



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

FOURTH QUARTER 2019

WFCFA CONFERENCE RECAP

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCFA) held its 71st Annual Conference at the Tulalip Resort October 24-26. Here are some conference highlights:

ELECTION OF 2020 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The following commissioners were elected to the WFCFA Board of Directors: *President: Brad Lothspeich*, Clark 6; *Vice President: Daniel Rankin*, West Pierce Fire & Rescue; *Secretary-Treasurer: Lee Boling*, Spokane 8; *Region 1 Director: Jack Hensley*, Spokane 4; *Region 3 Director: Dwight Vander Vorste*, Grant 10; *Region 5 Director: Larry Kibbee*, Skagit 13; *Region 7 Director: Mike Cathey*, East Pierce Fire & Rescue; and *Region 9 Director: Gene Carmody*, Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue. Congratulations to the newly elected Board members! They join existing Board Directors **Brad Langdell**, Walla Walla 5 (Region 2), **Les Riel**, Yakima 4 (Region 4) and **Chris Elwell**, King 2 (Region 6).

We wish to thank outgoing President **Gerald Gustafson**, Graham Fire & Rescue, who served on the Board for four years. Gerry will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board in 2020. Region 8 Director Dean Bloemke (Clark 6) will no longer be a fire commissioner in 2020 and is resigning from the Board on December 31st. We thank Dean for his service and wish him the very best in his future endeavors! The Board plans to fill the Region 8 Director vacancy at its January meeting.



Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's conference at the Spokane Grand Hotel, October 22-24

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Thank you to the following individuals and companies whose contributions and support helped make conference a success: Instructors and speakers **Brian Snure**, **Thomas Burke**, **Rich Davis**, **Eric Quinn**, **Kinnon Williams**, **Frank Chmelik**, **Guy Earle**, **Howard Johnson**, **Michael Meline**, **Charles Lind**, **Megan Starks**, **Jim Nelson**, **Bud Backer**, **Ed Hartin**, **Bryson Bristol**, **Mark Rapozo**, **George Geissler** and **Jim Mathis** for sharing their knowledge and expertise...

Education Committee Chair **Les Riel** and members **Lee Boling**, **Mike Creighton**, **Ed Egan**, **Milt Harper**, **Meredith Hutchins**, **Robert Muhleman**, **Socorro Ruiz** and **Roy Waugh** for selecting pertinent class topics...

Conference Host Committee Chair **Roy Waugh** and commissioners and others from Snohomish, Island, Skagit, Whatcom, Pierce and Thurston Counties for their assistance in planning the conference and hosting the Welcome to Conference Reception...

WFCFA Board members who assisted at the registration desk on Wednesday afternoon—your help was appreciated!

Credentials Committee Chair **Gerry Preuss** for his service...

Bill Eckroth, **Dave Gelslichter**, **Milt Harper** and **Mike Moore** for making special presentations...

Bob Skaggs for installing the 2020 Board of Directors...

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

Conference participants for their generous donations totaling \$1,535 to the Fire Services Fund of Washington, 10% of which was forwarded to the Burn Center Fund at Harborview...

Thursday morning breakfast sponsors **Rice**, **Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning**, **Emergency Services Insurance Program** and **D.A. Davidson & Co.** for the wonderful buffet breakfast...

Enduris, for sponsoring keynote speaker Kat Perkins, who delivered an inspiring message about finding your passion and living fearlessly...

Refreshment break sponsors **TCA Architecture-Planning**, **Martin Nelson & Co.**, **Enduris** and the **WFCFA Health Care Program**, whose support provides funding for the WFCFA educational grant program...

Vendor Exhibit Table and Luncheon Sponsors **BIAS Software**, **Braun Northwest**, **Cities Insurance Association of Washington (CIAW)**, **Crawford Door**, **D.A. Davidson**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT by Gerry Gustafson



As we enter into the holiday season, let's take time to reflect and value our families and be thankful for the many positive things that we have, both personally and in the fire service.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president over the past two years and I congratulate incoming President Brad Lothspeich for his work and dedication as vice president.

I also want to thank 2020 Vice President Dan Rankin for his dedicated efforts as outgoing secretary-treasurer.

Thank you to the Board of Directors, committee chairs and members of all committees for taking time out to make the WFCA the outstanding organization that it is.



I also want to thank the WFCA staff and especially recognize Nora Eylenfeldt and Sandy Babcock for their years of

service (39 and 37 respectively) to the WFCA. Nora and Sandy will be retiring on February 28th and we wish them a very happy and healthy retirement.

Lastly, I want to thank you, the membership, for your continued financial support of the association. I fully believe the old saying, "An association is only as strong as its members." We are a very strong and vibrant association and I look forward to an outstanding year in 2020.

I wish each and every one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a joyous, safe and Happy New Year!



Recap From Page One

& Company, Enduris, General Fire Apparatus, MacIvennie Associates, McNeil & Company (ESIP), Martin Nelson & Company, Nicholson & Associates Insurance, Provident Agency, Rice Fergus Miller Architecture, Severson & Associates, TCA Architecture-Planning and True North Emergency Equipment for their generous support...

Bagpiper **Garrett Bargabos** for his moving rendition of *Amazing Grace*...

The **Marysville Fire District Honor Guard** for presenting the colors...

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

In addition to representatives of the companies listed, we would like to extend a special thanks to the commissioners, chiefs, secretaries and other fire service administrators who took time out of their busy schedules to attend conference. We look forward to seeing you next October at The Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane!

2020 conference dates are October 22-24—the Snure Seminar will be held on Wednesday evening, October 21. For room reservations, please call The Grand at 509.458.3330, 800.228.9290, or log onto <https://book.passkey.com/event/50020325/owner/16432818/home>. The deadline for making reservations is October 2, 2020.



ON THE WEB



New Commissioners...the WFCA has information online to assist you in your role as an elected official. Visit the WFCA's homepage at www.wfca.wa.gov and select "Commissioners" under the drop-down menu on the Library & Resources tab in the left-hand navigation menu for more information.





2020 Saturday Seminar Series

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association is pleased to offer the 2020 Saturday Seminar Series. Class descriptions are outlined below; see reverse for dates, times and locations. You may register online or use the form provided. If you have questions concerning the seminars, please contact the WFCA office at 800.491.9322.

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

Offered in Spokane on February 22nd and Suquamish on April 4th

This seminar meets the statutory Open Public Records and Open Public Meetings training requirements which are required EVERY 4 YEARS for elected officials.

Attorney Brian Snure will present this seminar for new and experienced commissioners, chiefs, secretaries and other management personnel. The 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 Suquamish, 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 records 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 also 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 Records and Open Public Meetings training requirements.

MANAGING YOUR RISK EXPOSURE TO AVOID THE WITNESS STAND

Offered in Chelan on June 6th



One of the most important aspects of a fire commissioner's duties is to manage your district/RFA's exposure to legal proceedings and protect your organization from litigation. As a follow-up to the class at conference, this seminar will examine some of the leading issues in risk management, such as:

- ◆ How to ensure legal compliance with hiring and termination practices
- ◆ Sexual harassment issues
- ◆ Discrimination/inappropriate conduct
- ◆ Employee discipline
- ◆ Social media

Many other issues will be outlined and discussed with risk management experts providing advice on how to avoid costly litigation. There will be interactive role-play exercises to illustrate ways to manage your risks.



WFCA SELF-FUNDED HEALTH CARE PROGRAM UPDATE

Offered in Suquamish on April 4th and Chelan on June 6th

Please join Health Care Manager Anne Marvin for a presentation about the WFCA-sponsored Health Care Program. In addition to a general overview of the program and resources, Anne will share how the program is running and what you can do to make wise use of our health care dollars. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the program and share any thoughts and questions.

FEBRUARY 22, 2020

SPOKANE—HISTORIC DAVENPORT HOTEL

10 S Post Street, Spokane, WA 99201

AGENDA

- 8:00 am Registration & Coffee
- 9:00 am **Newly Elected, Appointed and Experienced Commissioners, Chiefs & Secretaries Seminar**
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm **Seminar continues**
- 4:00 pm Program concludes

HOTEL INFORMATION

For room reservations, call 509.455.8888 or visit www.davenportcollection.com
Book early for best available rate

APRIL 4, 2020

SUQUAMISH—CLEARWATER RESORT

15347 Suquamish Way NE, Suquamish, WA 98392

AGENDA

- 8:00 am Registration & Coffee
- 9:00 am **Newly Elected, Appointed and Experienced Commissioners, Chiefs & Secretaries Seminar**
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm **Seminar continues**
- 4:00 pm Program concludes

HOTEL INFORMATION

For room reservations, call 866.609.8700 or log onto <https://reserve.clearwatercasino.com/suquamish#groupSignIn> and use **Group Code 17030** prior to March 9th

JUNE 6, 2020

CHELAN—CAMPBELL'S RESORT

AGENDA

- 7:30 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am **Managing Risk to Avoid the Witness Stand**
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm **Seminar continues**
- 4:00 pm Program concludes

LOCATION & HOTELS

Campbell's - 104 W Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816
800.553.8225, 509.682.2561, www.campbellsresort.com
Room rates vary depending on the type requested.
Other reservation options: Grandview (800.962.8723), Darnell's (800.967.8149), Lakeside Lodge (800.468.2781)

The WFCAs would like to thank the companies whose logos appear below for their generous sponsorships during the Saturday Seminars. Their financial contributions fund the association's educational grant program which makes it possible for members with budget limitations to attend WFCAs seminars and conferences.



REGISTRATION FORM

Register online at www.wfca.wa.gov or return the completed registration to: WFCAs, P.O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507, fax 360.664.0415 or email wfca@wfca.wa.gov. Registration fee listed below is per person, per seminar. Fee includes lunch at the seminar for which you register and a continental breakfast in Chelan. 48 hours notice is required for registration refunds from the WFCAs. Please include information on any special dietary needs with your registration. If you have any questions, contact the WFCAs office at 800.491.9322.

MEMBER RATES: \$180, at the door \$230

NON-MEMBER RATES: \$450, at the door \$500

SIGN ME UP FOR THE SEMINAR I'VE CHECKED:

- Spokane - February 22nd
- Suquamish - April 4th
- Chelan - June 6th

Representing: _____

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Bill the District/RFA—please provide an email address for invoicing: _____



Washington Fire Commissioners Association Washington Fire Chiefs



Legislative Day January 28, 2020

Legislative Day 2020 will be held Tuesday, 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 28th, 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.

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

Visit www.wfca.wa.gov to register online

✂-----
Registration Form

REGISTRATION FEE: \$95 PER PERSON

Make checks payable to Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCA)

Name & Title

Name & Title

District/Department/RFA

Email Address (for billing purposes)

Return completed form to:

Mail: WFCA, P.O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507
Email: wfca@wfca.wa.gov
Fax: 360.664.0415

AGENDA

8:30 am

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

9:00 am

Introductions & discussion of issues by Executive Directors Roger Ferris (WFCA) & Wayne Senter (WFC)

- ◆ WFCA Legislative Issues
- ◆ WFC Legislative Issues
- ◆ Other Fire Service Groups' Issues
- ◆ Questions & Answers

10:30 am

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 pm

Event concludes

Questions? Need more information?

Call the WFCA office toll-free at 800.491.9322.

Commissioner Service Awards

10 Year



Pictured: Erv Beard, Leslie Jo Wells, Sam Nugent, Allan Barrie, Michael Atwood. *Not pictured:* Robert Cernick, Chris Christie, Conrad Green, Ron Helmonds, Mike Norris.

15 Year



Pictured: Danny Walling, Eileen Weyrauch. *Not pictured:* Robert Cernick, Irvin "Al" Leister. Awarded posthumously to Charles Hedlund.

20 Year



Pictured: Robert Pontius. *Not pictured:* Jim Klaustermeyer, Mark Mitchell, Mike Norris.

25 Year



Pictured: Daniel Rankin, Alan Mehlenbacher, Gillian Gregory, Rich Coleman. *Not pictured:* Dusty Wiley.



30 Year

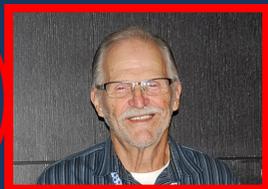
Not pictured: Emilio Buttice and Ron Schmidt.

40 Year



Pictured: Richard Wells. *Not pictured:* Richard Ruud.

45 Year



Pictured: Erv Beard.

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to the Fire Service in the state of Washington!

Management Excellence Awards

Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue

CATEGORY A—1ST PLACE



Commissioners Dick West, Guy Earle and Bob Muhleman with Fire Chief John Oliver

Grant County FPD 3

CATEGORY C—1ST PLACE



Commissioners Carl Yeates and Keven Gardner with Fire Chief Don Fortier

Clallam County FPD 4

CATEGORY D—1ST PLACE



Commissioners Sam Nugent and Terry Barnett with Fire Chief Greg Waters

CATEGORY A—2ND PLACE

Marysville Fire District



Commissioners Steve Muller, Kamille Norton, Richard Ross and Tom King

CATEGORY C
2ND PLACE

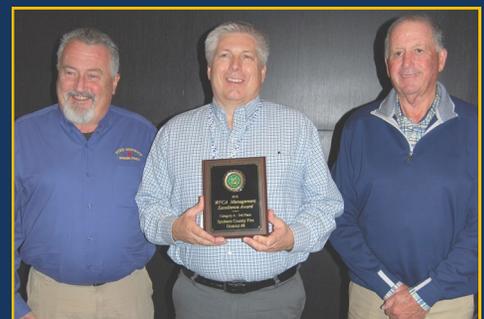
Yakima County FPD 12

CATEGORY C
3RD PLACE

Skagit County FPD 13

CATEGORY A—3RD PLACE

Spokane County FPD 8



Commissioners Lee Boling and Greg Hesse with Fire Chief Tony Nielsen



2020 WFCA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The WFCA Legislative Committee met a number of times during the interim and at its November meeting, finalized priorities for the upcoming session, which will commence on January 13, 2020. This will be a 60-day session with an emphasis on replacement of state revenue due to the passage of Initiative 976. We will diligently monitor all bills and keep you informed with weekly email updates beginning Friday, January 24.

2020 WFCA PRIORITY ISSUES

- **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION ENHANCEMENTS.** The Washington State Firefighters' Association (WSFFA) has introduced legislation (EHB 1912) to increase the maximum pension from \$300 up to \$350. The annual disability fee will increase from \$30 to \$50 per year for each volunteer and the annual pension fee will increase from \$60 to \$90 per year per volunteer. **SUPPORT/HIGH PRIORITY.**
- **EXEMPT COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION FROM FMLA.** WFCA will propose legislation to exempt fire commissioner per diem compensation from the Family Medical Leave Act for administrative cost savings particularly since commissioners do not receive sick leave benefits.
- **WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING ISSUES/FUNDING.** WFCA **supports** additional funding for Department of Natural Resources fire suppression, prescribed burns and contracts.
- **PERMANENT FIRE DISTRICT BENEFIT CHARGE.** WFCA **supports** legislation to provide authority for voter-approved permanent benefit charge.
- **JOINT APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING COMMITTEE (JATC) STUDY.** WFCA **supports** study of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) for firefighters training with possible movement out of the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- **RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS.** WFCA supports the Washington Fire Marshals' legislation with regard to residential fire sprinklers.

The issues outlined below will be closely monitored in 2020:

- ♦ EMS levy increase from 50¢ to 75¢ maximum. **Long-term SUPPORT.**
- ♦ Fire district levies outside the constitutional one percent. **Long-term SUPPORT** as this would require a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate and approval by the people at a general election. This is a constitutional amendment.
- ♦ **SUPPORT** full funding of all public pensions.
- ♦ Monitor and take positions on all property tax proposals for cost impacts to fire districts/ departments/regional fire authorities (RFAs).
- ♦ State Agency Legislation. The WFCA 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 WFCA 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 and mandatory recording of executive sessions.

NOTE: Priority papers with more content on specific bills will be emailed to the WFCA membership prior to the Tuesday, January 28, 2020 WFCA/WFC Legislative Day. We look forward to seeing you in Olympia!



**WASHINGTON
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ASSOCIATION**

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605 11TH AVE SE, SUITE 205
OLYMPIA WA 98501

OFFICE HOURS

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

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT.....GERRY GUSTAFSON - GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
VICE PRESIDENT ...BRAD LOTH SPEICH - CLARK 6
SECRETARY | TREASURER.....DANIEL RANKIN - WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

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REGION 3DWIGHT VANDER VORSTE - GRANT 10
REGION 4LES RIEL - YAKIMA 4
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REGION 7GENE DOBRY - LACEY FIRE DISTRICT 3
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REGION 9GENE CARMODY - PORT LUDLOW FIRE & RESCUE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROGER FERRIS

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF
THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP