



# FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

THIRD QUARTER 2016

## 68th Annual WFCA Conference

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association's 68th Annual Conference will be held at the Yakima Convention Center beginning Thursday, October 27, 2016; conference will conclude on Saturday afternoon, October 29, at 12:00 noon.

The following is important information regarding conference. For a complete schedule of events and registration form, please refer to the brochure that was mailed to all members, visit [www.wfca.wa.gov](http://www.wfca.wa.gov), or call the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH (Pre-Conference)

- The WFCA Board of Directors will hold its final regular meeting of 2016 at the Convention Center beginning at 9:00 am. WFCA members are welcome to attend.

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### **Opening Ceremonies will kick off at 10:00 am on Thursday**

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- The Legal Committee Meeting will commence at 1:30 pm. All interested WFCA members are welcome to attend.
- Be sure to visit the Vendor Exhibit Tables on display during early registration at the Convention Center from 4:00-6:30 pm.
- A Welcoming Reception, sponsored by the Yakima County Fire Commissioners Association, will begin at 4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn. Stop by and say hello!
- The Snure Seminar will commence at 6:30 pm. A separate registration form was mailed for this workshop.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

- A Welcome to Conference Breakfast, sponsored by WFCA Associate Members Emergency Services Insurance Program (ESIP), Rice Fergus Miller Architects and D.A. Davidson & Co., will begin at 8:00 am. Enjoy good food and good company while you catch up with old friends and make some new ones!
- The conference Opening Ceremonies will kick off at 10:00 am; the Memorial Service, first call for floor nominations and the keynote speaker are among the events taking place during the opening ceremonies.
- Suppliers' Luncheon (12:00 noon).

*See Conference on Page Three*

## 2016 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee (Chair Jim Farrell, Mountain View Fire & Rescue, Sharon Colby, Spokane 3, Mike Moore, Grant 10, Tom Sutich, Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One and Gerald Preuss, South Kitsap Fire & Rescue) has nominated the following individuals to the 2017 WFCA Board:

### OFFICERS

*President: David Ellingson,*  
Poulsbo Fire Department

*See Nominating Report on Page Two*

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## A Message from the President by David Ellingson



As I write this newsletter article, the summer days of the Pacific Northwest are upon us. Thus far, we have not seen the kind of fire season we experienced last year, but until the fall rains arrive, we are not out of the woods and there are several active fires burning. Prompt action to reported fires has already curbed fires that could have been devastating, so a big thank you goes out to our fire departments and districts across the state.

**Management Moment** - As fire commissioners, we have an inherent responsibility to manage resources entrusted to us to the best of our ability. That responsibility can be summed up as follows:

We need to be attentive to the needs of our districts and act accordingly. We will never have unlimited resources so we must prioritize our needs and balance the result between facilities, personnel and equipment to maximize the

effectiveness of the department as a whole. Careful attention to these details will enable us to deliver better service to our citizens and protect our employees from the hazards they experience every day.

**Football training camps and preseason games are upon us. That can only mean two things: Fall is coming and it is time to register for the WFCWA Conference.**

A healthy dose of confidence (a.k.a. the power of positive thinking) can stretch our goals and enable us to achieve stunning results. The secrets to this success are being able to visualize the future and communicating that vision to others so that collectively, everyone's focus is on the future. Practice visualizing the future, make that future vision real in your own mind, and see for yourself what happens next.

The third area for our focus is al-

most the opposite of the second. We need to be humble in respecting ideas other than our own and be willing to change directions when our plans do not work out as intended. In all, flexibility, accountability, and a genuine desire to strive for excellence will not only make us better managers, but will be the essential ingredients for a high performance and successful organization.

Our mission exemplifies the focus and strength of WFCWA to be agile and nimble, even in these changing times as we strive for excellence and positive impact in all our services. We have come a long way over the years, and yet there are always opportunities for improvement. That's why WFCWA continues to pursue new pathways – so that our association can continue to make great strides – with significant and lasting contributions for the betterment of all of our member agencies.

Our organizational focus, cultural values, implementation of our strategic plan, and financial/fiscal stability has placed WFCWA on a *See Message on Page Four*

## Nominating Report From Page One

*Vice President:* **Gerald Gustafson**, Graham Fire & Rescue

*Secretary-Treasurer:* **Brad Lothspeich**, Clark 6

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

*Region 2 Director:* **Brad Langdell**, Walla Walla 5

*Region 4 Director:* **Les Riel**, Yakima 4

*Region 6 Director:* **Chris Elwell**, King 2

*Region 8 Director:* **Jerry Kolke**, Clark County Fire & Rescue

The membership may authorize whatever time it deems appropriate for candidate and support speeches. Nominations will be accepted on the floor at conference.

## ON THE WEB

Health Care Workshops outlining details of the WFCWA's 2017 medical benefits program will be held in September. Registration is required, so be sure to log onto **www.wfca.wa.gov** to find a workshop in your area and to register online. Please call the WFCWA office at 800.491.9322 if you have any questions.

## Conference From Page One

- Roundtable Discussions, focusing on three specific types of agencies (mostly career, transitional and volunteer), will be held from 1:30-4:45 pm.
- Free evening (Suppliers' Hospital-Rooms will open at 5:00 pm)

### FRIDAY AM, OCTOBER 28TH

***Social Media Update with Brian Snure.*** Discussion and analysis of the requirements of the Washington State records retention schedules, Public Records Act, Open Public Meetings Act and the State and Federal Constitutions and how those requirements affect the use of social media by fire districts and RFAs. Class attendees will receive sample policies designed to assist in establishing social media in the fire service. A question and answer session will give participants an opportunity to discuss current issues.

***5 Easy Grants Your Fire Service Agency Should Pursue with Michelle Mazzola.*** Many small grant applications require less than two hours to complete, yet results can make a huge difference to your yearly budget and the morale of your volunteers and staff. You will learn about 5 easy grants you can write tomorrow, strategies for showing the need/impact of your grant request and the importance of reporting the follow-up success stories. Learn the "ins and outs" of preparing competitive grant applications to sustain fire preparedness and safety.

***GEMT—What is It?*** Ground Emergency Medical Transport—Washington State's EMS delivery system is recognized as one of the finest in the world! Service is provided to all of Washington's citizens regardless of the ability to pay. Unfortunately, the reimbursement rate for emergency care and

transport of Apple Health (Medicaid) beneficiaries is far below the actual cost of providing these services. Legislation passed in 2015 created a state plan amendment to allow ambulance providers the opportunity to participate in an authorized program that provided increased federal Medicaid funds for transport reimbursement. A panel will outline the GEMT program and provide assistance on how your fire service agency (if transporting) can capture increased reimbursement rates.

***Creative Fundraising Events for Your Fire Service Agency.*** Fire districts and RFAs always have more needs than available funding. This moderated workshop will include innovative community fundraising success stories from fire districts/departments throughout the state. A panel of fire commissioners and chiefs will describe their department's successful fundraising events. Participants will learn 10 proven strategies to simplify implementation of fundraising events.

- The Annual Business Meeting will be held from 1:30-3 pm with reports and election of the 2017 Board of Directors (officers and even-numbered region directors).
- There will be two presentations immediately following the Business Meeting: The first will be on PulsePoint, a free mobile app which alerts CPR-trained bystanders about individuals nearby who are suffering sudden cardiac arrest. The second will be a Bakken Oil update which was a seminar topic at the last conference and an issue that continues to dominate the headlines.
- The Eye-to-Eye Exposition will be held from 12-3 pm. The Expo allows conference participants

the chance to interact one-on-one with representatives from various state, federal and non-profit agencies. Among the agencies expected to attend this year: Board for Volunteer Firefighters, Correctional Industries, Fire Sprinkler Coalition, LEOFF 2 Board, State Auditor's Office, State Fire Marshal's Office, Washington Fire Chiefs, Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau and the WFCFA Health Care Program.

- The No-Host Social (6 pm) & Awards Banquet and Entertainment (6:30-9:00) will conclude the evening.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

- The WFCFA 2017 Board Installation Breakfast will begin at 8:00 am. Be sure to join the group at the swearing in of your elected officers and directors.

At 9:00 am, a 3-hour general session entitled ***All Risk Mobilization & Emergency Management—Lessons We Learned from the Oso Mudslide.*** Fire Chief Travis Hots will lead this general session with a review of the Oso Mudslide and how his agency handled the events during and after the tragedy. Chief Hots will provide a dynamic PowerPoint on emergency response management. Also, a panel of experts will discuss emergency preparedness and cover the following topics as they relate to a large scale natural or manmade catastrophic event: communications, public health and medical, situational assessment, critical transport, and operational coordination. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about emergency preparedness and mobilization!

*See Page 5 for conference reminders!*

## Message From Page Two

path for continued future success and each one of you are part of that.

### WFCFA Highlights:

In early June, I was invited to speak at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Olympia. My initial thoughts were that this would be an easy speech for me to honor the service of these fallen heroes and express sympathy to the family members who would be attending. Boy was I ever wrong! The solemnness of the ceremony, the respect paid to the firefighters and their families, and the visible emotion displayed just a few feet in front of the podium took a toll on me. My words can never replace the loss of a loved one. Let us not forget the eight firefighters that we honored in this service and let us commit ourselves to doing everything within our power to prevent another firefighter death this year.

I am a strong proponent of the use of best practices as a tool for continuous improvement. By sharing our ideas of programs that have demonstrated success, we can provide a roadmap for others and enhance the services we provide. For example, implementation of power lift stretchers in medic units in my fire district has virtually eliminated back and shoulder injuries. When I mentioned this example to a fire commissioner from another district, their experience had been similar, but they did not think of this as a best practice. The message here is, best practices can be all around us or something we casually take for granted every day. Take time to identify these best practices and forward your ideas to Nora in the WFCFA office. If you do, everyone wins and collectively, we excel together.

The WFCFA Health Care Program continues on track for providing exceptional care at affordable prices. I know of no other plan that can match the services offered by the WFCFA. Recently approved rates for next year indicate no increases in the self-funded WFCFA Health Benefit and Dental plans. The credit for this continued excellent track record goes to Jim Lux, our Health Care Manager and the WFCFA Health Care Committee. When you see one of these folks, congratulate them for the work they do and show your appreciation.

**Labor & Industries** – We continue to work with the Washington Fire Chiefs in discussion with L&I on ways to improve the firefighters' workers' compensation program. L&I has agreed to provide a spreadsheet with draft estimates of next year's rates by September of each year. WFCFA will distribute these estimates to fire districts to help the budgeting process. We are also exploring ways to reduce L&I rates such as rate incentives, safety culture, implementation of a retro program, etc. The Homebuilders Association has had a retro program with L&I for many years which has saved companies millions of dollars. Our meetings with L&I are developing a level of trust, mutual understanding and respect that will be critical as we work together to achieve common goals and objectives.

Finally, football training camps and preseason games are upon us. That can only mean two things: 1. Fall is coming, and 2. It is time to register for the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual WFCFA Conference at the Yakima Convention Center. Les Riel and the WFCFA Education Committee have developed an outstanding variety of speakers, seminars and topics which will provide valuable insight and educational opportunities. Check out the list of events, speakers and presentations on the WFCFA website. Get your registration in early. See you in Yakima!



**FOR SALE by Camano Island Fire & Rescue:** Surplus fire vehicles & apparatus.

- 06 Navistar 4400 HORTON Ambulance, DT466 Dies (EGR) 6 cyl eng, Allison EVS3000 6 spd AT w/ stretcher cot, 289,730 mi. \$10,000 OBO.
- 98 PIERCE Responder Freightliner Fire Eng Pumper, 34,573 mi, Cummins Dies eng, 1250 GPM WATEROUS Pump, 1000 gal water tank, 24' ext ladder, 14' roofer, 10' attic ladder. Min bid: \$50,000.
- 95 Internat'l Road Rescue Ambulance, 97,000 mi, DT466 Dies, 6 cyl eng, auto 6-spd trans, Stretcher Cot, Trailer hitch. Min bid: \$10,000.
- 95 Internat'l Road Rescue Ambulance, 79,525 mi, DT466 Dies 6 cyl eng, auto 6-spd trans, Stretcher Cot, Trailer hitch. Min bid: \$10,000.

Sales as is, where is, w/no warranties expressed/implied. Call Asst Chief Craig Helgeland at 360.387.1512.

**FOR SALE by Klickitat 11:** Surplus '82 Western States Fire Engine, Spartan Motors, 1500 GPM Triple Comb Class A Fire Pumper, 750 gal steel tank, recently svcd, pump tested & passed. \$12,500 OBO. Call Chief Clyde Rosa 541.980.7538 or Comm Alan Rosa 541.993.7562.

**FOR SALE by Stevens 2:** '89 FTI Engine, obtained from Sierra Army Depot in CA. Tank replaced w/new poly tank just prior to being released. FTI mfg fire trucks for a # of yrs specifically for the military. \*1000 gpm Waterous pump-current test \*650 gallon poly tank \*Front suction w/valve \*Cummins engine w/ AT \*High side compartments on driver side/no ladders \*Rear mounted hard line reel \*New rear tires/exc fronts \*Monitor \*37,700 miles \*Asking \$12,000. Contact Chief Rick Anderson at 509.680.0560 or scfd2@theofficenet.com for more info.

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Camano Island Fire & Rescue:** Asst Fire Chief of Operations. To review job description, requirements & to access application, visit [www.camanofire.com](http://www.camanofire.com) & select the link on the front page or select *Our Team, Join Our Team* tabs. Accepting applications through **10/1/16**.

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Skagit Co:** Deputy Fire Marshal. Visit [www.skagitcounty.net/jobs](http://www.skagitcounty.net/jobs) for info.

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Vashon Island Fire & Rescue:** Fire Chief. Salary \$120,000-\$145,000. Visit the Prothman Co, [www.prothman.com](http://www.prothman.com) & click on "Current Searches." First review: 9/11/16 (open until filled).



### 🍒 Keynote Speaker

This year's keynoter is Bill Stainton, a 29-time Emmy Award-winning television executive producer. Bill's presentation, *"It's Showtime! How to Produce Award-Winning Results in Business and in Life,"* will keep you laughing while providing informative and useful takeaway tips.

### 🍒 Proxy Authority

Proxy forms must be submitted to the WFCA office by Thursday, October 20. For more information on proxies, see Article 2 of the *WFCA Bylaws*.

### 🍒 Vendor Exhibit Tables & Luncheon

Be sure to visit vendor exhibit tables during early registration at the Convention Center on Wednesday, October 26, from 4-6:30 pm. Show your support for WFCA associate members on Wednesday and again on Thursday by attending the "Suppliers' Luncheon"!

### 🍒 Multi-Year Commissioner Service Awards

October 13 is the deadline to submit applications for these awards, which acknowledge 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of commissioner service. To qualify, an individual must be from a member fire district/RFA and service must be as a fire commissioner (no other positions of service on behalf of the agency apply to this award). If you have completed service as listed above, please contact the WFCA office.

### 🍒 Friday Banquet Table Reservations

Make your table reservations now by logging onto [www.wfca.wa.gov](http://www.wfca.wa.gov) (select the *Make Friday Banquet Table Reservations Now* link under *FireWire* on the homepage) or visit the WFCA registration desk at the Convention Center before 1 pm on Friday, October 28.

### 🍒 Memorial Service

Please contact the WFCA office as soon as possible if you know of a commissioner, secretary or chief who has passed away so that they may be included in the memorial. Pictures and obituaries are appreciated.

### 🍒 Snure Seminar

Brian Snure will present the *28th Annual Pre-Conference Laws Update Seminar* on Wednesday, October 26, 6:30-9:30 pm, at the Convention Center. A separate registration form is being mailed and emailed to district and RFA personnel; you may also register online at [snurelaw.com](http://snurelaw.com).

### 🍒 Registration Grant Program

The WFCA offers a limited number of registration grants to fire districts/RFAs with assessed values of \$50 million or less. If your agency qualifies, please contact the WFCA office at 800.491.9322 or email [wfca@wfca.wa.gov](mailto:wfca@wfca.wa.gov).

### 🍒 Guest Room Reservations

Although the blocks are full at the Holiday Inn and Red Lion, there are still rooms available at the Howard Johnson Hotel (509.452.6511). Please mention you are with the WFCA in order to receive the special group rate.

### 🍒 Register for Conference

The registration brochure, detailing classes and other conference events, was mailed to all members several weeks ago. To register, please use the form included in that mailing, or register online at [www.wfca.wa.gov](http://www.wfca.wa.gov) (click the *Online Registration for Districts/RFAs* link shown under *FireWire* on the homepage).



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**OFFICE HOURS**  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



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