



# County Connection

News from the Washington Counties Risk Pool

## **WCRP Executive Committee**

Py 2018 President

Tammy Devlin

Py 2018 Vice President

Steve Bartel

Py 2018 Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Thomas

Other Members

David Alvarez

Steve Clem

Karen Goens

Jill Johnson

Robert Koch

Vickie Raines

Drew Woods

Lisa Young

## **Risk Pool Staff**

Administration

Executive Director

Derek Bryan

Accounting Officer

Sue Colbo

Admin. & Accounting Specialist

Erin Konrady

Office Assistant

Trish Todd

## Claims

Claims Manager

Susan Looker

Senior Claims Analyst

Holly Nelson

Claims Analyst

Lisa McMeekin

Claims Assistant

Sally King

Claims Representative

Cort Campbell

## Member Services

Loss Control Coordinator

Jill Lowe

Member Programs Specialist

Hanna Braennstroem

## *What's New at the Pool?*

### **Next stop... Mason County!**

We're putting the finishing touches on the upcoming **Fall Conference & Board of Directors' Meeting**, taking place at the Alderbrook Resort & Spa in Mason County. The deadline for a hotel room in the reserved block has come and gone, but that doesn't mean you can't still possibly get a room. If you missed the cutoff date but still want to go, just sign up for the **Conference** and contact the hotel to see if they have any rooms left.

We have an excellent turnout expected with many people signed up for the Wednesday evening Meet & Greet as well as the Thursday evening Dinner/Social Event at the resort. For the Meet & Greet on Wednesday, come any time before or after dinner and enjoy some light hors d'oeuvres and a couple of beverages generously sponsored by our broker and reinsurance partners.

Thursday morning is packed full. You can expect another fun ice-breaker from 8:30 am - 9:00 am, followed by some must-listen-to sessions on Floods, the Public Records Act, and a member-focused "Software Showcase" where members will share some of the software they have been using to make their jobs easier. Using an interesting or useful software program yourself? Share it with the group!



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### **Welcome, Erin!!**

Our new Administrative & Accounting Specialist, Erin Konrady, started on October 16<sup>th</sup> and has been a great addition to the WCRP office. Erin comes to us from the banking industry and her personality and energy are a perfect fit at the WCRP. Expect to see her at the upcoming conference where you can personally welcome her to the WCRP.



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### **WCRP Seeking Senior Claims Analyst**

The WCRP has started the recruitment for a Sr. Claims Analyst position, which was vacated with the retirement of Mike Cook. By the way, Mike is doing great, enjoying his post-WCRP retirement and stopping by now and then to have lunch, or just to remind us that he's retired and we're not!

If you know any experienced claims professionals, please direct them to the [job postings page](#) of our website. We will keep you updated on the recruitment process.

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*Keeping You Informed*

*Claims and Risk Management News Impacting WCRP Members*

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### **Way to go, Clallam County!**

With a phenomenal score of 100%, the Clallam County jail will be the first county jail in the State to receive official accreditation from the **Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)** when it is formally voted on at WASPC's board meeting this month. 148 standards are examined by a committee made up of state-wide jail and law enforcement professionals, looking at various functions and policies. The County has made jail operations a success and safety a priority, with the use of a great staff and various resources, including Lexipol.

With jail liability still being a key focus for the WCRP, it's great to see our member counties making these efforts and receiving this recognition. We look forward to seeing more WCRP members achieving WASPC accreditation. Great work, Clallam County!!

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### **New Paid Sick Leave Requirements Effective Soon**

We mentioned this in a past issue and we're bugging you again about it. The Department of Labor & Industries is releasing the WACs addressing the new paid sick leave law. You can read all about it, or feel free to call with questions. Remember, your practice should follow the law, regardless of what your written policy says, so get your written policies updated. If your policy change is pending, the law should guide your practice and your policies should be written to follow.

A WCRP Scholarship was offered to member counties to attend a webinar tomorrow, November 8th, on this subject (see below). The deadline to register has passed, but we anticipate additional webinars and information becoming available again soon.

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### **To Waive or Not to Waive**

Under Washington's Industrial Insurance Act (**Title 51**), employees who receive worker's compensation benefits cannot sue their employer, short of specific exceptions. However, Title 51 does not prevent injured workers from collecting from both worker's compensation and also seeking compensation from a third party. That third-party could be the county.

If your county signs a contract with a contractor and the contractor agrees to indemnify your county but does not stipulate that their Title 51 immunity is waived, the County could end up being sued by the contractor's employee. When you ask the contractor to indemnify you, the contractor may say "sorry, but we're immune under Title 51". For this reason, WCRP recommends requiring the contractor to waive Title 51 RCW immunity when possible. Conversely, beware of those asking the county to waive its own immunity, or you could be involved when your own employee sues a third-party, whom you have agreed to defend and/or indemnify.

Want to talk more about this, give WCRP's Loss Control Coordinator, Jill Lowe, a call at 360-292-4492.

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## *What's Coming Up?*

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### **Training:**

#### **Situational Awareness**

November 16 - Franklin County

### ***Sponsorship:***

#### **WRPA's 2018 Risk Management School**

January 24-25, 2018

#### **AWC - Washington Paid Sick Leave Webinar**

November 8, 2017

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### **Conferences:**

**WCRP 2017 Fall Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting** - November 29 - December 1, 2017  
Union, WA - The Alderbrook Resort

**WCRP 2018 Spring Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting** - March 27 - 29, 2018  
Leavenworth, WA - The Enzian Inn

**WCRP 2018 Summer Conference/Board of Directors' Meeting** - July 18 - 20, 2018  
Yakima, WA - Yakima Convention Center

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## Meetings:

**Executive Committee Meeting** November 17, 2017  
Red Lion Hotel, SeaTac, WA

**Board of Directors' Meeting** November 30 - December 1, 2017  
Alderbrook Resort, Union, WA

**Investment Committee Meeting** December 1, 2017 (7:30 am - 8:30 am)  
Alderbrook Resort, Union, WA

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**Washington Counties Risk Pool**  
*Created by Counties for Counties*

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**Our mailing address is:**  
2558 RW Johnson RD SW STE 106  
Tumwater, WA 98512-6103  
(360) 292-4500