



WSAMA News

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Topics for Fall Conference

The topics committees need topic ideas and volunteer speakers for the fall conference. There is an enclosed form for your suggestions or you can e-mail the topics to the committee chairs. We did not cover personnel law issues to any extent at the spring conference, so indicate if there are topics in that area you would particularly like to see on the program.

Topic suggestions deadline: July 7, 2003!

The fall conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane, Washington from October 1-3, 2003. This is the same hotel that WSAMA has used for a number of past conferences, with an excellent location right across a walkway from Riverfront Park. We will return to our usual conference format with an opening reception on Wednesday night and then an all-day session on Thursday and a half-day session on Friday. There will be more information on the conference in the next mailing in early August when the agenda will be completed.

Please return the enclosed Request Form for Topics and Speakers to one of the committee chairs:

Criminal Topics

Mr. Michael Finkle
Seattle Law Department
710 2nd Ave, 14th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 684-4648 Fax
mike.finkle@seattle.gov

Civil Topics

Ms. Sandy Watson
Seattle Law Department
600 - 4th Ave, 10th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 684-8284 Fax
sandy.watson@seattle.gov

WSAMA Officers for 2003-04

The WSAMA officers for the 2003-04 were elected at the annual business meeting on Friday, May 2 in Vancouver, B.C.:

President - Gail Gorud, City Attorney of Kirkland

First Vice-President - Chuck Zimmerman, City Attorney of Brewster, Bridgeport, East Wenatchee, Pomeroy, and Rock Island

Second Vice-President - Cynthia McMullen, City Attorney of Medical Lake

Judy Zeider, Senior Assistant City Attorney, City of Vancouver, will serve as *Immediate Past President*

The following new board member was elected:

Heidi Wachter, City Attorney of Lakewood

The following board members will continue to serve for the year 2002-03 year:

Londi Lindell, City Attorney of Mercer Island

Cynthia McMullen, City Attorney of Medical Lake

James Pidduck, City Attorney of Ellensburg

Larry Warren, City Attorney of Renton

Michael Weight, City Attorney of Bothell

Conference Papers on the Web Site

The goal of posting the entire text of all papers presented at the WSAMA conferences in a word searchable format for use by members has almost been reached! MRSC will scan the last five years of papers into electronic format and post these on the WSAMA Website in a word searchable format. MRSC will also maintain the papers on the Website.

This will be a password-protected site for WSAMA members only. The goal is to have the scanning project completed and the password-protected Website established this summer. More information will be provided when it is actually ready for use, and complete instructions will be provided on how to access the Website and search the database.

Dues Increase for 2003-04

WSAMA has always maintained one of the lowest dues structures of any professional organization for local government officials in the state, and this will continue to be the case. However, because of expenses related to scanning and posting conference papers on the Website and other general cost increases since the last dues increase five years ago, a dues increase was needed. The new dues structure for the 2003-04 year will be as follows:

First WSAMA member in each office or firm: \$30.00 annual dues

Additional members from each office or firm: \$10.00 annual dues (no increase)

Associate Members: \$50.00 annual dues

The membership approved the dues increase at the annual business meeting held in conjunction with the spring conference in Vancouver, B.C. The dues statements are sent out in June for the upcoming fiscal year, July, 2003 to July, 2004, and the above dues schedule will apply.

Bylaw Amendment on Diversity

In 2001, the WSAMA board of directors enacted a resolution stating their intention to provide opportunities for all WSAMA members to participate in the affairs and activities of the association and reflecting their belief that the benefits of such participation are enhanced through diversity of membership. The board strongly encourages diversity in membership and participation in WSAMA.

In order to emphasize this even more, the board voted at the January, 2003 board meeting to incorporate this resolution into

the WSAMA bylaws. Correspondingly, Article II on Membership was amended, and Section 2 of that article now provides as follows:

***Diversity.** Diversity in membership and participation in WSAMA activities is strongly encouraged. Diversity includes age, years of practice, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, geographic location, and nature of practice (civil or criminal, employee or contract attorney, size of office).*

Motions to Publish Court of Appeals Decisions

As secretary of WSAMA, I received two inquiries in the past six months concerning whether WSAMA as an organization has a procedure for supporting a motion to publish an unpublished decision in the court of appeals. These both concerned decisions that were favorable for local governments, but the decisions were not going to be published. Of course, an unpublished decision in the court of appeals has no precedent value.

This lack of procedure was addressed by the board at the January meeting. The board has now authorized the amicus committee to receive such requests and make a decision whether the unpublished decision warrants either a motion to publish or an affidavit in support of such a motion. We want to keep the procedure as simple as possible in order to be able to respond quickly because of the timelines in the court rules. So if you are involved in a case and believe that an unpublished court of appeals decision would be a significant benefit to municipalities if published, contact either Bill Cameron, Chair of the WSAMA Amicus Committee, at wlcameron@att.net or Patrick Mason, Secretary-Treasurer of WSAMA, at pmason@mrsc.org, with your request. Include a copy of the unpublished decision and a short summary of why you believe publishing the decision would be significant for municipalities.

Have a fabulous summer everyone!

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Patrick Mason

Secretary-Treasurer of WSAMA
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