

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

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

Eric Johnson Selected as WSAC Director

On Tuesday, WSAC's Board of Directors announced Eric Johnson as their choice to serve as the next Executive Director of the Association. Johnson, WSAC Assistant Executive Director for the past two and a half years, served as a Lewis County Commissioner from 2000 to 2005.

"We are fortunate that we have someone already as familiar with the business of counties as he is with the legislative process," said WSAC President Mary Hunt. "Eric was the clear choice to lead WSAC into its next phase."

Eric has more than 25 years of public service at the local and state levels. As a County Commissioner, Johnson primarily focused on transportation and public works, land use and natural resources, and improving social and human services in distressed rural communities.

Johnson has worked in administrative positions for the cities of Chehalis and Bellingham and served for 11 years as Assistant Director for the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.

"I look forward to continuing the strong partnerships we have with our affiliate organization and with our partners and stakeholders," said Johnson. "This is an exciting time for our collective efforts in furthering the health and effectiveness of Washington's 39 counties."



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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and the **Washington State Association of Counties**

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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

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Rashi Gupta, *Policy Director*

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Operations – Finance & Technology

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Operations – Member Services

Michelle Zahrly, *Communications/Member Services Director*

Ginni Peppert, *Member Services Coordinator/Event Planner*

Beth Dubey, *Member Services Assistant*

Program Contractors

Neil Aaland, *Columbia River Program Manager*

Tom Robinson, *Timber Program Manager*

Tonia Sugarman, *County Training Institute (CPO) and L&I Retro Project Manager*

WSAC Joint District Meeting Agendas Updated

Visit http://wacounties.org/wsac/wsac_conference.asp to view the emerging agendas for the Eastern District, Western District and WSACE meetings to be held June 18-20, 2008 at the Kitsap Conference Center. Newly announced speakers and discussion groups have just been added.

Also, don't forget to take advantage of Early Bird Discount rates by registering by June 3.

County Photos Needed for WSAC Website and TVW Project

WSAC is requesting high-quality photos of county landmarks, recreation sites, and county operations from all 39 counties. These photos will be used on the Association's website and will be submitted to TVW for possible use in public information spots about every Washington county.

For more information, contact Michelle Zahrly at (360) 586-4219 ext. 112 or mzahrly@wacounties.org.

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Association News

Janet Walker



Assessors and WACO members were saddened this week with word that Janet Walker, Pend Oreille County Assessor, had passed away at her home May 18. Janet will be remembered for her smile and professional demeanor. Even while battling the illness, Janet still strove to attend Assessor meetings and contribute, and to represent the citizens of her county.

Janet started work in the Pend Oreille Assessors' office in 1992 working for then Assessor Steve Thompson. When Steve elected to retire, Janet ran for the office and was successfully elected Assessor in 2003.

Janet will be missed greatly by family, friends, employees and other Assessors across the state. Janet was truly courageous in her battle with the illness, and few ever knew how sick she was.

Janet Walker was 63 when she passed away. She died at her home in Newport, surrounded by loved ones.

She was born May 10, 1945, in Spokane, where she spent the majority of her life. In December 1963, she married the love of her life, David Walker. They raised five children. In 1992 they moved to Newport where she worked 15 years for the Pend Oreille County Assessor's Office, the last six of those years serving as the Pend Oreille County Assessor. Until recently, Janet was actively involved in the grange, Eagles Club, Soroptimists International and the Democratic Party.

Walker was preceded in death by her grandmother and grandfather Turmes and her mother Marvel Hankins.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, David, and their children: daughter Bobbi (and Duane) Reisenauer, son David (and Mya) Walker, son Danny (and Lori) Walker, daughter Missi Walker, and daughter Stacy (and Robert) Barranco. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren and two great-granddaughters, one sister, three brothers and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, May 22, at 2 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Priest River. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Spokane.

Sherman-Knapp Funeral Home in Newport is in charge of arrangements. Family and friends are invited to sign the online guestbook at www.sherman-knapp.com.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Walker's name may be made to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, P.O. Box 445, Priest River, ID 83856.

Yakima County Sheriff to Lead WSSA

Yakima County Sheriff Ken Irwin was elected this week to serve as President of the Washington State Sheriffs' Association (WSSA).

The election was held in conjunction with the 2008 Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Spring Conference at the Yakima Convention Center. Franklin County Sheriff Richard Lathim is the WASPC President and presided over the conference.

Other WSSA officers were also elected and include Jefferson County Mike Brasfield Vice-president, Skamania County Sheriff Dave Brown Secretary/Treasurer and King County Sheriff Sue Rahr who will represent WSSA on the WASPC Board. San Juan County Sheriff Bill Cumming will continue to serve as the WSSA Representative to the WACO Board of Trustees until October 2010.

Sheriff Rahr announced that two workshops will be held to “train the trainer” on the issue of access to cell phone records when needed to assist in the location of persons reported missing. Cell phone companies will participate with law enforcement to discuss the legal framework governing privacy and requests for records; the request procedures; the capability and technology of several cell service providers; and, E-911 reporting. There will also be question and answer period on both the east and west side agendas. The initial discussions leading to the training occurred after a high profile missing person case in King County.

The sheriffs also discussed Sex Offender Risk Assessment programs; Tribal Commissioning Model Policy Development which resulted from passage of legislation to commission tribal officers in the 2008 Legislative Session; Boating Safety Program funding; and, certification and physical abilities testing of part-time corrections employees.

The conference concludes today.

Boards & Commissions

Pipeline Safety Board Needs County Representation

The following seat is open to WSAC members (County Commissioners, Councilmembers or Executives). To be considered for nomination, please send your name, contact information and a short statement of interest to Michelle Zahrly at mzahrly@wacounties.org by June 3.

The Board advises the Utilities and Transportation Commission and other appropriate federal, state and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation, and maintenance. The committee shall review and comment on proposed rules and on the operation of the state pipeline safety program.

The three-year terms begins July 1, 2008. There are four meetings each year.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webimage.nsf/2f29c3f9d17d13118825704a005773b6/ebde63879cb7d2ad88256b6f000387b1!OpenDocument>

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Puget Sound Partnership Looks for County Involvement

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) is looking to involve counties in their efforts to adopt the Action Agenda for Puget Sound by December 1, 2008. WSAC has contracted with Neil Aaland of Aaland Planning Services to track action agenda development, provide information, and provide other assistance to Puget Sound counties. This funding is being provided to WSAC by the Partnership.

The Partnership has been moving quickly to meet their statutory requirements. Some of their current activities include:

- **Action Area Workshops** were held Sound-wide between February 20 and March 20, 2008 to gather local input on threats to Puget Sound and criteria that should be used to establish priority actions. See this link for a summary of the workshops: http://www.psp.wa.gov/aa_meetings_past.php
- **Topic Forums** were held in April and early May to help identify strategies needed in order to have a healthy Puget Sound. The topic forums are designed to engage science and policy experts at the strategic and tactical level. The

forums are not intended to identify detailed actions or how to implement specific strategies and actions. See this link for more information on topic forums: http://www.psp.wa.gov/aa_topic_forums.php

- **Symposium** will be held to synthesize the individual papers presented and developed by the Topic Forums. This was originally scheduled for May 28th **but the PSP is postponing this meeting** to sometime in June. A notice will be sent via the e-mail distribution list discussed below as soon as information is available.

An e-mail distribution list has been established to keep Puget Sound Counties informed. Updates will be sent approximately every 1-2 weeks, or more often if the situation requires. If you are not already on the list and would like to be receive these updates, please send an e-mail to Neil at naaland@comcast.net.

Background information on the Partnership has been posted on the WSAC website at the following web address: http://wacounties.org/wsac/about_psp.asp This information will be updated regularly. In addition, the Partnership has its own website with a variety of information: www.psp.wa.gov

If you would like additional information, Neil may be reached at naaland@comcast.net or (360) 791-8905.

Training & Upcoming Events

New County Training Institute Courses Announced – See Attachments

Washington Counties – [wacounties.org/Calendar of Events](http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events)

Counties Can Help Promote Summer Reading in their Community

Although summer may mean a vacation from the classroom, it should never be a break in any child's intellectual development. Washington state librarians know that kids who participate in Summer Reading programs develop a greater capacity to learn than those who do not. In fact, young people who do not read in the summer return to school with reading levels lower than before the school year ended.

Washington State Library's Summer Reading program takes place in large and small, urban and rural communities across the state and helps students stay intellectually active throughout the summer. It also gives families something fun to do together.

We encourage county members of WSAC to learn more about summer reading in their county. And we encourage young people and families to participate and support local libraries.

Support Washington State Library's Summer Reading programs through:

- Including information about Summer Reading and a link in your county Web page to the Washington State library Web page www.libraries.wa.gov.
- Including information about Summer Reading in your newsletters, at summer events, and in communication outlets (conferences, e-mails, intranet, etc.,)

Not only will the activities above support Summer Reading in your county, they will also reinforce the fact that county governments are dedicated to helping youth and families thrive and succeed.

The campaign starts as schools break for the summer, so support activities can begin in the next two weeks. For more information on Washington's Summer Reading program contact Martha Shinnars at the Washington State Library,

Courthouse Ramblings

Grays Harbor County Coroner's office has a new e-mail address. The address now is coroner@co.grays-harbor.wa.us.

Our thoughts are with Commissioner Tim Sheldon, Mason County, and his siblings on the passing of their mother, Lillian Sheldon, age 92, on Monday. Mrs. Sheldon was a graduate of the University of Washington and remained active throughout her life. She was a resident of Panorama City in Lacey, WA.

Good Things

County Clerks Offer Free Service to Soldiers

Washington State to Provide Free Certified Documents

Washington State County Clerks are now offering a new way of certifying documents that will save people lots of time and money, in partnership with Image-x. The counties are offering the Clerk ePass software, which allows County Clerk's a way to digitally sign and send certified documents over the Internet.

The county clerk's office is now offering the service free to all US soldiers that need to send documents overseas. This will help the soldiers greatly by alleviating all the waiting for critical documents and providing them with the services necessary to send and receive their documents safely. The new software works by encrypting the document, which provides a unique key to each document so that the receiver is the only one who can view the document.

By using this software, the county is also working to reduce CO2 emissions and paper usage through the use of their Clerk ePass software. By using the software instead of traditional mailing, one can save twenty pounds of CO2 per envelope. The certified document network meets federal standards by complying with the Federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act Section 101, (d)(1)(B) and with the Washington State code RCW 19-34. For more information please visit www.clerkepass.com.

Attachments

Credentials Forms for NACo Election Mailed to Member Counties

Credentials and voting information for the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2008 election that will take place at the Annual Conference were mailed May 7 to the chief elected official of each member county.

In order to vote, a county must have paid its 2008 dues and have at least one paid registration to the conference. The 2008 credentials procedures have been changed, and each member county must return a form, signed by the chief elected official, in order to vote. In addition to being mailed, the credentials form is also available in the Members Only Section of the NACo Web site.

The deadline to return the form is Friday, June 27.

The credentials form attests to a county's eligibility to vote. The form contains information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast, as well as the identity of the delegate that is authorized to cast the county's vote.

This year's election at the conference will be held on Tuesday, July 15 at 10 a.m. Counties will vote on resolutions that set NACo legislative and association policy for the coming year. Delegates also will elect NACo officers for the coming year. The position of second vice president is usually the one position that is contested.

The number of votes a county is determined by the amount of dues it pays. Dues are based on population. NACo's bylaws allot one vote per \$500 in dues.

- Counties with dues of \$400 to \$499 receive one vote.
- Counties with dues of \$500 to \$999 receive two votes.
- Counties with dues of \$1000 to \$1,499 receive three votes, and so on.
- The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 111.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Landsman, Membership Coordinator at elandsman@naco.org or (202) 942-4242.

Attachments (continued)

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

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