

# FIRELINE



An official publication of the  
Washington Fire Commissioners Association

3rd Quarter  
2020

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## WFCA Bylaws Article 5, Section 1

The annual meeting of the members of the association shall be held in October of each year at a place and time established by the board of directors, for the purpose of electing officers and directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the association. in the event the election of directors and officers shall not be held on the day designated for the annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the board of directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as may be convenient.

## Annual Business Meeting and Elections

By President Brad Lothspeich

With improvisation required daily during this pandemic, business as usual has become business as unusual. The WFCA is no exception and with the cancellation of conference, the WFCA Board of Directors had a special meeting on September 12th to discuss the October annual business meeting and elections.

A thorough review of the WFCA Bylaws and Legal Analysis from Attorney Brian Snure have required us to reschedule the annual business meeting and elections to the 2021 October Conference. Although we first considered an electronic option for meeting and voting, the bylaws do not currently allow for these adjustments.

*"Notably, the Bylaws do not provide for any type of remote meeting or remote voting. The current version of*

*Robert's Rules allows remote meetings provided that the Bylaws authorize such meetings. Accordingly, since your bylaws adopt Roberts Rules of Order, we cannot hold remote meetings absent a bylaw amendment."* - Attorney Brian Snure

With these limitations in place, the board discussed Article 5, Section 1 of the Bylaws. This article would authorize having the elections for new officers and board members at the October 2021 Conference and encourage maximum membership participation in elections. All WFCA Board Officers and Regional Directors would be up for election in 2021.

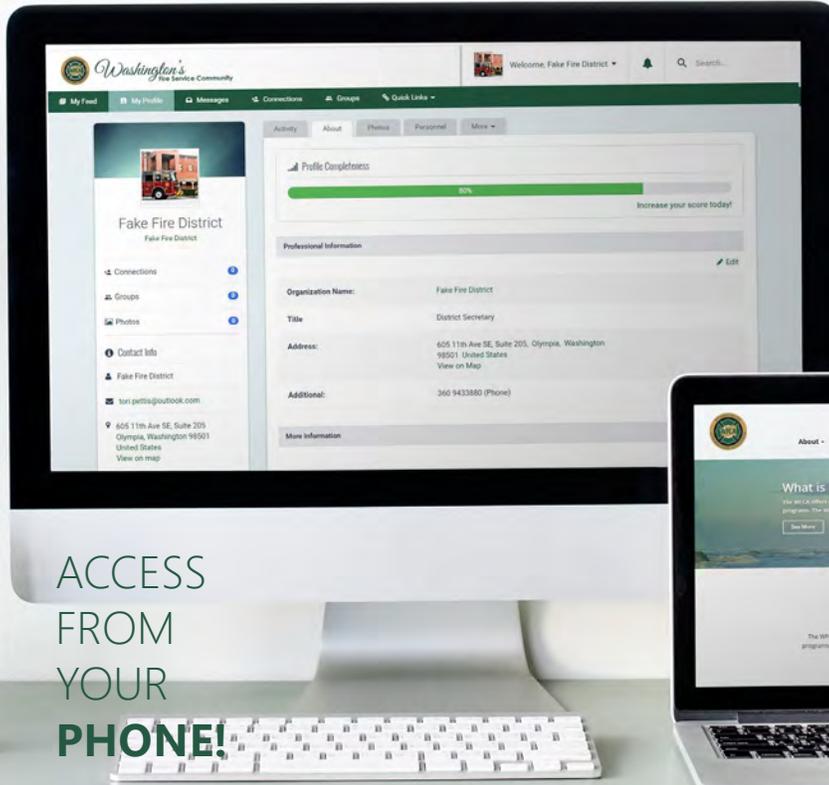
In addition, the board will propose a bylaws amendment at the mandated time of May 15, 2021 to allow for electronic voting in case of emergency going forward. We do not know what the future will bring, but the WFCA Board of Directors is being as proactive as possible to ensure the association continues to thrive. Business as usual must continue with every invention we can employ.





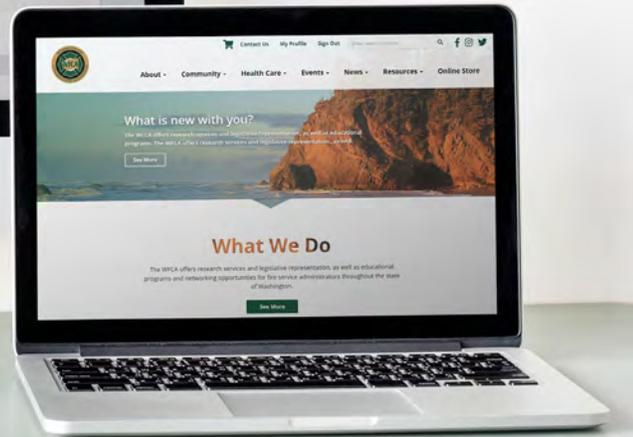
# Washington's Fire Service Community

COMING  
SOON!



NETWORK  
USING OUR  
INTERACTIVE  
**COMMUNITY**

ACCESS  
FROM  
YOUR  
**PHONE!**



## A United Fire Service Community

By Tori Pettis, Communications Specialist

Who knows better, how to be a successful fire commissioner, chief or administrator but devoted commissioners, chiefs, and administrators themselves? When we can turn to each other for support and guidance we are stronger and better equipped to withstand fire, disease, and the unrelenting Open Public Meeting revisions. The fire service in Washington State has talented people making a difference in their communities with a wealth of practical knowledge to share.

We want to hear about your great ideas, your years of service, your epic failures, and your district's successes! The WFCA is soon launching Washington's Fire Service Community, breaking through district boundaries to connect people with the same responsibilities and challenges for a more unified fire service community. This is the platform for your collective genius to take shape!



### Fire Service Directory

Search for Organizations and personnel, using search parameters to filter your results! View contact info and more!



### Associate Member Directory

Connect with experts, find contact info, and websites using this feature.



### Groups

Get news on WFCA committees or county fire commissioner associations in our directory's groups feature.



### Job Board

View fire service job openings from around the state or put up your own opening!



## How to Implement a Peer Support Program

*Chief Kristan Maurer & Captain Jeff Killeen*  
**Monday, October 19th, 9:00 am – 10:30 am**

**CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS P.S.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Plaguing our thoughts and driving our emotions, stressful experiences inevitably influence our lives and cannot be overlooked. Critical incident stress debriefing identifies the need to establish policies and programs, promoting the health and wellbeing of all experiencing emotional distress.

A peer support team approach provides emotional support for our most valuable component of the fire service. Clark County Fire District #6 Chief Kristan Maurer and Captain Jeff Killeen will present their district's Peer Support Program and how it is effective in providing support to firefighters.

## Hot Button Legal Issues in 2020 and Beyond

*Brian Snure, Rich Davis, Scott McJannet, Eric Quinn, Tom Burke, & Dave Luxenberg*

**Friday, October 23rd, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Fire Service Attorney Brian Snure has assembled a skilled panel of legal experts to discuss significant issues facing the fire service. Topics will include EMS councils, impacts of COVID-19 on borrowing and accessing capital markets, concerns of the pandemic, labor issues, and medical records and how to address them.

Contributing to the panel with their professional insight and experiences are Attorneys Rich Davis, Scott McJannet, Eric Quinn, Tom Burke, Dave Luxenberg, and Mediator Brian Snure. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about legal issues we face as fire commissioners, chiefs, and administrative personnel.

## PTSD, Its Impact on Firefighters & Resilient Ways of Coping

*Silouan Green*

**Monday, October 26th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

This three-hour training module is taught by author, speaker, and former Marine, Silouan Green. He has worked with first responders for over fifteen years on issues of resiliency, peer support, suicide prevention and mental fitness. A survivor of a tragic jet crash as a US Marine and someone who overcame severe PTSD, he understands personally what it takes to overcome the trials and traumas of life. He is committed to helping all our heroes "come home". From volunteers to large departments, rural to urban agencies, Silouan has worked across the spectrum of firefighter experiences.

Our firefighters face a host of pressures that cumulatively and acutely can lead to PTSD. Leadership and fellow firefighters can make a difference if they are trained and equipped with the right tools.

**COVID-19 Panel - Hosted by the WFC & Washington Fire Chiefs**  
**Time and Date TBD**

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## Region 4 Update

By Les Riel, Region 4 Director

It is that time of year when Eastern Washington counties face high temperatures in our very dry climate, increasing the chance of wildland and grass fires. We have all already faced a few large fires, one of the latest in Yakima County that grew to over 1,000 acres. The morning of August 3rd YCFD 4 welcomed their new Fire Chief, Dale Hille, with his first day at his new post. Later that afternoon he was quickly introduced to our partnering agencies and responders as we responded to a 3-alarm brush fire on top of Rattlesnake Ridge.

Thanks to all the agencies and their members who assisted with safely protecting our community! Yakima Valley Emergency Management, Yakima County Fire District 5, West Valley Fire-Rescue, City of Yakima Fire Department, YTC Fire Emergency Services, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management Fire and Aviation, Spokane County Fire District 9, American Red Cross @Highland, Fire Selah Fire Department, Naches Fire Department, Yakima County Fire District 6, Glead Fire Department, Yakima County Sheriff's Office, Pacific Power.

The other obstacle we face is the same as all fire districts. Not being able to meet in person for our board meeting makes it much more difficult to operate and take care of business. Also, our County Fire Commissioners Association have not be able to conduct their quarterly meetings due to Covid-19, same for DEMS administrative boards and other agency meetings.

We all look forward to the day when things get back to normal. Stay safe and stay healthy!

# Open Puppet Meetings



## CONTACT WFCA

### MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 134  
Olympia WA 98507

### PHONE

(360) 943-3880  
1-800-491-WFCA (9322)

### FAX

(360) 664-0415

### WEBSITE

[www.wfca.wa.gov](http://www.wfca.wa.gov)

### EMAIL

[wfca@wfca.wa.gov](mailto:wfca@wfca.wa.gov)

### LOCATION

605 11th Ave SE, Suite 205  
Olympia WA 98501

### OFFICE HOURS

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Monday - Friday

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President	Brad Lothspeich	Clark 6
Vice President	Daniel Rankin	West Pierce Fire & Rescue
Secretary/ Treasurer	Lee Boling	Spokane 8

### DIRECTORS

Region 1	Jack Hensley	Spokane 4
Region 2	Brad Langdell	Walla Walla 5
Region 3	Dwight Vander Vorste	Grant 10
Region 4	Les Riel	Yakima 4
Region 5	Larry Kibbee	Skagit 13
Region 6	Chris Elwell	King 2
Region 7	Mike Cathey	East Pierce Fire & Rescue
Region 8	Larry Bartel	Clark Co Fire & Rescue
Region 9	Gene Carmody	Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue
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