



# WSAMA News

Volume 2004, No. 1

February 2004

## 2004 Spring Conference Edition

**Where:** Semiahmoo Resort, near Blaine Washington

**When:** May 12-14, 2004

**Hotel Reservation Number:** 1-800-770-7992

**Guaranteed Hotel Room Rate Cut-Off:** April 12, 2004

For the first time, WSAMA will hold a conference at Semiahmoo Resort, which is located a few miles from Blaine, Washington. Semiahmoo has excellent conference facilities and a beautiful location right on the water. Make your reservations early – the hotel can only guarantee the conference room price until April 12, 2004. For more information on this facility, see their Web site at [www.semiahmoo.com](http://www.semiahmoo.com).

A map to the hotel is one of the attachments. However, basically, from I-5 going north, take Exit 270 and follow the signs to the resort, which is located on a peninsula. There are two top golf courses connected with the resort, and the golf scramble will be held at one of these, Loomis Trail, on Friday afternoon.

## Conference Registration

All the materials needed to register for the 2004 Spring Conference are enclosed:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Optional Golf Scramble Form
- New Municipal Attorney Seminar Agenda
- Driving Directions to Semiahmoo

## Program Highlights

A variety of topics has been selected for this program, with an emphasis on some nuts and bolts topics. These will include avoiding and defending Clean Water Act suits, public bidding and contracting issues, avoiding liability claims for malicious prosecution claims following a criminal trial, an update on the new FLSA regulations, and how to access private property for civil enforcement.

There will be a criminal track, as usual, which will be held on Thursday afternoon. One focus of this will be DRE

investigations, including both investigation techniques and concepts and strategies for prosecuting DRE cases, and another will be the new “time for trial” rules, the preferred wording for what used to be termed speedy trial rules.

One new feature will be what is being termed a “lightning” round of topics; these will be solicited from the audience in advance of the program and limited to five minutes a topic. It can be any topic that a WSAMA member would like to inform other attendees about or to seek information on. Hopefully this will provide a useful forum for members to learn about a number of timely issues in a short time period!

In addition, there will be an update on the legislative session, which will almost certainly include legislation requiring that all local governments adopt a policy dealing with domestic violence incidents involving police officers. Also, updates will be provided on important recent cases in criminal, land use, and personnel law.

The program was also planned so that a full year’s ethics credits can be obtained at this conference if you attend the ethics roundtable.

We have requested CLE approval for 9.75 credits total, which includes up to 2.0 hours of ethics if you attend the ethics roundtable. 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 Training

The new municipal attorney seminar will be held on Wednesday afternoon, May 12, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., preceding the main conference. This will be a repeat of the seminar that was held at two earlier conferences. It is the intent of the board to repeat this seminar periodically for the benefit of new, or relatively new, practitioners in the area of municipal law.

While the seminar is primarily for newer municipal attorneys, it is open to any WSAMA member who wishes to attend. It 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.

There is no additional cost for attendance at this seminar, but 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 and there will be no charge.

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

## Conference Social Highlights

The format for this conference will be the usual all-day Thursday and one-half day Friday program. There will be two receptions, a welcome reception on Wednesday evening at six p.m. and, in addition, a fully-hosted reception on Thursday evening courtesy of our sponsoring law firms: Kenyon Disend; Preston Gates & Ellis; Foster Pepper & Shefelman; and Ogden Murphy Wallace. Thanks to our sponsors for their support of WSAMA! There will be the usual continental breakfast on Thursday and full breakfast on Friday morning.

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at the highly-rated Loomis Trail golf course.

## Hotel Reservations

The convention hotel will be Semiahmoo Resort. Attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with the hotel. The toll free number for hotel reservations is 1-800-770-7992. Remember – make your reservations prior to April 12; after that date the hotel may release our block of rooms and the reduced room rate for the conference attendees will not be guaranteed. There are no other hotels near this facility so attendees want to be sure and reserve rooms at Semiahmoo.

The convention room rates are approximately \$129 U.S. a night for standard single or double occupancy and \$149 a night for water view rooms. Be sure to indicate attendance at the WSAMA conference to obtain the listed room rates. Hotel check-in time is 4 p.m. and check-out time is 12:30 p.m. Note that cancellations must be made one week prior to guest arrival.

## WSAMA Board Applications

There will be at least one vacancy on the WSAMA board of directors, beginning in May 2004. 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 January, 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 January 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 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.

## Honorary Membership

If you have served as city or town attorney or assistant city or town attorney in the State of Washington for at least 25 years, then you are eligible for the WSAMA honorary membership award. If you qualify, or if you know of someone who qualifies, please contact Donita Mowers at the address or phone number listed at the end of the newsletter.

## Transitions

### *Craig Knutson Retiring*

Craig Knutson, city attorney of Port Angeles since 1983, has announced his retirement effective the end of February, 2004. Craig graduated from the University of Washington with a BA in English and taught high school English for a few years before returning to law school at University of Puget Sound. Craig served 6 years in the Office of the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney and then 21 years with the City of Port Angeles.

Craig does plan to continue practicing law on a part-time basis and to pursue private interests, such as writing, hiking, golfing, and traveling. Best wishes to Craig in his retirement!

## Questions???

If you have any questions concerning the WSAMA conference, please contact Donita Mowers or Patrick Mason at Municipal Research and Services Center:

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