

**June 7 (Thursday)** Skagit County  
**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Commissioner's Hearing Room (*Separate from the Courthouse*)  
1800 Continental Place Suite 100, Mt. Vernon, WA

#### **Southwest Regional LSC Forum**

**June 8 (Friday)** Cowlitz County  
**10:00 a.m. to Noon** Conference Room B (*Courthouse - Room 109*)  
204 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Kelso, WA

Again, these Regional Forums are designed to promote discussion and communication between members, LSC and WSAC and everyone is invited to attend one or all of them. We look forward to seeing you there.

---

# Attachments

---

## Welcome to the U.S. Communities Purchasing & Finance Agency

**(U.S. Communities) website** <http://www.uscommunities.org/>

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), jointly sponsor the

### U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities)

Designed in cooperation with an Advisory Board of local government purchasing officials, U.S. Communities pools the purchasing power of public agencies, achieves bulk volume discounts on behalf of public agencies, competitively solicits quality products through a lead public agency and provides a purchasing forum for public agencies nationwide.

You can obtain information on how to contact all U.S. Communities suppliers by telephoning (866) 472-7467 or by sending an email to [info@uscommunities.org](mailto:info@uscommunities.org)

**U.S. Communities | 2175 North California Blvd., Suite 550, Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**(866) 472-7467 | [info@uscommunities.org](mailto:info@uscommunities.org)**

**©2003 U.S. Communities Purchasing and Finance Agency**



#### Founding Co-Sponsors



"Results from our internal customer satisfaction survey show that our customers want two things from Purchasing. First save us time in the procurement process and second save us money. When Kansas City, Missouri uses a U.S. Communities contract we save both time and money for our customers."

**Ray Burnett,  
Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies  
Kansas City, MO.**