

# the Courthouse Journal

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

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Issue No. 26  
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Courthouse Journal

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## WACO CLOSED FOR CONFERENCE

**WACO offices will be closed September 28 through October 2 for our annual conference being held this year at Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine. Hope to see you there!**

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

## WSAC Annual Conference – Nov. 17 in SeaTac



Registration is now open for the 2009 Washington State Association of Counties' Annual Conference and Exhibitor Fair! The preliminary agenda, registration and hotel information, and more are available at:

<http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/AnnConf.asp>.

Register now and take advantage of the Early Bird prices available until Oct. 26!

Conference registration fees were kept within \$10 of last year's rates thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors--please thank them by visiting their booths in the Exhibitors' Hall.

**WSAC Annual Conference & Exhibitor Fair  
Doubletree Hotel Sea Tac, King County  
November 17-20, 2009**

We hope you will be able to attend all or a portion of the conference. For any questions regarding the Annual Meeting or Exhibitor Fair, please contact Sarah Bright at (360) 753-1886, or via email at [sbright@wacounties.org](mailto:sbright@wacounties.org).

We hope to see you at the conference in King County.

### A Special Thank You To Our 2009 Conference Sponsors!

WA Counties Insurance Fund  
Allied Waste/Rabanco  
Comcast  
Waste Management  
WA Counties Risk Pool  
Nationwide Retirement Solutions

**Job announcements & links to County Employment pages at:**

<http://wacounties.org/>

## the Courthouse Journal

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and the **Washington State Association of Counties**

(WSAC) [wacounties.org/wsac](http://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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**Tonia Sugarman**, County Training Institute (CPO) and L&I Retro Project Manager

## WACO Spotlight

My name is Thad Duvall and I was appointed Douglas County Auditor during filing week July 1997. I successfully ran for election that fall and have enjoyed serving Douglas County as Auditor for the past 12 years.

I am the oldest of ten children, 9 of whom are still living. Becki and I have been married for 7 years and between us we have 8 children and 5 grandchildren so far. We are still lucky enough to have our 11 year old Emily at home. (She helps keep us young.) All the other kids are married and/or away in college.

My job history has given me a wide variety of experiences which helped foster success as County Auditor and provided a greater understanding of functions in other offices of the courthouse. In the past I have been, in chronological order, a self-employed farmer and real estate associate broker in Moses Lake, a banker and mortgage loan officer in Wenatchee and Lincoln City, Oregon, and a county appraiser for Douglas and Chelan counties.

The job of County Auditor involves the administration of several completely different areas: Vehicle and Vessel Licensing, Recording, Accounting, Budgeting and last, but not least, Elections. Each of these areas of responsibility has a separate software system. And as we all know software systems don't last forever. It has been my privilege in the last 3 years to administer the implementation of new software systems in Accounts Payable, Payroll, Recording and Elections. Implementing new software is so much fun (not really) that it seems we have been working on it forever. I look forward to the day when everything is running smoothly; our software is mature, stable and not likely to be rewritten in the near future.

After reading the last paragraph you might wonder if I enjoy being County Auditor. The answer is a resounding "yes." I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my staff, the other elected officials in Douglas County, the members of the Auditor's Association and members of WACO. The jobs we do are so important to our local communities, counties and the nation. In addition to providing licensing to our citizens and the accounting and budgeting work that helps keep the county running, the other two functions provide the basis for private property rights in our nation (Recording) and the very grass roots of democracy (Elections). In short, I really enjoy being involved in this rewarding work and hope to continue making a difference for years to come.

### Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

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## Environment, Land Use & Resources

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### Secretary Salazar Launches DOI Climate Change Response Strategy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar launched the Department of the Interior’s first-ever coordinated strategy to address current and future impacts of climate change on America’s land, water, ocean, fish, wildlife, and cultural resources.

“Across the country, Americans are experiencing first-hand the impacts of climate change, from growing pressure on water supplies to more intense droughts and fires to rampant bark beetle infestations,” said Salazar. “Because Interior manages one-fifth of our nation’s landmass and 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf, it is imperative that we tackle these impacts of a failed and outdated energy policy. This secretarial order is another milestone in our continuing effort to change how Interior does business to respond to the energy and climate challenges of our time.”

[The secretarial order signed](#) at Interior’s command center establishes a framework through which Interior bureaus will coordinate climate change science and resource management strategies. Under the framework:

- A new **Climate Change Response Council**, led by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Counselor, will coordinate DOI’s response to the impacts of climate change within and among the Interior bureaus and will work to improve the sharing and communication of climate change impact science, including through [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov).
- Eight DOI regional **Climate Change Response Centers**, serving Alaska, the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, the Midwest, the West, Northwest, and Pacific regions – will synthesize existing climate change impact data and management strategies, help resource managers put them into action on the ground, and engage the public through education initiatives; and
- A network of **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives** will engage DOI and federal agencies, local and state partners, and the public to craft practical, landscape-level strategies for managing climate change impacts within the eight regions. The cooperatives will focus on impacts such as the effects of climate change on wildlife migration patterns, wildfire risk, drought, or invasive species that typically extend beyond the borders of any single National Wildlife Refuge, BLM unit, or National Park.

“The unprecedented scope of climate change impacts requires Interior bureaus and agencies to work together, and with other federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts,” said Salazar.

In addition to coordinating DOI’s response to the impacts of climate change, the Climate Change Response Council will oversee the DOI Carbon Storage Project, through which the Department of the Interior is developing methodologies for both geological (i.e., underground) and biological (e.g., forests and rangelands) carbon storage, and the DOI Carbon Footprint Project, through which DOI will develop a unified greenhouse gas emission reduction program, including setting a baseline and reduction goal for the Department’s greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.

This Secretarial Order builds on [Secretarial Order No. 3285](#), issued on March 11, 2009, which prioritized development of renewable energy on public lands and offshore waters in order to reduce the country’s dependence on foreign oil and to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Interior plays a lead role in helping the nation address the impacts of climate change.

Through the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, Minerals Management Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior oversees one-fifth of the nation’s landmass and 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf, supplies drinking water to more than 31 million people and irrigation water to 140,000 farmers, manages iconic wildlife species from the Arctic to the Everglades, holds trust responsibilities on behalf of the federal government for over 500 tribal nations, and is home to the nation’s top scientists and natural and cultural resource managers.

To read the secretarial order, [click here](#).

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## **General Government Issues**

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### **IACC Conference**

The Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) Conference will be held October 14 - 16, 2009 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Conference registration and conference brochure are available at [www.awcnet.org/iacc](http://www.awcnet.org/iacc).

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## **Association News**

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### **WSAC Board of Directors meets at Grant County Courthouse**

The WSAC Board of Directors, under the leadership of WSAC President Lynda Ring Erickson (Mason County) met in Ephrata at the Grant County Courthouse on Friday, September 18. The Board reviewed and discussed proposed changes to the WSAC Bylaws as well as reviewed the 2010 proposed WSAC Budget and Dues Schedule, and approved the 2010 Special Fund Budget.

The 2010 Proposed Operating Budget and Dues schedule, as well as proposed changes to the WSAC Bylaws, will be up for adoption and approval at the November 2009 Annual Meeting in SeaTac on November 17 – 20. The Business Meeting to consider both items will be on Thursday, November 19.

WSAC will be sending out materials for the Annual Business meeting in mid-October. If you have any questions on either the proposed 2010 WSAC Budget and Dues Schedule or the proposed changes to the WSAC Bylaws, please contact Eric Johnson at [ejohnson@wacounties.org](mailto:ejohnson@wacounties.org) or 360-586-4219, ext. 109.

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## **Training & Upcoming Events**

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

**County Training Institute** – [www.countytraininginstitute.org](http://www.countytraininginstitute.org)

### **2009 CTI Course Offerings**

The County Training Institute (CTI) was developed in a collaborative partnership with the [Washington State Association of Counties \(WSAC\)](http://www.wacounties.org), [Washington Association of County Officials \(WACO\)](http://www.waco.org), [County Road Administration Board \(CRAB\)](http://www.crab.org) and [Washington Counties Risk Pool \(WCRP\)](http://www.wcrp.org) to strengthen and promote leadership capacity of elected and appointed county officials and staff in Washington State.

The CTI is your best resource for enhancing skills, receiving meaningful and relevant training and updating knowledge in work-related areas.

### **COUNTY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The field of local government is a challenging one. It requires current knowledge and constant skill refinement in order to provide the public with the best service possible. This training will provide beneficial information, and you will leave better equipped to meet the demands of your position. Topics include: county finance basics, including roles and responsibilities; legal requirements and financial terminology; county budget basics, including planning and forecasting, preparation and administration; county revenue sources, restrictions and techniques for forecasting; capital budget requirements; and how to link performance management to your budget process.

October 2 Olympia [Washington Counties Building](#)  
Downstairs Conference Room

October 27 Ephrata [Grant County Public Works Department](#)  
Public Meeting Room

Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm (Lunch is on your own)

Instructor: Glenn Olson, Deputy Administrator  
Clark County

Cost: \$120 for members of WSAC, WACO, WCRP and CRAB  
\$135 for non-members



This course qualifies for 4 Core [Certified Public Official](#) (CPO) credits.

To register, click [here](#).

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Counties operate under powers granted to them by the Washington State Constitution, the Revised Code of Washington, and the Washington Administrative Code. Successful leadership within each county depends on a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the independent elected officials as well as the commissioners, council members, and county executives. Through lecture, interactive learning activities, and small group discussions, participants will broaden their knowledge of the history of county government as well as the county structures, roles, and responsibilities. Participants will also look at county government in relation to federal, state, and other local governments.

October 20 Everett [Snohomish County Courthouse](#)  
Building A, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Admin East, Public Meeting Room #2

October 28 Ephrata [Grant County Public Works Department](#)  
Public Meeting Room

Time: 9:00am to 12:30pm (Lunch is on your own)

Instructor: Eric Johnson, Executive Director  
Washington State Association of Counties

Cost: \$60.00 for members of WSAC, WACO, WCRP and CRAB  
\$75.00 for non-members



This course qualifies for 2 Core [Certified Public Official](#) (CPO) credits.

To register, click [here](#).

## COMING SOON!!!

The following courses will be available 24/7 through distance learning. Keep checking our website for our **E-Learning launch**.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

Understand risk management functions, approaches to risk control, and claim litigation management in public entities. Topics include: negligence as it relates to county government activities; vicarious, contractual and decision-making liability; insurance/risk management structures; exposures related to financial decisions; loss control techniques, including policy development, training, and self-assessment process; claims/litigation handling; advantages and disadvantages of different types of risk coverage including self-insurance, commercial insurance, and insurance pooling.

Instructors: Jill Lowe, Loss Control Coordinator  
Washington Counties Risk Pool

Harry Green, Risk Manager  
Paulette Young, Safety Officer  
Lewis County

Jennifer Hills, Director of Risk Management  
King County

Randall Watts, Prosecutor  
Whatcom County

Cost: \$60.00 for members of WSAC, WACO, WCRP and CRAB  
\$75.00 for non-members



This course qualifies for 4 Core [Certified Public Official](#) (CPO) credits.

### OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (OPMA)

Discover the basic legal doctrines that county elected and appointed officials need to know to perform their official duties. Topics include, The Open Public Meetings Act, identifying conflicts of interest and appropriate responses, and Ethics and the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine.

Instructor: Pat Mason, Senior Legal Consultant  
Municipal Research Services Center

Cost: \$60.00 for members of WSAC, WACO, WCRP and CRAB  
\$75.00 for non-members



This course qualifies for 1 Elective [Certified Public Official](#) (CPO) credits.

## OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA)

Discover the basic legal doctrines that county elected and appointed officials need to know to perform their official duties. Topics include, The Public Records Act, identifying conflicts of interest and appropriate responses, and Ethics and the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine.

Instructor: Pat Mason, Senior Legal Consultant  
Municipal Research Services Center

Cost: \$60.00 for members of WSAC, WACO, WCRP and CRAB  
\$75.00 for non-members



This course qualifies for 1 Elective [Certified Public Official](#) (CPO) credits.

### Contact Information:

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[www.countytraininginstitute.org](http://www.countytraininginstitute.org)

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## Courthouse Ramblings

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### New WACO Members

WACO welcomed two new members this week: the successors for Skagit County Assessor Mark Leander and Cowlitz County Sheriff Bill Mahoney. Both are retiring.

Mark Nelson was named Cowlitz County Sheriff effective October 1. Nelson is currently a Captain in the Sheriff's Office. His father, Les Nelson, served as Cowlitz County Sheriff from 1975 to 1986.

Former Skagit County Commissioner Don Munks will take office as the new county assessor October 1, following unanimous support from the county commissioners Tuesday.

WACO sends its best wishes to the "retirees" and pledges its support to Sheriff Nelson and Assessor Munks.

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## Attachments

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### 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](mailto:info@uscommunities.org)

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(866) 472-7467 | [info@uscommunities.org](mailto: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.**