

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*

Still Time to Register for WSAC Joint District Meeting



Although the Early Bird Discount time has passed, you may still register for the June Meeting for WSAC Eastern and Western District members and WSACE County Engineers. Don't miss this gathering in Kitsap County, June 18-20.

For more information and to register, visit
http://wacounties.org/wsac/wsac_conference.asp

WACO President's Message

As our WACO affiliates prepare for conferences around the state they work on issues new to the table, as well as those returning from previous years.

The Assessors address annual revaluations and the impacts that will have on all counties. Another concern is managing the legal costs for valuation appeals for large industrial properties including those appraised by the counties by the Department of Revenue.

Auditors are busy this week with candidate filings and their discussions continue about the "Top Two Primary." Clerks are preparing for conference and have a slate of new officers for 2008/2009. Our Coroners and Medical Examiners look forward to their business meeting and training in June.

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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(WACO) wacounties.org/waco

and the **Washington State Association of Counties**

(WSAC) wacounties.org/wsac

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays. Direct inquiries and correspondence to - *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

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Treasurers are considering the ramifications and fallout of the King County Investment Pool report and are proactively working with the Legislature on computer systems.

At the request of the WSAC President, the WACO Executive Board agreed to participate in a task force made up of representatives of both organizations to collaborate on the efficiency and productivity of counties. Representing WACO are: Thad Duvall, Douglas County Auditor; Gordon Heimbigner, Walla Walla County Treasurer; Stew Menefee, Grays Harbor Prosecutor; Judi Morris, Jefferson County Treasurer and WACO President Elect; and Mike Whelan, Grays Harbor Sheriff. Each member brings a unique perspective to the discussions. With Kitsap County Commissioner Josh Brown chairing the task force, we look forward to a unified approach to functional, conceptual and legislative ideas for improvement. A report should be available for the October conference in Spokane.

And that's a conference I hope you will all attend. Help us celebrate 50 years of serving our affiliates and the citizenry we support, October 6-10 at the Davenport Hotel and Tower in Spokane.

Mark Leander, Skagit County Assessor
WACO President

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

County Auditors Meet in Long Beach

The Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA) met for its 102nd Annual Conference in Long Beach, May 14-16. As is tradition, the WSACA Vice President, Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, was in charge of the program and presided over the meeting. A pre-conference dinner and legislative awards ceremony was held at a local pizza parlor with Legislative Committee Co-chairs Corky Mattingly, Yakima County Auditor; and Evelyn Arnold, Chelan County Auditor; handing out the awards. They made it a decidedly light and fun evening with a baseball theme. All of the many “players” during the legislative session this year were given baseballs with their award printed on them, from “heavy hitter” to “took one for the team”.

The opening day of the conference President Thad Duvall, Douglas County Auditor, welcomed everyone to the beautiful Washington Coast. Next, Long Beach Mayor Bob Andrew, (who is also a bakery owner and was the caterer for the week!), spoke about the area highlights and things to do on the Long Beach Peninsula.

The slate of officers nominated for the ensuing year was presented to the members. With no floor nominations, it was moved, seconded and voted that a unanimous ballot be cast to elect those named. The new officers for 2008-09 are: Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, President; Kittitas County Auditor Jerry Pettit, Vice-president; Pacific County Auditor Pat Gardner, Treasurer; and Spokane County Auditor Vicky Dalton, Secretary. Other Executive Board members elected from the four districts were San Juan County Auditor Milene Henley, Northwest District; Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey, Southwest District; Grant County Auditor Bill Varney, Central District; and Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County Auditor, Eastern District.

Secretary of State Sam Reed was in attendance and presented his “Auditor of the Year Award” to WSACA President Thad Duvall.

The balance of the day included a presentation by David Elliott, a Senior Fiscal Note Analyst with the State, on the fiscal implications of changing voter registration timeframes, followed by a policy discussion on the same subject with Katie Blinn and Shane Hamlin, both from the Secretary of State’s office. Blinn and Hamlin went on to discuss with the auditors the new Top Two Primary Election which will occur August 19 in Washington State. The luncheon speaker was Lieutenant Mark Heussner, who gave a fascinating account of the Coast Guard’s work along the Washington and Oregon coasts, which is not for the faint-hearted.

That evening, the President’s reception was held along with a Living Historians presentation of the Northwest travels of Lewis and Clark.

The second day of the conference was an excellent workshop on “Understanding Communication Styles” with Rhonda Hilyer, Agreement Dynamics, Inc. The program was enjoyed by all; it was interactive, fun and full of great information about different personality styles and how people can be successful in communicating with others, not by what they say, but how they say it.

On banquet night, special guests were former Kitsap County Auditor Karen Flynn and former Mason County Auditor Al Brotche and his wife, Chris.

During the course of the conference, the attendees had spirited bidding on gift baskets from Pacific County and a beautiful necklace made by host auditor Pat Gardner. She also agreed to make another necklace, which was also sold to the highest bidder. All told, over \$1,500 was raised by the auditors for the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund! Many thanks to WSACA and to Pat Gardner and staff member Chris Stephens who did a fantastic job hosting the conference!

Transportation & Public Works

To all Cities and Counties:

We are pleased to announce that the WSDOT invitational call for projects for safety is now being distributed to agencies across Washington. Please see our web page at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/2008SafetyGrants.htm> for specific program details.

This invitational call for projects is based on the priorities established by the governor in Washington's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). That plan places the focus of Washington's safety efforts on reducing the number of fatalities and serious injuries in the state.

This call for projects is by invitation only. Qualifying agencies must meet minimum criteria to apply for these funds. The qualifying criteria may be found on the web page shown above, under Background. All qualifying agencies will receive a follow-up email with additional information.

If you have any questions about this call for projects, please 1) see the web page, 2) contact your region Local Programs Engineer, or 3) contact Matthew Enders (endersm@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-705-6907).

Association News

WSAC Members attend NACo's WIR Conference in St. George Utah



A few WSAC Commissioners and guests were rounded up to enjoy the event at the Tuacahn Center for the Arts, including a barbeque as well as musical excerpts from *The Sound of Music* and *Les Miserables*. From left are: Grant County Commissioner Richard Stevens, Stevens County Commissioner and WSAC Secretary/Treasurer Merrill Ott, Douglas County Commissioner and WSAC President Mary Hunt, Grant County Commissioner LeRoy Allison, Deborah Walter, Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter, Mason County Commissioner and WSAC Vice-President Lynda Ring-Erickson, Skamania County Commissioner Paul Pearce, Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman, and WSAC Executive Director Eric Johnson.

Nearly 20 WSAC members attended NACo's WIR Conference in St. George, Utah, May 20 – May 23, including WIR Board Members Snohomish County Councilmember John Koster and Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter. The pre-conference tour provided insights into how the domestic, industrial, and agricultural water needs were being met for a growing desert community in Washington County, Utah. Another focus of the tour was to look at how Washington County's Habitat Conservation Plan for the Endangered Desert Tortoise was working, one of the few County HCPs in the nation.

The Public Lands PILT Working Group faced the ongoing discussion of proposals for a new formula for PILT (Payments In Lieu of Taxes) for federal lands. Led by Commissioner Walter, the group adopted the base principles drafted by the Washington State Association of Counties – to assure we follow a set of base principles and not artificially create a new formula that either increases or decreases revenue to any one county.

Other significant topics that participants took advantage of included:

- Climate Change and Green Purchasing Policies
- Public Land Management, Federal Land Payments, Reduce Wildfire Risks, County Natural Resource Planning; Cooperating Agency Status
- Partnerships with Cooperative Extension; Rural Development Resources
- Courts, Incident Command System for Electeds

Make plans now to attend next years' NACo WIR Conference in Umatilla County (Pendleton), Oregon, May 20-22, 2009: http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=WIR_New&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=86&ContentID=21414

Boards & Commissions

Act Now to Seek Statewide Board or Commission Representation

The following seats are open to **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 **Friday, June 6**. The WSAC Board of Directors will take action on the nomination or appointment of these seats at their June 17, 2008 meeting.

Pipeline Safety Board

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

Northwest Energy Efficiency Task Force

<http://www.wacounties.org/WSAC/neet.asp>

County Road Administration Board (three positions available)

Counties with populations greater than 125,000

Counties with populations of 20,000 – 125,000

County Engineer in Counties with populations less than 20,000 (for this seat, please send your statement of interest to WSACE President Kent Cash)

www.crab.wa.gov

Transportation Improvement Board (must serve on a Transit Board to qualify for this seat)

www.tib.wa.gov

Board of Health

<http://www.sboh.wa.gov/About/index.htm>

Public Works Board

<http://www.pwb.wa.gov/BoardInformationaccess.asp?zindex=3>

The following positions are available to **County Department Managers and staff, and to WSAC members:**

Commute Trip Reduction Board

<http://www.ctrboard.org/about.htm>

Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board – County Engineer or Public Works Manager position

<http://www.fmsib.wa.gov/>

Employee Retirement Benefits Board – must be an active PERS Plan 3 member

<http://www.drs.wa.gov/Administration/ERBB/>

Dept. of Retirement Systems Advisory Committee – must be an active PERS member

<http://www.drs.wa.gov/Administration/advisorycommittee/>

Training & Upcoming Events

Southwest Washington Sustainability Conference & Trade Show: Climate, Commerce, Community -- A Call to Action

**Presented by Clark County and the City of Vancouver, Washington
July 10-11, 2008 -- Hilton Vancouver Washington**

Join other professionals, key decision makers and leaders dedicated to the region's social, economic and environmental sustainability at this important two-day conference designed to provoke thought, solutions and action. The conference features a dynamic list of nationally-recognized speakers, including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Bob Willard, Jerome Ringo, William Calvin and more. Breakout sessions include: triple-bottom-line corporate strategies, green building, economic development, renewable energy, climate change, transportation, social equity and consumer responsibility. Interactive sessions will provide further opportunity for brainstorming and networking. Register at www.brownpapertickets.com by June 20 for early rates of \$275. See www.cityofvancouver.us/conference for more information.

Pacific Northwest Salmon Center Seeking Nominations for the 2008 Wild Salmon Hall of Fame Award

The purpose of the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame is:

“To honor and celebrate people who have demonstrated, over time, actions that have inspired and which continue to guide a passion for the preservation and recovery of abundant and diverse Wild Salmon populations throughout the Pacific Northwest. (Alaska, B.C., Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho)”

We are seeking nominations for the 6th annual Wild Salmon Hall of Fame award, with the winner to be announced on September 13 at a dinner celebration in Bremerton, Washington.

Individuals nominated for the award exemplify a dedicated, influential passion for Wild Salmon of the Pacific Northwest, as measured by specific criteria:

- *Demonstrates a passion for Wild Salmon in their career or volunteer work*
- *Enhances public knowledge and appreciation of Wild Salmon*
- *Creates a tangible, measurable outcome such as a book, artwork, event, or significant project*
- *Fosters a positive influence within his or her profession or the community*

The winner is chosen by a selection committee whose members are: Congressman Norm Dicks; Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Chair, Bill Ruckelshaus; Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair, Billy Frank Jr.; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director, Jeff Koenings; and Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recovery Program Manager, Charles Corrarino.

Nomination forms for the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame Award may be obtained by contacting Michelle Hori at 360-275-2763, or from our website at <http://www.pnwsalmoncenter.org/wshf.xml>.

[Read here about last year's finalists and award winners.](#)

Nominations are due by Friday, June 6, 2008.

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

Courthouse Ramblings

Request for Information on War Memorials

Staff for the Legislature's Joint Committee for Veterans' and Military Affairs is compiling a comprehensive list of all the war memorials in the state. The completed list will be posted on the committee's web page (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/JCVMA/>). The information needed is the name of the memorial (and if it is for a particular war or for all war veterans), the address and/or location information, and contact information. Information should be sent to Marsha Reilly of the House of Representatives at reilly.marsha@leg.wa.gov

Attachments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.