



WSAMA News

Volume 2006, No. 1

February 2006

2006 Spring Conference Edition

Where: Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington

When: May 3-5, 2006

Hotel Room Block Cut-Off: April 3, 2006

Hotel Reservation Number: 1-800-221-7117

Conference Registration

The spring WSAMA conference will be held at **Skamania Lodge** in Stevenson, Washington on **May 3-5, 2006**.

Skamania Lodge is one of the most popular locations for our conferences, and the meeting room facilities have been renovated and enlarged since we met there last in May 2001.

The materials needed to register for this conference are available on the WSAMA Web site at www.wsama.org:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Optional Golf Scramble Form
- New Municipal Attorney Seminar

Hotel Registration

Conference attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with the Skamania Lodge at the following toll-free number: 1-800-221-7117.

The room rate for this conference depends on the type of room selected – all rates are for single or double occupancy (there is no charge for parking):

Superior Room • \$129

Deluxe Room • \$139

River View Superior • \$159

River View Deluxe • \$189

This rate is only guaranteed until **April 3**, so please make your room reservations early. Also be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the WSAMA conference to obtain the reduced room rate. The hotel will honor the

same guest room rate for those who arrive early or stay over the weekend following the conference.

There are additional accommodations available about four miles away in Cascade Locks on the Oregon side of the river at the Best Western Columbia River Inn at a lower rate. This also is an excellent facility with an indoor pool, hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast, and high-speed internet access. Their single occupancy Hillside rooms with one king bed are \$60, and river view rooms with two queen beds are \$65 a night. The toll-free reservation number is 1-800-595-7108. We have reserved a small block of twenty rooms at the Best Western Columbia River Inn, which will be held until **April 3**.

Program Highlights

We will meet in the usual all-day Thursday and one-half day Friday format. We have requested 9.75 hours of CLE credits total – this includes 1.5 hours of ethics credits. If you attend the *New Municipal Attorney Seminar* on Wednesday afternoon, there will be an additional four hours of CLE credits.

The program will cover most of the principle areas of municipal law – there will be updates on criminal law, telecommunications issues, land use law, public works, tort law and a review of significant legislative enactments from the 2006 session that affect local governments. We have invited the State Auditor, **Brian Sonntag**, to discuss implementation of Initiative 900 requiring performance audits by local governments. Also, one of the most popular speakers at WSAMA conferences, **Anne Bremner**, will provide tips for handling high profile cases.

Since it was evident from the high attendance at the 2005 fall conference pre-session on open government that this is an area of high interest, there will be another session focused on public records. **Greg Overstreet**, Office of the Attorney General, who helped develop the Model Rules of Public Disclosure that were just issued by the Office of the Attorney General, and **Ted Inkley**, from the Seattle Law Department, will participate in this panel discussion.

There will be a concurrent criminal law session on Thursday afternoon. The format for this session primarily will be a comprehensive trial workshop on a domestic violence case. The trial workshop will include key evidence rules, the Crawford case, and integrating voir dire into overall trial strategy.

Criminal Justice reimbursement will be available for up to \$50 for those who travel at least 50 miles to attend the conference and stay overnight in a commercial facility.

See the preliminary agenda for the full list of topics and speakers!

New Municipal Attorney Seminar

The *New Municipal Attorney Seminar* will be held on Wednesday afternoon, **May 3**, from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, preceding the main conference. While the seminar is primarily for newer municipal attorneys, it is open to any WSAMA member who wishes to attend.

This seminar will provide a very brief overview of the principal subjects of municipal law, with an emphasis on providing direction to resources where additional information may be obtained, since it is impossible to cover all these topics in any depth in such a short time period.

The cost of the **New Municipal Attorney Seminar** is \$25 and attendees will receive four CLE credits. Please mark the WSAMA registration form if you plan to attend so we have some idea of attendance. If there are municipal attorneys in your office who desire to attend just this portion of the conference, mark that on the registration form and send it back to MRSC with the \$25 registration fee.

Enclosed is a separate agenda for this portion of the program. A manual for new attorneys will be distributed to seminar attendees, with additional written information on each topic.

Social Highlights!

There will be a welcome reception on Wednesday evening and also a hosted reception Thursday evening for attendees. We want to thank our sponsors who make our receptions possible: **Kenyon Disend; Foster Pepper; Ogden Murphy Wallace; Preston Gates & Ellis; and Keating Bucklin & McCormack.** We want to particu-

larly thank a new sponsor, **Queen Anne Arbitration and Mediation Services/Karen Willie.** Ms. Willie specializes in complex real estate and land use law.

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at the Skamania Golf Course. The rate for the eighteen hole scramble is \$40, which includes golf cart.

There will be a luncheon on Thursday and the usual continental breakfast Thursday morning and full breakfast Friday morning.

WSAMA Board Applications

There will be at least one vacancy on the WSAMA board of directors, beginning in May 2006. The term of office is two years. The primary function of the board is to help plan the spring and fall WSAMA conferences. Serving on the board does require the ability to attend four board meetings a year – an all-day meeting in early February, an all-day meeting in July, and two lunch meetings following the spring and fall conferences. Reimbursement for necessary travel expenses is provided by WSAMA for the February and July board meetings.

The WSAMA board is very interested in having a board that represents all the WSAMA members. At the January 2001 board meeting, a Resolution on Diversity was adopted to embody the commitment of the board to provide an opportunity for all WSAMA members to participate in the activities of the organization through association with WSAMA board programs, committees, and board membership.

If you are interested in being considered for membership on the WSAMA board, send your name and the city you represent to Donita Mowers or Patrick Mason, at the address listed at the end of the newsletter.

Conference Questions???

If you have any questions about the spring conference Skamania Lodge, contact either **Donita Mowers** or **Patrick Mason** at the Municipal Research and Services Center:

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