

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

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Courthouse Journal*

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

Countdown Continues to Clark County

WSAC's Annual Conference and Exhibitor Fair is less than three weeks away and the final touches are being applied to programs and events you won't want to miss. If you haven't yet registered, catch the Early Bird deadline of November 6 to secure the lowest conference rate.

The latest session to be added to the agenda is "Economic Development: Make Something Happen or Get Out of the Kitchen" featuring Commissioner Todd Mielke, Spokane County, and a panel of economic development experts.

Hamilton Hall on the Fort Vancouver National Historic Preserve will be the site for our opening reception the evening of Tuesday, November 13. A short drive or energizing walk from the conference hotel, the hall is a part of the beautifully restored 1846 Vancouver Barracks, the U.S. Army's central command post during the Northwest Indian Wars and mobilization center for the Spanish-American and two world wars.



Photo courtesy of Southwest Washington Convention & Visitors Bureau

We're pleased to announce new sponsors and exhibitors have joined the list of those supporting our conference. A full list of exhibitors is available at the conference web page listed below. Sponsors include:

Washington Counties Insurance Fund
Waste Management of Washington
Washington Counties Risk Pool
InterLocking Software
Nationwide Retirement Solutions
Washington Refuse & Recycling Association
Les Schwab Tires

For all conference information and to register, visit:
<http://wacounties.org/wsac/conference2.htm>

See you in Clark County!

Want to post a job announcement on our website ?

Visit <http://wacounties.org/>

And click on the job pages for format & submission details.

The Courthouse Journal

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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

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Vacancy on WACO Board

WACO members in Spokane, Clark, Kitsap, Yakima, Thurston, Whatcom and Benton Counties are each qualified to fill the recent vacancy that was created on the WACO Board of Trustees with the election of Benton County Assessor Barbara Wagner to the office of WACO Secretary/Treasurer. The vacancy is the unexpired term of Trustee-at-Large Position 2, representing counties with populations from 125,000 to 500,000. The term expires in October 2008.

The WACO Board meets on November 28, 2007 and again in March, July and October of 2008. All expenses are paid for attendance with the exception of the Annual Conference.

If you are interested in serving, **please submit a letter of intent with a brief resume by November 6** to Kathie Houts at khouts@wacounties.org. **The entire Board will meet by conference call on November 14**, in order to make the selection and announcement prior to the November Board meeting.

We hope each of you will seriously consider this opportunity to serve. It is a richly rewarding experience.

The Race is On

To the Members of WSAC and its affiliate organizations:

We need your help in the annual quest to raise as much support as possible for the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund. The Fund is a private, non-profit organization that has awarded 66 students of county employees \$125,000 during the past 14 years to continue their studies. Last year the fund awarded five scholarships of \$2,500 and we need to be able to offer as many awards in 2008.

Most of the funding for the Scholarship Program comes 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. This year, Nationwide is contributing \$3,000 to the fund.

We have a long-standing fundraising competition with WACO and its affiliate groups. It pains me to tell you that WACO is far ahead with nearly \$9,000 raised compared to WSAC's \$1,600. Let's get busy!

I need your support as well. As you may have heard or read in *Courthouse Journal*, I agreed with the immediate past WACO President Rick Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff, to be tasered if our association raises less money for the scholarship fund than the WACO members. Even if you don't contribute to save me from guaranteed discomfort, please donate to the fund for all the other reasons.

To donate, leave your donation at the WSAC Conference registration desk at the Vancouver Hilton, Nov. 13-16 or mail your check postmarked by November 16 to: WSAC 206 Tenth Avenue, Olympia, WA, 98501-1311.

In Anticipation,
Leo Bowman, WSAC President
Benton County Commissioner

Boards & Commissions

Austin Appointed to Board of Health

Commissioner John Austin, Jefferson County, has been appointed by Governor Gregoire to the State Board of Health. Commissioner Austin replaces Mike Shelton, who vacated the seat when he moved from the Island County Commission to WCIF.

Prior to retirement, Commissioner Austin was a psychologist for 30 years licensed in Minnesota where he worked for counties, had a private practice, and for the last ten years led the psychology department of a large multi-specialty medical clinic. He has a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of California at Berkeley. Before his election, he was an active disaster volunteer with the American Red Cross; serving in Katrina, Ivan, and Dennis.

The State Board of health is the primary entity for state health policy development; required to produce a biennial report delineating the state's health priorities.

Congratulations Commissioner Austin!

Courthouse Ramblings

Grant County Treasurer Darryl Pheasant has a second career as an actor! He is currently playing the part of Padre in the musical "Man of La Mancha" at the Masquers Theater, in Soap Lake. He has four solos and major singing parts in other songs in his role. This is Darryl's seventh play in the last three and a half years and the third musical. Darryl is also on the Board of Directors of the Masquers Theater. If you'd like to catch Darryl under the bright lights of the marquee, "Man of La Mancha" plays on weekends through November 17. Information about the musical is available at www.masquers.com



Grant County Treasurer
Darryl Pheasant

Training & Upcoming Events

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

Jeff Sullivan Sworn in as U.S. Attorney in Seattle

By Gene Johnson, the Daily Olympian, October 12, 2007

Shortly before he died, longtime King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng was leading the effort to find a replacement for fired U.S. Attorney John McKay. Maleng's top choice was someone he had known for decades - one of McKay's top deputies, Jeff Sullivan - and he told that to Robert Lasnik, the chief U.S. District Court judge in Western Washington.

Lasnik agreed that Sullivan would be a fine choice, and on Friday, he said he was honoring Maleng's memory as he swore Sullivan in as the Justice Department's top lawyer in Western Washington. "You all know about what led to this," Lasnik said, referring to the purge of nine U.S. attorneys around the country - a controversy that helped bring about the downfall of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. "But the consistency we have had in this office ... is something we in the judiciary appreciate tremendously."

John McKay and his brother, Mike, both former U.S. attorneys, were among the supporters, relatives and friends who packed a courtroom for the ceremony - as were Maleng's widow, Judy, and son, Mark. Maleng died of cardiac arrest in May.

Sullivan, 64, served as the elected prosecutor in Yakima County from 1975 to 2002, when he joined the U.S. attorney's office as chief deputy overseeing all criminal cases filed by the office. After the Bush administration forced McKay to resign early this year, Sullivan replaced him on an interim basis. But the White House has not forwarded a nominee to the Senate for confirmation, and Sullivan's interim appointment expired on Friday - meaning responsibility for naming a new U.S. attorney fell to the federal judges, who unanimously agreed to keep Sullivan in the post.

In a short speech, Sullivan thanked the judges for the trust they had placed in him. "I guarantee to you I will do everything possible not to let you down," he said. He also thanked John McKay, whom he called a phenomenal person, lawyer and U.S. attorney, and he said he hoped to do half the job McKay did in the office.

The ceremony itself featured a few bumps. After an apparently nervous Sullivan stumbled over the words, Lasnik told him, "Let's start over again." "Ready, take two," Lasnik said. "I, state your name."

"Jeffrey C. Sullivan," he replied.

"No, you say 'I,'" the judge said. The audience let out a good-natured laugh, and Sullivan's grown children praised him afterward.

"He's a true public servant," said Jeff Sullivan Jr. "He does it because he cares. He does it because he likes putting bad guys away."

Attachments

State of Washington Conservation Commission
PRESS RELEASE

Farmland Preservation Task Force Appointed For State

An 18-member Farmland Preservation Task Force has been appointed to provide the first statewide guidance for such efforts in Washington.

Formed in response to a bill passed in the last legislative session, the Task Force consists of six farmer representatives from around the state along with legislators, county commissioners and key officials from local, state and federal agencies.

“Maintaining the capacity to provide adequate food and fiber resources is essential to the long-term sustainability of the state’s citizens and economy,” stated Substitute Senate Bill 5108, which was passed by overwhelming majorities of the state House of Representatives and Senate and signed by Governor Chris Gregoire.

The bill created the Office of Farmland Preservation within the State Conservation Commission. The Task Force will provide policy input to that office as it pursues several farmland-preservation goals outlined by lawmakers.

Sheryl Cox of Walla Walla will represent farmers in Southeastern Washington. She and her husband operate Klicker Mountain Cattle Company on land settled by her great grandmother in 1896. Her extended family is involved in producing strawberries, cherries, Christmas trees, blueberries and wheat. They have incorporated what she calls “farm/ranch recreation” into some of their operations.

Farmers in Northeastern Washington will be represented by Jeff Emtman. He is “a 37-year-old fourth-generation dry-land farmer and rancher from Valleyford, Washington,” according to the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, which recommended his appointment. On Emtman Brothers Farm, his family grows wheat and raises cattle on over 10,000 acres of land.

Richard Thomason of Brewster will speak for farmers in the North Central part of the state. After an engineering career, he returned to run Maverick Orchards, producing tree fruits, primarily apples. “I view the farm life experience as a wonderful character builder,” Thomason said. “I’m a strong believer in the strength it bestows on kids.”

A third generation farmer and livestock producer in Klickitat County will represent farmers in South Central Washington. Jacob Anderson, a diversified operator who runs Anderson Ranch and Anderson’s Custom Sawing, is already involved in farmland preservation work with other farmers and state and local officials.

Greg Schoenbachler of Silver Springs Cattle Company and Silver Springs Organics will bring the perspective of farmers in the Southwest portion of the state to the Farmland Preservation Task Force. After receiving an Animal Science degree from WSU, he rehabilitated farmland originally held by his grandparents. He currently grows hay/haylage and raises more than 200 cow/calf pairs on 1,100 acres outside of Tenino. He focuses on the economics of farming for sustainability.

“It’s strategically important to be able to keep agriculture secure in the Puget Sound region,” said Bob Hart, appointed to represent farmers in Northwest Washington. A producer of vegetable crops and nursery stock, he is vice president of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, and chair of that organization’s Land Protection Committee. He is a former Skagit County commissioner.

The Washington State Legislature will be represented on the Task Force by Senator Mary Margaret Haugen of Camano Island, Senator Jim Honeyford of Sunnyside, Representative Steve Hailey of Mesa, and Representative Larry Springer of Kirkland. Senator Haugen was the prime sponsor of SSB 5108.

County governments will participate on the Task Force through the appointments of Commissioner Rudy Plager of Adams County and Commissioner Don Munks of Skagit County.

The state's 47 conservation districts, which are involved in farmland preservation and many other land and water conservation activities, will be represented by Fred Colvin. A rancher and supervisor of the Thurston Conservation District, he was appointed by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

The Washington Conservation Commission will be represented by Commissioner Lynn Bahrych of Shaw Island. The Washington State Department of Agriculture has appointed Policy Assistant Lee Faulconer to provide input.

State Conservationists R.L. "Gus" Hughbanks will serve in a non-voting Task Force seat for the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dee Caputo, a senior planner, will fill a similar role for the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

An announcement about the first meeting of the Task Force is expected soon. Further information is available through Steve McGonigal, manager, Washington State Office of Farmland Preservation, P.O. Box 47721, 300 Desmond Dr., Olympia, WA 98504; (360) 407-7474; smcgonigal@scc.wa.gov.

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