

# the Courthouse Journal

[WACOUNTIES.ORG](http://WACOUNTIES.ORG)

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Courthouse Journal*

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

## WACO Conference Next Week

The 49th Annual Conference of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) will be held at Skamania Lodge, in Stevenson, October 1-5. The hotel room block is full; however rooms are available at the Bonneville Hot Springs Resort just minutes away. The phone number there is 1-866-459-1678. The program has been finalized and sent to all county officials. Details can be found on the WACO website at [www.wacounties.org/waco](http://www.wacounties.org/waco). In the event you need to reach the WACO staff during conference week please call the Skamania Lodge at (509) 427-7700 and ask for the WACO Registration desk. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Registration Open for 101<sup>st</sup> WSAC Annual Conference and Exhibitor Fair

Take advantage of Early Bird rates and secure your spot in Vancouver, Clark County for the WSAC Annual Conference and Exhibitor Fair November 13-16, 2007.

Online registration and the agenda are available at:

<http://wacounties.org/wsac/conference2.htm>

Affiliate groups joining County Commissioners and Council Members for conference sessions and meals include County Engineers, Clerks of the Board, Planners, Administrators and Washington State University Extension.

The keynote presenter will be **Elson S. Floyd**, President of Washington State University, who will speak about *Redefining the Land Grant Institution*. In May of this year, President Floyd took the helm of Washington State's land-grant research university. His message of focus and excellence for Washington State University, along with his ideas for strengthening the county relationship, should be inspiring and interesting.



Three tracks are scheduled to allow for in-depth exploration of these issues: Transportation, Law & Justice, and Land Use. We encourage you to send more than one representative from your county, so that you may participate in more than one track and to take back as much information and as many ideas as possible.

**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 98501or [wacounties.org](http://wacounties.org)

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<http://www.cpoprogram.org/>

We already have 28 vendors confirmed for the Exhibitor Fair, with a wide variety of products and services of interest to counties. The list of exhibitors is published at the web link above.

Join us for the **Opening Reception** Tuesday evening at historic Hamilton Hall on the Fort Vancouver National Historic Reserve. Take some time to **explore Clark County** with your colleagues on Thursday afternoon. And don't forget the **Prize Drawing** at the close of the conference on Friday morning.

Looking forward to seeing you in Clark County!

Thanks to our sponsors: *Washington Counties Insurance Fund* and *Waste Management*.

## **WSAC President Bowman Accepts Challenge from WACO President Rick Bart for Scholarship Fund Raising**

Rick Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff and WACO President, has issued a challenge to Leo Bowman, Benton County Commissioner and WSAC President, to try and beat the amount of donations to the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund for the 2008 awards.

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund is a private non-profit corporation created in 1993 for the sole purpose of offering scholarships to students of county employees. Most of the funding has come from donations by county officials and department heads as well as an annual contribution from Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the NACo and WSAC sponsored deferred compensation retirement plan in most counties. Sixty-six students have received \$125,000 during the past 14 years.

Currently the Sheriffs have raised \$1,500 and the County Clerks \$829. The fundraising will begin in earnest this next week at the WACO Annual Conference and end at the WSAC Annual Conference in November.

Last year there were five scholarships for \$2,500 each.

President Bowman has challenged each member of the WSAC Board of Directors and will carry that challenge to the full membership. Each WSAC affiliate will also be asked to participate in the fund raising drive.

It is rumored that President Bowman will challenge the loser of the fundraising to a TASER contest just to take one for the team.

## **Nominations for WSAC Secretary-Treasurer Open to All WSAC Members**

A new Secretary-Treasurer will be elected at the Annual Conference November 13-16 in Vancouver. WSAC bylaws call for rotating the position from the eastern district and western district. This past year due to the vacancy created by Chris Endresen leaving as Kitsap County Commissioner and WSAC Vice President, Mary Hunt moved up to the Vice President's position and Lynda Ring-Erickson was elected Secretary Treasurer in Walla Walla during the Joint Summer District Meeting.

This means that the secretary-treasurer shall be elected from the Eastern District this November.

Listed below are the statements from two announced candidates, Ron Gamache, Yakima County Commissioner, and Merrill Ott, Stevens County Commissioner.

If any member wants to run for office they may circulate their statement in the *Courthouse Journal*.

**Statement of Interest from Ronald Gamache, Yakima County Commissioner**

This letter should serve to inform you of my interest in the position of Secretary/Treasurer for 2008.

I am interested in this position and, since I am no longer farming, I would be available and able to perform duties as needed and required. I feel that I am qualified and would be able to commit as much time and effort needed to fulfill this important position with our state.

I will be announcing my candidacy for another term as Yakima County Commissioner in 2008.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ronald F. Gamache, Commissioner  
Board of Yakima County Commissioners

**Statement of Interest from Merrill Ott, Stevens County Commissioner**

Greetings Fellow Commissioners and Council Members,

Many of you are already aware that I am running for Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington Association of Counties. The election will be held in November at the WSAC Conference in Vancouver, WA. I hope you'll be there.

Over the past five years, I've been actively involved in WSAC, and am currently co-chairing the Legislative Steering Committee in the second year of that duty. It has been my honor to serve in this capacity, sharing the duties during the first year with Commissioner Don Munks of Skagit County, and now with Commissioner Lynda Ring-Erickson of Mason County. I also currently chair the Commissioner's Policy Advisory Group on Columbia River Program.

I have been and will continue to be a strong advocate of WSAC and for accomplishing the many and varied objectives that WSAC promotes. I am asking for your support to continue building the communication and credibility of WSAC with our legislators and other associations throughout the state, and the nation. I will continue to work hard to build relationships throughout our counties with issues that are rural and urban, rather than the controversial east-west divide that is has long separated us with an artificial constraint based upon the Cascade Divide.

I strongly believe that we, as county officials play a key part in the success or failure of this state's future. We must be engaged. We must actively seek positions of responsibility on various state boards and commissions to adequately represent our people. We must continue to build our own capacity to communicate effectively, implementing the laws as we must, but always building bridges for a better future.

I will listen to you and work hard for you. I appreciate your vote and full support at the November conference. If you have any questions for me, please don't hesitate to call.

Warm regards,  
Merrill Ott  
Stevens County Commissioner

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

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### **Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEBs)**

The State Auditor's Office and the Office of the State Actuary are eager to identify counties who offer benefits to retired employees in an attempt to develop a tool to assist them in reporting under the new requirements of GASB 45. To see if your county is on this list, please see the flyer attached to this newsletter.

Following are clips taken from the narrative from the Category 1 Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting System Manual, volume 1, part 3, chapter 12, page 42. This discussion explains the GAAP reporting requirements for entities that are involved with OPEBs.

OPEB refers to post employment benefits provided to employees other than pension benefits. These benefits include but are not limited to healthcare coverage, life insurance, and long-term care. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued guidance for the recognition of the OPEB assets/liabilities and expense/expenditures in GASBs 43 and GASBs 45. GASBs 43 contains the standards for reporting the status of established OPEB plans and GASB 45 covers the reporting requirements of employers that pay for OPEB benefits. Entities that have not formally established an OPEB plan are not required to report under GASBs 43. Because many entities will not have to report OPEB plans under GASBs 43 the GASB has duplicated reporting requirements in GASBs 45. When an entity is reporting under both GASBs 43 and GASBs 45 they do not need to duplicate disclosures.

The most significant effect on governments will be the requirement to have actuarial studies performed to determine the Annual OPEB Cost (expense) and Net OPEB Obligation (liability/asset). Previously most employers have reported OPEB using a pay as you go financing approach. GASB felt this method failed to recognize the cost of OPEB in the period when employees render services. As a result they issued the two statements that require the matching of OPEB costs to the period employees earned them. For more detail, please refer to the BARS Manual.

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

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### **Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Launches State Missing and Unidentified Persons Website**

9/20/07 - Lacey -- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) today announced the public release of the Washington State Missing and Unidentified Persons Website to provide the general public, medical examiners, coroners, victim advocates, and law enforcement agencies with the ability to search for information on missing persons and unidentified remains.

State Representative Al O'Brien, chair of the House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee and prime sponsor of the bill, praised the development of the website as a step toward improved availability of information regarding missing persons and unidentified remains. He stated, "It has been my goal for years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our search for missing persons. The families and friends of missing persons understand the frustration of having a loved one disappear. The website provides another tool in our efforts to solve missing persons cases and will hopefully help bring an end, at least for some people, to the anguish suffered by not knowing the fate of their loved one."

The website, which was developed by WASPC technology staff, relies on information from the Washington State Patrol's registry of missing persons and unidentified remains. The registry is a repository for information that is received from local law enforcement agencies throughout Washington State. People who have an interest in missing persons are now

able to search the website for information on missing persons and unidentified remains. This may assist investigating agencies solve cases. The website contains a person's name, physical description, photograph (when available) and other information that is deemed necessary to aid in finding a missing person or identifying human remains. The Washington State Missing and Unidentified Persons Website is located at <http://www.waspc.org/mp/missing.php>

The Washington Legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill 2805 in 2006 which directed WASPC to create and maintain the website. Legislation regarding missing persons was intended to build upon the research and findings of the Washington State Missing Persons Task Force. The Task Force was assembled in 2003 by then Washington State Attorney General and current Governor Christine Gregoire, the United States Department of Justice and others to aid in recovery of missing persons and the identification of human remains. The Washington Association of County Officials (WACO), the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME), the Washington Office of the Attorney General, the Forensics Investigations Council, the Washington State Patrol (Missing Children Clearing House and Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit), Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims and the Washington Coalition of Crime Victims Advocates, among others, have been instrumental in the development and implementation of missing persons initiatives and training.

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, headed by current President Sheriff Richard Lathim of Franklin County, and Executive Director Donald Pierce, includes members from city police departments, county sheriff's offices as well as state and federal law enforcement agencies. Its inclusive and collaborative membership makes it unique among law enforcement associations in the United States. The mission of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is to offer support services, which enhance public safety, to law enforcement executives in the State of Washington. More information regarding WASPC can be found at [www.waspc.org](http://www.waspc.org)

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## ***Environment, Land Use & Resources***

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### **Integrated Project Review and Mitigation Tools Initiative (formerly One Stop Permit Project)**

In 2006, WSAC and AWC began a project to help local, state and federal agencies improve the efficiency and success of environmental permit review. The project demonstrated significant potential as a pilot program in Clark County and Vancouver, resulting in a desktop computer application that helped permit reviewers document and determine mitigation. The state legislature responded to this success by appropriating \$4.545 million over the next two years (2007-09 biennium), with the state's Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) in the lead. This next phase (Phase 2) of the project will increase the involvement and number of participating agencies, move to a web-based model, and build the capacity to add more cities and counties as participants.

Phase 2 of the project is well under way:

- A project Steering Committee, which includes WSAC as a member, is meeting on a monthly basis to provide overall direction.
- A subcommittee (the "design and delivery team") is meeting weekly to discuss and compare the permit review processes of participating agencies; this will lead to including the "business practices" of these agencies in the phase 2 product. WSAC is participating on this team on behalf of counties.
- The first working model of the new web-based product is due on July 1, 2008. At that point, it is hoped that additional counties and cities will be added as participants.

If you have any questions, please contact WSAC's project consultant Neil Aaland at (360) 791-8905 or by e-mail at [naaland@comcast.net](mailto:naaland@comcast.net).

## **Columbia River Water Supply Development Program: Update**

In 2006, the state legislature established the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program (also referred to as Columbia River Basin Water Management Program). The Department of Ecology established a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) to advise them on administering the program. Counties are represented by four county commissioners from eastern Washington who are PAG members:

Merrill Ott, Stevens County  
Rich Stevens, Grant County  
Mike Leita, Yakima County  
Max Benitz, Benton County

Status of the program: Ecology has announced the opening of the first round of the grant program, with approximately \$30-40 million available. The pre-application period runs from October 1 through November 30, 2007. The goal is to get as many potential projects into the pre-application phase as possible. Applicants with projects deemed to be technically sound by a technical advisory group will be invited to submit a formal application in early 2008. Application forms and other information on the program can be found on Ecology's website at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr\\_grants.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_grants.html)

WSAC has a project consultant for this effort who helps county commissioners participate in this program. Neil Aaland is available to answer questions and provide you with assistance. If you have any questions, contact Neil at (360) 791-8905 or by e-mail at [naaland@comcast.net](mailto:naaland@comcast.net). He can also be reached through WSAC at [naaland@wacounties.org](mailto:naaland@wacounties.org).

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## ***General Government Issues***

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### **Permit Tracking System Applications due October 11**

The application deadline for the Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP) No. 07-3200, Local Government Grants for Permit Tracking Systems, that the Office of Financial Management has issued is October 11, 2007 at 12:00 noon.

The grants are for local governments to help acquire or upgrade electronic permit tracking systems. A total of \$175,000 is available in each of the 2008 and 2009 state fiscal years.

A link to the Request, as well as the three Amendments answering responder's questions, is available on the WSAC homepage at <http://wacounties.org/wsac/index.htm>.

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

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### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tentative 2008 Grants**

SAMHSA has put out tentative plans for grants in 2008.

The web site detailing this is at:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2008/fy2008opps.aspx>

Below is the excerpt from the CSAT section:

State Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT)	\$10.04 mil	4/ Approx. \$2.5 mil	The purpose of State SBIRT is to expand the State's continuum of care to include screening, brief intervention, referral, and brief treatment (SBIRT) in general medical and other community settings (e.g., community health centers, nursing homes, schools and student assistance programs, occupational health clinics, hospitals, emergency departments) to support clinically appropriate services for persons at risk for or diagnosed with a substance use disorder (i.e., substance abuse or dependence), and identify systems and policy changes to increase access to treatment in generalist and specialist settings.	Eligibility is limited to the immediate office of the Chief Executive (e.g., Governor) in the States, Territories, District of Columbia, or the head of an American Indian/Alaska Native tribe or tribal organization. States/tribes that have received SBIRT cooperative agreements in the past are not eligible.
Campus SBIRT	\$5 mil	18/ Approx. \$278,000	The purpose of Campus SBIRT Grants is to implement screening, brief intervention, referral, and brief treatment (SBIRT) in general and primary care programs serving college students who are at risk for or diagnosed with substance use disorders.	Accredited universities and colleges within the United States and Territories.
Medical School Residency Program SBIRT	\$7.5 mil	Up to 21/ Approx. \$350,000	The purpose of Medical School Residency SBIRT grants is to develop and implement evidence-based residency curricula in medical schools to teach the skills necessary to provide screening, brief intervention, brief treatment and referral (SBIRT) to patients at risk for or diagnosed with substance use disorders. These grants are intended for medical residency programs in general and primary care.	Academic medical centers in the United States and Territories.
Special Programs SBIRT	\$2.5 mil	12/ Approx. \$208,000	The purpose of Special Programs SBIRT is to implement screening, brief intervention, referral, and brief treatment (SBIRT) in medical clinics (e.g., school health care clinics, HIV clinics, federally qualified health clinics), secondary school drug testing programs, tribes and tribal organizations. This program supports clinically appropriate services for patients seeking care in special settings who are at risk for or diagnosed with substance use disorders.	Eligible applicants are non-profit medical clinics, school systems with health care clinics, HIV clinics, federally qualified health clinics, school systems that perform drug testing in secondary schools, tribes and tribal organizations.
Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE)	\$5.8 mil	12/ Approx. \$483,333	The purpose of TCE grants is to expand and/or enhance a community's ability to provide a comprehensive, integrated community-based response to a targeted, well documented substance abuse treatment capacity problem and/or improve the quality and intensity of services.	Eligible applicants are domestic public and non-profit entities. For example State and local governments, federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, public or private

				universities and colleges; and community- and faith-based organizations may apply.
Targeted Capacity Expansion for Substance Abuse Treatment and HIV/AIDS Services (TCE/HIV)	\$25.31 mil	50/ Approx. \$500,000	The purpose of the TCE/HIV grants is to enhance and expand substance abuse treatment and/or outreach and pretreatment services in conjunction with HIV/AIDS services.	Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities. For example, State and local governments, federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, public or private universities and colleges; and community- and faith-based organizations may apply.
Treatment Drug Courts (Drug Courts)	\$27.49 mil	75/ Approx. \$366,000	The purpose of the Treatment Drug Courts (Drug Courts) program is to provide funds to expand or enhance substance abuse treatment services to “problem solving” courts which use the treatment drug court model in order to provide alcohol and drug treatment, wrap-around services supporting substance abuse treatment, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination to defendants/offenders assigned to these court dockets.	TBD

For additional information, contact below or visit the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) website. You can also go directly to the feds at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website above.

Vincent Collins, MSW  
 Access to Recovery (ATR) Project Director  
 Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse  
 Department of Social and Health Services  
 (360) 725-3713, email - collivl@dshs.wa.gov  
 Please visit DASA Homepage at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa>

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## **Association News**

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### **Rashi Gupta to Join WSAC Staff**

Rashi Gupta will join the WSAC staff, effective January 2, 2008. Rashi replaces Sophia Byrd McSherry, who accepted the position of Deputy Director for the Washington State Office of Public Defense.

As many of you know, Rashi currently serves as the Government Relations Coordinator for Pierce County. Rashi has a solid background in public policy and the Washington State legislative process including serving as:

- Legislative Assistant to Representative Patricia Lantz

- Research Analyst with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program (CTED)
- Program Assistant, Local Government Division (CTED)
- Planning Intern, City of SeaTac
- Planning Commissioner, City of Kenmore

Rashi has the following degrees from the University of Washington: (Go Dawgs)

- Master's in Public Administration, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Administration
- Master of Arts in International Studies, Henry Jackson School of International Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

Rashi will focus on Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Natural Resource issues. Please join us in welcoming Rashi to WSAC!

## **WSAC Board of Directors Approve Engineers' Association By-Laws Change**

On Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, WSAC Board of Directors ratified a set of changes to the Washington State Association of County Engineers' (WSACE) by-laws. While most of the by-law changes are administrative in nature, one major change provides for the appointment of a "Director... (to) coordinate the day-to-day affairs of the Association."

This new position allows WSAC and WSACE to forge an even stronger partnership focusing on the needs of both of the associations and their members. WSAC and WSACE will jointly fund the position for the next two years. The position will be responsible to:

1. Advocate for county roads, efficient use of county road funds, safety, the environment, and the existing county infrastructure;
2. Serve as the WSAC/WSACE Coordinator for the (One Stop) Washington State Integrated Project Tool and Mitigation Review Project;
3. Provide technical support and liaison to WSAC staff and Legislative Steering Committee;
4. Work in conjunction with WSAC staff to meet the policy directives as established by WSAC Board of Directors and WSACE Board of Directors;
5. Educate and represent WSAC and WSACE with respect to the numerous forums, committees, and agencies that make decisions regarding county roads;
6. Participate in conferences, affiliate programs, outreach, and communicate the positions of WSACE and WSAC;
7. Support and coordinate the activities of WSACE at the direction of the WSACE Executive Board (e.g. federal and state legislation, agency rulemaking, coordination with other professional organizations, professional development, internal committee activity, etc.);
8. Report to WSAC on the activities of the Association;
9. Report to WSACE on the priorities and activities of WSAC;
10. Provide leadership consistency and a point of contact for the Association;
11. Oversee the day to day administration of WSACE.

WSAC Staff are working with WSACE President Kent Cash to develop and execute a Memorandum of Understanding to stipulate the working and funding partnership between the two Associations finalize the WSACE Director Position Description and recruit for a Director.

**WACCCs**  
**Scholarships Available for Fall Conference**  
**Vancouver, Washington – November 13 – 16, 2007**  
**Application deadline is Friday, October 13, 2007**

**Calling all County Commission and Council Clerks!** Its conference time once again. Scholarships to attend our conference are now available and they only take a minute to complete! Clerks and/or deputy clerks may apply for a full or partial scholarship to attend this year's conference. These scholarships may be used to cover registration, travel, and lodging expenses. Application forms may be obtained by calling: JoAnne Giesbrecht, Skagit County Commissioners' Office at (360) 419-3498 or email me at [joanneg@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:joanneg@co.skagit.wa.us).

**WA Counties has CHANGED the EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Page**

The WA Counties Job Announcements have changed - Go to [www.wacounties.org](http://www.wacounties.org) and you will see our new JOB pages (we now have two) in the Quick Links section to the right.

Or you may click here for County Jobs - <http://wacounties.org/JOBS - County.htm>

Or you may click here for - Other Organization Jobs - <http://wacounties.org/JOBS - Other.htm>

If you have saved the old link in your favorites be sure to make these updates.

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## **Boards & Commissions**

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### **WSAC/FSC Seeks New Board Member**

The WSAC/Financial Services Corporation has decided to offer a position on the FSC Board of Directors to a member of WSAC. In the past no active member from the WSAC membership has been a director. Jim Nall, Chairman of the Board, requested the FSC Board to extend a membership to WSAC in order to broaden the understanding of the goals and objectives of WSAC/FSC to the full active membership of WSAC.

If you are interested in serving on the WSAC/FSC Board please send a letter of interest to Jim Nall in care of Bill Vogler in the WSAC office.

Currently the members of the WSAC Board are, Jim Nall, Chairman of the Board; Pat Dunn, Vice Chair; Claire Hauge, Secretary-Treasurer; Bettie Ingham and Bill Vogler.

### **Recent Appointments to Statewide Boards and Commissions**

At its September 21 regular meeting, the WSAC Board of Directors appointed the following members to seats on statewide boards and commissions:

*Farmland Preservation Task Force*

Commissioner Rudy Plager, Adams County  
Commissioner Don Munks, Skagit County

*Shorelines Hearings Board Alternates*

Councilmember Tim Farrell, Pierce County  
Councilmember Dow Constantine, King County

The WSAC Board took action on nominations for several other boards and commissions which will be forwarded to those appointing bodies. We will report appointments to those boards as they become official.

Congratulations to the members above on their appointments!

## **WSAC Members Sought for NACo Board Positions; Deadline Tomorrow**

At its regular meeting last Friday, the WSAC Board of Directors voted to approve adding a third Washington seat to the NACo Board of Directors.

The WSAC Board seeks two members from the full membership to serve on the NACo Board of Directors. One will fill the new seat and one will fill the seat that Council Member Kirke Sievers will vacate when he retires his Snohomish County council position at the end of this year. President Leo Bowman holds the third seat.

Members wishing to submit their names for consideration to the WSAC Board to serve on the NACo Board of Directors should fill out a short statement of interest **by this Friday, September 28** at [http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards\\_form.htm](http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards_form.htm).

The next meeting of the NACo Board is December 2007. Those members selected to serve should be prepared to attend that meeting.

It is expected that those holding NACo Board seats will attend four meetings annually:

Spring – Legislative Conference and WIR meetings  
July – Annual Conference  
Nov/Dec – Fall Conference

In a newly approved travel policy, WSAC will reimburse each member serving on the NACo Board up to \$1,500 for two of the four meetings each year. The other two meetings will have to be covered by the member's county.

For more information, please contact Bill Vogler or Michelle Zahrly at [mzahrly@wacounties.org](mailto:mzahrly@wacounties.org) or (360) 586-4219 ext. 112.

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## ***Training & Upcoming Events***

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**Washington Counties – [Full Calendar of Events](#)**

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## ***WSAC Financial Services Corporation***

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### **Save Money on Your County Inmate Prescription Costs with *Rx Benefits***

Last week the WSAC Financial Services Corporation (FSC) announced a pharmaceutical benefit program, **CIP Rx Benefits**, that offers significant discounts off prescription medications for county inmates. **Rx Benefits** is part of the FSC's County Inmate Medical Program (CIP) and is open to all 39 Washington counties, whether they are registered for CIP or not.

Participants in the **CIP Rx Benefits** program receive:

- 15% off most name brand drugs and 50% off generic prescriptions. A flat \$2.30 dispensing fee is added for each prescription. There are no additional costs to the county.
- National Medical Health Card Systems (NMHC) has a convenient mail delivery program and fully refunds any returns.
- More information will be available soon about bulk rate and mail-out prescription services.

The County Inmate Medical Program (CIP) is the first in the nation of its kind and, with the addition of **CIP Rx Benefits**, provides unparalleled inmate coverage for Washington Counties.

FSC has partnered with National Medical Health Card Systems, Inc (NMHCS) to offer **CIP Rx Benefits**. NMHCS is a NASDAQ listed company that provides pharmacy benefit management services throughout the U.S. They have a complete infrastructure that includes mail service, specialty pharmacy, information systems, and data management. They have zero debt and a \$65 million untapped line of credit, along with a broad pharmacy network in the state of Washington providing focus on low net cost.

#### **How the Payment Process Works – It’s Easy!**

- Give the provider a billing form when you escort the inmate to the medical provider.
- The medical provider submits claims and invoices to Zenith, who pays for these claims utilizing First Choice PPO Network Discount.
- Every two weeks you will receive an electronic notice of claims and pharmacy charges, and a summary of the amount required for transfer.
- You review and approve the information and release funds (*electronically, by wire, ACH or mail*) within 5 days of billing receipt.
- You receive an accounting of claims paid and a savings report.

We hope you will consider participating in the **CIP Rx Benefits** program. Remember, you don’t have to be a participant in the medical services portion of the program to take advantage of the pharmaceutical benefit. There is no obligation to implement **Rx Benefits** in your county immediately -- enrollment simply includes you in the program for future participation.

A simple enrollment form is all you need to secure your spot in the **CIP Rx Benefits** program. Ten business days are needed to notify your selected pharmacists and activate the system in order for you to begin receiving the discounts. Additionally, regardless of activation dates, you will be asked to sign a letter of agreement that clarifies the role of NMHCS and your county. This has been advised by the State Auditor’s office.

For an enrollment form, or for more information about **CIP Rx Benefits**, please contact Courtney Girsch, WSAC FSC assistant, at (360) 480-7970.

#### **WSAC/FSC Seeks New Board Member - see Boards & Commissions on Page 10**



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## Good Things

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### **Sullivan Chosen as U.S. Attorney**

Jeff Sullivan has been appointed as U.S. Attorney for the state's Western District, a position he has been filling on an interim basis since the controversial firing of John McKay. His appointment was made by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Robert Lasnik. Eleven federal-court judges agreed unanimously on Sullivan's appointment, which becomes effective on October 12.

Sullivan served as Yakima County Prosecutor for 27 years before joining the U.S. Attorney's office in 2002.

### **Stevens County Wins Public Participation Award for County Comprehensive Plan**

*Through strong public outreach and participation, Stevens County is implementing a comprehensive plan that balances the requirements of the Growth Management Act and recognizes, protects, and implements the customs and culture of the Stevens County citizens*

This is the quoted statement from the 2007 Governor's Smart Communities Award ceremony held at the capitol in Olympia on Sept 26, 2007. Eight communities and one county were awarded, honoring nine winners from among 20 nominees.

"The Smart Communities award winners reflect the wide variety of efforts that make-up effective growth management planning," said Juli Wilkerson, director of the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). "Communities can move forward when good, collaborative work like this is accomplished."

Governor Gregoire appointed a panel of five judges to recognize outstanding work by local governments and their partnerships on growth management and community development. Excellent work is occurring around the state, and the Smart Community Awards program highlights those successes.

Stevens County was presented a special award of merit for its presentation of the public outreach effort engaged during the development of the Stevens County Comprehensive Plan. Merrill Ott, County Commissioner, and Clay White, Land Services Director for Stevens County, were present to receive the award.

The ceremony included awards to the Cities of SeaTac, Everett, Bellevue, Bothell, Seattle and Oak Harbor. Special merit awards were also given to the Seattle Housing Authority and to the Tacoma Housing Authority. Three major areas are competed. First, the Smart Vision Award for Comprehensive Planning. Second, the Smart Choices Award for Implementation of a Comprehensive Plan. And third, the Smart Partnerships Award for a Development Project to Implement a Plan.

The judges decided to include special merit awards, as the Housing Authorities from both Seattle and Tacoma were very noteworthy for their innovations, both in the restoration of formerly crime-ridden areas and in the creation of a new community to serve various income levels while incorporating low impact development techniques. Stevens County's package was especially noteworthy in its description of the tremendous public outreach and public participation effort engaged prior to adopting the comprehensive plan. The coverage of the entire county in public meetings, planning council meetings, and other efforts to engage the public in a difficult issue was lauded as an outstanding effort.

Clay White, Stevens County Land Services Director, praised the public participants. "Without the public's great effort, sacrificing their time and energy to participate in the planning council meetings, and many of the other meetings and hearings, we could not have created the comprehensive plan as it now exists."

Merrill Ott, Stevens County Commissioner, said, "We wanted the people to be involved. We asked our staff to reach out to the citizens of this huge county. Both the staff and more importantly, the citizens, traveled many miles, engaging in many hours of dialogue. There are many issues remaining for us to work through, yet we have made great progress we can all be proud of. We owe many thanks to all those who participated." Commissioner Ott also noted that Stevens County was the only county to receive an award, and that it is a rural county.

## **State Treasurer Michael J. Murphy Receives National Honors**

On September 17, the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) presented their most prestigious award – the **Harlan Boyles Distinguished Service Award** - to Washington State Treasurer Michael J. Murphy. The presentation was made during NAST's Annual Conference being held in Sun River, Oregon.

Named after former North Carolina State Treasurer Harlan Boyles, the award represents the highest achievement in public service and community stewardship. Harlan Boyles served twenty-four years in public service and exemplified the highest ideals of integrity and hard work – never losing sight of the fact that state treasurers are guardians of the public purse.

The award is presented to a dedicated and committed public servant whose outstanding career has provided a respected voice for NAST at all levels of state government.

The presentation was made by Tate Reeves – NAST President and Treasurer of Mississippi. In his remarks, Treasurer Reeves said: "With 35 years of experience, Mike Murphy is a very popular Treasurer whose focus is to run an effective and efficient Treasurer's Office that serves the government and the people at all levels. Over the years his advice and involvement in the financing of major projects has saved the state hundreds of millions of dollars. Mike Murphy was the first state treasurer to receive the Dr. Jackson R.E. Phillips Award from the Association of Public Treasurers of the US and Canada for his groundbreaking work on behalf of local government in Washington."

Treasurer Murphy has been an active and enthusiastic member of NAST, serving as region vice president four times and hosting regional meetings.

"My selection for this award is a very humbling experience," Murphy said. "It is a tremendous honor and I am very gratified that I would be considered for, much less win, such a prestigious award."

Murphy served as Thurston County Treasurer for 10 years prior to his election as State Treasurer in November, 1996.

## **2007 - 2009 Local Records Grant Program**

*(Submitted by Jerry Handfield, State Archivist, September 21, 2007)*

Congratulations to all the award recipients of the 2007-2009 Local Records Grant Program! We had an overwhelming number of grant applications, totaling \$3.4 million in requests.

The applications were carefully and painstakingly reviewed by the Archives Oversight Committee (AOC), which is made up of local elected officials and representatives of city and county associations. With \$900,000 to award, members spent many hours of analysis and discussion over the priorities before their recommendations were made and submitted to Secretary of State Sam Reed for final approval.

Since nearly all of the proposals were worthy, the AOC has recommended that the State Archives request an additional \$1.5 million in the 2008 Supplemental Budget. The Office of the Secretary of State is currently preparing a Decision Package which will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in January. If our efforts are successful, we will e-mail many of you in June or July of 2008. You may be contacted for testimony in support of the Local Records Grant Program.

This is an exciting and important venture. As partners, we look forward to working with you to preserve Washington State's legal and historic documents.



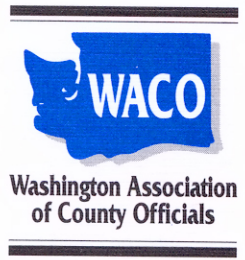
*Back Row (from left to right): Victoria Lincoln, Roger Ferris, Joyce Julsrud, Deb Wilke, Siri Woods, Jerry Pettit, Mike Killian, Carol Shenk  
Front Row (from left to right): Val Wood, Karen Flynn, Jerry Handfield, Julie Woods*



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# Attachments

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## Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)

### *Does your entity have OPEB?*

1. **Does your county subsidize retiree benefits or belong to the Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB)?**

*Benefits include medical payments, life insurance payments, dental payments, or long-term care payments. Also, if your retirees pay the same rate as active members for medical insurance your county has a retiree subsidy as well. If your county belongs to PEBB, they are required to offer OPEB.*

2. **Does your county financially report on a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) basis?**

*If you answer yes to these 2 questions, your county will soon be required to report for this under GASB 45.*

3. **Does your county have less than 100 members in a plan (this includes employees and retired members)?**

*If you answer yes to all 3 questions, your county is allowed to use a simplified measurement method to calculate its obligation for these reporting requirements. If enough employers are in this category an online tool could be created to help calculate your obligation for these reporting requirements.*

It is important that you contact the Office of the State Actuary to tell them you fall into this category. Please contact Troy Dempsey, Actuarial Assistant at [Dempsey.troy@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Dempsey.troy@leg.wa.gov) or for GASB 45 questions, Phil Parks, SAO, at (360) 725-5595 or [parksp@sao.wa.gov](mailto:parksp@sao.wa.gov).

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# Attachments

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## 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)

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

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"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.**