

Financial Round up! Ye haw!

By *Allan Martin*, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer

This year our conference committee led by Conference Chair **Arif Kanji**, Snohomish County Investment Officer, has gone all out to provide a boot-scootin' rootin'-tootin' fun-filled educational conference. **Stacey Stiko**, Director of Financial Services, City of Shelton, has lined up a smart bunch of presenters and **Nanci Lien**, Finance Director, City of Poulsbo, is sure that everyone will be as happy as a prairie dog.

This year's keynote speaker will be **Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen**. We are pleased to have him take the time to address the general session on Thursday, April 13. Former US President and founding father, **Thomas Jefferson**, will follow Lt. Governor Owen with timely observations on the similarities and differences between his time and ours. And you can bet your boots, there are some other surprises planned.

Our web site lists the full complement of round table topics, from impact fees to identifying check fraud – the bad guys don't always wear black hats. So, ya'all, mark your calendar for April 13, 14, and 15 and plan to mosey on down to Chelan. And, Pardner, watch your mail for conference registration materials. WMTA President **Allan Martin**, Deputy State Treasurer, reminds ya'all come now, ya hear!

Coming soon! WMTA assessment survey, see article on page 7.

Scholarship Committee Streamlines Application Process

The WMTA Board asked the Scholarship Committee members **Kris Tompkins, Craig Kerr, Rob Hendrickson, Doug Extine, and Monica Haarstad** to review scholarship policies and the application process and to make recommendations that improve access to scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee recommended a number of changes, including posting the application and scholarship information on the WMTA website. The board accepted the new scholarship policies, guidelines and a revised application form. Highlights of these changes are set out below.

1. Applicants no longer are required to submit a written statement justifying the need for a scholarship.
2. Prioritization: Established WMTA scholarship funding priorities which are in the following order

of importance: a) Annual WMTA Conference, b) WMTA Ad-hoc Classes; c) State Institute; and d) National Conference.

3. Applicants may apply for funds to cover the full cost of attendance.
4. Simplified the application form and process.
5. Application Form, Policy and Guidelines are now available on the WMTA website. (www.wmta-online.com)

To apply for a scholarship, applicants must be current members of WMTA. If you have the need please consider applying for a scholarship. WMTA offers valuable training and networking opportunities with peers that scholarship recipients can use in their future career development. Please visit our website and apply today!

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One-Day Workshop a Huge Success

With well over 40 people attending the free one-day workshop, "Treasury Issues for Small Cities" was a huge success. Attendees at the October 21, 2005 seminar in Spokane included staff responsible for the personnel, payroll, and accounts payable functions of local governments.

Diane Showalter, Human Resources Director, City of Cheney; and **Debbie Pennick**, State Auditor's Office, Program Manager, Pullman Team; discussed human resource issues and how they flow to payroll processing and benefit processing. **Laurie Hale**, Payroll, and **Cari Boyle**, Benefits Payable, both from the City of Cheney, served as "hands-on experts" during the event.

Many attendees became aware of some important, but often overlooked, RCWs in the presentation by attorney **Jeff Nave**, Foster Pepper & Shefelman. "Education is so important," Jeff said. "I am always pleased to work with people who are dedicated to learning more about their areas of responsibility. I enjoy the annual conference each year and the educational and networking opportunities it offers – the Fall workshop, being free, was a generous extension that offered another learning opportunity."

Joe Dervaes, Audit Manager for Special Investigations, State Auditors

Office, spoke about preventing fraud in small offices and maintaining checks and balances with small staffs.

The \$2000 cost of the free seminar was paid for from scholarship funds raised at our annual conference. WMTA Scholarship chair, **Kris Tompkins**, stated that "We were pleased to be able to sponsor the seminar. This is in keeping with the scholarship committee's mission to bring educational opportunities to those that have a need but lack the financial resources to attend."

Attendee **Irene Wilkie**, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Davenport thanked the scholarship committee and the presenters. "The seminar was great and really focused on information we could use. It was definitely time well spent. WMTA did a great job. Thanks to all who contribute to the Scholarship fund!"

Kris Tompkins invites WMTA members, even those who may not be able to attend the April conference themselves, to donate items for the Scholarship Auction. "And, to those who will be at the conference in April, I hope you'll be sure to take part in the fun of bidding. Let's make 2006 a year of even greater opportunity."

Testimony

"Bank of America is honored to be a sponsor supporting the WMTA conference. We believe this is an important conference providing an opportunity for the attendees as well as vendors to network, to meet new friends, provides a comfortable forum to share best practices, and is well known for its educational value and quality speakers. Both experienced and new attendees can look forward to returning from the conference with practical training that can be put to use immediately, updates on ever-changing technology and industry practices, as well as necessary information about business, legal and regulatory changes so critical to municipal business. Thank you for involving Bank of America in your conference and for making us feel welcome."

Tana Aardal and **Alex Johnston**, Bank of America

Thomas Jefferson to Attend Annual Conference

Did you know that the opening day of our annual conference, April 13, 2006, is **Thomas Jefferson's** 263rd birthday?

WMTA is pleased to announce that **Mr. Jefferson** will attend our annual conference on his birthday and speak during our opening ceremonies this year. At our annual luncheon business meeting we will celebrate his birthday with a cake and singing Happy Birthday in his honor. A special ignition committee has been put together to light all 263 birthday candles!

Mr. Jefferson enjoys meeting people of this modern age, particularly those in government service, and is looking forward to visiting with us individually

in the hallways during breaks. As one of the founding fathers he has a lot to share about government finance and his experiences in public service.

After retiring from the presidency, **Mr. Jefferson** founded the University of Virginia, and considered it one of his greatest accomplishments. He wrote in a private letter, "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." During the opening ceremonies, he will address WMTA's similar (though perhaps not as passionate) missions of education; information networking; promoting the advancement and improvement of our profession; and promoting cooperation among federal, state, county, and local agencies.

Mr. Jefferson will also speak on the similarities and differences between his time and ours. He will conclude with some eminently practical advice he once gave at age 81, and the challenges he sees for the future.



"As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible."

George Washington

They Call This a Golf Tournament?

By *Rick Patrick*, Finance Director, City of Burlington

Don't miss out on the fun at the 23rd Annual WMTA Golf tournament on Wednesday, April 12, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start at **Lake Chelan Golf Course**. Sign up early as we will limit the field to the first 100 participants.

Jim (the local golf Pro) has ordered warm sunny weather, so bring your shorts and tank tops – no, I'm not talking about you, Devlin. Golf registration forms will be mailed out along with the conference registration packet. Lunch will be provided by **Rob Lindman** from Piper Jaffray (he makes a killer sub). **Tana Aardal** (Bank of America) will contribute a beautiful picture of you and your foursome at this highly memorable

occasion. It will be framed so you can display it on your desk. **Tim Patrick** (Patrick's Photography) will be taking pictures for WMTA once again. I better book it on his calendar soon or I'll be taking the pictures with my disposable black and white.

Jim Nelson (Martin Nelson Co.) will be donating funds for prizes. Speaking of prizes, we have terrific items and everyone will take home something. (Who got the Sponge Bob lamp last year? I wanted it.) Other contributors include **Mike Wallblom**

(McDonald Investments), **Doug Chin** (Wells Fargo) and **Mark Rodgers** (Seattle Northwest Securities). I think Mark's team was the big winner last year. I guess Nestor carried you guys? Most of these Investment bankers are decent golfers for some reason?

Carts are included and you get all this for under \$50. Come join us in the fun. The WMTA dinner will follow this event where the prizes will be awarded.



Do I Hear 45? 45? 45? Do I Hear 50?

By *Paula L. Florence*, Director of Finance & Info. Services, Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority

The auction and raffle at last year's conference was an entertaining social event that included the added benefit of raising \$2,150 for our scholarship fund. All the finest municipal finance talent in the state attended! Since 1985, WMTA has awarded over \$30,500 in scholarships for the WMTA State Conference, the APT National Conference, and other training. This event cannot happen without YOUR participation!

We will repeat this exciting event again this year, and hope that everyone will attend. Don't miss impressionists **Ron Hupp**, City of Leavenworth; **Rhonda Miller**, City of Othello; and **Ron Strabbing**, Grays Harbor County! Don't miss the fun!

We truly appreciate all the folks who contribute goods and service for the

auction, as well as those who participate in the bidding. We expect **George Honey**, our Auctioneer from Entiat, to return again as the host of the show. He may be from the eastern side of the state, but you can't get more western than a real live auctioneer!

Please consider making a donation of goods or services for auction. Donations do not have to be expensive or large.

Anything representative from your home town (gift certificates, hats, sweatshirts, etc.) is a winner. So is that white elephant from your Aunt Doris or that bottle of

wine you never got around to drinking! Sport or cultural event tickets are really big sellers.

Need some ideas? Call **Paula Florence**, Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority, at 360.535.6142, or email her at florencep@kccha.org.

Going, Going, Gone! Sold to the most generous municipal finance professionals!



Back by popular demand, **Northwest Auction Services** will be our auctioneer for the evening.

Annual Board Retreat

WMTA's annual board retreat was held last June in the Office of the State Treasurer and included a backyard barbecue hosted at the home of **Allan and Sue Martin**. Traditionally the two-day meeting reviews the previous conference and sets the agenda for the coming year. "We were in luck – the rain held off," said **Sue Martin**, "and everyone seemed to have a good time."



40th Annual APT US & C Conference

By *Allan Martin*, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer

It was my honor as WMTA President to attend the 40th Annual Association of Public Treasurers of the United States & Canada conference in Chicago this past August. Also attending from Washington were **Rick Patrick**, City of Burlington; **Eilen Dolan**, City of Spokane; **Kelly Devlin**, Vining Sparks; **Sue Martin**, Office of the State Treasurer; **Kris Tompkins**, City of Port Orchard; **Wendy Picinich**, Town of Friday Harbor; **Monica Haarstad**, City of Port Orchard; **James Block**, **Kelly Priestley**, Sound Transit; and **Morgan Jacobson**, City of Tacoma.

A special treat for me was a tour of the Chicago Board of Trade arranged by **Kelly Devlin**. In 1848, to meet the need for a central marketplace, the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) was founded by 82 Chicago merchants, and settled into its first home above the Gage and Haines flour store at 101 S. Water Street where it will meet until 1852. The concerns of US merchants to ensure that there were

buyers and sellers for commodities resulted in forward contracts to sell and buy commodities. Still, credit risk remained a serious problem. The CBOT took shape to provide a centralized location, where buyers and sellers continue to meet and negotiate and formalize forward contracts.

In 1865, the CBOT listed the first ever standardized "exchange traded" forward contracts, which were called futures contracts.

For members of APT US & C who could not attend there is good news – many of the best speakers and their Power Point presentations are available to you on the Members Only portion of APT US & C's web site (www.aptusc.org). If you are not a member yet, you may sign up online and enjoy the many benefits of national membership.

The 2006 conference is being held in the city of blues, **Memphis**, as APT US & C hosts its 41st Annual Con-

ference. This year's annual event is set to provide you with the highest quality of insight into the public finance world. With technology rapidly changing make sure you're not left behind by expanding your horizons through top tier speakers, exhibitors displaying their latest products and services, as well as the knowledge that you gain from your colleagues. Spend some time with your peers this summer and come back to your community as well versed public treasurers.

Founded in 1965, APT US & C represents 2,000 public treasury and finance officials in local, county and state/provincial governments throughout North America. The Association provides educational seminars and conferences, publications, policy and legislative information, and technical assistance to its members.

Daniel Boone Rumored to Be Near Chelan in April

As an added bonus we will have the famous frontiersman, **Daniel Boone**, speaking at our Thursday night banquet. In **Mr. Boone's** 86 years from birth in Pennsylvania, to North Carolina, to Kentucky, and finally to Missouri, he savored the unknown, survived tragedy, and learned how to respond when "lost."

Mr. Boone will speak on America's pioneering spirit, drawing upon

family adventures, successes and tragedies, life on the frontier and the continual pull westward. He will tell of his encounters with other settlers, with the law, and with the Indians. He promises to share "some of my personal philosophy and two very pertinent, life-affecting lessons learned almost half a century apart."

**All roads lead to Chelan.
See you at the conference in April!**



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Please send news articles to:

The Money Clip c/o MRSC
2601 Fourth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98121-1280
(206) 625-1300 • (206) 625-1220 Fax

Disasters of 2005: Lessons Learned

By *Stacey Crane*, President, Public Treasury Institute of North America

As we ring in 2006 and take a look back at the major events of 2005, now being referred to by some as, “the year of disasters” it’s helpful to consider what lessons might be learned in disaster preparedness.

The horrific natural disasters that occurred throughout the world this past year have had an affect on all of us, but for many public officials, bracing for the consequences that a disaster may have on their community, poses an enormous burden. How do treasury and finance officials prepare for disasters? Is putting together a disaster preparedness plan high on your to-do list for the New Year?

Unlike other notable events, disasters are not a new phenomenon nor are they a passing trend. Reports of floods, fires and earthquakes that effectively shut down city and county operations prompted the Association of Public Treasurers to hold its first disaster course in July of 2001. Before the final disaster manual, course and certification program could be finalized, the United States was attacked by terrorists. Thousands were killed and everyone’s attention was focused on homeland security. In Washington, DC we were sent notices as to what shelters would be available in the event of a future attack and advised to purchase disaster kits and identify locations to meet with family in the event of emergency evacuations.

This month, as the Association and Public Treasury Institute prepare to release a new guide on disaster preparedness, we take notes on lessons learned from the many disasters of 2005. There were 200,000 lives taken by the Indian Ocean tsunami and 80,000 lives lost in the earthquake in India and Pakistan. How can we improve our disaster planning

and save lives? What could have been done to mitigate the devastation in New Orleans and much of the South caused by Hurricane Katrina and subsequent hurricanes?

There is no question, disasters are a part of our reality and the only way we know to minimize their impact is to prepare, prepare, prepare!

As we began collecting information about ways to lessen the impact these disasters have on our communities, the following observations from two public officials in Massachusetts were certainly worth noting.

Following his recent trip to Waveland, Mississippi, Police and Fire Chief Ernest Horn, from Mendon, Massachusetts had this to say, “The devastation was just unbelievable. The total loss of government and the inability of government to provide for the people – I think that’s what stays with me the most.” Horn said that he had a new appreciation for the importance of protecting records and that just rebuilding the birth, employment tax and real estate records in Waveland would likely take years. “I think that any official who went down there, any public official, realizes that we are for the most part... not prepared. It certainly makes me rethink my position as a public official in Mendon, and about redundancy and the need to have back-up records elsewhere,” said Horn. Following his trip, Horn is recommending that the public safety department be self sufficient on the ground for up to three weeks in a crisis and able to rely on their supplies and communications until reinforcements arrive.

Milford, Massachusetts Public Health Officer Paul Mazzuchelli said, “In an emergency, cities and towns can

call federal and state agencies, but the locals are the ones on the front lines.”

In addition to hurricanes, Mazzuchelli said that disasters such as terrorism and pandemics are of concern to him and that while people should not panic about the bird flue; they should consider and prepare for such threats. He said, “staging drills are crucial and officials need to do more planning now to assign roles, fix communication problems and arrangement for deployment of resources such as medical workers and vaccines. Practice, Practice, Practice.”

The Association’s new “Disaster Preparedness: A Guide for Public Finance and Treasury Officials” which will be published this coming month, will be the basis for the disaster preparedness program being held this coming April at the WMTA Annual Conference in Lake Chelan.

For information about the new disaster guide, contact www.PublicTreasuryInstitute.com. For information about the Association of Public Treasurers’ disaster certification program, visit the certification page on www.APTUSC.org.

Please share your experiences in disaster planning; the successes and failures. Your information will help us to develop future comprehensive disaster planning courses and materials. Write to DisasterPlans@PublicTreasuryInstitute.com.

“How much certainty is requisite as a basis for action depends in part on the consequences of being wrong.”

George F. Will

WMTA Partners with WSU in Education & Training Assessment

WMTA has signed an agreement with Washington State University's Conferences and Professional Programs (WSU) to develop and administer a needs assessment for continuing education and training for municipal treasurers. The survey will be distributed electronically among members of WMTA.

WMTA Education Committee members, Past President **Craig Kerr**, Port of Seattle; **Bob Wrigley**, Spokane County; and **Cindi Niemeier**, City of Cheney, volunteered for a sub-committee that will formulate survey questions to determine interest and potential curriculum for a Treasurer's Institute.

WMTA previously sponsored the successful Clerks and Treasurers

Institute, which was held annually at Seattle University in Seattle for over 15 years until 2002. This week-long course covered topics that included bond issuance and authority, investments and authority, and economics. Popular features of the program included tours of the Seattle Federal Reserve Bank and a municipal bond trading and sales floor. Courses were taught by local professionals, and provided access to information not readily available to many treasurers. The institute was attractive to local governments of all sizes, from small cities to large counties.

Craig Kerr encourages everyone to take the time to fill out the survey. "In order to get the best information it is important that all members fill out the questionnaire. We are a diverse

group and we hope to capture everyone's needs."

WMTA is intent on finding out the areas of instruction desired by the membership. WSU will compile the responses and make a determination if a course can be provided that is mutually beneficial, from an economic standpoint, for both the membership and training institution.

Once the survey results are tabulated and a report compiled the Board will share the findings and recommendations with the membership and proceed accordingly.

To complete the survey online go to www.CAPPS.wsu.edu and then click on the link to **WMTA Needs Assessment**. *(Note: The survey will be distributed by email on or around February 13.)*

"No man should advocate a course in private that he's ashamed to admit in public."

George McGovern

For Sale: **Stop That Fraud** Handbook

As a public finance professional, you are expected to safeguard the public's money while it's under your control. Unfortunately, there is no typical picture of the fraud perpetrator and embezzlement of public funds is all too common place, so you have your work cut out for you! An excellent place to start is with Joe Dervaes' "STOP THAT FRAUD" Handbook. This brand new handbook is an outstanding tool.

This handbook sells regularly for \$65-\$75 depending on your membership status in APT US&C, however, WMTA has just seven copies at a special price of \$40.00. Please do not delay if you are interested in purchasing one of these remaining copies.

Please contact Holly Stewart at hstewart@mrsc.org or (206) 625-1300.





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Washington Municipal Treasurer's Association
2601 4th Avenue, Suite 800
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