Newly Elected Officials Orientation – WACO/WSAC New Officials

Registrations and information about the Newly Elected Officials Orientation have been mailed out to all WACO and WSAC officials and to those new officials who were elected in the November 5 General Election. Attached to this edition of the Courthouse Journal is the draft program. Everyone is invited to attend and meet the new officials. Several veteran officials will be taking part in the training by making presentations to new members.

The orientation will be held December 11-12 at the WestCoast Olympia Hotel for most of the new officials involved. However, the county sheriffs will begin meeting Sunday, December 8, and the county treasurers will begin their program on Tuesday, December 10.

On Tuesday, December 10, an ice-breaker reception will be held at 6:00 pm for everyone arriving and the orientation will begin with a joint breakfast and training on Wednesday morning. The speaker will be Mickey Fearn, Synapse Group, who will present “You’ve Been Elected – Now What? Becoming an Effective Leader in Your County.” The luncheon speaker will be Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge. In the afternoon, separate training sessions will be held for assessors, auditors, clerks, commissioners/councilmembers, coroners/medical examiners, prosecutors, sheriffs and treasurers.

On Wednesday evening a banquet is on tap with the program including Bob Wells, President of the World Humor Organization, who will present “Laughing as Though Your Life Depended on It: Tools for a Healthy Workplace.”

On Thursday, December 12, separate sessions will again be held in the morning and Attorney General ChristineGregoire will be the luncheon speaker. The afternoon joint session will include programs on “Legal Dos and Don’ts” and “Your Prosecutor as Your Attorney.”

For those attending the orientation, credit will be given for the Certified Public Officials’ (CPO) designation. For new officials, attendance is required for the CPO program.

For room reservations at the WestCoast, please call (360) 943-3000 and identify yourself as being with WACO or WSAC. Room rates are $58/single and $80/double.

Maxine Sauter, 70, Dies at Home

A memorial service is planned for Maxine Sauter at the Methodist Church in Oak Harbor Monday, Nov. 25, at 1 p.m. She will be buried next to her husband, Lou, in Arlington National Cemetery.

The following article is from the Whidbey News Times of November 13.

Maxine Sauter, the colorful and popular Island County Treasurer who was just finishing her fourth consecutive term in office, was found dead at her Oak Harbor home Tuesday morning. According to the Island County Sheriff’s office, 70-year-old Sauter was found by co-worker Linda Root sometime between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Root regularly picked Sauter up at her home in Oak Harbor’s Conniston Way in order to car pool to her county office in Coupeville.

Russ Lindner, Island County chief criminal deputy, said there was nothing suspicious about Sauter’s death. “It was probably caused by some sort of medical condition,” Lindner said Tuesday morning. “But that will be determined for sure by an autopsy,” he added. Sauter was a 16-year veteran of the treasurer’s office known (Continued on page 2)
by many for her feisty phrase, “Never has a penny gone missing!” Originally hailing from the East Coast, Sauter spent some time as a financial manager on Wall Street before moving to the Northwest.

She recently was defeated in her bid for a fifth term by Democrat Linda Riffe, a local school administrator, after a controversial race that made issue of reports by the state auditor that Sauter’s office lacked sufficient financial controls. Despite the campaign controversy, Sauter was a much beloved figure throughout Island County, well-known for her charitable and community-building activities, and especially for her abiding love of animals. Sauter was a founding member of Whidbey Animal Improvement Foundation (WAIF) in Island County and NOAH, an animal shelter on Camano Island. Sauter mortgaged her house to help construct the WAIF building and was on the board of directors until five years ago.

Rick Renouard at the treasurer’s office said Sauter could be a generous boss. She brought in cakes for employees’ birthdays and often presented them with a Beanie Baby. “During really busy times,” he said, “she would bring in pizza or donuts.”

Harry Ferrier, who was county auditor from 1981 to 1990, said Sauter impressed him by cleaning up the treasurer’s office in the 1980s. “She did a vastly greater job than her predecessor,” he said, “in getting money in the bank and getting it invested.”

Island County Commissioner Mac McDowell said he was a long-time friend of Sauter, since well before he was first elected to serve in 1996. “I’ve been friends with Maxine for a long time,” McDowell said from his office Tuesday afternoon. “She’s always been a good friend, and has done a good job for the citizens of Island County for 16 years.”

McDowell acknowledged Sauter’s deep concern for the welfare of all animals. “She’s always been a huge supporter of animals, having been a founder of WAIF,” he said. McDowell added that he and his family will miss Sauter deeply. “She was involved in many things in the county and always had political support from the whole island,” he said.

Susan Berta of the non-profit Orca Network said Sauter was a “true and dedicated” supporter of the organization, which involves citizens in helping researchers track the movement of whales. Berta said it’s important to realize the great extent to which Sauter’s life was dedicated to helping animals in every way she possibly could. “Maxine always spoke out for what she believed in, and was a strong voice and advocate for animals who could not speak for themselves,” Berta said. “Her spunk and unending enthusiasm and encouragement have lifted our spirits over the past seven years while we worked on the Lolita campaign and other orca issues.”

Berta said Sauter was always talking about how deeply touched she was by orcas, adding that she gave members of the organization a lot of loyal support and encouragement both in their personal and professional lives. “We will miss her very deeply, and know the community has suffered a great loss,” Berta said. Shari Bibich, director of WAIF’s Coupeville animal shelter, said she was “shocked and saddened” by news of Sauter’s death. She added that Sauter had two dogs, a collie recently rescued from questionable conditions in a Camano Island puppy mill as well as a sheltie. “We will miss her,” Bibich said.

News-Times reporter Jessie Stensland and South Whidbey Record reporter Gayle...
(Continued from page 2)

(Bills relating to public and private K-12 education)

**Government Operations and Elections:**
Chair - Sen. Pam Roach, R-Auburn
(Bills relating to state and local government procedures and organization, state regulatory processes, management of public safety and emergency disaster response, local jails, elections, and veterans/military affairs)

**Higher Education:**
Chair - Sen. Don Carlson, R-Vancouver
(Bills relating to public and private K-12 education programs and institutions)

**Highways and Transportation:**
Chair - Sen. Jim Horn, R-Mercer Island
(Bills relating to highways and transportation policy and budgets)

**Land Use and Planning:**
Chair - Sen. Joyce Mulliken, R-Moses Lake
(Bills relating to shorelines, growth management and land use)

**Judiciary:**
Chair - Sen. Bob McCaslin, R-Spokane Valley
(Bills relating to all civil and criminal codes, and judicial administration)

**Natural Resources, Energy and Water:**
Chair - Sen. Bob Oke, R-Port Orchard
(Bills relating to forest and mining practices, public lands, energy, and water supply management)

**Parks, Fish and Wildlife:**
Chair - Sen. Bob Morton, R-Orient
Valley (Bills relating to all civil and criminal codes, and judicial administration)

**Technology and Communications:**
Chair - Sen. Luke Esser, R-Kirkland
(Bills relating to technology and communications development)

**Ways and Means:**
Chair - Sen. Dino Rossi, R-Sammamish
(Bills relating to appropriations, revenue and capital budget)

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**Association News**

**Vacancy on WACO Board**

WACO President Greg Zempel is asking that county officials wishing to serve on the WACO Board of Trustees to complete an unexpired term as Trustee-at-large representing counties with populations less than 12,000 submit a letter of interest for that position. A brief resume should be submitted with the letter of intent. Lincoln County Clerk Joyce Denison has held the position but will be leaving office at the end of the year.

The WACO Bylaws dictate that vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Trustees. The Board will meet by conference call in mid-December to make their selection in order to fill the vacancy before the January 9, 2003 Board Meeting in Olympia.

Any county official in Garfield, Wahkiakum, Columbia, Ferry, Skamania, Lincoln, or Pend Oreille Counties is eligible according to the most recent population estimate by the state Office of Financial Management. The Trustee-at-large position expires in October, 2003. At that time, the position is up for election for a two-year term.

The WACO Board represents the membership in setting policy and is responsible for control, management and supervision of the property, finances and all of the affairs of the association.

The WACO Board meets four to five times annually. Travel expenses for WACO officers and trustees are paid by WACO to ensure that any county official can serve without placing undue burdens on county budgets.

Please direct all question to WACO at dwilke@wacounties.org or (360) 753-7319.

**WACO Legislative Committee Activated**

WACO President Greg Zempel has recently appointed Spokane County Clerk Tom Fallquist to chair the 2003 Legislative Committee of the Washington Association of County Officials.

The members are: Spokane County Clerk Tom Fallquist, Chair; King County Assessor Scott Noble; Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey; Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge; Kitsap County Auditor Karen Flynn; Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels; Kitsap County Coroner Greg Sandstrom; Kitsap County Prosecutor Russ Hauge; Walla Walla County Prosecutor Jim Nagle; Benton County Sheriff Larry Taylor; Lewis County Treasurer Rose Bowman; and Grays Harbor County Treasurer Ron Strabbing.

The committee members are the chairs, co-chairs and vice chairs of the Legislative Committees of the seven WACO affiliates. In recent years, the committee has seldom met as a group after approval of the WACO Legislative Package. In August, however, the WACO Board of Trustees assigned the group a new task when it adopted a new policy for review of any independent legislation. That is, legislative proposals of an affiliate, a member or a county which are not part of the WACO package. The committee is expected to conduct all meetings by conference call.

The new policy is intended to better inform county officials of pending legislation; make the proponents of the legislation aware of potential issues that will encourage either support or opposition to the measure; and, to provide a comprehensive review of legislation and a complete discussion of potential issues before the proposal is introduced in the legislature.

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**Budget, Finance and Taxes**

**Governor Previews “Lean Government” Budget Process**

Last week Governor Locke held a press briefing to discuss the approach he would take in the upcoming budget. It was the first time the Governor has discussed publicly the new process which has been the talk of Olympia for some time. People who attended the half day budget work-shop at last June’s WSAC conference in Bellevue will recognize the approach. The process starts with the anticipated revenue

(Continued on page 4)
level (price of government) and a set of goals or desired outcomes. The budget team then tries to identify the best way to purchase those outcomes.

The Governor enlisted a number of business leaders to participate in the review process. Richard Davis from the Washington Research Council joined the Governor at his press conference and praised the quality of the analytical process.

The Governor announced his intent to propose a budget with no new taxes on December 17. He said that he had not made his final budget decisions yet. He also said he would focus on buying measurable results. Most state programs have been reporting outcome measures for over five years.

The Governor said the state’s budget problem is about $2.5 billion, including the Health Services Account, which funds the basic Health Plan and Medicaid for low income children. He said most of the problem could be traced to increased costs to “educate, incarcerate and medicate”.

Eighty-three percent of the state’s general fund budget is devoted to education, corrections and medical care.

The cost of caring for the poor is experiencing the same cost pressures as county health benefits. The state expects that the cost of Medicaid will grow by about $500 million next biennium. Prison populations are expected to climb 6 percent next biennium and costs will grow by $107 million. In the education area, the cost of educating about a million students in the state’s public schools will grow by about $600 million. Part of the cost increase is driven by recent ballot measures and other costs are driven by long standing rulings about the state’s constitutional “paramount duty” to fund a basic education for all students.

Most of the cuts will probably come in human services. College bound students can expect to see significant tuition increases. The bad news for state budget writers is that even after the state balances it’s budget, they will be forced to cut it’s budget every biennium until health cost increases come under control at the national level and voters decide to stop budgeting at the ballot box.

Tax Structure Study Committee Recommendations Released

The Washington State Tax Structure Study Committee was created by statute to report to the Legislature on how well Washington’s current tax system works and how it might be changed to better serve the citizens of the state in the 21st Century. The committee was composed primarily of professors specializing in public finance, accounting, tax economics and tax law, together with four legislators from both houses and both political parties. The Committee found that our current system is fundamentally unfair to low and middle-income people, unfair to many businesses, and subject to sharp fluctuations in revenue. The current tax structure, put in place in 1935, does not recognize that Washington’s economy has become much more dependent on the service sector, which is not subject to the same type or level of taxation as manufacturing or agricultural sectors.

In its report, the committee outlined a number of major and minor alternatives that the Legislature could implement to make the State’s tax system more current. The alternatives that are outlined in the report can be “mixed and matched” to provide significant improvements in the overall system. In developing replacement and incremental alternatives the Committee focused on the problem areas of regressivity, erosion of the tax base, volatility, neutrality, economic vitality and simplicity. Replacement alternatives include a subtraction method business value added tax to replace the business and occupation tax and a flat rate personal income tax to reduce the sales tax and eliminate the state property tax. The Committee also recommended the State share all or part of the state property tax with local governments and/or schools. Actually, the Committee recommended both a flat and graduated income tax. However, of those who wanted to recommend an income tax, more members prefer a flat income tax.

If the Legislature chooses to address problems with the current system but not replace major taxes, the Committee recommended several incremental alternatives. Those included: extend the sales tax to consumer services; impose a 1% excise tax on the market value of motor homes and boats; review of tax exemptions every ten years to make sure economic and social goals are achieved; avoid dedicating taxes; create a constitutionally mandated rainy day fund; streamline sales tax; simplify local B&O taxes, including increasing the small business B&O credit from $35 to $70 per month and index the credit to adjust with inflation.

The report will be presented on December 3 to a joint meeting of the Senate Ways and Means and House Finance Committees in Olympia. There will be a press conference on that day followed by Committee members meeting with various editorial boards. If you would like to know more about the Committees work, you will find their website at http://www.dor.wa.gov/content/WAtaxstudy/wataxstudy.htm.

Recent U.S. Court of Appeals Decision on Comp Tax by the Quinault Indian Nation

In an opinion filed November 8, 2002, Judge McKeown of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a district court decision on payment of Compensating Tax by the Quinault Indian Nation. The case presented the question of whether the U.S. Congress intended to permit state taxation of Indian land encompassing the Compensating Tax.

In 1998, the Quinault Indian nation purchased approximately 4,500 acres of forest land. Two years later, the Quinault Nation transferred the land to the United States to hold in trust for the Nation, thereby triggering a $58,000 compensating tax imposed by the County. Believing that the County lacked federal congressional authority to levy this tax, the Quinault Nation sought declaratory and injunctive relief from the tax in district court. Grays Harbor urged that the tax fell within the scope of permissible state taxation of an Indian tribe.


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On appeal, the Court of Appeals determined the Supreme Court said the choice between reasonable constructions of the General Allotment Act “must be dictated by a principle deeply rooted in this Court’s Indian jurisprudent: ‘Statutes are to be construed liberally in favor of the Indians, with ambiguous provisions interpreted to their benefit. Id. At 269 (quoting Blackfeet Tribe, 471 U.S. at 766).

The result in this case boils down to whether the tax is characterized as a permissible taxation of land, that is an “ad valorem tax,” (imposed on property according to its value) or as an impermissible tax more akin to an “excise tax” (imposed on the performance of an act). The Court decided the tax simply does not fall easily within the ad valorem category. They stated that although the excise tax may not be a perfect fit, because the transfer of the property triggers the tax, it is more akin to an excise tax than any other. Consequently, because the construction is plagued with ambiguity, and because it is not enough to be persuaded that the County’s is a permissible or even the better reading, they reversed the lower court decision.

Two Former Governors Join
King County's Budget Advisory Task Force

As King County faced its second year of current expense budget cuts in the nine to ten percent range, the membership of a new advisory committee was named. The county has recognized that its problems are structural and will require controversial changes. The group will be co-chaired by Bob Wallace, a prominent local business executive, and John Warner, a recently retired Boeing administrative officer. The county said the general budget advisory task force will meet Wednesday for the first time and will present recommendations to King County Executive Ron Sims next June.

The task force will focus on King County's current expense fund — including its programs, policies, processes and budgets. Those recommendations could include policy and operational changes that provide cost savings, as well as the need for additional revenues to support current expense programs.

The task force is comprised of various leaders with a wide variety of business, labor and legal experience. Wallace is chief executive officer of Wallace Properties Inc. and managing partner of Wallace Properties Group. Warner retired from Boeing, where he was senior vice president and chief administrative officer. Other members include:

- Terrence Carroll, a retired King County Superior Court judge and owner of Judicial Dispute Resolution LLC. He is also a member of the Public Facilities District.
- Clem Edwards, recently retired from the Washington State Council of County and City Employees. He previously worked for the city of Renton as a parks and recreation specialist.
- Rollin Fatland, once a member of the Seattle City Council staff and the Seattle city comptroller's office. He also spent seven years as deputy King County executive.
- Darcy Goodman, currently a King County District Court judge, is retiring from the bench at the end of the year. She will join the task force in January.
- Jim Hattori, a financial consultant specializing in municipal finance.
- Connie Proctor, a Seattle attorney.
- Peggy Phillips, former chief operating officer of Immunex Corp.
- Ralph Siegel, a Mercer Island resident who is currently managing partner of the Northwest practice of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
- John Spellman, former governor of Washington who also served as the first King County executive from 1969 to 1981. He was governor from 1981 to 1985. He is a professor of administrative law at Seattle University's Institute of Public Service.
- Aggie Sweeney, principal and regional manager of the Collins Group, a fundraising consulting firm for nonprofit organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest

Justice Information Group Has Position for Commissioner/Councilmember

The state Criminal Justice Information Act (CJIA) Executive Committee has a position available for a county commissioner or councilmember. The CJIA Executive Committee oversees the Justice Information Network (JIN) and is the entity responsible for developing statewide policies and planning associated with sharing criminal justice information among courts, police, corrections, and other criminal justice agencies. The committee is authorized by the state Criminal Justice Information Act, RCW 10.98.160, enacted in 1984 to facilitate implementation of the 1981 Sentencing Reform Act. More information is available at www.wa.gov/dis/jin.

The CJIA Executive Committee meets 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of each month at the state Department of Information Services building in Olympia.

The WSAC Board of Directors will make the appointment to the CJIA Executive Committee. The term of service is open-ended. Please send letters of interest to WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at sbyrds@wacounties.org.

Thurston Commissioners Challenging County Seat Rule

In a matter that could impact other counties as they attempt to expand jails and courts, Thurston County Commissioners are seeking a legal determination whether a proposed county justice center may be located outside the county seat.

The commissioners filed the declaratory judgment action in superior court November 6 and have requested expedited review. The county also has petitioned the state Supreme Court to amend its rules regarding court location.

Thurston County wants to build a badly needed new justice center – a regional jail, courts, and prosecutor’s offices. Over many months of meetings, the county has enlisted inter-jurisdictional city partners in the project. The only

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problem is, the preferred site for the new facility is in Tumwater, about six blocks outside the county seat of Olympia. State law and Supreme Court rules state that core services, such as the prosecutor, clerk and superior court, shall keep their offices “at the county seat.”

The commissioners are asking the court to clarify whether “at” means strictly within the boundaries of the county seat. Their hope is that a location near the county seat is legally sufficient.

A siting review committee has already determined that the Tumwater site is the ideal location for the new justice center because it is the only undeveloped, non-residential land in the greater Olympia area that is large enough for the project. The site of the existing courthouse complex is already fully built-out and cannot support the kind of jail and court expansion needed. The existing jail, built in 1978 to house 86 inmates, now routinely holds more than 400 inmates. Due to increased workloads, the Legislature has approved adding an eighth superior court judge, but the position remains unfilled because the county currently cannot provide courtroom and office space.

Although the outcome of the Thurston case could impact many counties that have limited space to expand jails and courts, it will not affect the King County Regional Justice Center in Kent. While the Kent facility houses a jail, law library, courts and deputy prosecuting attorneys, the official offices of the elected county prosecutor and clerk remain at the courthouse in Seattle, the county seat.

Free On-Line Symposium on Risk Management Issues in Law Enforcement
The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) of Fairfax, Va., will address new liability issues in law enforcement and strategies to deal with them during an all-electronic “virtual symposium” December 9-13.

PERI serves public, private and non-profit organizations and is useful risk management resource for local government, according to the Washington Counties Risk Pool.

The free symposium will be delivered to participants on the PERI website and via email. It will feature issues-and-ideas papers presented each day along with an open, on-line discussion forum for participants.

Persons interested in receiving the daily materials via email can enroll at no charge by completing the enrollment form on the PERI website www.riskinstitute.org or by sending an email message to Dennis Koubatdkouba@riskinstitute.org.

The symposium’s daily issues-and-ideas papers will include the following topics:
• “Racial Profiling: A Police Department’s Current High Risk,” by Police Chief Russ Leach, city of Riverside, Calif.
• “Police Risk in Discipline, Internal Investigation, and Citizens’ Complaints,” by Police Chief Dave Hall, San Diego Harbor Police.
• “Liabilities in Excessive Force in Local Police Agencies,” by Tom Frazier, law enforcement consultant, Baltimore, Md.

Sheriffs Meet in Vancouver
The Washington State Association of County Sheriffs met Tuesday, November 19, at Vancouver in conjunction with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs’ (WASPC) Fall Conference. President Dave Reichert, King County Sheriff, presided.

Sheriff Reichert thanked several retiring sheriffs and those leaving office for their dedication and service and presented those serving two terms or more with a plaque in appreciation. Those sheriffs were: Wahkiakum County Sheriff Gene Strong; former Adams County Sheriff Mike Kline, now U.S. Marshall for Eastern Washington; Jefferson County Sheriff Pete Piccini; retired Columbia County Sheriff Jim LaTour; Skagit County Sheriff Ed Goodman; Whitman County Sheriff Steve Tomson; Skamania County Sheriff Chuck Bryan; Asotin County Sheriff John Jeffers; and Whatcom County Sheriff Dale Brandland. In December, thirteen sheriffs who have been recently elected or who took office mid-term, will be welcomed by the Sheriffs’ Association.

Pacific County Sheriff John Didion presented the final draft of the Washington Jail Guidelines. The guidelines are the result of two years of committee work and are expected to be approved at the spring WASPC meeting.

The sheriffs also received reports from the Criminal Justice Training Commission and the King County Amber Alert Committee and a Western State Sheriffs’ Association report from Paul McGrath, the Executive Director.

Sheriff Reichert announced that the Sheriffs’ Association will be hosting the 2004 National Sheriffs’ Association Conference in Seattle. Sheriff Reichert and Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart are heading up the conference planning but are encouraging all sheriffs to participate in hosting the conference. Over 5,000 participants are expected at the 2004 conference.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 Revisited
WSAC Timber Coordinator Tom Robinson attended the joint meeting of the Oregon Association of Counties and the Association of O&C Counties in Portland this week. The meeting included a well-attended session on the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393).

The session included speakers from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Resource Advisory Committees (RACs), NACO, and the National Forest Counties Payments Committee (NFCPC).

The discussion began with a review of P.L. 106-393. It continued with USFS and BLM personnel providing their perspectives on the past year of implementation of P.L. 106-393. The federal agencies are pleased with the RAC-generated level of cooperation between federal agencies,
(Continued from page 6)

communities, and local government.

The congressionally established NFCPC has completed an 18-month review of all federal payments to counties and has developed some recommendations. Their report will not be available to the public until their recommendations have been reviewed by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture. However, Randy Phillips, principal staff to the NFCPC, disclosed some of the findings, which include the following: 1) The committee has heard loud and clear that rural schools are not seeing increases in funds as a result of P.L. 106-393, and it knows that 63% of the funds nationwide have had no direct effect on schools; 2) Forest receipts are declining. Payments from P.L. 106-393 are funded first from forest receipts; these receipts are down 36% in the NW since the law was enacted. Nationwide P.L. 106-393 funding is $480 million, of which only $120 million comes from the forest receipts. 3) P.L. 106-393 was passed under the Clinton administration in a time of federal budget surpluses; under the current budget conditions, reauthorization of the law will be difficult. 4) Education projects funded under Title III will likely play a major role in the reauthorization debate.

Bob Douglas, NFCPC member and chair of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition, said that we must look forward as though we will return to 25% funding from forest receipts, and that we must push for active forest management to keep receipts up to finance this law. Douglas stated that complacency is the biggest enemy of reauthorization.

NACO’s Paul Beddoe led a discussion on the next steps to take. He asked the group to consider whether the NACO platform for management of federal lands needs to be reviewed. Currently, that platform indicates that payments to counties must not be decoupled from forest receipts, and that the federal agencies should increase management activities to increase those receipts. Beddoe stated that this platform would not lead NACO to lobby for reauthorization of the bill in its current form; rather, NACO would be pushing for reforms in federal land management policy to increase forest receipts. If this is not the intent of Washington’s timber counties, then an effort should be initiated to review and change the platform to meet your needs. Others painted a bleak picture of membership changes in Congress that will not help the effort for reauthorization. The take-home message from this interesting afternoon was this: It took four years to pass the original bill in Congress in better times than these. P.L. 106-393 sunsets four years from now. The time for action on the counties’ part is now.

Washington State Building Code Council Seeks Nominees

WSAC is seeking nominees for the Washington State Building Code Council. The Council reviews and recommends amendments to the building codes to the legislature. The Council also reviews proposed local amendments to the building codes.

Boards and Commissions

We need a commissioner from both eastern and western Washington.

The Council is composed of fifteen Governor-appointed members, four legislative representatives, and an employee of the electrical division of the Department of Labor and Industries. The legislative and L&I representative serve in an advisory capacity.

The Council holds bi-monthly Council and committee meetings. Each Council member is expected to be actively involved with the Council activities and serve on one of the four standing committees. The meeting schedule is established each January. Council members are reimbursed for travel costs and per diem.

Please contact Scott Merriman if you are interested in having your name submitted to the Governor.

Elections, Recording and Licensing

Results were certified yesterday, November 20.

Attached to today’s Journal is a copy of the final General Election results in all of the counties. Results were certified yesterday (November 20). Results for state legislative races will be certified by the Secretary of State’s office on December 5. Two additional election results of note:

- Clark County voters approved a proposition to elect county commissioners by District by a vote of 48,761 (58.32%) to 34,848 (41.68%); however, increasing the number of commissioners from three to five was voted down by a margin of 61.96% to 38.04%. Voters in Clark County also turned down a county home rule charter by a vote of 41,759 (50.11%) to 41,572 (49.89%).

- In Asotin County, an excess property tax levy for law and justice received a resounding no vote, receiving over twice as many no votes as yes votes. The proposition, if approved, would have required $1.55 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation on taxable property.

Grants Awarded to Local Government Agencies across Washington

For the first time in history, $100,000 in grants will be awarded to local government agencies to improve the management of their public records. The recipients are: Cities of Edgewood & Pacific (joint proposal) - $13,950

Description: Establish a comprehensive program in both cities to develop retention, preservation and disposal of active and inactive programs. It will address both short and long term requirements for both cities. The unique proposal allows for both cities to sit down with the regional archivist to develop plans and then implement the process in each city. Presentation of Award on December 19 at 9:00 a.m.

City of Skykomish - $8,000.00

Description: Organize and protect valuable city records and identify a more orderly retention process. Presentation of Award on December 19 at 9:00 a.m.

City of Ritzville - $17,000.00

Description: Inventory and identify active records and prepare for the relocating of the cities records to a new city hall. Presen-
tation of Award on November 22 at 2:30 p.m.

**Town of La Conner - $17,000.00**
Description: Establish a records retrieval and storage system and relocate historic and permanent documents with the State Archives. Presentation of Award on December 20 at 9:30 a.m.

**Jefferson County Fire Protection District #3 - $8,850.00**
Description: Organize permanent records in fire proof filing and create a security microfilm back up. Presentation of Award on December 20 at 1:30 p.m.

City of Shelton - $17,000.00
Description: Inventory, organize and index active and inactive records and improve records management. Presentation of Award on December 3 at 10:30 a.m.

**Franklin County Clerk - $17,400.00**
Description: Implement a records management system to insure the integrity, security and accessibility of essential records. Presentation of Award on November 26 at 10:30 a.m.

The Archives Oversight Committee met September 30, 2002 in Wenatchee Washington to review 45 grants with requests totaling more than $753,000.00.

With only $100,000 available for award the competition was very competitive. Committee members include: Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger, Chelan County Auditor Evelyn Arnold, Tumwater City Clerk Sheryle Wyatt, Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods, Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield and Lincoln County Clerk Joyce Dennison.

Members evaluated each proposal and forwarded their recommendation for award to Secretary of State Sam

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**Courthouse Ramblings**

Pierce County Clerk Bob San Soucie is retiring from office on Friday, November 22. Kevin Stock has been appointed to replace him and will be sworn in on Monday, November 25. San Soucie moved into the Clerk’s position in September, 2001 with the retirement of Ted Rutt. He has worked for the county for 30½ years. Fifteen of those years were spent in the Pierce County Auditor’s office, before he moved on to the Clerk’s office. Stock joined the Clerk’s office in November, 1985 and is currently the chief deputy. Prior to working for the county, Stock was an infielder for four years in the minor leagues with the Texas and Oakland organizations. Congratulations to Bob on his retirement and to Kevin in his new position!

Lewis County Treasurer Rose Bowman is at home recuperating after undergoing major surgery November 13. We send her our best wishes for a quick and smooth recovery! Rose’s address is 2599 Seminary Hill Road, Centralia, WA 98531 for those who wish to send her “get well’s”.

True to form, Rose, who is the Treasurers’ Association Legislative Chair, is not idle even during her recuperation. She is putting together a power point presentation for the new treasurers which will be part of the Newly Elected Officials Orientation next month, in Olympia.

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Pierce County Clerk Bob San Soucie

Policy Analyst Cynthia Sachs-Bustos is leaving WSAC. She and her husband Charles are moving back to New Mexico. Cynthia’s responsibilities with the Association included helping timber counties with the implementation of P.L. 106-393 and creating the database that will help track Title III projects. Cynthia was also the administrator of the Association’s L&I Retrospective Rating Program and provided support to the lobbying staff during the legislative session, including the design and upkeep of last year’s mandates watch list. Cynthia’s last day in the office is November 21. If you have questions related to the timber programs, please contact Tom Robinson, WSAC Timber Coordinator.

Questions related to Cynthia’s other duties should be referred to Maureen Morris or Trina Bannister. Please join us in wishing Cynthia and Charles the best of luck in their new adventures.

With the certification of elections this week, two officials in Island County were immediately sworn into office. Sharon Franzen has been sworn in as county clerk after winning her write-in election bid over Jane Koetje who was appointed by the board after the resignation last year of long-time clerk Marilee Black. Franzen defeated Koetje by 12,311 votes to 11,674 votes.

In addition, Linda Riffe has also taken office as treasurer to fill the vacancy left by the untimely death November 12 of Treasurer Maxine Sauter. Sauter was finishing her fourth term in office. Riffe defeated Sauter in the election by a margin of 13,185 votes to 10,989.

A farewell dinner and party is being held for Kitsap County Treasurer Sharon Shrader on Friday evening, November 22, at the Kitsap Golf and Country Club. Shrader is retiring from office after 20 years of government service, with 18 years of those as treasurer.

Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger has announced that effective January 1, 2003, Carolyn Diepenbrock, who has served as Licensing Manager since 1990, will be assuming the duties of Elections/Voter Registration Manager in the Snohomish County Auditor’s office.
2002 MEETINGS
December 3–4
WAPA Newly Elected Prosecutor Course
WAPA Conference Room, Olympia

December 5
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–12
CPO Newly Elected Officials Training—
Understanding Your New Job at the Court-
house, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Cred-
its: All newly elected officials must attend
to become certified. County Sheriffs be-
gin December 8

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

2003 MEETINGS
January 13
Legislative Session Begins

February 24 – 26
County Auditors Recording Conference
Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

February 28 – March 4
NACO Legislative Conference, Washing-
ton, DC

April 3 – 4
WSAC Western District Meeting, West-
Coast Hotel, Olympia

April 10-11
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Quality
Inn, Clarkston

May 1
L & I Retrospective Rating Meeting, Best
Inn R&R, Ellensburg

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 Moun-
tain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16–18
Washington State Association of County
Assessors Conference, Okanogan

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
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

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

September 29–October 3
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, SeaTac

November 17–20
WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell’s Re-
sort, Chelan

2004 MEETINGS
May 24–27
WASPC Spring Conference,
Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 22–25
WSAC Summer Convention,
Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20
NACo Annual Conference
Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, Spokane

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

2005 MEETINGS
May 23–26
WASPC Spring Conference,
West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, We-
netchee

June 13-16
WSAC Summer Convention, Kennewick

July 15–19
NACo Annual Conference, City & County
of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

October 3-7
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, Ocean
Shores

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 – Salary/Hourly and Amount
⇒ Brief description of duties & responsibilities (4-6 lines)
⇒ Minimum requirements (2-3 lines)
⇒ Application requirements
   (Resume, Cover Letter, Application, Etc.)
⇒ Where to submit application and submission deadline
⇒ Where to find information (Web page, phone, etc.)
BENTON COUNTY/PROSSER - ASSOCIATE PLANNER
Full-time position in the Benton County Planning/Building Department to perform a variety of current planning activities. SALARY RANGE: $3143-3206/month/DOE/plus benefits QUALIFICATIONS: BA/BS in Planning with two years planning experience or related field. Knowledge of principles and practices of local government planning, and geographic principles. Working ability in the following programs, AutoCad, and GeoMedia. Combination of education/experience in planning or related field may be substituted for a degree. Must have good written/oral communication skills and interact with the public in a professional manner. Current driver’s license with good driving record required. APPLY IMMEDIATELY Applicants are responsible for supplying all information relating to qualifications for the position. Selection based on qualifications and an oral interview. For an application contact the Benton County Personnel Department at (509) 737-2777 or (509) 786-5626. Applications must be received at the Personnel Resources Department at 7320 W. Quinault, Kennewick, WA 99336. Visit our website at www.co.benton.wa.us.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY -- AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

MASON COUNTY - APPRAISER II – ASSESSOR'S OFFICE. $2,827 - $3,283/mo. Minimum requirements: High School graduate or GED & 2 yrs appraisal experience. Must successfully pass Fundamentals of the Assessor’s Office, IAAO Residential Course I, & Accreditation Exam. Valid SWDL with good driving record. County application required & available at Mason County Human Resources, 411 N Fifth St., Shelton, WA 98584; or call (360) 427-7265. Applications accepted until position is filled.

PIERCE COUNTY - CIVIL ENGINEER 1 (Traffic Division) (Job #2585) $47,424 - $60,257/Annually. Closes: December 18, 2002. Public Works & Utilities Department. Performs a broad range of complex duties associated with planning and design of traffic control systems; traffic devices; traffic engineering studies; development impact review; and designs and prepares engineering plans, specifications and construction cost estimates for road improvements and traffic signals. Requires a four-year degree in Civil Engineering or related field OR WA State EIT OR four years of progressively responsible experience related to the position. Must be able to meet the travel requirements of the position. Union membership is required within thirty days of employment. Satisfactory physical condition as evidenced by a County-approved physical examination may be required prior to appointment to the position. A resume in lieu of an application is not accepted. Submit to: Pierce County Personnel Dept., www.co.pierce.wa.us/jobs, or (253)798-7480 or TDD, (253)798-3965. EOE

WALLA WALLA COUNTY - MANAGER, FINANCIAL/CONTRACTS RESOURCES – HUMAN SERVICES - Starting Salary $3,219 - $3,380 per month, plus benefits. Brief Duties and Responsibilities: As primary financial resource, will be responsible to author, negotiate, and administer provider contracts; oversee and form financial modeling; synthesize data and provide financial reports; and manage through direct supervision of staff and effective consultation. Minimum Requirements include applicable Bachelors degree; 3 years contract administration; and 2 years in management or equivalent in opinion of management. For Application, contact the Personnel Manager at (509) 527-3200 or visit our website at www.co.walla-walla.wa.us. Applications accepted until position is filled. EOE/ADA