



County Connection

News from the Washington Counties Risk Pool

January - April 2015



POOL NEWS

Welcome Our New Staff Member

WCRP is pleased to welcome Sally King to its claims staff as the Claims Assistant. Sally comes to the Risk Pool with several years in the banking and title insurance industry and an extensive background of customer service, accounting and administrative support. While Sally is not at work, she enjoys fundraising for Relay For Life.



Jeri Woods recently left the Pool in February for a full-time position closer to her home. We wish her the best and thank Jeri for her service.

Executive Director Search

The Pool's Board of Directors has commenced a Leadership Search to find the next Executive Director in order to prepare for Vyrle's eventual retirement. Confidence Consulting has been retained to assist with this recruitment. The Board will be meeting on May 8th at The Radisson Seattle Airport to interview the position finalists.

Executive Committee/Officer Vacancies and Elections

The Pool's Executive Committee is comprised of 11 members. Member counties' appointed Directors and Alternate Directors are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee—not more than one from a county—for staggered, 3-year terms.

Acting as the Pool's Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee will soon begin formulating the nominating recommendations for next year's available Executive Committee positions and officer candidates. Three (3) positions with 3-year terms commencing October 1st are due to be filled during the 2015 Annual Meeting being held July 23-24, and candidates are being sought for these positions. Those members whose terms expire 9/30/2015 are County Commissioner Robert Koch (Franklin), County Auditor Thad Duvall (Douglas), and Kittitas County Human Resource Manager Lisa Young (present WCRP Vice President). The WCRP Bylaws require that Executive Committee members represent the diversity and interests of its member counties—this has been achieved by electing both elected and appointed officials, from both eastern and western counties; and with large, medium and small deductibles.

Also, the Bylaws require that the Pool's officers be chosen annually by its Board of Directors from the members of the Executive Committee. The Presidency will be filled by current Vice President Lisa Young (if re-elected to the Executive Committee). The Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer positions will also be filled by election during the upcoming 2015 Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee will recommend at least one nominee per open position. President (and Nominating Committee Chair) Drew Woods must be contacted by Tuesday, June 2nd, with expressions of interest in serving and/or to suggest recommendations of others as candidates for the Executive Committee and/or for the WCRP 2015-16 officers. Mr. Woods can be reached at (509) 382-2534 or Andrew_Woods@co.columbia.wa.us. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the 2015 Annual Meeting, July 23 - 24.



SAVE THE DATE!

*Summer Conference and Board Meeting
July 22-24, 2015, The Marcus Whitman Hotel (Walla Walla, WA)*



David Goldsmith, Member Specialty Services

MEMBER SERVICES



Spring Conference and Board Meeting Report

The WCRP Spring Conference and Board of Directors meeting was held at the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Washington in March. The multi-day event had a full and diverse agenda and a degree of intrigue as the Executive Committee vetted candidates for a new Executive Director. On Wednesday afternoon, around 35 people attended an orientation for newly elected officials and appointees from member counties. The training was designed to familiarize those attending with the uniqueness of this risk sharing organization; how it was set up, how it operates, and membership engagement. In addition to the general orientation, breakout sessions were held covering the overall organization design and function, claims management, and risk management.

On Thursday morning, the recently published Contracts Manual was unveiled. The manual is a tool designed to help member counties deal with and evaluate the many contracts which assist in carrying out the functions of local governments. The Contracts Manual is available for members on the WCRP website.

Following the contracts manual was a session explaining the details and elements of the new Cyber Security/Risk Coverage. This policy is designed to take the burden off of member counties in the event of a cyber breach. While it does not protect from direct monetary loss (this would be a crime policy), it does protect the organization from all the regulatory and procedural issues surrounding a cyber breach, and provides the resources to step in and assist in the event of an incident.

The Changing Face of Corrections Claims was a hard-hitting session dealing with the rising phenomenon of jail related claims. From access to publications to custodial care, all aspects of the jail operations are fraught with potentials for bad things to happen. This session looked at the litigation of jail related claims and recent trends in court decisions, as well as techniques to manage the inherent risks of running a jail.

At lunch, Eric Johnson, Executive Director of WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties), reviewed the 2015 legislative session to-date and bills that the county and public transportation associations are monitoring which will impact how business in local government is done.

Jenny Emery was a consultant engaged by WCRP to facilitate a “Board Effectiveness” workshop. Jenny has worked in the public entity pooling industry for over 30 years and has served as executive director of AGRIP (Association of Government Risk Pools). When Jenny asked members to name some of the services provided by the Pool that are especially helpful, we heard the following and more:

- Pre-defense Reviews
- Supervisor Training
- Expertise on Claims
- Reference Library
- Community Networking
- Deflect Issues to Risk Pool
- Risk Pool Review / Accountability
- Contract Assistance
- HelpLine

Staff doesn't always know what services are appreciated by members. It was good to hear such positive feedback.

The business session concluded with refining the process for the Board's review of executive director candidates, selecting consultants to perform property appraisals, and discussing replacement of the PIMS system, as well as amendments to the ByLaws and Underwriting policy.

By most all accounts, this was a particularly engaging and content-filled conference and Board of Directors meeting.

There's lots of good stuff on the WCRP website. Check it out at: www.wcrp.info



Jill Lowe, *Loss Control Coordinator*



TRAINING NEWS

It's been a busy training season. My thanks go out to all member counties for volunteering to serve as hosts, sending out training notices and seeing value in employees attending training. Risk Pool training is designed to mitigate risk and decrease claims and lawsuits, and we thank you for supporting that effort.

The training season began with the Contracts Manual training in February; March was filled with Email Risk, Liability and Retention classes; and March and April were Management and Supervisory trainings 101 and 201.

Contracts Manual Workshop

16 Counties Represented

62 Attendees

Management and Supervisory Training 101 and 201

17 Counties Represented

200 Attendees

Email Risk, Liability and Retention

17 Counties Represented

347 Attendees

Due to overwhelming success of the 101 class, Management and Supervisory Training 201 was introduced in Kittitas County. Higher level management and employment law-related topics were discussed, including new case law updates. Motivation, delegation, handling conflict, effective decision making and emerging employment topics including retaliation, religious accommodation, sexual orientation and age discrimination were discussed. Stay tuned for next year's development of Management and Supervisory Training 301.

WCRP once again joined forces with three other Washington Pools to bring a nationally recognized presenter to Washington State. Michael Bazzell came to the Criminal Justice Training Commission facility to present "Protecting Your Organization from Computer Crime." Mr. Bazzell focused on how hackers commit their crimes and what organizations can do to protect assets. Attendees learned how password hacking, email phishing, wireless access, telephone scams, social engineering, and portable devices are an emerging threat against every public entity.



WCRP's classes and webinars do not have a registration fee for member counties' attendees! For more information or to register for a class, see the WCRP webpage at www.wcrp.info and click on the Training tab. Class descriptions can be found under the More Information link. Registration is quick and easy, just click on the registration link and fill out a short form.



Identical Twins Elected Sheriffs in Neighboring Counties

Identical twins were elected sheriffs in neighboring Washington State counties last November, an unlikely chapter to a history of the two brothers rising up in local law enforcement together.

Rob Snaza and his brother, John, grew up in Thurston county. Their parents grew up in Lewis County. Now, Rob is the newly elected sheriff of Lewis County while his brother was re-elected as sheriff of Thurston County.



"It's pretty surreal," said Rob in a report. "It still hasn't really settled in."

John, the older of the two by 14 minutes, recalled rising in the ranks with his brother over the past few decades. He especially remembers DUI patrols together.

"It would probably throw some people off because they would look at me, look at him, look at me, and probably start to judge their own sobriety," John said.

John was elected to the post four years ago, but it was because of his brother that he got "hooked" on law enforcement. More than 20 years ago, Rob invited John on a ride-along during one of his patrol tours.

"I had the time of my life and I got hooked," John said in the report. Now, they will get to lead their own respective departments and give back to the communities that raised both of them.

"How cool it is to have an opportunity to work side by side with your own brother; to serve both counties that we grew up in," John said.

Information from KCQP news, November 6, 2014

Brian Perry uses defibrillator to save a man's life



Bryan Perry, Benton County Risk Manager, was recently returning home from a family vacation. As his plane started down the runway, a fellow passenger began shouting in distress. There were several calls for help but no one responded. The woman that was searching for help had a gentleman seated next to her that was having a heart attack. Bryan moved up to the gentleman and began to render assistance. While a flight attendant was getting a defibrillator, Bryan checked for vital signs but found no signs of breathing. Bryan took action. He opened the defibrillator and secured it to the man's chest. After delivering one shock and providing compressions with another passenger for several minutes, the gentleman finally came around. He was then carried off the plane and turned over to emergency responders.

As the plane finished de-icing and began taxiing to the runway, they received word the man was alive and doing well! Great work Bryan for being brave and taking charge in such a rare situation. It saved a man's life!

WCRP Officers/Executive Committee

Py 2015 President
Andrew Woods, Columbia County
Py 2015 Vice President
Lisa Young, Kittitas County
Py 2015 Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Goehner, Chelan County
Other Members
Bryan Perry, Benton County
Clyde Carpenter, Cowlitz County
Thad Duvall, Douglas County
Robert E. Koch, Franklin County
David Alvarez, Jefferson County
Lisa Ayers, Pacific County
Steve Bartel, Spokane County
Tammy Devlin, Thurston County

Risk Pool Staff

Administration

Vyrle Hill, Executive Director
Sue Colbo, Accounting Officer
Stacey Spears, Administrative Asst.
Trish Todd, Office Assistant

Claims

Susan Looker, Manager
Mike Cook, Senior Analyst
Joe Campeau, Senior Analyst
Holly Fierro, Analyst
Lisa McMeekin, Representative
Sally King, Assistant

Member Services

David Goldsmith, Specialty Services
Jill Lowe, Loss Control

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trish@wcrp.wa.gov

Published by



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COUNTIES
RISK POOL

Created by Counties for Counties

www.wcrp.info

WCRP BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Featuring Steve Bartel



Official Work title: Director, Spokane County Risk Management

Number of Years working for the County: 12-1/2 years (September, 2002 to present)

What drew you to your current career? Luck really. In 1997, I needed income to supplement my Submarine Navy retirement.

Description of Family: Married (Debbie) for 34 years, with two grown children. Daughter Beth married to Allen Eveland with granddaughters Autumn (8) & Maddison (7). Son Kory married Carly with granddaughter Bailey (1).

How did you meet your wife? At a shipmate's wedding in Spokane. Debbie was the Maid of Honor at their wedding and we hit it off right away. A year later we had our first official date when I flew her to Hawaii and we married four months later.

Where did you grow up? I was raised in Saginaw, Michigan, but I didn't grow up until I joined the Navy and was stationed on my first submarine! Some still question if I have ever really grown up ;-)

Where do you live: Debbie and I currently live about an hour north of Spokane at Deer Lake. Summers are filled with lake activities such as boating, water-sports, fishing and beach'in.

What do you like to do when you aren't working for the county?
I'm a Grandpa...enough said!

Have you taken any major trips during the last five years? Debbie and I take off each January for a few weeks in the Caribbean or Mexico.

Do you have pets or farm animals? We have Hunter, our 81 lb., 4-1/2 year old Springer Spaniel/Chocolate Lab lap dog.

Would you be willing to share an embarrassing moment? It's fairly difficult to categorize my experiences as embarrassing because I always see the humor in my screw-ups...and those are many and often. Let me share a classic one:

October 2007 brought early deer hunting season and my son Kory and I joined Cliff Berg and his son Dane for a mule deer hunt on some private ground just north of Creston, Washington. Kory and Dane both harvested nice 3 X 4 bucks and it was a very welcome sight seeing two deer hanging in camp for the remainder of the long weekend. Cliff and I continued to hunt and were on deer daily but didn't want to take a smaller buck in early season, which I'll admit sounds strange coming from a guy who hasn't shot a deer in over 20 years, although not from lack of effort. In November, we were back at the deer hunting thing in the Huckleberry Mountains west of Springdale and found that the area where we have hunted for several years had been clear-cut logged or should I say destroyed for deer hunting for several upcoming years. After the deer-less weekend, I broke camp in a down-pouring rain and headed for home. I was maybe a quarter mile from the homestead when a small bodied 4 X 4 buck jumped out on the road right in front of the truck. I slammed on my brakes, but too late, I hit him and didn't see the deer get up. After a few colorful choice words, I got out of my truck to see how much damage was caused and when I came around the front corner of the truck, there he was...alive...with one of his antlers stuck in the plastic section of the bumper. He was shaking his head back and forth attempting to free himself. I froze in place for a few seconds only to see him free himself, stand up, look directly at me and to my amazement, run up a hillside and stop about 75 yards away. Just then I realized...oh crap, it's still hunting season and there's a buck!!! I ran back to the driver's door to fetch my trusty rifle but had so much crap packed in the back area that I couldn't get it out. I started throwing everything (sleeping bags, clothes bag and everything else) out of the truck into the middle of the street to get at the rifle. Finally, there it was so I grabbed for it and still couldn't pull it from the truck because the sling was stuck on the jump seat. Finally, the Remington was free! I loaded it, ran back to the front of the truck for a shot, lifted the gun to put the critter in my scope and saw nothing but a big white flag of a tail waving back and forth as it went over the hill and out of sight. I thought about putting a chase on him but thought different when I realized that my truck was parked in the middle of the road and my stuff was scattered all over the road around it...in the rain. The buck got the best of me and all I have to show for it is a front bumper with a hole in it. Yes, I will never repair or replace my trophy bumper.