



# WSAMA News

Volume 2010, No. 1

March 2010

## 2010 Spring Conference Edition

### Where

**Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington**

### When

**May 5-7, 2010**

### Hotel Room Block Cut-Off

**April 5, 2010**

### Hotel Reservation Number

**(800) 445-8667**

### Conference Registration

The spring WSAMA conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington.

The materials needed to register for this conference are available on the WSAMA Web site at

**[www.wsama.org](http://www.wsama.org)**:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Optional Golf Scramble Form

### Hotel Registration

Conference attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with the Vancouver Hilton by one of the following three methods:

- Calling the hotel directly at (360) 993-4500
- Calling Hilton Reservations Worldwide at 1-800-HILTONS
- Via the hotel website at **[www.vancouverwashington.hilton.com](http://www.vancouverwashington.hilton.com)**

When reserving online, enter the group code WSA in the "Group Code" section of the online reservation

form in order to obtain the contracted group rate. The room rate will be \$126 for a standard single/double occupancy room. Be sure to identify yourself as a WSAMA conference attendee to be eligible for the conference rates.

This rate is guaranteed until **April 5, 2010**, so please make your room reservations early! The hotel will honor the same conference room rate for three days before and after the conference (on a space-available basis).

### Program Highlights

We will meet in the usual all-day Thursday and one-half day Friday format for the main program. We have requested 9.75 hours of CLE credits total – this includes 1.25 hours of ethics credits. There will NOT be a New Municipal Attorney Seminar at this conference.

The program will cover most of the principal areas of municipal law – there will be updates on criminal law and personnel law and a review of significant legislative enactments from the 2010 session that affect local governments.

The program will also cover in more detail a variety of other topics, including several related to some of the legal issues raised by the difficult economic times. Public records continues to be a topic of significant interest, so a comprehensive update will be provided with a focus on public records issues raised by use of social media, like Twitter and Facebook. An overview of a helpful new publication, Access to Private Property by Administrative Agencies Deskbook, will be presented by the Office of the Attorney General.

In addition, there will be a concurrent criminal law session on Thursday afternoon. The session will focus on the no BAC DUI case, including the BAC refusal case. There will also be presentations on analyzing and admitting non-testimonial evidence, and prosecuting domestic violence cases when the victim is uncooperative.

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!

### **Social Highlights!**

There will be a welcome reception beginning Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with hosted hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. On Thursday evening there will be a hosted reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so members can socialize and network.

We want to thank our sponsors whose generous contributions have made these receptions possible: **Kenyon Disend; Foster Pepper; Ogden Murphy Wallace; K&L Preston Gates Ellis; Keating, Bucklin & McCormack; Inslee Best, and GordonDerr.**

There will be a luncheon on Thursday at which time the WSAMA awards for this year will be presented. In addition, the conference registration includes a continental breakfast Thursday morning and full breakfast Friday morning.

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. at Heron Lakes Golf Course in Portland, Oregon. The rate for the eighteen hole scramble is \$62, which includes golf, cart, and range balls.

### **Legal Notes – Paper or USB Flash Drive**

One topic that has been discussed at the last several WSAMA conferences and by the WSAMA board is whether to continue to produce a paper copy of the proceedings for conference attendees. More and

more conferences no longer distribute paper copies of the proceedings but merely compile the papers on a USB flash drive for distribution to attendees. It is cheaper to eliminate the paper copies and also more eco-friendly.

However, it was also clear that there are some attendees who still want a paper copy of the proceedings. Therefore, the following solution was agreed upon. The standard conference registration rate will include the conference papers distributed on a USB flash drive. If the registrant wants a paper copy, then an additional fee of \$20 will be charged and the attendee will receive both a paper copy and the USB flash drive. This approach will be tried for a couple of conferences and evaluated by the board.

### **Food Drive**

In view of the continuing economic downtown, the WSAMA board decided to continue with our charity food drives. WSAMA collected food and monetary donations at the last two conferences and contributed to a local food bank. At this conference, we will be collecting food and money to contribute to Share House. Share House serves the central Vancouver area and provides food, shelter, and other services to assist primarily the homeless population. Staff will collect these donations and arrange to contribute them to Share House for distribution to those in need. *Thank you for your support of this service project!*

### **WCIA Conference Credit**

The Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) has approved this conference for Compact Credit for their members.

### **Conference Questions???**

If you have any questions about the spring conference at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington contact either **Donita Knutson** or **Patrick Mason** at the Municipal Research and Services Center:

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