

President's Message

Thanks and kudos... Isn't it time?

Have you said thanks yet to those who allowed you to attend this year's conference? Those that covered your duties while you were at WMTA? And those that authorized your travel? Pass on to these people your gratitude for the opportunity to learn and represent your entity at WMTA.

Now it's my turn... I'd like to thank all who attended, especially the large number of first time attendees, who took the time to travel to Chelan. Thank you to the elected officials that not only allowed their staff to attend and participate, but who also attended themselves.

Not only is the opportunity for education at the annual conference gratifying, but it is also fun: Meeting with vendors in a non-selling

environment; sharing information and knowledge.

WMTA's conference has always been made friendlier with its annual theme. This year's Financial Port of Call featured a nautical theme reflecting immediate past-president Kerr's employment at the Port of Seattle. Grays Harbor County Treasurer **Ron Strabbing** and his wife **Betty** did the decorating which featured a 48-foot, lighted ship and lighthouses. Next year's theme... well, if tradition holds, it will be just as much fun.

This year **Mary Hollis** won the Television VCR DVD donated to the scholarship committee by **Kelly Devlin**, Vice President, Vining Sparks. Kelly has not only increased the sale of raffle tickets with his annual donation, but he has also increased the attendance at the final luncheon! Thank you to everyone that brought and bought auction items.

It was an honor to present the past president's award to **Craig Kerr**. Craig's leadership set WMTA on the right course for the future. We can all be grateful for that and the chance to build on the organization's past accomplishments.

Speaking of building... during the year call upon the good contacts that you made at this year's conference. Call a new colleague to offer encouragement. Network with vendors. If you missed seeing someone at this year's conference, give them a telephone call to keep in touch, and, when doing so, encourage them to attend the 2006 conference.

Let the Round Table Committee know what you would like to learn about next year. Your officers and board members will continue to work to bring meaningful educational opportunities to you at the conference and throughout the year. Make plans to attend the 2006 conference and watch for announcements for the Education Committee's Summer Seminar.



Outgoing and incoming Presidents

And finally, I owe a few more thanks. I would like to thank those that allowed me to move through the chairs of WMTA; my co-workers who have provided me the time away from the office to participate; State Treasurer **Mike Murphy** who has given me the encouragement and opportunity to be involved; and especially my wife **Sue**, for nothing would be possible for me without her support.

I hope to see you at our next event. Thanks.■

Allan J. Martin, Deputy Treasurer
Office of the State Treasurer

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Craig Kerr Presents 2005 President's Award to Nanci Lien

Nanci Lien, Finance Director for the City Poulsbo, was presented the 2005 President's Award at this year's Annual meeting in Chelan. In presenting the award, outgoing President **Craig Kerr**, Treasury Manager, Port of Seattle, noted Nanci's enthusiastic board involvement and her work in organizing the conference.

Nanci incorporated all the necessary conference materials into a convenient new format in the form of a hand booklet. The booklet format allowed, for example, attendees participating in the annual business meeting who wished to review the Board of Director nominees, to simply turn to the appropriate section of their booklet rather than leafing through a number of loose papers to find the appropriate document.

Future Conference Committees will benefit from Nanci's efforts since she also automated the booklet so that any changes required can be made to the appropriate sections of the booklet rather than redesigning all new conference materials.

Receiving the award, Nanci said, "There are many association members who devote a great deal of their own time to this organization, so I feel very honored to have received the WMTA President's Award. Working with the

Board and association members has been a rewarding experience. Somehow the association always succeeds in finding just the perfect mix of educational and networking opportunities with fun activities."

"I think WMTA Presidents particularly enjoy presenting this award," Craig said, "because it provides an opportunity for us to publicly acknowledge people who work so hard, and so generously, behind the scenes to make this organization all that it is."



Nanci Lien receiving President's Award

Mary Hollis, Finance Manager for the City of Davenport, also received special acknowledgment for her work as WMTA Treasurer. Craig noted that Mary converted all of the association's financial records to an Excel format that will allow for quicker communication of the WMTA's financial information among Board members via e-mail. ▀

Testimony

"I found the WMTA conference to be very worthwhile. It was nice to get away from the daily work environment and have time to focus on work-related issues. It is always helpful to talk with others to see how they handle similar situations and the environment at Lake Chelan is very conducive for this type of networking. The roundtable discussions covered relevant topics and provided training which I have been able to put to use since returning from the conference."

James Block, Sound Transit

Policy Certification Awards Presented at 2005 Conference

Jim Block, Senior Cash and Investment Analyst, received the WMTA Investment Policy Certification award on behalf of Sound Transit.

Dianne Nelson, Finance Director for the City of Duvall, was presented the WMTA Debt Policy Certification on behalf of her city during the luncheon ceremonies in Chelan.

Investment Policy Certification

"We believe a sound investment policy is the cornerstone of a prudent investment program," Jim said. "WMTA's certification program provides an external validation of that policy." The certification process allows governmental entities to have their policy reviewed by an independent group of investment professionals. The WMTA investment policy certification committee includes **Doug Extine**, Deputy State Treasurer and Committee Chair; **Arif Kanji**, Investment Officer, Snohomish County; **Karen Thomas**, Cash Management Administrator, Whatcom County; **Rod Rich**, Director of Investments, City of Seattle; **Barbara Cory**, Whatcom County Treasurer; **Robyn Grad**, Merrill Lynch; and **Kelly Devlin**, Senior Vice President, Vining-Sparks IBG.

"While many governmental entities have had their investment policy certified," said Doug, "via either WMTA or APT certification programs, there are many who have not. If you are one of the latter, I'd remind you that the time and effort you spend now to clearly define your investment goals is really an investment – one that will provide for the well-being of your organization."

Sound Transit actually had their policy initially certified several years ago. In reviewing the policy they decided that revisions were needed and, upon revision, that it should be re-certified by WMTA. "Indeed, investment policies should be reviewed on a periodic basis," said Doug. "Should major changes be required I encourage you to follow Sound Transit's example and have the policy re-certified by WMTA."

Debt Policy Certification

The City of Duvall joins Skagit County in having its debt policy reviewed and recommended for certification by the WMTA peer review committee. Dianne worked closely with her city council in writing the city debt policy. The council made suggestions and

comments that reflected the opinion of the local elected officials. Their thinking was incorporated into the final document, providing clear direction to staff and hired professionals when it comes to borrowing money for the city.

"I was very pleased to receive the certification," Dianne said. "It was very important for the council to be involved in the process. Not only were we able to identify the goals of the council, it also provided an opportunity to build a working relationship among council and staff prior to the need to borrow money. I'm looking forward to hanging the certification plaque in City Hall." The WMTA Debt Policy Review Committee includes Skagit County Treasurer **Katie Jungquist**; **Ron Hupp**, Leavenworth Clerk / Treasurer; **Dave Trageser**, Banc of America; **Jim Nelson**, Martin Nelson & Co.; **Svein Braseth** and **Allan Martin**, Office of the State Treasurer.

More information on having your Investment Policy or your Debt Policy certified, or re-certified, is available on the WMTA web site, www.wmta-online.com ■

Education Committee Looks Forward to Summer Seminar

Cindy Niemeier and **Craig Kerr** are working with others to finalize the topic and location of this summer's special seminar. Each year the education committee selects a timely topic for those in the municipal finance arena. The seminar format allows the topic to be explored in greater depth than is possible in a round table. Last year's seminar was a bank panel presentation on "Check 21" and an IRS Presentation on

"Taxable Benefits and 1099 Reporting." Held in Yakima, the one-day session drew approximately 30 attendees from all parts of the state. "We had knowledgeable speakers and enthusiastic attendees making for a great learning experience. We hope to build on that enthusiasm," commented Cindy.

Craig reminds those from agencies with limited budgets to consider

asking for a scholarship. "The more people we can reach with educational opportunities the better off we are as municipal finance professionals.

Education is what WMTA is all about and the scholarship fund is there to help people attend."

Check our website and watch for an announcement in the mail. ■

From Auction...

Annual auction raises \$2,095 and raffle brings in \$754

Auction Chairperson **Paula Florence**, Director of Finance and IT, Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority, sends thanks to all those that brought items and those that bid. We raised \$3,658 for the Scholarship Committee – surpassing this year's goal.

Ron Hupp, Clerk-Treasurer, City of Leavenworth, arranged for Entiat auctioneer **George Honey** to conduct the annual scholarship auction. Ron served as “ringman” helping to identify the bidders in the crowd. Items included Mariners tickets, wine baskets, metal fish art, and items reflecting particular cities and regions. Many first time attendees donated items.

Kelly Devlin, Vice President, Vining Sparks, donated a television VCR/ DVD player which was raffled at the final luncheon.

Paula suggests that individual entities identify a local theme and arrange a basket of local items. “It is fun for everybody in the office to participate and many organizations such as your tourist bureau or chamber of commerce have unique items that can be included. Our auction is always a lot of fun and I look forward to working with you all next year in gathering amusing or enticing items.”



Past President Ron Hupp helping with Scholarship Auction

...To Scholarships

“I’m pleased to report that we were able to award 18 scholarships to the 2005 Annual Conference,” said **Kris Tompkins**, City of Port Orchard, and chair of WMTA’s Scholarship Committee, “essentially offering financial assistance to all who submitted applications.” These were valued at over \$3,500. Nine of the scholarships were awarded to individuals from entities with populations less than 1,000.

One recipient, **Karen Sweeney**, City of Entiat, expressed her thanks and explained, “Without your help, I would not be able to attend conferences like yours, gain more knowledge and continue to increase my ability to do my job as Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer. The Conference was a great learning experience for me.”

Another recipient, **Cindy Aldous**, the Clerk/Treasurer of Town of Marcus, said, “I found all of the sessions to be

wonderful and feel they will be a benefit to my position and to the Town of Marcus. I especially enjoyed the Treasurer’s Safe Harbor & Financial Life Preservers and AWC Risk Management. I came away with new ideas and suggestions.”

The most recent scholarship of \$750 was awarded to an individual for the APT US&C annual conference in Chicago, July 31-August 3, 2005.

“We have paid out \$30,500 in scholarships since 1986, including three scholarships for the Check-21 workshop last summer in Yakima,” Kris noted. The WMTA scholarship fund is supported by the auction and raffle at the Annual Conference. “I hope

everyone who bid or brought items for the auction and raffle realize how important their support is.”

This year’s Scholarship Committee is:

- Chairman, **Kris Tompkins**, City of Port Orchard
- **Monica Haarstad**, City of Port Orchard
- **Rob Hendrickson**, City of Newcastle
- **Doug Extine**, Office of the State Treasurer
- Immediate Past President, **Craig Kerr**, Port of Seattle



www.wmta-online.com

Thank You Sponsors!

2005 Conference Sponsors:

Very heartfelt thanks go out to the 2005 Conference Sponsors. Their sponsorship and support of WMTA is highly valued and appreciated by the members and board. Sponsorship Chair **Lyman Howard**, Finance Director, City of Sammamish, said "Without their donations, the conference costs would be much higher and fewer of us would be able to attend the conference. We would particularly like to thank our Primary Sponsor, Key Bank." ▶



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(Listed in order of donation generosity)

Testimony

"I recently attended my first WMTA Conference in Lake Chelan. I found it to be well-organized and well presented, and the content of all sessions that I attended were on timely topics. I was particularly impressed by the design for the round table discussions. It was set up to facilitate more of a one-on-one discussion instead of a lecture-type presentation. We were able to ask direct questions of a panel of "experts" in specific areas. For example, I learned more about local improvement districts in one 90-minute session than I had in previous years.

Not only was the content well presented, the venue was perfect for such a conference. The facility was well-maintained and more than adequate to host such a large group, and the Lake Chelan area provided more than enough activities for those who brought their families. The social gatherings after the daily sessions also allowed for networking with fellow participants to review the day's presentations with each other.

The Conference is held at the same place each April. I highly suggest that all municipal treasurers plan to attend the WMTA Conference next year if possible. I know it will be on my calendar."

Dani Burton, Klickitat County Treasurer

Stacey Sitko and Bob Wrigley Join WMTA Board of Directors

Shelton City Director of Financial Services **Stacey Sitko** and Spokane County Chief Deputy Treasurer **Bob Wrigley** were elected to the Board of Directors during the annual meeting of members.

Stacey has been at the City of Shelton as the Finance Director since 2002. Prior to that she was the Internal Auditor for the Washington State Department of General Administration, Thurston County and Mason County. Stacey feels that city government is close to the people and enjoys seeing the direct effect of city programs on the citizens of Shelton. Stacey is often overheard saying "The City of Shelton is a great place to work!"

She is married to **Douglas Sitko** and they have two teenagers, **Vanessa**, 16, and **Korey**, 14. Doug works for Airgas selling welding supplies in Bremerton. Vanessa is a great student and a music lover. Korey has only one passion, basketball, which keeps his parents very busy traveling to tournaments.

Stacey has served in many volunteer positions in her community, which include being a Girl Scout Leader, a Little League Coach, a Summer Soccer League Coach and a Board Member for the Mason County Shelter for the homeless. Her latest project is

the Landscape Committee Chair for the volunteer effort to renovate Callanan Park in Shelton.

Stacey and Doug both grew up in eastern Washington in Davenport. "Go Gorillas!" Stacey is a graduate from Washington State University. "Go Cougs!" Stacey and Doug are both now Shelton fans. "Go Highclimbers!"

Stacey is excited about the challenge of chairing the Roundtable Committee for the next conference. Stacey previously served as the Vice President of Educational Programs for the Nisqually Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors. She is hoping to provide programs so that everyone learns something new to take home and apply from the conference. Please email her at ssitko@ci.shelton.wa.us with program ideas!

Bob was born and raised in southern California. He attended California State University at Long Beach (CSULB). His college experience was interrupted in 1972 when he was drafted into the Army. Following his honorable discharge he returned to CSULB and graduated cum laude in 1975 with a degree in Business Administration/Accounting. In 1983, he received his CPA license in California. In 1985, he and his family moved

to Spokane. He now holds a CPA certificate in Washington.

Bob worked for the US General Accounting Office and then the Department of Defense as an auditor and audit supervisor. In Spokane he was employed in the private sector for ISC and Group Health in their finance areas. In 1997, he joined the Spokane County Treasurer's Office as Finance Manager and was appointed Chief Deputy Treasurer in 1999.

Bob is a member of several accounting organizations and Spokane Rotary. He and his wife **Beth**, who is a Registered Nurse, enjoy golfing in their spare time. In fact, Bob brags that his wife is one of the best female golfers in the Spokane area, sporting a 4 to 5 handicap. His son and daughter-in-law are both teachers in the Othello/Moses Lake area, where his son also coaches tennis.

"Serving on the WMTA board gives me the opportunity to be more directly involved with a quality, professional organization. An organization that can provide training and education that will continue to improve overall government operations throughout our State."

Congratulations, **Stacey and Bob!**

Testimony

Dear Mr. Allan Martin:

It was a pleasure meeting you and the others at Lake Chelan last week. The majestic backdrop of the lake and the beautiful weather provided another memorable experience.

George A. Bordokus, Bear Stearns

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A Roundtable Sampler

By Naomi Keck, Arbitrage Compliance Specialists

The roundtable format is an ideal way for presenters and members to interact and focus the discussion on issues relevant to them. Conference attendees are organized according to their entity's size so that members find themselves attending a session with others who are likely to share similar concerns and restrictions. This allows presenters to tailor their presentations according to the impact on larger or smaller entities. The informal setting allows attendees to discuss specific questions and share practical answers with their peers.

Consider this year's "They're Coming to Get Me" roundtable sessions. The discussion allowed WMTA members to learn what's new in the area of performance audits for the State of Washington, as well as new developments in the field of IRS audits and compliance issues.

Nestor Newman of the State Auditors Office began by talking about the performance audit bills that were then being debated in the legislative session. One of the confusions about

this issue is the definition of performance audits. State Auditor Brian Sonntag has expressed a desire that any performance audits be restricted to State agencies and deal primarily with the intent of legislation. But there are indications that some proponents are looking at the qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation for audits of local governments. Since nothing had been determined by the date of the conference, the Auditor's office will continue to monitor this legislation and keep WMTA members informed.

Bill Tonkin, Bond Counsel, of Foster Pepper & Shefelman, spoke about new developments with the IRS and the impact on local bond issuance. Bill reviewed the recent instructions given by the IRS regarding the retention of records for bond issues. He also reviewed a new regulation being proposed by the IRS that would impact the interaction between bond counsel and issuers. Circular 230 would require bond counsel to potentially undertake extensive due diligence prior to issuing bond opinions and instructions for the bond issue. This regulation could result in

additional expense and requirements for any bond issue.

Finally, I discussed the recent audit activity in the State and the types of issues arising in those audits. The State of Washington is one of three states where the IRS has focused resources for audits of bond issues for a wide range of issuers. I also reviewed the new 8038-T form that has been developed by the IRS and released in January. This form appears to give an indication of the areas that the IRS is looking at closely. New emphasis appears to be given to the areas of Late Payments, proceeds remaining after both the temporary period and computation dates, and GIC and hedge activities.

From session to session, depending upon the attendees' entity size, different questions were raised and the emphasis on topics varied. In my opinion, it's this flexibility that's key to making the roundtables so pertinent. Everyone leaves with new ideas and new contacts. ▀

Testimony

"As a first time participant at this years Washington Municipal Treasurer's Association conference in Lake Chelan, I was impressed with the amount of energy and support that members bring to the WMTA.

The daily sessions provided an interesting dialogue on a wide range of topics. The sessions were supplemented by a number of small events, which pulled members with different perspectives together.

Activities outside the sessions were well organized and provided a good counterbalance to the daily sessions. These activities provided a relaxed atmosphere for members to mingle, create new friendships, and enjoy each others company.

I feel the WMTA conference provided a great opportunity for members to keep a pulse on the important issues involving our State and local communities. The conference also fosters the development of new relationships and promotes the formation and exchange of new ideas.

Needless to say, I encourage all who attended to return next year. For those who did not participate please join us at next year's annual conference.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Lake Chelan in 2006!"

Geoff Urbina, A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.



Mark Your Calendars

Campbell's Resort
April 12-14, 2006

The date has been set for our 2006 Annual Conference. Campbell's Resort will be the meeting place for our Annual Conference. Roundtable chair Stacey Sitko, and committee members Steve Kimble, Lynne Lang, and Elena Montgomery have started planning the round table topics. "It's great to overhear people saying they've learned something that will help them in the coming year – that's what we're aiming for," Stacey said. Steve agreed and noted that they would welcome suggestions for round table topics.

Conference Organization Chair Arif Kanji has begun laying out the over-all conference venue, while Golf Tournament Organizer Rick Patrick is planning another fun time for golfers. "I've already contacted area meteorologists to assure golfers warm and sunny weather!" Rick said.

Please join us at Campbell's Resort, April 12-14 for an educational opportunity in a relaxed, lake-side setting.



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