Register **NOW** for WSAC Western District Meeting

Only two weeks until commissioners and councilmembers gather in Clark County for the annual fall Western District meeting September 5-6. Are you registered? Have you confirmed your reasonably priced riverfront hotel room? To date, only about 50 people have done so. WSAC staff is eager to hear from the rest of you. All attendees are required to register.

The two-day meeting at the Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay features an in-depth forum on economic development, which will include discussions of tax increment financing, public development authorities, hotel-motel tax, and other economic development tools. Other informational programs focus on housing affordability and counties’ roles in water resource management. In addition, following up on presentations at the spring and summer meetings, we will unveil the latest chapter in the County Budget Roundtable. Capping the event Friday noon is a Legislative Steering Committee, the final opportunity to discuss policies and set priorities before the joint WSAC/WACO Legislative Conference in Wenatchee. A draft agenda and registration form is attached to this issue of the Courthouse Journal.

For entertainment, a little light exercise (and a history lesson), be sure to join the Thursday afternoon guided walking tour of Officers’ Row at old Fort Vancouver -- just the ticket to work up an appetite for drinks and dinner at the nearby Who Song and Larry Restaurant.

The deadline is Monday, August 26 for early registration. Please do not delay, fax your registration today to (360) 753-2842. See you in Clark County!

Attention WACO Members - Nominations for Board of Trustees Open

Nominations are now being accepted from WACO officials who wish to be included in the slate of candidates for the WACO Board of Trustees. The election of officers and board members will be held at the WACO/WSAC Joint Conference in Wenatchee, September 30 - October 4.

Any county official is eligible to run for WACO Secretary-Treasurer or Trustee for their county class. Traditionally, only the Secretary-Treasurer is contested as the other officers move up through the chairs to the presidency. **Travel expenses for WACO officers and Trustees are paid by WACO.** This ensures that any county official can serve without placing undue burdens on county budgets.

The following positions are subject to election this year:

- President;
- President-elect;
- Vice President;
- Secretary-Treasurer;
- Trustee-at-large position 2 (county population 125,000 to 500,000);
- Trustee-at-large position 4 (county population 12,000 to 40,000);
- * Trustee-at-large positions 2 and 4 terms expire in the 2004.

The process is the following:

- **ANY WACO MEMBER INTERESTED IN BEING NOMINATED TO A POSITION ON THE BOARD WILL SEND A LETTER OF INTENT AND RESUME TO EACH MEMBER OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND TO WACO BY SEPTEMBER 13.**
- The Nominating Committee members are listed at the end of article.
• The Nominating Committee will meet by conference call in mid-September to finalize the slate of candidates.
• All WACO members will receive information about each candidate and a copy of the Nominating Committee’s report before the conference.
• On Wednesday morning, October 2, Nominating Committee Chair Rena Hollis, Skamania County Clerk, will report to the membership and call for floor nominations. The contested candidates will have an opportunity to address the group during lunch that day.
• WACO members can cast their ballots from 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. Proxy voting is prohibited by the WACO Bylaws.
• The Nominating Committee will tabulate the election results immediately following the closing of the polls and the new officers and Board members will be sworn in on Thursday evening at the banquet.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR A POSITION ON THE WACO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PLEASE SUBMIT A BRIEF RESUME ALONG WITH A COVER LETTER STATING THE POSITION YOU SEEK TO EACH MEMBER OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND TO WACO BY SEPTEMBER 13.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
Rena Hollis, Chair
Skamania County Clerk
P.O. Box 790
Stevenson, WA 98648-0790

Greg Zempel
Kittitas County Prosecutor
205 W Fifth Avenue, Room 213
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Mark Leander
Skagit County Assessor
Administration Building, Room 204
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Vern Spatz
Grays Harbor County Auditor
100 W Broadway, Suite 2
Montesano, WA 98563

WACO
206 Tenth Av SE
Olympia WA 98501-1311

WACO STAFF
Phone (360) 753-7319
FAX (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
Michelle Hagen, Deputy Director
Christina Bridston, Programs Coordinator
Brenda Bamford, Financial Operations Mgr
Kathie Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC STAFF
Phone (360) 753-1886
FAX (360) 664-2812

Bill Vogler, Executive Director
Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director
Maureen Morris, Deputy Director
Urban Counties
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director
Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director
Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing
Scott Merriman, Policy Director
Transportation, Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director
Public Health & WSALPHO Administrator
Tom King, Associate
Research & Telecommunications
Jim Potts, Coordinator
Housing Outreach
Tom Robinson, Coordinator, Timber
Trina Bannister, Business Manager
Cynthia Sachs-Bustos, Policy Analyst
Ginni Peppert, Events Secretary
Barbara Warden, Secretary
Beth Dubey, Accounting & Business Asst.
education program conducted by the Election Center in San Antonio. McCarthy and Augino completed 12 core courses taught by the Master’s in Public Administration faculty of Auburn University, ranging from ethics, to voter registration and election law, planning, communications and budget among others. The intent of the program is to promote and preserve public trust in the democratic process by creating professionalism in the management of voter registration and elections administration.

The Pierce County Sheriff’s Department’s Crime Analysis and Information Unit recently received a special achievement award at the 22nd Annual ESIA International User Conference for its innovative use of GIS technology. Formed five years ago under a U.S. Department of Justice grant, the crime analysis unit has been able to access information and spatial data and notify the public more quickly, improve officer safety and be more responsive to the community because of its GIS implementation. Deputies can quickly create customized crime statistics and maps for small geographical areas, allowing them to work in a community-oriented fashion and see how their efforts are affecting the crime percentages in certain areas.

2002 Meetings

September 4–6
WAPA Drug Training Program—Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 5-6
WSAC Western District Meeting, Red Lion Vancouver Inn at the Quay, Vancouver

September 6
County Auditors’ Legislative Meeting Washington Counties Bldg, Olympia

September 8–10
WAPA Juvenile Training Program Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 10–13
City/County Planning Directors, Lake Chelan

September 12
WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18-19
County Treasurers’ Legislative Conference, Summit Inn, Snoqualmie

September 18–20
ACHS, Leavenworth

September 19
WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 26
L&I Retrospective Rating Pool, Ellensburg

September 30–October 4
WACO/WSAC Annual Conference, WestCoast Hotel & Convention Center, Wenatchee

October 1
CPO Personnel/Human Resources—Understand the Laws; Maximize Your Personnel System, Wenatchee—Cost: $120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course)

October 2
CPO The Class-Act County Government Official—Building Courthouse Partnerships, Wenatchee—Cost TBD, CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14
WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon, Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21
WASPC Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22
ACHS, Seattle

December 3–4
WAPA Newly Elected Prosecutor Course WAPA Conference Room, Olympia

December 5
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13
CPO Newly Elected Officials Training—Understanding Your New Job at the Courthouse, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Credits: All newly elected officials must attend to become certified.

December 12–13
WAPA Winter Meeting & Banquet Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle.

2003 MEETINGS

May 5-8
County Auditors’ Elections Conference Yakima

May 19–22
WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

June 10-12
Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Annual Conference, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16-20
Washington State Association of County Treasurers’ Annual Conference, Davenport Hotel, Spokane

June 23-27
Washington State Association of County Clerks’ Annual Conference, Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale

June 24–27, 2003
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15, 2003
NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3, 2003
Joint WACO/WSAC Conference, Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

November 17–20
WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell’s Resort, Chelan

(Continued from page 2)
2004 MEETINGS
May 24–27
WASPC Spring Convention, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima
June 22–25, 2004
WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

2005 MEETINGS
May 23–26
WASPC Spring Conference, West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee
July 15–19, 2005
NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Calendar of Events
July 16–20, 2004
NACo Annual Conference
Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8, 2004
WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

November 15–18
WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores

Employment Opportunities

In our effort to hold down costs and save timber, we are asking for your help. You may submit a job opening to us for publication in the CHJ using MS Word. When submitting an article for the Courthouse Journal’s Employment Opportunities section we ask that you use the following format and thank you for your help.

? County or Agency Name

? Position Title

? Compensation – Please not type, Salary/Hourly and Amount

? A brief description of duties and responsibilities (4-6 lines)

? Minimum Requirements (2-3 lines)

? Application requirements (Resume, Cover Letter, Application, Etc.)

? Where to submit application

? Submission deadline

? Where to go for more information (Web page, phone, etc)

CHELAN COUNTY: Dept. of Building, Fire Safety and Planning. Plans Examiner/Building Division, Salary: $34,771 (Step 3) + Benefits. Work includes: • Reviewing building plans to assure compliance with State Codes and County Resolutions as they relate to building construction; • Field inspections as assigned; • Interpreting codes; • Keeping detailed records and inspection reports; • Verifies flood plain locations; and, • Performs other duties as assigned under the supervision of the Building Official. Qualifications: • Five years of relevant work experience in various phases of building construction plan review and building inspections. • Formal training in reviewing construction plans may be substituted for up to two years of experience. • ICBO Plans Examiner Certification and a strong public service orientation are required. Request application forms from Sherry Meadows (509) 667-6229, E-mail sherry.meadows@co.chelan.wa.us or by writing to the Chelan County Planning Department, 411 Washington St, Wenatchee WA 98801. Closing date: August 30, 2002. EOE

FRANKLIN COUNTY: Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Assignments: Duties may include District Court, Juvenile Court or Superior Court caseload responsibilities. Salary: $42,812-$48,438, actual salary will depend on position filled, experience and qualifications. Minimum Qualifications: • Member of the Washington State Bar Association in good standing. Must possess a valid drivers license. Experience: • One year directly related experience, or any combination of education and experience, which would provide the applicant with the skills, knowledge and ability to perform the job. Application procedure: Submit cover letter, resume, writing sample and references to Steve M. Lowe, 1016 N Fourth Av, Pasco WA 99301. Selection procedure: Candidates selected for personal interviews will be contacted by telephone. Contact Person: Jennifer Peterson, Office Administrator, (509) 545-3543. Closing Date: Open until filled. EOE

PIERCE COUNTY: Civil Engineer 2
(Two vacancies: A) Consultant Engineering/Environmental Section and B) Program Development Section. (Job #2557) $53,352 - $68,348 Annually. Closes: September 13, 2002. Public Works & Utilities Department. A) Perform advanced engineering duties associated with corridor studies, transportation infrastructure improvements, environmental documentation, and selecting and managing consulting engineering firms. B) Perform project scoping and cost estimating; project prioritization; grant application preparation; establishing traffic impact fees, preparing interagency agreements, and other related civil engineering work pertaining to transportation issues and capital improvement projects. Requires three years of progressive responsible experience related to the position and either a four year degree with major course work in civil engineering or closely related field or substituting for the degree, registration as an Engineering-In-Training with the State of Washington. Experience using AASHTO and Washington Design manual or similar publication/manual is highly desired. Experience with AutoCAD, Land Development Desktop 2000, Stormshed, GIS or other related engineering software program is desired. Union membership is required within 30 days of employment. Apply to or for more

(Continued on page 5)
Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 4)

information: Pierce County Personnel Dept., www.co.pierce.wa.us/jobs, or (253) 798-7480 or TDD (253)798-3965. EOE

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL: Position: Transportation Planning Director. Seeking an experienced Transportation Planning Director to help plan and implement the region’s growth management and transportation strategy. The ideal candidate will be a proven manager, with at least ten years of experience dealing with complex urban transportation and growth management planning issues. We are seeking a leader who can address the issues of the region and has the ability to bring all parties together on sensitive and controversial issues. The Puget Sound Regional Council serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the central Puget Sound region. Located in downtown Seattle, it is an association of cities, towns, counties, ports, and state agencies, with a mission to preserve and enhance the quality of life in the central Puget Sound region. Candidates are encouraged to apply before October 1, 2002. For more information and an application packet, please see www.psrc.org, e-mail gfoster@psrc.org, phone 206-464-7090, fax 206-587-4825, or contact us at: Puget Sound Regional Council, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104. The Puget Sound Regional Council is an equal opportunity employer.

SKAGIT COUNTY: Administrative Manager, Parks, Recreation and Fair Department. Entry Salary Range: $3,236.64 - $3,586.36 per month. Closes: August 28, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. The Position: Performs a variety of complex professional and administrative work in assisting the Parks and Recreation Director and Senior Management Staff to plan, develop, schedule, and administer the county parks and recreation system. Will be responsible for managing a variety of tasks as assigned by the Director including, not limited to required work related to land use easements, property management, leases, contracts, grants, and public hearings. Divisions include: Recreation, Parks, Fair, Ranger and Administration. Essential Responsibilities:

- Negotiates, prepares, implements and administers land use, construction and service contracts. Prepares or coordinates bid specifications in accordance with county regulations and requirements and monitors purchasing procedures.
- Prepares and implements lease agreements, contracts, permitting processes, various calls for bid, resolutions, RFP’s and RFQ’s.
- Assists with departmental short term and long-range comprehensive planning.
- Will support the Director in the supervision, evaluation, training, hiring and discipline of administrative support staff, contracted personnel and volunteers.
- In conjunction with the Director, develops, implements, administers and monitors assigned division budgets, grant programs and activities. Prepares and presents grant requests to appropriate agencies. Accountable for budget decisions and budget performance as assigned.
- Participates in staff meetings, management team meetings, Park and Recreation and Fair Advisory Board meetings, appropriate seminars, conferences and special meetings on approval of Director.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree in Parks/Recreation Administration, Planning, Public or Business Administration or related field, or any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the skills, knowledge and abilities sufficient to demonstrate thorough competency necessary to perform the work required of this position.
- Valid Washington State driver’s license.
- Valid First Aid and CPR certificate.

Application Procedure: Applications will be accepted at the Skagit County Personnel Office, 700 S Second – Room 101, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Please include a cover letter and resume along with a completed Skagit County Application form. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Selection Process: Following a review of the applications and resumes, the highest qualified applicants will be interviewed. After a selection is made, all applicants not selected will be notified in writing. Skagit County reserves the right to fill any other Administrative Manager position(s) which may open within the Skagit County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department for a period of six months following the closing date of this job posting, utilizing this list.

THURSTON COUNTY: Assessor’s Office - Senior Appraiser. $2,694 - $3,681 monthly salary range (currently under negotiation for cost of living increase). A high school education or equivalent is required. A college degree and/or courses in economics, mathematics, real estate, finance, marketing, business, or cartography are highly desirable. Qualified applicants will have experience in one or more of the following areas: real property appraisals, real estate sales, building construction, market research and analysis, market modeling, or statistical analysis. Knowledge of cartography (mapping) and legal descriptions and skill in the use of word processing, spreadsheet, or statistical software packages is considered highly desirable. Request application from Gene Widmer, Thurston County Assessor’s Office, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502. Phone: 360-786-5564. Email: widmerg@co.thurston.wa.us
Tight Budget Shouldn't Loosen State's Commitment to Justice

By Richard S. Davis

When does a decent regard for justice turn into an indefensible use of tax dollars? Or, if you don't like that question, turn it around: When, if ever, should we let a budget shortfall cause us to short-circuit justice?

With the meter running on several high-profile capital cases in our state, consider an instance of judicial overreach in a small Ohio county. A judge in Vinton County, Ohio, gave the wrong answer recently, preventing prosecutors from seeking the death penalty because it cost too much. The New York Times reports that the defense team estimated total costs could reach $350,000, generally split evenly between the county and the state in Ohio. The judge felt the county, with an annual county budget of about $2.7 million, couldn't handle it. County officials disagree. Prosecutors are appealing the decision, and if there's any justice in Ohio, they will prevail.

Our state has acted to mitigate such concerns. Three years ago, the Legislature passed a law to reimburse counties for "extraordinary criminal justice costs" associated with aggravated murder cases, including investigation, prosecution, indigent defense and incarceration. (Aggravated murder is first-degree murder with aggravating circumstances, such as murder of a law enforcement officer, murder for hire or murder of multiple people. It is punishable by death or life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

Franklin County benefited early from the new legislation. In 1999, state trooper James Saunders was killed in Pasco. An arrest was made quickly. Steve Lowe, Franklin County prosecutor, sought the death penalty, knowing the costs would be high. "When you make a death penalty decision," he says, "you can't make it on financials." Joanne Moore, director of the Washington State Office of Public Defense, says the Legislature wanted to make certain such consideration did not arise. The money made a difference in Franklin County, which according to Moore had a 1999 general fund budget of about $12 million. Although the trial ended with a modified guilty plea and a life sentence, costs reached about $1 million, of which the state reimbursed more than $600,000.

In the three years since the act passed, the state has provided about $1.9 million in reimbursements, which represents just a fraction of the total claims filed. Last session, with claims totaling $7.9 million, the Legislature appropriated just $394,000 to two counties. Tom McBride, head of the association of prosecuting attorneys, puts the funding problem in a larger context, noting that much of the state's funding of local criminal justice programs had been provided from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, repealed in the wake of Initiative 695. According to McBride, costs associated with the justice system amount to about 60 percent of the average county's budget. In the urban counties, annexation and incorporations have resulted in the loss of county tax base, ratcheting up the pressure on county budgets. "We have a statewide criminal justice system," he says, "that is primarily administered and funded at the local level." It makes sense for the state to pay more of the costs, he contends, because state statutes drive those costs. So far, McBride believes, no prosecutor has failed to seek the death penalty because of budget considerations. "That it's in danger of being a factor at all," he acknowledges, "is a worry for me."

Death penalty opponents have exaggerated and manipulated cost figures to influence public thinking about the death penalty. And there's some evidence that defense attorneys attempt to run up costs in an attempt to wear prosecutors down. The tactic is having some effect on public opinion. When Pierce County prosecutors chose to seek the death penalty for Robert Yates, convicted of serial killing in Spokane, cost considerations were again raised. But the county's decision was the right one, consistent with the law. This state has capital punishment because Washingtonians have determined that it's the appropriate punishment for certain crimes. That should be true everywhere in the state. When necessary, the state must provide the funding necessary to assure that costs are not an issue. The Legislature acted wisely three years ago in providing for cost reimbursement. In this year of tight budgets, it's important that there be no retreat.

Richard S. Davis is president of the Washington Research Council, rsdavis@researchcouncil.org or Washington Research Council 108 S. Washington St., Suite 406 Seattle, WA 98104-3408.

(Published August 21st, 2002 in The News Tribune, Tacoma, WA)
Draft Agenda - Western District Meeting  
*Red Lion Vancouver Inn at the Quay, Clark County, Washington*

**Thursday, September 5, 2002**

8:30 – 9:00 am
Welcome and News/Business Meeting  
Presentation of Colors  
Singing of National Anthem - *Elizabeth Alney*, Graduate, *Washington School for the Blind*  
Welcome: *Dan Tonkovich*, Vancouver Mayor Pro-tem

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Economic Development Forum  
Brief presentations on economic development planning, tax increment financing, hotel-motel tax, public development authorities and other economic development tools, followed by a panel discussion including county commissioners and councilmembers.

- *Robin Pollard*, Assistant Director for Economic Development, DCTED  
- *Tami Garrow*, Director of Business Development Grays Harbor PDA  
- *Dana Peck*, Director of Community Development, Klickitat County  
- *Becky Bogard*, Government Relations Consultant  
- *Hugh Spitzer*, Foster, Pepper & Shefelman  
- *Jan Angel*, Kitsap County Commissioner  
- *Judie Stanton*, Clark County Commissioner  
- *George Raiter*, Cowlitz County Commissioner

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch (Final Details Pending)

1:30 – 3:00 pm
Perspectives on Housing Affordability  
- *Glenn Crellin*, Director, Washington Center for Real Estate Research, Washington State University  
- *Lynn Davison*, Executive Director, Common Ground of WA  
- *Glenn Hudson*, Washington Association of Realtors (invited)

3:15 – 4:15 pm
Update on County Budget Roundtable  
Moderator: *Glen Olson*, Clark County Budget Director

4:30 – 5:30 pm
Walking Tour of Officers’ Row  
Meet in the hotel lobby at 4:30. Wear comfortable walking shoes for a guided tour of Officers’ Row at Old Fort Vancouver.  
(A brisk 60 minute walk)

6:30 pm (No-Host Bar) 7:00 Dinner  
Social & Dinner at *Who Song & Larry Restaurant*, 111 East Columbia Way, Vancouver  

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Draft Agenda - Western District Meeting  
Red Lion Vancouver Inn at the Quay,  
Clark County, Washington  
(Continued)

Friday, September 6, 2002

8:00 – 9:45 am  
Counties in New Roles: Water Resource Management  
A look at how counties are increasingly involved in water policy decisions through the watershed planning process, conservancy boards, running water utilities, with a special focus on how water supply needs of developing areas can be met in light of the recent court decision on exempt wells and the city responses to the annexation decision.

Moderator: Steve Tharinger, Clallam County Commissioner

Joe Stohr, Water Resources Program Manager, Department of Ecology  
Dave Monthie, Regional Water Policy Analyst, King County Department of Natural Resources  
Gregg Grunenfelder, Washington State Department of Health  
Clair Olivers, Assistant GM for Water Resources, Snohomish PUD (invited)

10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Legislative Steering Committee Meeting