

the Courthouse Journal

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

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

WACO Secretary/Treasurer Position Vacant

At the direction of President Mark Leander, all county officials who are interested in serving for the unexpired term of WACO Secretary/Treasurer are asked to send a letter of intent and brief resume to WACO now.

The recent vacancy was created on the WACO Board of Trustees when President Suzanne Sinclair resigned to assume a position in New York State and all officers moved up. The secretary/treasurer position will expire in October and traditionally, that person will move up through the chairs to the presidency. President Leander considers it very important to give that person all the time and experience on the Executive Board possible by filling the position immediately. The WACO Board meets in March, July and October of 2008. All expenses are paid for attendance with the exception of the Annual Conference.

WACO members interested in serving are asked to **submit a letter of intent with a brief resume by December 17 at 5:00 p.m.** Please send it to WACO Administrative Assistant Kathie Houts at khouts@wacounties.org. **The entire Board will meet by conference call on December 19** to make the selection and announcement.

County Fiscal Health Study Released

The County Fiscal Health Study has been approved by the Governor and was transmitted to the Legislature on December 12th. You can find the full text of the report on the Study web site at www.cted.wa.gov/site/1044/default.aspx.

The recommendations of the Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (CTED) are very similar to those provided by the study's Advisory Committee, which included members from both WSAC and WACO. The recommendations were divided into three groups – 1) Effectiveness & Efficiency, 2) Governance, and 3) Fiscal Health.

On Effectiveness & Efficiency recommendations, CTED recommends further the expansion of joint or consolidated service provision among governments. CTED also recommends working with counties through funding and collaboration to redesign county service automation where counties are acting as agents of the state, such as property tax assessment and elections. Lastly, CTED suggests an incremental review of existing state statutes to provide additional flexibility to counties related to *how* services are delivered or purchased, specifically starting with a review of purchasing/contracting and public records statutes.

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

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

Jean Wessman, Policy Director-
Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing
Julie Murray, Policy Director-
Transportation, Finance & Budget
Jeff Killip, WSALPHO Managing Director
Brad Banks, Policy Analyst

Contractors

Neil Aaland, Columbia River Program Manager
Tom Robinson, Timber Program Manager
Tonia Sugarman, County Training Program
(CPO) Project Manager

Operations Staff

Ginni Peppert, Member Svcs & Events
Coordinator
Barbara Warden, Member Svcs & Business
Coordinator
Justin Kerrihard, Technology Manager
Beth Dubey, Member Services Assistant

On Governance, CTED adopted the four recommendations of the Advisory Group. The first is to strengthen the existing commission form of government by expanding the executive powers of the board of county commissioners to initiate and conduct processes, programs or studies that improve efficiency and effectiveness. The second recommendation is to provide specific statutory authority for the board of commissioners to appoint a county manager or administrator. Third, CTED recommends adding a constitutional provision that would create a voter approved charter county, or amend an existing charter through voter petition or county legislative body-initiated appointment of a county governance commission. Lastly, reduce the number of separately elected officials in non-charter counties through state statute amendments that classify counties by population and combine duties of two or more officers, including a five-member county commission for larger counties.

On Fiscal Health, CTED recommends the adoption of a supplemental county revenue package beginning in 2009 to be implemented over several years that would return counties to a self-sustaining financial position. The revenue package could be through payments for specific services such as jail costs for felony offenders or by diverting state sales tax revenue to support state mandated services. Additionally, CTED recommends increasing flexibility of existing county funding sources such as consolidating dedicated sales taxes into a single general sales tax and removing non-supplant language.

The House Local Government Committee is expected to reschedule its workshop on the study for the first weeks of the legislative session. WSAC staff is also working to make presentations to other legislative committees in the House and Senate. We encourage you to review the study and share the information with your legislators as we move into the 2008 session.

Building Renamed in Honor of Norm Maleng

On December 1, a Designation Ceremony was held at the King County Regional Justice Center, in Kent, to rename the facility in honor of Norm Maleng, King County Prosecuting Attorney from 1979 to 2007. After Norm's untimely death in May of this year, the King County Executive and County Council decided to designate the building as the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center.

Norm was remembered as one of the most respected and revered public servants in county government at the ceremony attended by elected leaders, his family, friends and members of the legal community. A large plaque was unveiled by King County Executive Ron Sims, to hang in the building in honor of Norm, a dedication from the Executive, Council Members, King County elected officials and citizens. "Renaming this seat of justice is a fitting memorial to Norm who was elected by voters as their County Prosecutor eight times and who spent nearly 30 years in the office," stated Sims. "We miss him terribly and now honor his service and life with this dedication."

Speakers included Mike McKay, Master of Ceremonies; Doug Wheeler, Christian Restoration Center; Ron Sims, King County Executive; Dan Satterberg, King

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

County Prosecutor; Sue Rahr, King County Sheriff; Larry Gossett, King County Council Chair; Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember; Robert Lasnik, Chief Judge, Western District of Washington; U.S. District Court, Michael Trickey, Presiding Judge, King County Superior Court; Barbara Linde, Presiding Judge, King County District Court; and Mark Maleng, Norm Maleng's son.

Other speakers were immediate past WACO President Suzanne Sinclair, Island County Auditor, and Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) President Randy Gaylord. WACO and WAPA have ordered a bronze cast plaque with a photo relief of Norm to be hung in the foyer of the building, with the following verbiage: "In honor of Norm Maleng, King County Prosecuting Attorney from 1979 – 2007. We recognize Norm's passion for justice and fairness, his commitment to the citizens of King County and his dedication to county government across the State of Washington. As President and a respected member of the Washington Association of County Officials and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, his integrity and leadership were an inspiration to all."

The Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center (RJC), which opened in March 1997, houses King County Superior and District Courts, a 1,437 bed detention facility, and deputies from the Prosecuting Attorney's office and King County Sheriff's office. Approximately 40 percent of the county's jury trials take place at the RJC. Superior Court also operates a specialized Drug Court and provides Unified Family Court services within the facility. King County's Domestic Violence Court and a Re-Licensing Court operate out of the RJC. The facility is the headquarters for the detectives of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division.

Lewis County Assessor Loses All in Flood

WACO has received bad news from Lewis County Assessor Dianne Dorey. Dianne and her husband were part of the evacuees due to flooding from the high wind and rain storm last week. Their house at one time had 2-3' of water inside. Dorey and her husband were able to wade out with water up to their chests. Dorey's husband is disabled and had to be airlifted out and then transferred to an ambulance. They have been staying with her sister, but to make things worse, while they were out of their flooded home, looters descended, broke in and took what they wanted.

Dorey spoke with WACO staffer Bob Carlton when she was on the way to view her house for the first time to try and determine if, when, and what it would take to get back in. Needless to say, Dianne joins hundreds of other homeowners whose property has been devastated by recent floodwaters.

It would be difficult at best to put a number to the loss in dollars that this disaster will cost. Infrastructure has been destroyed, sales tax revenues cut drastically because many businesses were completely wiped out and inventory destroyed, and many jobs will be lost or put on hold. Interstate 5 just reopened December 7 to one lane each way for truck traffic only, with a 20 mph speed limit through most of the damaged road areas. This terrible situation struck not only in Lewis County, but Pacific, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap and many other counties as well.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to all victims of the flood and their families. Unfortunately, with the current lending fiasco, there may be even more insurmountable hurdles to get over for these victims to get money and rebuild.

Scholarship Fund Challenge is a Tie! Award Amounts Grow

In a stunning last-minute push, WSAC members and partners rallied in one week to raise a few thousand dollars to match to the penny WACO's contribution, saving WSAC 2007 President Leo Bowman from certain tasering. WSAC and WACO members each raised \$8,829, resulting in one of the largest Scholarship Fund campaigns in history.

Commissioner Bowman expressed his relief and appreciation to all who donated. Immediate Past WACO President Rick Bart expressed his thanks again to the generosity of WACO members to the scholarship fund, and that these heartfelt donations will go to the continuing education of our kids.

Independent of the fundraising, the Scholarship Fund Committee recently met and raised the amount of each scholarship awarded from \$2,500 to \$3,000; five scholarships will continue to be given for 2008.

Many thanks to everyone one who contributed to the Fund, including members, affiliates, partners, sponsors and friends. The students of county employees will greatly benefit from your generosity!

WSAC Announces New Legislative Steering Committee Co-Chairs

John Koster, Snohomish County Councilmember and Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner have been appointed as the new WSAC Legislative Steering Committee co-chairs. Our sincerest thanks to Merrill Ott, Stevens County Commissioner and Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason County Commissioner for their hard work in getting WSAC prepared for the 2008 Legislative Session.

General Government Issues

Floods Get Up Close and Personal

We have all watched the news coverage of the early December floods. While we have seen the heartache visited on our county people and taxpayers, we tend not to think of the county employees and elected officials during these times.

What you'll see and remember are the helicopter rescues from rooftops, or the rescue from the flooded cars. You won't even be aware of all the other county folks working behind the scenes and dead center in the eye of the storm.

In Pacific County, the county assessor and staff were manning emergency phones and directing help to people. The appraisal staff was riding with Emergency Personnel to make sure all houses were located and people checked on. We don't often realize it, but assessors and appraiser staff are probably the only people that have been to all those remote places in the county.

All those sheriff deputies, fire department first responders and ambulance crews probably suffered storm and water damage to their own homes, but unselfishly stayed on their jobs to help others.

In Lewis County, the assessor's own home was flooded, and she walked through chest deep floodwaters to get to a waiting boat to be evacuated to a disaster center. Now that is up close and personal! She now faces a massive job that will literally inundate her office and quite frankly make it absolutely miserable to be a County Assessor; yet all the while try to piece her own home back together as time allows.

To be sure, there are other stories out there about sacrifices made by the county folks, but we may or may not hear of them. For the most part, they were and are simply doing their job.

So when you see a county employee or elected official, take the time to acknowledge them and thank them for the job that they do. Who knows, the next time you see them they may be trying to help you; or saving your life.

Enhanced Drivers Licenses Offered

Starting in January 2008, the Washington State Department of Licensing will be offering enhanced Driver Licenses and Identification cards for an additional \$15 to the license fee.

This may seem like a mundane news item, but you may wish to avail yourselves of this. If memory serves, we have Olympic Games that will be coming to Vancouver, Canada. This would allow you to "beat the crowd" and do a pre-emptive strike and secure your enhanced license for travel across the border. Attached is more information on how to get your license, and what is required.

State, County Make Deal on Mental Health

By David Wickert - The News Tribune

Pierce County will contract with the state to provide some mental health services under a preliminary agreement announced Monday.

Under the agreement, announced by the state Department of Social and Health Services, Pierce County will provide:

- Evaluation and treatment services, including an initial screening and treatment planning for people in crisis.
- Crisis triage, or emergency care, on a round-the-clock basis.
- Mobile crisis service to mental health patients.

Key details – including how much the state will pay the county to provide the services – will be worked out by Dec. 17, according to the department. “I am pleased that the state and county have been able to come together to put patient safety first,” department Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams said in announcing the preliminary agreement.

The negotiations were sparked by Pierce County’s recent decision to end its long-standing contract with the state to provide mental health services. The county administered about \$55 million in state, federal and other funding for mental health. But the county decided in August to stop administering mental health programs after the state declined its request for an additional \$3.65 million. So beginning Jan. 1, the state will oversee care of about 15,000 county residents who rely on publicly funded mental health services. Now, the Department of Social and Health Services is working out contracts with various mental health service providers, including the county.

Lyle Quasim, chief of staff for County Executive John Ladenburg, has been involved in negotiations with the state. He noted important details must still be worked out, but expressed confidence they will be. “I think we’re going to get this done,” Quasim said. Whatever agreement is reached, it will be a short-term solution. The Legislature next year is expected to review mental health funding and coverage for Pierce County, according to the department.

David Wickert: 253-274-7341 david.wickert@thenewstribune.com

Counties Get State Grants to Help the Homeless

By P-I reporter John Iwasaki

Ten initiatives to reduce homelessness in Washington by providing housing, services and other support will share \$15.8 million in grants, the state announced Tuesday.

The 10 grant recipients are all counties with 10-year plans to end homelessness, a requirement to be considered for funding.

King County will receive nearly \$1.6 million to providing housing in the south county for 50 chronically homeless people, twice the current number being served in a pilot program, and to move 50 formerly homeless people whose lives have stabilized into more independent housing programs in the Seattle area.

The funds come from a portion of county recording fees on building-related documents. The state gives that money back to counties, which either sponsor the homeless initiatives or subcontract them to non-profit agencies.

Most of the approved initiatives are “new or innovative ways to address homelessness,” said Jennifer Turin, program manager of the Homeless Grant Assistance Program in the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

“One thing we’ve been emphasizing is that (applicants) show us that they are exploring new ways of collaborating with local governments, mainstream agencies and criminal justice centers,” she said.

Clark County received the largest grant, \$3.3 million, to close and clean up encampments and provide housing and services for 450 homeless people, among other activities.

The grant program, now in its second year, awarded \$3.3 million to King County last year to help 180 homeless people who frequently used psychiatric services and 50 others who often "cycled" from the streets to jail and back again and were placed in stable housing, said Bill Block, director of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County.

P-I reporter John Iwasaki can be reached at 206-448-8096 or johniwasaki@seattlepi.com.

Training & Upcoming Events

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

Building Effective Government and Business Relations with American Indian Tribes

Dates and Location

January 29 - 30, 2008

Tamastlikt Cultural Institute

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Pendleton, Oregon

In Partnership With

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Who Should Attend?

Local, state, and federal government officials and business leaders who have a desire or are required to work with American Indian Tribes

The attached E-Brochure contains information and registration material about this workshop. Or, you can go to <http://www.ldkassociates.com/Schedules%20and%20Sponsors.htm>.

Space is limited to approximately 40 participants to enhance opportunities for discussion and dialogue.

Association News

2008 WACO Committees Named – DECEMBER 4, 2007

WACO President Mark Leander, Skagit County Assessor, has made the following appointments for the coming year:

Archives Oversight Committee

Mike Killian, Franklin County Clerk, Chair
Linda Franklin, Clark County Assessor
Jerry Pettit, Kittitas County Auditor
Karen Flynn, Kitsap County Auditor
Shirley Forslof, Whatcom County Auditor
Siri Woods, Chelan County Clerk
Joyce Julsrud, Kittitas County Clerk
Frank Brown, Walla Walla County Coroner
Judy Ainslie, Cowlitz County Treasurer
Jim Nagle, Walla Walla County Prosecutor

Award Selection

Dave Cook, Yakima County Assessor, Chair
Eunice Coker, Whitman County Auditor
Greg Kimsey, Clark County Auditor
Rick Corson, Benton County Coroner
Juelie Dalzell, Jefferson County Prosecutor
Rick Grimstead, Skagit County Sheriff
Cherie Flood, Skamania County Treasurer

Budget

Tom Fallquist, Past President
Dan Blasdel, Past President
Mark Leander, President
Judi Morris, President-elect
Barb Wagner, Vice President

Bylaws Changes, Election Issues

H. Steward Menefee, Grays Harbor Co Prosecutor, Chair
Mike Harum, Chelan County Sheriff
Barb Wagner, Benton County Assessor

Certification/Education

Phil Sanders, King County Treasury Operations Mgr.
Vicky Dalton, Spokane County Auditor
Steve Marks, Franklin county Assessor
Nancy Scott, Skagit County Clerk
Patty Chester, Stevens County Clerk
Tim Davidson, Cowlitz County Coroner
Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor

Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) County Fiscal Health and Governance Study Advisory Committee

Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer
Gordon Heimbigner, Walla Walla County Treasurer
Peter Banks, Skamania County Prosecutor

Certified Public Official (CPO) Advisory Committee

Donna Eldridge, Jefferson County Auditor
Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor
Lisa Frazier, Mason County Treasurer

County Officials' Training Curriculum Committee

Certification/Education Committee will serve.

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Heritage Barn Preservation Advisory Committee

Paula Holloway, Wahkiakum County Treasurer

Legislative

Mark Leander, WACO President, Co-Chair
Judi Morris, WACO President-elect, Co-Chair
Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer, Co-Chair
Dave Cook, Yakima County Assessor
Terry McLaughlin, Cowlitz County Assessor
Corky Mattingly, Yakima County Auditor
Evelyn Arnold, Chelan County Auditor
Barb Miner, King County Clerk
Siri Woods, Chelan County Clerk
Kim Eaton, Yakima County Clerk
Dan Blasdel, Franklin County Coroner
Greg Sandstrom, Kitsap County Coroner
Russ Hauge, Kitsap County Prosecutor
Jim Nagle, Walla Walla County Prosecutor
Mike Whelan, Grays Harbor County Sheriff
John Didion, Pacific County Sheriff
Dave Brown, Skamania County Sheriff
Bill Elfo, Whatcom County Sheriff
Ron Strabbing, Grays Harbor County Treasurer

Nominating Committee

Bylaws dictate that this committee is comprised of members who are serving as affiliate presidents at the time of the 2008 WACO Conference

Personnel

Randy Gaylord, San Juan County Prosecutor, Co-Chair
Ruth Gordon, Jefferson County Clerk, Co-Chair
Cindy Portmann, Snohomish County Assessor
Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County Auditor
Greg Sandstrom, Kitsap County Coroner
Mike Harum, Chelan County Sheriff
Judi Morris, WACO President-elect
Duane Davidson, Benton County Treasurer

Travel

Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk, Chair
Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor
Ron Strabbing, Grays Harbor County Treasurer
Mary Dodge, Douglas County Treasurer

WACO Audit Committee

Lisa Frazier, Mason County Treasurer
Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County Auditor
Mike Garvison, Skamania County Auditor

The WACO President is an ex-officio member of every committee, additions and changes may be made in the future.

Courthouse Ramblings

Former Pierce County Sheriff **Lyle Smith**, 80, passed away December 1, in Tacoma. Lyle joined the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) in 1948, moved up through the ranks and was appointed Police Chief in 1970. He retired from TPD in 1976 and in 1979 ran for the unexpired term of Pierce County Sheriff.

Good Things

Secretary of State Sam Reed's Digital Archives Receives National Award

The Washington State Digital Archives -- the first facility of its kind in the United States -- received a national award for its invaluable role in preserving electronic history, December 4.

The award was presented by the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council (2007 eC3) to the Office of the Secretary of State today in Austin, Texas.

"The Digital Archives is one of the state's most important recent milestones," said Secretary of State Sam Reed who opened the premier facility in October, 2004 to rescue endangered history. "Future generations are counting on us to preserve our history and heritage."

The Digital Archives serves as a model for archives management around the world. It is the nation's first facility dedicated specifically to the preservation of electronic records from both State and Local agencies that have permanent legal, fiscal or historical value.

Located in Cheney, Washington on the Eastern Washington University campus, the new facility was designed from the ground up to host this technically complex program. The web interface and database storehouse were custom designed specifically for the Digital Archives to hold the unique and very important electronic records found throughout the state, and to provide simple, straight forward access to researchers.

The Digital Archives includes a state of the art research room, complete with computer research stations, a high-tech presentation classroom and a world-class data center.

Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield accepted the award on behalf of the Secretary of State.



Clark County Prosecutor Honored

The child abuse intervention center in Clark County has been re-named in honor of Clark County Prosecuting Attorney Arthur D. Curtis. Although many leaders in that community deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication to the Center, it is fitting to honor Art's many years of service and devotion. He is the founder of the vision for the Center and has chaired the Center's Executive Board for 17 years. Congratulations Art!

Attachments

WACO Bills of Interest		Date: 12/13/07		
Title	Status	Date	Original Sponsor	Committee Sponsor
HB 2430	Controlled substances	H Prefiled	12/03/2007	Campbell
HB 2433	Assistance benefits	H Prefiled	12/03/2007	O'Brien
HB 2434	Canvassing board membership	H Prefiled	12/03/2007	Miloscia
HB 2435	Postelection audits	H Prefiled	12/03/2007	Miloscia
HB 2436	Work release input	H Prefiled	12/03/2007	Rolfes
HB 2438	Cougar hunting pilot project	H Prefiled	12/03/2007	Kretz
HB 2439	Offender immigration status	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Priest
HB 2440	Electronic monitoring	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Priest
HB 2441	Assistance compacts	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Priest
HB 2442	Community notification	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Ross
HB 2443	Sex offender inspections	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Pearson
HB 2444	Offender internet info	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Pearson
HB 2445	Biological sample submission	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Pearson
HB 2446	Failure to register penalty	H Prefiled	12/04/2007	Ahern
HB 2447	Agency facilities		12/06/2007	Simpson
HB 2448	Campaign finance report		12/06/2007	Hunt
HB 2459			12/12/2007	Kelley
HB 2460			12/12/2007	Fromhold
SB 6180	Postelection audits	S Prefiled	12/03/2007	Oemig
SB 6181	Canvassing board membership	S Prefiled	12/03/2007	McDermott
SB 6184	Most Serious Offenses	S Prefiled	12/04/2007	Benton
SB 6185	Treasurer discretion	S Prefiled	12/04/2007	Fairley

*The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing
 other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts
 becomes for us the magic of the season. Best wishes to you and yours!*