



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

2015 CONFERENCE RECAP



The WFCA's 67th Annual Conference was held October 22-24 at the Tulip Resort in Marysville. The conference recorded its highest attendance ever with 468 participants! The following are some conference highlights:

COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION

The following commissioners received recognition for service to their districts and regional fire authorities:

10 Year Award (Honorary Life Membership): AJ Hill (Benton 4), Tom Baltazar (Cowlitz 3), Pat Metz (Camano Island F&R), Meril E. Smith (Jefferson 4), Eric Hollis (King 27), Peter Lucarelli (King 34), Chris Dahline (King 38), Jim Farrell (Mountain View F&R), Stephen Neupert & Patrick Pearson (North Kitsap F&R), James Goodpaster (Mason 1), Gary Plews (Mason 4), Tommy Taylor (Central Mason Fire & EMS), Al Leister



Mark your calendar for next year's conference which will take place at the Yakima Convention Center, October 27-29.



(Mason 9), Ronald Ritchie & Dan Ward (Mason 11), Brian Core (Mason 13), Steve Edmondson (Mason 16), Richard Honeysett, Gary Janisch & Bruce Newman (Mason 17), Franklin Phillips (Mason 18), Kelley McIntosh (North Mason RFA), Bill Eckroth (Central Pierce F&R), Peter Allison (Riverside F&R), Bob Jarman (San Juan 3), Jim Lett & Becky Smith (San Juan 4), Troy Elmore & Dan Lorentzen (Lake Stevens Fire), John Sobieski (Snohomish 23), Howard Marsh, Jr. (Spokane 3), Skip Wells (Stevens 1), Lynn Trzynka (South Whatcom RFA), Roger McMaster, Harry Miller & Bill Owen (Thurston 17), Gary Knaus (Whatcom 16), Ken Eakin & Marshia Goss (Yakima 12).

15 Year Service Award: Mike Lyons (Clark 5), Robert Pontius (Port Ludlow F&R), Kenneth L. McEdwards (Jefferson 4), Thomas Johnston (King 34), Ron Pedee (King 38), Harry Oestreich & Jerry Smith (King 45), Pat Clerf & John Smith (Kittitas 2), R. John Pollman (Lewis 14), Curt Bennett (Mason 4), Ronald Ritchie & Dan Ward (Mason 11), Gary Janisch (Mason 17), Bill Eckroth & Larry Nelson (Central Pierce F&R), John Jensen & Albert Olson (San Juan 3), Steven Fox (Snohomish 5), Troy Elmore (Lake Stevens Fire), Robert Neu (Newman Lake F&R), Gary Pearson (Thurston 6), Roger McMaster & Bill Owen (Thurston 17), Gary Knaus (Whatcom 16).

See Recap Page Three

FOURTH QUARTER 2015

2016 WFCA BOARD



The following are election results from the recent conference in Marysville.

2016 OFFICERS

President: David Ellingson, Poulsbo Fire Department

Vice Pres: Gerald Gustafson, Graham Fire & Rescue

Secretary-Treasurer: Brad Lothspeich, Clark 6

See Board on Page Four

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Jim Farrell*



My two terms as your president are up and I have been very pleased to serve you during that period. We have accomplished a great deal over the past two years that I am personally proud to have been a part of.

From the legislature we were able to pass and get into law two bills, one for all risk mobilization, and another for training firefighters. Both bills will enrich the communities we serve.

The WFCA is a stronger organization internally because of how well the healthcare system has been working. We have enlarged the membership,

kept costs down, and have not had a rate increase for several years.

The building we occupy is owned by us and the office suites we don't need for WFCA



operations are rented out. Our building is filled to capacity as others are struggling in the Olympia area.

No term of office would be complete without thanking all who have made my tenure as your president easy and

rewarding.

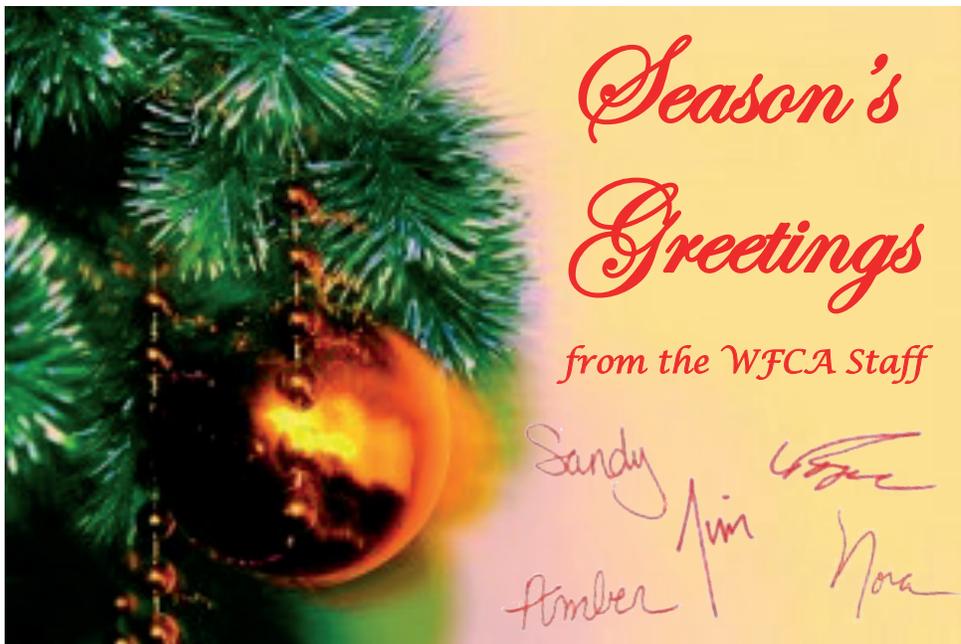
The staff have done yeoman works to make me look good. You all know their names but I don't mind repeating them. Amber, Nora, Sandy have all made me look better than I may be in real life. Jim and Roger have always been there to run an organization that is top flight.

You must know that your dues are well spent and we get far more from each and every one of them than we pay. They are dedicated to the success of the WFCA.

Finally, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season.

Your President,

Jim Farrell



ON THE WEB

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS IN FULL SWING!!!

This year's launch of the WFCA's online registration option for workshops and conference was popular and will continue in 2016! If you wish to register online, log onto www.wfca.wa.gov and select your program (under *Calendar of Events* or *FireWire*) and follow the instructions. Be sure to call the office at 800.491.9322 if you need assistance.



20 Year Service Award: Rick Gaines (King 10), Gillian Gregory & Wilson Stewart (North Kitsap F&R), Red Rogers (Lewis 14), Gary Janisch (Mason 17), Albert Olson (San Juan 3), Roger Knowlton (Snohomish 5), Butch Markhart (Whatcom 8), Gary Knaus (Whatcom 16).

25 Year Service Award: Richard Johnson (Clark 10), Ivan Vallance (Douglas/Okanogan 15), Espy Espinosa & Wilson Stewart (North Kitsap F&R), Gary Janisch (Mason 17), Tom Downer (Pacific 1), Don Jonasson (Skagit 6), Emilio Buttice (Walla Walla 4), Gary Knaus (Whatcom 16), Anthony Cannizzaro (Whatcom 17).

30 Year Service Award: Roger Buswell (Whatcom 8).

35 Year Service Award: Art Getchman (Thurston 8).

Congratulations to these commissioners for their years and in some cases, decades of dedicated service to their communities.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

The association would like to thank the following individuals and companies whose contributions and support helped make conference a success:

Instructors David Byers, Ziggy Dahl, Rich Davis, Bob Johnson, Randy Johnson, Andy Leneweaver, John Malool, Shaughn Maxwell, Bill Peters, Eric Quinn, Joe Quinn, Jim Schneider, Geoff Simpson, Brigitte Smith, Jack Snook, Brian Snure, Mitch Snyder, William Whealan, Kinnon Williams and Keith Wright for sharing their knowledge and expertise...

Education Committee Chair Les Riel and members Richard Bergstrom, Lee Boling, Mike Creighton, Ed Egan, Ron Helmonds, Robert Muhleman and Roy Waugh for selecting valuable topics for conference workshops...

Conference Host Committee Co-Chairs Shauna Willner and Donna Wright and Fire Commissioners in Region 5 (Snohomish, Island, Skagit and Whatcom Counties) for their assistance in planning the conference and hosting the wonderful Welcoming Reception...

WFCA Board members who skillfully manned the registration desk on Wednesday afternoon—consummate professionals, one and all, particularly considering they were in uncharted territory!

Credentials Committee Chair Ben Cavalli for his service...

Arlene Obtinario, Eileen Weyrauch, Jeff Grimm and Kelley McIntosh for making special presentations...

Bob Skaggs for installing the 2016 Board of Directors...

Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Bragg and Parliamentarian Brian Snure for their service...

Conference participants for their generous contributions to the Fire Services Fund of Washington totaling \$3,007, \$300 of which was donated to the Burn Center Fund at Harborview...

To participants who completed conference evaluation forms—the Education Committee reviews all the input you provide and uses it to determine future educational programs...

Thursday morning breakfast sponsors Rice, Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning, Emergency Services Insurance Program and D.A. Davidson & Company for the buffet breakfast and generous support...

Enduris, for sponsoring keynote speaker Eric Alexander, whose talk about his Mount Everest journey was inspiring...

Refreshment break sponsors TCA Architecture-Planning, Chmelik, Sitkin & Davis, Enduris and the WFCA Health Care Program whose support allows the WFCA educational grant program to continue...

Suppliers' Luncheon Sponsors BIAS Software, Chmelik Sitkin & Davis, Crawford Door, D.A. Davidson & Company, Emergency Services Insurance Program, Enduris, Nicholson & Associates Insurance, Rice Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning, TCA Architecture Planning, True North Emergency Equipment and Vision Municipal Solutions for their kind support...

Vendor Exhibit Table Sponsors BIAS Software, Braun Northwest, Correctional Industries, Crawford Door, D.A. Davidson & Company, Emergency Services Insurance Program, FireRescue GPO, General Fire Apparatus, Hughes Fire Equipment, MacIvennie Associates/VFIS, Masimo Corporation, Nicholson & Associates Insurance, Provident, Rice Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning, TCA Architecture Planning, True North Emergency Equipment, Unifire Inc., Vision Municipal Solutions and West Coast Fire & Rescue...

Agency representatives who participated in the Eye to Eye Expo...

The conference could not happen without the assistance of all of the above-mentioned individuals and companies, as well as those who attended. Thank you!

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's conference which will take place at the Yakima Convention Center, October 27-29; the Snure Seminar will be held Wednesday evening, October 26. For room reservations, please call the Holiday Inn Downtown Yakima at 800.465.4329 (toll-free) or 509.494.7000 (direct line) or the Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center at 800.733.5466 (toll-free) or 509.248.5900 (direct line). Be sure to mention you are with the WFCA in order to receive the group rate.

MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD TROPHY WINNERS

Congratulations to all the districts and RFAs who participated in the 2015 WFCA Management Excellence Award program. Here are the districts who received First Place trophies at the conference in Marysville (Category D First Place trophy recipient, Jefferson 4, was not available for photo).



CATEGORY A
Graham Fire & Rescue



CATEGORY B
Pacific Co. Fire District 1



CATEGORY C
Chelan Fire & Rescue

Board From Page One

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

- Region 1:* **Jack Hensley**, Spokane 4
- Region 3:* **Dwight Vander Vorste**, Grant 10
- Region 5:* **Jim Kenny**, Snohomish 1
- Region 7:* **Dan Rankin**, West Pierce Fire & Rescue
- Region 9:* **Gene Carmody**, Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue

Congratulations to the newly elected Board members. They join existing WFCA Board Directors **Brad Langdell**, Walla Walla 5 (Region 2), **Les Riel**, Yakima 4 (Region 4) and **Chris Elwell**, King 2 (Region 6).

The association would like to thank...

- ♦ **Jim Farrell**, Mountain View Fire & Rescue, who served as President (2014-15), Vice President (2012-13) and Region 6 Director (2009-11);
- ♦ **Dave Fergus**, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, who served as Vice President (2014-15) and Secretary-Treasurer (2012-13);
- ♦ **Gene Dobry**, Lacey Fire District 3, who served as Region 7 Director (2014-15).

Your dedicated service on the Board is appreciated by the WFCA membership and staff.



RECRUITING ANNOUNCEMENT by Snohomish 19: District is looking to recruit several part-paid volunteer firefighters. Service area is predominately rural & the boundaries include the unincorporated Snohomish Co area between the cities of Marysville, Arlington & Stanwood & include the town of Silvana. For more info visit www.firedistrict19.com. Openings are continuous; however, the next series of applications will be reviewed 1/1/16 with oral interviews scheduled for the week 1/11/16. If you have questions you may call 360.652.8277 or email kstrotz@firedistrict19.com.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Skagit County: Skagit County is accepting applications for the position of Fire Marshal. To review the job posting or apply please visit www.Skagitcounty.net.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Snohomish County EMS: Education & Quality Assurance Coordinator to serve as liaison to all SCEMS agencies; working w/ SCEMS leadership to create, document, & apply educational curriculum & updates, along w/ implementation & supervision of QA & Quality Improvement (QI) projects. Annual salary range \$55,000-\$70,000 depend on exper, education & qual. Independent contractor & does not have associated benefits. To apply, submit letter of interest, resume, list of five+ personal & professional references. Send appl materials no later than 12/31/15 to Marsha Parker, Coordinator, Snohomish Co EMS, 12425 Meridian Ave S, Everett, WA 98208, 425.551.1270, 425.551.1273 (fax), email: marsha.parker@snocountyems.org, snocountyems.org. Electronic application packages are encouraged & should be sent in MS Word format only. Interviews will be scheduled in January; date to be determined. The position is expected to be filled 2/1/16.



2016 WFCA Legislative Report

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association Legislative Committee met numerous times during the interim and at its November 12, 2015 meeting, finalized its priorities for the upcoming session which will commence on Monday, January 11, 2016.

This will be a 60-day session with an emphasis by the legislature to address the K-12 school funding issue. We will diligently monitor bills and keep you informed with updates via email every Friday beginning January 22nd. We will continue to be in a defensive position to protect what we currently have.

2016 WFCA PRIORITY ISSUES

- Protect fire districts and regional fire authorities from any proposed property tax reform measures which will have negative impacts on fire district/RFA property tax rates or revenue.
- WFCA will propose legislation to protect individuals' right to volunteer in a fire district or regional fire authority while being a paid firefighter in another district/RFA if volunteering does not conflict with his/her performance in the department in which they are employed.
- Support HB 2148 which will authorize local governments to request a private financial audit in lieu of one by the State Auditor if the State Auditor approves the request. This provides an option for fire districts/RFAs to save money on audit costs when feasible.
- Support legislation to provide authority for a fire district/RFA to approve a city annexing into the district/RFA with the passage of a resolution after the city residents have voted by majority vote to annex into the district/RFA. This will save the fire district/RFA election costs as the Board of Commissioners can approve a city ballot measure passed by a majority of the voters voting within the city.
- WFCA will request an exemption from HB 1745, the state Voting Rights Act, as it is unnecessary for a district/RFA to be included. WFCA is concerned with increased legal costs, election costs and the mandate of commissioner districts.

2016 WFCALegislative Report *continued*

- WFCAL will seek a regulatory/agency solution to moving the billing of fire district/RFA workers' compensation employer rates from January to October in order for districts/RFAs to properly budget for any increase when districts/RFAs are developing and approving their budgets.
- WFCAL will work with other local governments on amending the commissioner compensation to be effective on January 1 of the year following the new compensation threshold as calculated by the Office of Financial Management which will assist districts in budgeting. NOTE: Next compensation threshold calculation will be in 2018.

The issues outlined below will be closely monitored in 2016:

- Support Washington Fire Chiefs' proposed legislation to increase the EMS levy from 50 cents up to 75 cents.
- Continue to support capital budget for North Bend Fire Training Academy.
- Oppose EMT/vehicle licensing fees if proposed.
- Support full funding of all public pensions.
- Monitor and take positions on all property tax proposals for cost impacts to fire districts/departments/RFAs.
- **State Agency Legislation.** The WFCAL will monitor and take appropriate positions on state agency legislation, such as: Board for Volunteer Firefighters, Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Retirement Systems, Department of Revenue, Insurance Commissioner, State Auditor, State Patrol and State Treasurer.
- **Sunshine Legislation.** The WFCAL will monitor and take appropriate positions on any amendments to the Open Public Records Act and/or Open Public Meetings Act. Some issues we have identified and oppose as adverse legislation include:
 - Erosion of protection of attorney/client privilege for local elected officials.
 - Mandatory recording of executive sessions.

NOTE: Priority papers with more content of specific bills will be sent out to the WFCAL membership via email prior to the January 28, 2016 WFCAL/WFC Legislative Day. We look forward to seeing you in Olympia!

WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION WASHINGTON FIRE CHIEFS



LEGISLATIVE DAY JANUARY 28, 2016

Legislative Day 2016 will be held Thursday, January 28th, in the state Legislative Building (Columbia Room) in Olympia. This annual event, which includes a morning workshop and noon luncheon, provides an excellent opportunity for members to discuss issues with their legislators that directly impact the fire service.

Please call your legislators' administrative assistants to schedule an appointment for January 28, and be sure to invite your legislators to the noon luncheon in the Columbia Room.

To contact your legislators, log onto www.leg.wa.gov or call the WFC office (1.800.491.9322) for assistance.

For driving directions to Olympia and capitol campus parking options, log onto <http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Parking.aspx> or call the WFC office.

[Click here to register online](#)



REGISTRATION FEE: \$80 PER PERSON

Payment Options (check one):

- Check enclosed (payable to WFC)
- Bill dept., dist., or RFA (at the email address listed below)
- Visa/Mastercard (authorization form will be sent to your email)

Registration Form

Name & Title

Name & Title

District/Department/RFA

Email Address (for billing purposes)

Return completed form to:

WFC ♦ P.O. Box 134 ♦ Olympia, WA 98507
Fax: 360.664.0415

Agenda

8:30 a.m.

Registration & coffee in the Columbia Room (located in the Legislative Building)

9:00 a.m.

Introductions & discussion of issues by Roger Ferris & Wayne Senter

- ⇒ WFC Legislative Issues
- ⇒ WFC Legislative Issues
- ⇒ Other Fire Service Groups' Issues
- ⇒ Question & Answer Session

10:30 a.m.

Visit legislators and invite them to the noon luncheon

12:00 noon

Luncheon in the Columbia Room

Commissioners, Chiefs and other administrative personnel will have the opportunity to discuss fire service issues with legislators

1:30 p.m.

Event concludes

Questions? Need more information?

Call the WFC office toll-free at 800.491.9322

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association is pleased to offer members the 2016 Saturday Seminar Series. Class descriptions are outlined below; see reverse for dates, times and locations. To register, please visit our online registration or use the form provided. If you have questions concerning the seminars, please contact the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322.

**SEMINAR FOR
NEWLY ELECTED/APPOINTED
AND EXPERIENCED
COMMISSIONERS, CHIEFS & SECRETARIES**

**Offered in Spokane (February 27th)
and Ocean Shores (March 19th)**

**This seminar meets the statutory Open Public Records
and
Open Public Meetings training requirements**

Attorney Brian Snure will present this seminar for new and experienced commissioners, chiefs, secretaries and other management personnel. This class will provide the knowledge and background needed to understand and address the challenges involved in governing, leading and operating fire districts and regional fire authorities. Topics for this full-day program, which is being held in Spokane and Ocean Shores, include the following:

- ◆ The relationships between fire commissioners and personnel.
- ◆ Powers, authority, duties and responsibilities of commissioners, chiefs and secretaries.
- ◆ Relationships with state and county offices.
- ◆ Risk management and insurance.
- ◆ Open Public Meetings and executive sessions compliance.
- ◆ Open Public Records Act and record retention compliance.
- ◆ Ethics—conflicts of interest.
- ◆ Compensation to commissioners, paid and volunteer personnel.
- ◆ Volunteer firefighter associations.
- ◆ Finances—revenue sources, tax levies, budgets, lid lifts, debt limitations, elections.
- ◆ Bid law requirements.

Other areas of law will be addressed with an opportunity for class participants to ask questions.

Attendees will receive a certificate of participation that documents compliance with the Open Public Meeting and Open Public Record training requirements.



**2016
SATURDAY
SEMINAR
SERIES**

**HOW TO HIRE, RETAIN &
EVALUATE KEY PERSONNEL
IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Offered in Chelan (June 4th)**

This workshop will focus on the legal process of successfully hiring administrative personnel. Topics covered:

- ◆ What should be included in an employment agreement?
- ◆ How do you evaluate your personnel?
- ◆ Contracts vs. Employment Agreements
- ◆ Review of Personnel Policies (such as discipline, discrimination and due process)

This will be a great class for all commissioners, chiefs and key administrative personnel to review and update your best hiring and employment retention policies.

**UPDATE WITH
STATE AUDITOR
Offered in Chelan (June 4th)**

This afternoon session will provide a review of what is new in state audit guidelines. Issues such as fraud, investments, open public meetings and the new audit online checklist will be discussed.

WFCA SELF-FUNDED HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Offered in Ocean Shores (March 19th) & Chelan (June 4th)

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Ocean Shores and Chelan Seminars, please join Health Care Manager Jim Lux for a one-hour overview of the WFCA health care program. Attendees are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the program and share your thoughts.

FEBRUARY 27, 2016 - SPOKANE
ENDURIS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CENTER

AGENDA

- 8:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. **Newly Elected, Appointed and Experienced Commissioners, Chiefs & Secretaries Seminar**
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. **Seminar Continues**
- 4:00 p.m. Program concludes

LOCATION

Enduris Professional Center, 1610 S. Technology Blvd.,
Spokane, WA 99224

MARCH 19, 2016 - OCEAN SHORES
SHILO INN

AGENDA

- 7:45 a.m. Registration & Coffee
- 8:00 a.m. **WFCA Health Care Program Information**
- 9:00 a.m. **Newly Elected, Appointed and Experienced Commissioners, Chiefs & Secretaries Seminar**
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. **Seminar Continues**
- 4:00 p.m. Program concludes

LOCATION & HOTEL

Shilo Inn, 707 Ocean Shores Blvd. N.W., Ocean Shores, WA
98569; 800.222. 2244 (toll-free) or 360.289.4600 (main line)
www.shiloinns.com
Guest room rate \$119

JUNE 4, 2016 - CHELAN
CAMPBELL'S RESORT

AGENDA

- 7:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. **WFCA Health Care Program Information**
- 9:00 a.m. **How to Properly Hire, Retain & Evaluate Key Personnel in the 21st Century Seminar**
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. **Update with State Auditor Seminar**
- 3:30 p.m. Program concludes

LOCATION & HOTELS

Campbell's, 104 W. Woodin Ave., Chelan, WA 98816;
800.553.8225 (toll-free) or 509.682.2561 (main line)
www.campbellsresort.com
Room rates vary depending on the type requested
Other reservation options: Grandview (800.962.8723),
Darnell's (800.967.8149), Best Western (800.468.2781)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ An education grant program is available to members with an assessed value of less than \$50 million. Please contact the WFCA office for more information.

REGISTRATION

Registration fee listed below is per person, per seminar. Fee includes lunch at the seminar for which you register. 48 hour notice is required for registration refunds from the WFCA.

MEMBER RATES

\$160 (pre-registration) ~ \$210 (at the door)

NON-MEMBER RATES

\$450 (pre-registration) ~ \$500 (at the door)

REGISTER ONLINE

Or please return the completed registration to:
WFCA, P.O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507
Fax: 360.664.0415 Email: wfca@wfca.wa.gov

Sign Me Up For the Seminar I've Checked:

- Spokane - February 27th
- Ocean Shores - March 19th
- Chelan - June 4th

Representing (Dist/RFA/Dept):

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge):

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge):

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge):

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please Invoice. Provide email for invoicing:

THANK YOU

The WFCA would like to thank the following sponsors of refreshment breaks and meals during the 2016 Saturday Seminar Series. These companies make possible the WFCA Educational Grant Program, which helps qualified members attend seminars and conferences.

Enduris - sponsoring all refreshment breaks in Spokane and the afternoon refreshment break in Chelan.

Chmelik, Sitkin & Davis - sponsoring the continental breakfast in Chelan.

BIAS Software - sponsoring the morning refreshment break in Ocean Shores.

Northwest Safety Clean - sponsoring the afternoon refreshment break in Ocean Shores.



**WASHINGTON
FIRE COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION**

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WWW.WFCA.WA.GOV

LOCATION

605 11TH AVE. S.E.
SUITE 205
OLYMPIA WA 98501

OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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