

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

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WSAC Summer Convention Starts June 24

It's not too late! There is still room for you at the WSAC Summer Convention in Spokane County. The 97th Annual WSAC Convention will focus on new approaches to budgeting and results-oriented county programs. The WSAC Board of Directors and Legislative Steering Committee also will meet.

After opening ceremonies at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 25, Carl Neu, Director of the Center for the Future of Local Governance, will talk about leadership in these rough and challenging times. We next will look at budgeting through setting priorities of government with Peter Hutchinson, who spoke at the convention last year and helped design Governor Locke's 2003-05 budget process.

Most of the remainder of the meeting on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning will be an opportunity to learn from others in county government -- county engineers, human services, planning, emergency

management, parks, local public health and county administrators. All will share their successes about how they are changing to provide traditional services to the public at a lower cost, or how better services are being provided within existing fiscal constraints.

State Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland and Secretary of Social and Health Services Dennis Braddock also will share thoughts on how their agencies will be impacted by the budget situation.

The annual barbecue will take place Thursday evening.

Finally, as part of WSAC's growing commitment to member education, two CPO training sessions are being offered on Tuesday: an all-day risk management workshop, which is a CPO Core Course, and a CPO elective Tuesday afternoon.

We look forward to seeing you in Spokane!

County Auditors Hold 97th Annual Conference at Sun Mountain

The Washington State Association of County Auditors held its 97th Annual Conference in Winthrop June 10-13, hosted by Okanogan County Auditor Peggy Robbins. Presiding over the conference was Grays Harbor County Auditor Vern Spatz. Welcoming the group to the area was Okanogan County Commissioner Dave Shulz.

Wednesday's Keynote speaker was Dr. Gene Sharratt, the recently retired superintendent for North Central Education Service District in Wenatchee. He is a prolific writer with over 100 articles published in professional books and magazines and the author of *Keeping on Your Feet*, an inspirational book about overcoming life's challenges in a positive manner. Sharratt's current writing and speaking interests are in

leadership and school improvement. He kept the audience's rapt attention until late in the afternoon. A short meeting on various licensing issues followed and the evening kicked off with dinner followed by a reception to honor President Spatz. After a rousing induction into the Past President's club, Vern graciously thanked the auditors for a great year as president. Legislative co-chairs Greg Kimsey, Donna Eldridge and Karen Flynn followed with a presentation of legislative awards for those individuals who toiled to further the legislative goals of the Auditors Association this past session. Mason County Auditor Al Brotche was awarded the "Heavy Hitter" award and will carry forward with a great trophy to adorn his office for the next year.

Thursday morning began with State Auditor Brian Sonntag as guest speaker. Sonntag praised the Auditors Association for their strong leadership in the state taking time to field questions from the audience and address concerns. After a short break, Dr. Kenford Nedd led the group through the mysteries of "How to jump start your memory and brain pressure." Nedd continued after lunch and was followed by a meeting of chief deputy auditors from around the state.

The conference wrapped up on

Friday morning with guest speaker, Secretary of State Sam Reed, and was followed by the auditors annual business meeting. New officers elected to lead the Auditors Association for the ensuing year were Suzanne Sinclair, Island County, president; Corky Mattingly, Yakima County, vice-president; David Bowen, Kittitas County, Secretary; and Donna Eldridge, Jefferson County, treasurer. Representatives heading the various districts will be Mike Garvison, Skamania County, southwest district;

Norma Brummett, Skagit County, northwest district; Diana Housden, Klickitat County, central district; and Karen Martin, Walla Walla County, eastern district. Al Brotche was elected WACO Representative for another two-year term.

The Auditors Association will hold its next annual conference at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham, June 14-16, 2004. The conference site for 2005 will be the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel in Walla Walla County.

The Courthouse Journal

The Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) publish *the Courthouse Journal* weekly during Legislative Session and bi-weekly thereafter.

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday. Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131 or www.wacounties.org.

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Session Wrap Up Available Online

To view bills of interest to local government that passed this session, please visit our website at <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/HotIssues/Session-Wrap-Up.xls>.

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Just a reminder...
Session has ended, therefore *the Courthouse Journal* will now be sent out every other week.

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**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!**

Environment, Land Use and Resources

WSAC Timber Counties Meet at Summer Conference

The Timber Counties meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24 at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, Spokane Valley, in the Diamond/Spirit Room. Dr. Paul Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director, will present *National Forest and Federal Lands Issues: The D.C. Perspective* and discuss issues related to the U.S. Forest Service and other federal landowners. WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler will discuss the WSAC timber program and the timber coordinator contract. Timber Coordinator Tom Robinson will give an update on the progress of proposed legislation to modify the Forest Practices Act related to the conversion of forest land and the counties' regulatory role.

The discussion on the timber program is an action item, and the Director asks that each timber county please send a representative to participate in the decision making.

Upcoming Senate Work Sessions

Land Use & Planning Jt. w/Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water

Tuesday, June 24

Conconully Town Hall
217 N. Main
Conconully, WA

Work Session: Water Resource Issues Involving Conconully Lakes.

Land Use & Planning Jt. w/Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water

Wednesday, June 25

The Barn
51 N. Highway 20
Winthrop, WA

Work Session: Methow Valley Water Resource Issues.

Land Use & Planning Jt. w/Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water and w/Senate Economic Development

Monday, June 23

The Republic School
Elementary Gymnasium
30306 E. Highway 20
Republic, WA

Work Session: Growth Management Act Planning in Relationship to Economic Development:
1. GMA Planning for Economic Development in Rural Areas.
2. How the GMA is and is Not Working in Rural Counties.
3. Economic Development in the Tri-County Area.

Public Hearing: Public Comments.

Surface Mining Program Changes

by Judy Wilson, State Department of Natural Resources

The Surface Mining Program at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is undergoing some changes. Reductions in fee income over the past biennium force a reduction in the number of personnel in the program. Beginning July 1, 2003 there will be three and one-half employees in the inspection program to respond to the entire state. To accommodate the reduction, two and one-half positions will be in the Olympia office. One will be in the Spokane office.

For counties, this centralization of the service requires all calls regarding surface mines to go to either Olympia or Spokane. The region personnel will not be involved. Depending on the location of the mine or pit, the response for an inspection, if one is necessary, may be longer. The Olympia staff will continue to assist counties with questions on permitting and siting. Contact names and phone numbers will be e-mailed to county commissioners and planning staff by July 1, 2003. An e-mail address for inquiries during the transition is surfacemining@wadnr.gov.

The Surface Mining Program operates as an "enterprise fund." The budget is entirely fee supported. In 2000, the Legislature authorized an increase in the fee. The new fees took effect January 2001. Subsequent to the fee increase, the Department of Transportation (DOT), one of the largest contributors, decided to evaluate the need for their numerous rock pits and began closing them. To date they have closed 25. DOT will continue to eliminate their smaller sites. In addition, the anticipated road construction of 2003 (post Referendum 51) did not occur. Several private gravel operations decided to reduce their operation, curtail expansion, and in some cases close. These business decisions impacted the fee income to the Surface Mining Program. There are currently 1,100 permitted mines in Washington: 700 private; 400 owned by counties, DOT, or DNR.

County Members Needed for Surface Mining Committee

In response to many ongoing issues related to surface mines, the 2003 Legislature passed **SB 5305**. This bill calls for a nine-person committee to study the state's need for aggregate, land-use policies related to mining, and permitting requirements for mines. Three members are to represent counties:

- one from a county east of the Cascade crest
- one from a highly urbanized county with aggregate supplies and affiliated industries within its urban area; and
- one from a rural county with aggregate supplies and affiliated industries within its agricultural, forest or rural areas.

The report is due December 15, 2003. If your county fits the description in the bill please contact Paul Parker at WSAC (pparker@wacounties.org) and let him know you or a designee from your county is interested. This group will need to begin meeting by September. For additional information contact Ron Teissere, DNR, at (360) 902-1440.

Public Health and Human Services

WSALPHO Presents Awards for Excellence in Public Health

The Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) will present the 2002 Awards for Excellence in Public Health at its meeting June 25 in Spokane. WSALPHO established the awards program several years ago to recognize excellence in public health in a variety of areas. This year's recipients demonstrate leadership, vision, innovation and dedication to excellent public health practice.

The winners are:

1. **Kim Lincoln and the Mason County Health Department Environmental Health Program** for work that represents a significant contribution to public health. This award recognizes ongoing work that effectively and efficiently contributes to better public health. The Environmental Health Program staff has been diligent in finding and correcting various sources of pollution in watersheds that drain to commercial and public recreational shellfish growing areas. Their efforts have been innovative, comprehensive, and crucial in protecting the public's health by providing clean waters for both the shellfish industry and for recreational activities.
2. **Dr. Tom Locke, Health Officer for Clallam and Jefferson Counties** for making a significant contribution to public health. This award recognizes leadership, innovation, vision, and action in furthering public health in Washington. In addition to serving as Health Officer in two counties, Dr. Locke also represents WSALPHO on the State Board of Health and serves as a member of the WSALPHO Board of Directors. He also represents WSALPHO on the Washington State Medical Association's Interspeciality Council. He has worked tirelessly on enhancing the

public health system in Washington and in improving the public's health.

3. **Pat Libbey, Executive Director, National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)** for making a significant contribution to public health. Again, this award recognizes leadership, innovation, vision, and action in furthering public health in Washington. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of NACCHO, Pat served as the director of the Thurston County Health and Social Services Department. He also provided leadership through holding offices in WSALPHO, a variety of statewide committees dedicated to improving the public's health, and active national leadership through both NACCHO and NACo.
4. **Mary Ann O'Garro, Assessment Coordinator**, for work specifically related to core functions and the Public Health Improvement Partnership (PHIP). This award recognizes outstanding work that exemplifies the core functions embodied in the Public Health Improvement Partnership. Her work as the Assessment Coordinator at the Grant County Health District (she has since joined the Thurston County Health and Social Services Department) is being recognized for her contributions to Grant County, the Grant County Health District, and the state through her collection of data, her attention to detail and objectivity, her commitment to adherence to high standards, and her desire and ability to communicate and share information with staff and with the community. Her work has promoted the value of assessment and data within the community and among health district staff and it has helped leverage funding to improve the health of the population of Grant County.
5. **The Lewis County Public Health Department Environmental Health Team** for innovative and effective programs. This award recognizes innovation and effectiveness in program design and service delivery. Lewis County had been without an environmental health director for some months and staff took the initiative to view this as an opportunity and began exploring ways of doing the business of public health differently. Out of this was the development of what the team calls a "holistic environmental health team, which is empowered to jointly review issues in which all the different environmental health specialties of the team members come into play. They were challenged to develop a step-by-step process for obtaining a food establishment permit and they responded by developing a "Holistic Approach to Food Establishment Permitting Process.. This approach is making the information clearer to recipients.
6. **The Kitsap County Health District, Pollution Identification and Correction Program** for innovative and effective programs. Again, this award recognizes innovation and effectiveness in program design and service delivery. The Pollution Identification and Correction Program has a track record of improving the public health of neighborhoods and surface water quality. The program involved a partnership with three other county agencies under the Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management Program. The other agencies include the conservation district, the county's public works department, and the county's community development department. Through this partnership a utility was formed that is funded by services charges and gives the health district a regular funding source used to correct public health problems in the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County.

Congratulations to each of the award recipients and congratulations to their respective counties.

Training and Upcoming Events

The **Washington Economic Development Association** (WEDA) is having its first-ever conference in Seattle July 10-11, 2003 at the Westin Hotel.

The conference will focus on how to advertise your community to site selectors using national and local media, and will update attendees on the latest news and tools in economic development.

Get to know WEDA by attending a reception at the Port of Seattle, July 10 at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Network with your colleagues in economic development throughout the state of Washington.

Conference highlights:

WEDA Training: "Meet the Press: The Right (and Wrong) Ways to Work with National and Local Media" by Development Counselors International. Get the attention of site selectors using national and local media. This session will share a series of best practices for securing favorable ink (as well as key pitfalls to avoid). Cost: \$45 WEDA Members/\$70 Non-Members.

WEDA Membership Meeting Topics: Biotechnology & Economic Development, Hot Topics in Economic Development, Regulatory Streamlining, and Business Improvement Districts and Tourism. Cost: \$60 Members/\$85 Non-Members.

WEDA is an organization of economic development professionals in Washington state with a focus on providing training and networking opportunities for its members as well as lobbying in Olympia on members' issues.

Register online at www.wedaonline.org or call 509-777-0525.

For Sale

MICROFILM CAMERA Minolta DR1600 with two camera heads.

Purchased October 1992 and only used part time for five years. Cost new: \$5560.00 plus \$175 for the second head. Asking \$1,200 for all.

Functions: Automatic Reduction & Focus, Adjusts for letter size, Frame indexing, Single Corner Positioning, Zero-Space Filming, High-Quality Images, Auto Exposure Control

Specifics: Planetary desk top, Film-16 mm, Lens F5.6 28 mm

Shutter: Electromagnetic, solenoid operated

Reduction Ratio: 25:1, 32:1

Original size 11" x 17" (A3)

Exposure control Automatic or manual

Light source: Two florescent lamps (15w each)

Power Source: AC local voltage

Power Consumption: 200W

Frame Size: 9.7mm x 12.6mm (also double frame)

Pull down: 10mm (single frame) or double frame

Document mark – built in

Dimensions: 37 5/12 x 27 1/2 x 39 3/4

Weight 87 pounds

Purchased from: Alpha Information Management in Seattle.

Contact San Juan County Clerk Mary Jean Cahail at (360) 378-2163 or E-mail MaryJeanC@co.san-juan.wa.us

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
2003			
Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference	Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale	June 23 – 27	(509) 427-9431
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 586-0466
WSAC 97 th Annual Summer Convention	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24 – 27	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Milwaukee, WI	July 11 - 15	www.naco.org
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Vancouver	July 16 – 18	(360) 786-5585
IACREOT Conference	Denver, CO	July 29 – August 3	www.iacreot.com
WCIP Board of Directors Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 21	(360) 586-0466
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Fall Conference	Red Lion, Kennewick	September 8 - 11	(360) 336-9370
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 9 - 12	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting	Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla	September 11 – 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Moses Lake	September 17 – 19	(360) 786-5585
WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting, WCIP and WCIF Board of Directors	WestCoast Hotel, SeaTac	September 18	(360) 586-0466
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	September 29 – October 3	(360) 753-7319
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 1	(360) 586-0466
WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 2	(360) 753-1886
WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee Meeting	Yakima	October 15	(360) 586-0466
L & I Retro Fall Meeting	TBD	October 16	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Fall Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	November 17 – 20	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Seattle	November 19 – 21	(360) 786-5585
2004			
NACo Legislative Conference	Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, DC	February 27 – March 2	www.naco.org

Calendar of Events (continued)

WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 – 9	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 – 23	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 – 27	(360) 486-2380
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June (TBD)	www.sheriffs.org
WSAC 98 th Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 – 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 – 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 – 20	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 – 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 – 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 – 18	(360) 486-2380

2005

NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 – 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 – 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 th Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 – 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 – 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 – 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 – 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 – 7	(360) 753-7319

2006

WSAC 100 th Annual Summer Convention	TBD	June TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 – 26	www.naco.org

2007

NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org
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