

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

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

**November 20, 2008
Issue No. 27**

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Courthouse Journal*

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WACO Welcomes James McMahan

Debbie Wilke, WACO Executive Director, today announced the appointment of James McMahan to the position of Deputy Director for WACO.

James has served as a Governmental Affairs Consultant with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs (formerly known as Smith Alling Lane Governmental Affairs) since 2003. He led the firm's Washington State lobbying efforts, and represented clients such as the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the Washington Economic Development Association, the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Utilities, and more. Additionally, James led the firm's Association Management and Strategic Services Division, and served as Executive Director of the World Trade Center Tacoma, the Washington Highway Users Federation, the Law Enforcement Administrators of Washington and others.

"James is skilled, versatile and no stranger to WACO. We have worked together in the past on sheriffs' issues." says Wilke. "This upcoming session we will have James move around among groups so that he gets a good sense of the "entire courthouse." The diversity of the issues he has lobbied for in the past several years makes him a comfortable fit in any area. "

James lives in Pacific with his wife Amanda and their nine-month old daughter Emma. He will come on board with WACO on January 1, 2009.

WSAC Membership Elects 2009 Association Officers

At its Annual Conference last week in Yakima, the membership of the Washington State Association of Counties elected its officers for 2009. WSAC is pleased to announce the following members will serve next year as the Association's Executive Committee:

- President: Commissioner Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason County
- Vice President: Commissioner Merrill Ott, Stevens County
- Secretary/Treasurer: Councilmember John Koster, Snohomish County
- Immediate Past President: Commissioner Mary Hunt, Douglas County

President Ring-Erickson, recently reelected to her second term as Mason County Commissioner, said, "I am honored to be selected to serve the Association as

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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Washington Association of County Officials

(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

WACO - (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director

Deputy Director

Robin Chase, Financial Operations Manager

Bob Carlton, Research Associate

Kathleen Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC - (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Eric Johnson, Executive Director

Scott Merriman, Deputy Director

Policy

Rashi Gupta, *Policy Director*

Julie Murray, *Policy Director*

Jeff Killip, *WSALPHO Managing Director*

Brad Banks, *Policy Analyst*

Operations – Finance & Technology

Karlynn Parten, *Finance Director*

Barbara Warden, *Finance Specialist*

Justin Kerrihard, *Technology Manager*

Operations – Member Services

Michelle Nelson, *Communications/Member Services Director*

Sarah Bright, *Member Services Coordinator*

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*

President and look forward to working with the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and all of our members to further the organization's legislative priorities that seek to strengthen the ability of counties to better serve their citizens."

Also elected last week were the District officers. They are:

Eastern District

President: Commissioner Paul Pearce, Skamania County

Vice President: Commissioner Bud Hover, Okanogan County

Secretary/Treasurer: Commissioner Robert "Bob" Koch, Franklin County

At Large Position: Commissioner Keith Goehner, Chelan County

Board Alternates: Commissioners Laura Merrill, Pend Oreille County, and Ken Stanton, Douglas County

Western District

President: Commissioner Josh Brown, Kitsap County

Vice President: Commissioner Axel Swanson, Cowlitz County

Secretary/Treasurer: Councilmember Reagan Dunn, King County

At Large Position: Commissioner Blair Brady, Wahkiakum County

Board Alternates: Commissioners Lee Grose, Lewis County, and David Sullivan, Jefferson County



WSAC 2009 Officers are sworn in at the 102nd Annual Conference on November 13, 2008 in Yakima. From left: Mary Hunt, John Koster, Lynda Ring-Erickson, Merrill Ott

Congratulations to all of the 2009 Officers and thanks to each one for their willingness to serve in leadership roles for the Association.

WSAC would also like to recognize and thank 2008 President Mary Hunt, Douglas County, for her commitment, service and leadership during the past year. During her tenure, WSAC went through numerous changes and transitions, including the selection of a new Executive Director. Commissioner Hunt's steady hand, accessibility, humor and strong communication skills kept the Association on track and progressing during the last twelve months. We all appreciate the time and effort she put into the organization. Thank you Mary!

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

WSAC Annual Conference Acknowledgements

WSAC would like to thank all those who participated in the 2008 Annual Conference and Exhibitor's Fair last week at the Yakima Convention Center. Special thanks to those companies and individuals who helped support the event or the Scholarship Fund through their generous contributions:

Sponsors



Scholarship Fund

Nationwide Retirement Solutions for again donating \$3,000 to the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund

Doug MacDonald of US Archive & Imaging Services for conceiving of and hosting the Book Drive and Sale, which raised more than \$400 for the Scholarship Fund and provided a fun resource for attendees

Everyone who donated to the Scholarship Fund; donations can still be made through the WSAC and WACO offices

Exhibitors

Brothers International Corporation
Cascade Recreation, Inc.
Colorado Custom Ware, Inc.
Commercial Office Interiors/NPP
Comstor, Inc.
County Training Institute
De Angelo Brothers, Inc.
Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Geology & Earth Resources
Destiny Software, Inc.*
Digital Imaging Service, Inc.
Efficiency, Inc.*
Election Systems & Software
Guaranteed Education Tuition Program
HDR Engineering, Inc.*
L&I RetroPool/Sedgwick CMS
LCA Architects*
MRG/Spacesavers Northwest
Municipal Research and Services Center/ MRSC
Nationwide Retirement Solutions
NC Machinery
Nufarm Turf & Specialty
Office Depot
Recreation and Conservation Office
RH2 Engineering, Inc.*
Sequoia Voting Systems/Robis Elections

Soil Nail Launcher, Inc.
Springbrook Software
The Pacific Institute
Todd Myers Communications - Partnership for Prescription Assistance
US Communities
US Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development
USArchive & Imaging Services*
VEBA Service Group, LLC*
VPCI/LASERFICHE
Washington Counties Insurance Fund - WCIF*
Washington Counties Risk Pool - WCRP*
Washington Geologist Licensing Board
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Waste Management of Washington*
WSAC Financial Services Corporation
WSU Extension
**Also a WSAC Associate Member*

WSAC members are able to download presentations from last week's conference on the Members Only section of the Association website. <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/> We have made the user name and password non-case sensitive for easier access, but if you have any questions about how to log in, please contact Michelle Nelson at mnelson@wacounties.org.

Good Things

Commissioners Honored for Efforts to Help Extend Federal Timber Payments

Commissioners Bud Hover, Okanogan County, and Paul Pearce, Skamania County, were honored by their peers at the 102nd WSAC Annual Conference last week in Yakima for their two-year dedication to help convince Congress to extend the Secure Rural Schools Act and PILT Timber Payments Program.

They received a special ribbon award from incoming President Lynda Ring-Erickson and the inaugural "Heavy Hauling Award" from the Association. Commissioners Hover and Pearce traveled on a regular basis to Washington D.C. over the course of many, many months to meet with members of Congress and impress upon them the need for continued funding for counties through the extension of these programs, whose futures were in jeopardy.

For the first time since its inception, the Secure Rural Schools Program was fully funded. The PILT payment program will be phased out as planned, but only after another five years of staggered reductions. These are major accomplishments given the current economic climate.

Commissioner Paul Pearce accepted the awards for both he and Commissioner Hover and thanked the membership for their support and quick response when action was requested to contact members of Congress. He also recognized Washington's Congressional delegation and the support of the issue by Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

Thank you Paul and Bud for your amazing efforts on behalf of Washington's Counties!



Commissioner Paul Pearce, second from left, accepts the Heavy Hauling Award from Commissioner Merrill Ott and WSAC Executive Director Eric Johnson. Also pictured is Terry Hunt (seated).

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Federal Grant Funds Available

The State Interoperability Executive Committee is pleased to announce the availability of \$1.1 million for Washington State in new federal grant funds to improve interoperable emergency communications.

The funds shall support 1) Gaps in Leadership and Governance and Common Operational Planning and Protocols; and 2) Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities Development through Training and Exercises. These two groups are identified by the federal Department of Homeland Security as critical for advancing interoperable emergency communications. The Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, is the State Administrative Agency. Please direct questions to Blessing Guillermo at BGuillermo@emd.wa.gov or calling (253)512-7463.

The application deadline is December 10, 2008. For more information on the grant requirements, scoring criteria, and additional information are available in the attachment or at: <http://www.siec.wa.gov/funding/index.shtml>.

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

King County Opts for an Elected Elections Director

King County voters appear to have approved creating the position of Elected Elections Director by Charter Amendment. By an unofficial margin of 56.2% to 43.8%, voters were giving the nod to creating the position.

If this proposed charter amendment is approved, the elections division would become an executive department and would be administered by an elected, nonpartisan director. The initial election for the county director of elections would occur at a special election on February 3, 2009, and the initial term of office would end on December 31, 2011. Subsequent elections for the office of county director of elections would occur at the 2011 primary and general elections and every four years thereafter.

Pierce County Voters Select Paul Pastor Non-Partisan Sheriff

Where many of the races have been close, the Pierce County Sheriff's race appears to be a landslide in favor of Paul Pastor. Sheriff Pastor has become the first elected Sheriff in Pierce County since 1975.

Sheriff Pastor was appointed to the Sheriffs position in Pierce County in 2001. The former Clark County undersheriff and Everett chief of police advocates that police work can't alone ensure public safety. He is a strong advocate for equipping neighborhoods and community groups to help fight crime.

Pastor, the county's appointed sheriff since 2001, has a solid reputation for integrity, accessibility and fairness. You may recall that in 2006 Pierce County voters decided that they wanted to return to electing a sheriff.

Congratulations to newly elected Pierce County Sheriff Pastor for a very decisive victory.

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Update on Washington State's "Beyond Waste Plan"

"Beyond Waste" is the state plan for managing hazardous and solid waste. This 30-year plan has a clear and simple vision: eliminate wastes and toxics whenever we can and use the remaining wastes as resources.

How is Washington doing on achieving this vision? The Washington Department of Ecology developed a series of indicators that track progress toward Beyond Waste goals. The recently updated "Beyond Waste Progress Report" has 16 indicators and measures three major areas of focus:

- Eliminating wastes and toxics, and using waste as resources
- Economic, environmental and social vitality
- Reducing risks.

According to the Progress Report, we are making significant progress in some key areas. We have been recycling more solid waste (garbage), organics (compostables) and electronics (old computers) over the last few years. However, some trends are disappointing. Despite our recycling efforts, in 2006 we threw away \$207 million worth of recyclables.

Among the good news is that green building versus conventional construction is increasing. Also, many businesses are creating less hazardous waste per dollar earned. Progress in these areas shows how moving toward the Beyond Waste vision can help individual businesses, the economy and the environment.

To see the full Beyond Waste Progress Report, including detailed information about each indicator, go to the website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/bwprog_front.html.

If you have questions on Beyond Waste, please contact, Laurie Davies, Program Manager, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program, Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6103 or ldav461@ecy.wa.gov.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Report Available for Comment

The SRFB Funding Report for the 2008 grant round is available for public comment. To view or download the report, please visit the RCO website at: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/srfb/grants/funding.htm>. We will be taking public comments until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 26, 2008.

In finalizing the report, the SRFB Review Panel met by conference call on November 13 to discuss the comments received on the 16 remaining Draft Projects of Concern (DPOC). As a result, the panel reduced the number of POCs to six and conditioned three projects. To review the POCs and conditioned project forms please see attachment #5 in the funding report.

New to the report this round is a region by region synopsis of the local and regional processes used to develop the project lists. RCO staff summarized the information provided by regions and lead entities, who responded to Appendices L and M in Manual 18. During the 2007 grant round, the SRFB requested staff provide objective information regarding project list development and the regional and local processes. This section is a summary of the information. Each region reviewed their section of the report before it was finalized.

When reviewing the report RCO staff asks that regions and lead entities pay particular attention to the project funding table at the end of each regional section. Many regions are over or under their pre-allocation amount. Several regions have POCs and alternates to consider. RCO staff will be working with you to finalize these numbers for the December board meeting.

A regional organization or lead entity has until December 10 to decide whether to leave a Project of Concern on its list and have the SRFB consider it for funding on December 11th. However, if a Project of Concern is left on the list and a convincing case is not made to the SRFB in December that the project merits funding, that dollar amount may not remain in the target allocation. If the region or lead entity withdraws a Project of Concern before the funding meeting, their additional non-Projects of Concern may be considered for funding.

The intent of this policy is to signal that the SRFB likely will not fund Projects of Concern and to ensure that lead entities and regional organizations are convinced of the merits of such projects before submitting them to the SRFB for funding.

RCO staff will provide the SRFB updated project lists if adjustments have been made. Sponsors should work through their lead entity coordinator and the lead entity coordinator with the designated regional organization person to make any adjustments to their project lists. RCO staff needs to have these changes by 10:00 a.m. on December 10 or earlier in order to be reflected in the SRFB meeting materials.

General Government Issues

County Compendium Now Available

One of the most comprehensive books on County Government in Washington State, *The Closest Governments to the People*, is now available from Washington State University.

This book has detailed chapters on counties, cities and towns, and most of the many different types of special purpose districts that may be formed in Washington State. Separate chapters are included on general subjects, such as local government finances, local elections, the Growth Management Act, the local judiciary, and transportation.

The price per volume is \$85, plus sales tax, shipping and handling. Copies are available from WSU Extension in the following ways: On the web at www.pubs.wsu.edu. For best results, search under "Lundin" and the book will appear. Another alternative is to use the web for the Division of Governmental Studies and Services <http://dgss.wsu.edu/>. By phone at 1-800-723-1763 or by fax at 509-335-3006 are available too.

Training & Upcoming Events

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

County Training Institute – www.countytraininginstitute.org

The results of the November election are nearly certified, and it appears that the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) will welcome 29 new elected County Commissioners and Council Members this year. New Officials Orientation is offered on December 9-11, 2008 in Olympia. Please see the attached Draft Agenda and Registration Forms.

For more information, please contact Tonia Sugarman, WSAC Program Manager at tsugarman@wacounties.org or (360) 586-4219 ext 128.

Courthouse Ramblings

Longtime Everett radio reporter and former Snohomish County Councilwoman **Shirley Bartholomew** died November 2 at the age of 84. Her niece, Gina Wade-Whitaker of Mill Creek, said Bartholomew had moved a year ago from Marysville where she lived most of her life to a senior living home in Arlington.

Bartholomew worked for KRKO radio from 1943 to 1980. She was known for working all hours on breaking news and won Associated Press awards for her work. Bartholomew became part of the first Snohomish County Council in 1980 and served through 1989. She was appointed to the Marysville City Council in 1994 and served through 2000. City Councilwoman Donna Wright said Bartholomew would ask questions like a reporter to help the council in making decisions.

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)

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**Ray Burnett,
Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies
Kansas City, MO.**

Newly Elected Officials Orientation – DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Welcome Lunch and Tour of WSAC Offices Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director Lynda Ring-Erickson, WSAC President
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Your Role in Olympia and What to Expect in the 2009 Legislative Session Scott Merriman, WSAC Deputy Director
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Break and check in at the Phoenix Inn
3:00 pm	Overview of Orientation Agenda WSAC Staff
3:15 pm to 4:00pm	Keynote Address: Your Role as County Leader Ron Sims, King County Executive
4:00 pm	Break
4:15 pm to 5:30 pm	County Government Structure, Roles and Responsibilities Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director
5:30pm	Break
6:15 pm	Reception and Dinner at the Phoenix Inn: Meet Your State Partners

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

6:30 am to 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am to 8:15 am	Welcome Back and Day's Agenda Overview WSAC Staff
8:15 am to 9:00 am	No Good Deed Goes Unpunished: Getting Along in the Courthouse and Utilizing Your Prosecutor as Your Attorney Steward Menefee, Grays Harbor Prosecuting Attorney
9:00 am to 10:30 am	Legal Do's and Don'ts – What You Need to Know to Stay Off the Front Page Pat Mason, Senior Attorney, Municipal Research Services Center
10:30 am to 12:00 pm	Your Personal Infrastructure for Success Commissioner Axel Swanson, Cowlitz County Mimi Welch, Transition Dynamics
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch: Networking Time with Your New Colleagues
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	Tackling What Matters Most – Words from the Wise Second Year Commissioners
2:30 pm to 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm to 3:45 pm	Information and Relationships You'll Need to Make a Difference Commissioner Axel Swanson Paul Dziedzic, Transition Dynamics
3:45 pm to 5:30pm Includes set up break	Meet Your Affiliates – Rapid Meeting Style This fast paced session allows participants to meet with representatives from the varying county departments including Parks, Building and Planning, Public Health, Information Services, Public Works, WSU Extension, Emergency Management, Clerk of the Boards/Councils, Administration

	and Budget, Risk Management, and more!!!
5:30 pm	Break
6:15 pm	Reception and Dinner at the Heritage Room: Meet Your Mentors Lessons Learned from a panel of "veteran" Elected Officials
Thursday, December 11, 2008	
6:30 am to 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am to 8:15 am	Welcome Back and Day's Agenda Overview WSAC Staff
8:15 am to 9:45 am	Action Planning for First 100 Days of New or Second Term Commissioner Axel Swanson Paul Dzedzic and Mimi Welch, Transition Dynamics
9:45 am	Break
10:00 am to 11:30 am	Canvassing Board Certification Office of the Secretary of State
11:30 am to 12:00 pm	Overview of Ongoing Resources and Support for the Year Tonia Sugarman, CTI Program Manager
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Lunch: History of County Government Jay Weber, Executive Director, County Road Administration Board and Former WSAC President
1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Closing Remarks: Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director

Registration

Washington State Association of Counties

Newly Elected Officials Orientation

December 9-11, 2008

Phoenix Inn

415 Capitol Way N

Olympia, WA 98501

Toll Free 1-877-570-0555

(360) 570-0555

NAME _____

Title _____

First name you prefer on name badge _____

E-mail _____

Will spouse attend meal functions? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, spouse name: _____

Newly Elected Officials Registration and meals are complimentary

Please make your hotel reservations by calling the Phoenix Inn at 360 570-0555. Identify yourself as being with the Washington State Association of Counties/County Training Institute New Officials Orientation room block to receive the negotiated rate December 9-11.

Please fax your registration as soon as possible to

360 753-2842 or send to:

WSAC, 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501

If you need further information or have any questions, please call the Association office at 360 753-1886.

Registration

(For Current Members, Staff or Affiliates)

Washington State Association of Counties

Newly Elected Officials Orientation

December 9 – 11, 2008

Phoenix Inn

415 Capitol Way N

Olympia, WA 98501

Toll Free 1-877-570-0555 or (360) 570-0555

NAME _____

Title _____

First name you prefer on name badge _____

E-mail _____

Full Registration - includes all meals and functions on Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Thursday. (Fee is not reduced for meals not consumed)

\$175.00

Single-Day Registrations

\$25.00 Tuesday, December 9

\$100.00 Wednesday, December 10

\$ 50.00 Thursday, December 11

Amount Due: _____

Please make your hotel reservations by calling the Phoenix Inn at 360 570-0555. Identify yourself as being with the Washington State Association of Counties/County Training Institute New Officials Orientation room block to receive the negotiated rate December 9-11.

**Please fax your registration as soon as possible to
360 753-2842, payment can follow at a later date to:
WSAC, 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501**

**If you need further information or have any questions please call the Association office
at 360 753-1886.**