



County Connection

News from the Washington Counties Risk Pool

December 2023

WHAT'S NEW AT THE POOL?

Message from the Executive Director

As 2023 comes to a close for all of us and we begin to turn our attention toward 2024, we should take a few minutes to review the many accomplishments we had this past year.

While litigation costs and excess insurance premiums have steadily increased, the WCRP Board of Directors has stayed one step ahead by continuing to build our funding position. The result was an increase in our overall base rate by just 20% this year – which included the addition of \$5,000,000 to further increase our fund balance.

At their last meeting, the Board approved a change to our rating system and we are no longer using incurred losses within member deductibles. This has many benefits and will better capture the losses counties are having above their deductibles, which encourages claim reporting and rewards those who have few losses above their deductible.

We've added even more training, resources and reimbursements, and our exceptional staff has continued to find ways to help counties manage their risk and reduce their claims. Our Fall Symposium was a huge success, and our team is already brainstorming ideas for future symposiums.

These past few years have been spent building something special and we now have what I would argue is the most established, well-funded, resource heavy risk pool that has positioned itself for whatever comes at us. I now look at the future as less about building and more about perfecting – and it's an awesome feeling.

On behalf of the entire WCRP team, I wish you the most relaxing, fun, and healthy of holidays. Here's to a great 2023 and an even better 2024!

Derek Bryan
WCRP Executive Director

WCRP's Symposium – Another Success!

The second annual WCRP Symposium was successfully held in Anacortes, focusing on law enforcement and jail risk, which aligns with the Board's approved 2024 Targeted Risk Management efforts. The Symposium saw a strong representation of risk managers, prosecutors, and leadership from the sheriff's offices and jails, and provided an excellent networking opportunity for both new and seasoned county staff members. Attendees enjoyed excellent keynotes, general and breakout sessions, as well as our law enforcement leadership panel.

Check out the WCRP Symposium [brochure](#) for more detailed information about the event and we look forward to next year's Symposium!



Counties continue to find ways to prevent drugs from entering their jails and a few counties in our state have gone as far as having a dedicated K9 focused on drug detection. Chelan County is one of those and we were fortunate enough to have Corrections Deputies Jacob Lewis and Gambit from the Chelan County Regional Justice Center join us at our Symposium this year. Attendees had the opportunity to meet Deputy Lewis and Gambit to have questions answered and gain insights into the establishment and operation of their program, as well as the numerous successes they have achieved, both within the jail and in the broader community. To learn more about K9 Gambit, we encourage you to visit the [Chelan County Regional Justice Center's webpage](#).

RISK MANAGEMENT NEWS

Video Preservation Key in Defending Jail Claims

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Fall Training took place November 7-9. Two members of the WCRP staff, Bryden Barbee (Senior Risk Analyst) and Ken Kollmann (Senior Risk Analyst – Law Enforcement), attended the conference to stay updated on the latest developments and to engage in valuable networking opportunities. During the conference, they participated in various jail-related training sessions. One important takeaway from the training was the significance of preserving video evidence in cases of jail deaths. It was recommended that all video footage from all cameras be retained from the time of booking until the individual exits the facility, whether it be for medical transport or with the Medical Examiner/Coroner.

Additionally, the Risk team would like to emphasize to Risk Managers the importance of promptly reporting any jail-related deaths or incidents with high liability risk to the WCRP's Risk team. Remember that reporting incidents to the Pool does not impact the county's annual assessment. In fact, as of October 1, 2023, only claims costs that are above your deductible count toward your loss experience. Reporting incidents, and even having a claim opened and investigated early can help keep costs down without impacting loss experience.

Please reach out to our Risk team directly or email Risk-Claims@wcrp.wa.gov if you have any questions.

Recruiting and Retaining the Gen Z Workforce

Governing: How Local Government Can Recruit and Retain the Gen Z Workforce

They're the future of the workforce, but Gen Z still isn't making a big showing in government. Only 8 percent of government employees are under the age of 30 and, with an aging government workforce looking toward retirement or changing to the private sector, that number needs to go up fast to meet increasing demands. [Read the full article](#)

MEMBER SERVICES NEWS

Narcotic Detection Device Reimbursements are Here!

At their last meeting, the WCRP Board of Directors approved funding to support members in acquiring narcotics detection devices for their jails. This funding initiative is accessible to members, with a reimbursement amount of \$12,500 available for up to 10 member counties upon the purchase of a device. To be eligible for reimbursement, submissions must be made by March 31, 2024. If fewer than 10 reimbursements are approved by the deadline, the remaining funding will be evenly distributed among the counties who had been approved

prior to the deadline. We encourage you to consider this as you set your upcoming budgets and take advantage of this funding opportunity.

To learn more, please visit the [Narcotics Detection Device Reimbursements](#) webpage, or email Risk-Claims@wcrp.wa.gov or MemberServices@wcrp.wa.gov with questions.

New Training Registration Platform Launched this Week

Get ready for an exciting update in WCRP training announcements and registration for the upcoming year! Along with a fresh new look, there will be a change in the email address used for correspondence generated by the new system. Going forward, anyone who registers for training or is added to a waitlist will receive email communication from wcrp@learning-stream.com.

What can members look forward to with the new program? First, individual registration pages will be available for each event, eliminating the need to select from a drop-down list of training events. This will reduce instances where individuals accidentally sign up for the wrong training. Additionally, the program will introduce self-serve cancellation with receipt and automatic waitlist management features, providing members with more control and convenience.

These updates aim to enhance the overall training experience and streamline the registration process. Training announcements are going out this week and we hope you enjoy the benefits of the new program!

Scholarships Opportunities

New offers will be coming soon so check out the [WCRP Scholarships](#) page for the most current listing of pre-arranged scholarship offers. Click each link below for a full description and to learn more!

ARC Tactical In-Person Trainings:

Please contact ARC Tactical directly for scholarship availability and to obtain the discount code prior to registering.

- [Corrections Tactics Seminar](#) | **January 17-19**
1 scholarship per member county, covering the cost of registration only.
- [Use of Force & Documentation and Court Security Tactics](#) | **June 21 & 21**
Discount when registering for both classes! 8 scholarships membership-wide, limit 2 per member county, covering the cost of a single day registration at \$200 or both days at \$375.

NTOA Command College - Module 1 Tactical Leadership:

The National Tactical Officer's Association (NTOA) Command College is comprised of three modules, totaling 562 hours of training. WCRP is offering a limited number of scholarships to cover the cost of registration in the amount of \$1,575 for the first module, Tactical Leadership (186 hours). To learn more about NTOA's Command College, please visit: www.ntoa.org/academy. The WCRP scholarship will cover the cost of registration for the Tactical Leadership program only, and the offer is limited to five scholarships throughout the entire WCRP membership on a first come first served basis. If interested in this offer, we ask that you please contact your county risk manager.

Summit Law Group - Annual Subscription Discounts for Employment Law Webinars:

Summit Law Group offers live Employment Law webinars that are also now available on-demand! The WCRP will continue to offer 50% reimbursement of the annual subscription cost (not to exceed \$1,000 per member). Members first pay Summit Law Group and then request 50% reimbursement from the risk pool. We ask that reimbursement requests be submitted to WCRP by the county risk manager. To learn more about pricing and to view the webinar schedule, please visit the [Summit Law Group Webinar](#) page.

WCRP Training Line-Up

Washington Counties Risk Pool sponsored trainings are available to members at no charge! Please click each training title for specific details.

[HOW TO | Practical Guides for Supervisors](#)

January 16 thru March 12 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Self-Paced via Canvas

Audience: New or upcoming supervisors, and seasoned supervisors seeking a refresher.

Cap: 50 participants

[Occupational Burnout: The Science Behind Stress in the Workplace](#)

January 24 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Virtual

Audience: Leads, supervisors, and managers.

Cap: 35 attendees

[Leading a Workplace Free of Harassment and Discrimination](#)

January 25 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Virtual

Audience: Leads, supervisors, managers, and organizational leaders.

Cap: 35 attendees

[Best Practices for Coaching and Counseling](#)

February 7 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Virtual

Audience: HR personnel, new and upcoming supervisors, and seasoned supervisors seeking a refresher.

Cap: 100 attendees

[Situational Awareness: Safety is Thinking at the Speed of Life!](#)

February 21 | 10:00am-12:00pm | Virtual

Audience: Staff in all work environments and at all levels.

Cap: 200 attendees

[Providing A+ Customer Service in a Public Sector Environment](#)

February 28 | 10:00am-12:00pm | Virtual

Audience: Individuals new to customer service roles in the public sector, and those seeking a refresher.

Cap: 100 attendees

Additional trainings will be coming soon, so be sure to check out our [Training](#) webpage for the most current listings.

Please let us if you have questions about WCRP's Member Programs by emailing memberservices@wcrp.wa.gov.

SAVE THE DATES!

WCRP Conferences & Board Meetings

Spring Conference & Board Meeting | March 27-29, 2024

Holiday Inn Richland on the River | Richland, WA | Benton County

Summer Conference & Board Meeting | July 24-26, 2024

Little Creek Casino Resort | Shelton, WA | Mason County

Fall Symposium | October 23-25, 2024

Skamania Lodge | Stevenson, WA | Skamania County

WCRP Committee Meetings

Executive Committee

March 1, 2024 – 9:00am-2:00pm | Virtual



Washington Counties Risk Pool
Created *by Counties for Counties*

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