

36th WACE Fall Conference

September 11th–13th, 2024

Keynote Speaker

Ed Nicholls Jr. Public Service Bio

Ed Nicholls Jr's code enforcement career began, quite by accident, in the very early 1980's. He was robbed at a hamburger stand, and at the suggestion of the police detective investigating the robbery, Ed applied for, was hired, and graduated from the Orange County Sheriff's Academy. After nearly 10 years of under-satisfying work as a Sheriff, Marshal, and City Police Officer, he met the Code Enforcement Manager for the City of Anaheim, who offered him a job. Seeing this as his chance to find a better career path, and knowing absolutely nothing about what Code Enforcement was, he went out on a very long ledge and accepted the job. From the moment he was assigned as a code enforcement officer he was fascinated and excited by the challenges that lay ahead, and as they say, the rest is history!



If you asked Ed what his favorite job has been for the whole of his life, he would tell you it was being a code enforcement officer. He has over 13 years of field experience, investigating and finding solutions for code enforcement and neighborhood complaints, and he has served as a Code Enforcement Senior Officer, Supervisor, Manager, and Deputy Director in his over 40 year law enforcement career. But you might ask, why is Ed teaching classes in code enforcement? Well, in 1990, when he started in code enforcement there were no real training classes to learn how to do the job. He joined an education committee, helped create the first of its kind certified training program, developed curriculum in basic, intermediate, and advanced class work, taught many of those classes, and even spearheaded a 40 hour program in code enforcement supervision and management. Fast forward 30 plus years and he's taught hundreds of classes to thousands of code staff members and students of all ages. He also currently teaches code classes as well as a number of leadership classes. He has also authored two leadership books. All the while raising 4 children, marrying the lovely Stephanie, his wife for almost 20 years, and obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees focused on leadership development. Ed currently serves as a Code Consultant and Program Manager for Willdan. To find out more about Ed's engaging code enforcement career and his powerful leadership message, you'll have to take his class. See you there!

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Speaker Bio

Sedona Hall is a Deputy with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. She has been in Law Enforcement since 2022. Deputy Hall currently serves as a defensive tactics instructor and is a member of the Marine Services Unit and Swiftwater Rescue. Deputy Hall has training in Muay Thai and Jiu Jitsu.

Deputy Hall has a passion for helping others learn new skills and has 10 years of teaching experience.

Courtney Quandt is a Deputy with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. She has been in Law Enforcement since 2010. During her tenure as a law enforcement officer, Deputy Quandt has served as a patrol sergeant, patrol training officer, department training officer, defensive tactics instructor, active shooter response instructor, and peer support team member.

Deputy Quandt has also served on the Valley SWAT Team and is currently serving on the Pierce County Sheriff's Department SWAT Team. Deputy Quandt has trained in multiple self-defense disciplines, including MMA, kickboxing, Krav Maga, and currently practices Brazilian jiu jitsu. Deputy Quandt has a passion for teaching and is committed to helping others improve their self-defense skills.



Dep. Sedona Hall



Dep. Courtney Quandt

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Speaker Bio

Kerry Simpson, MPA

With over 30 years in Code Enforcement, Kerry is dedicated to elevating the profession. She has served as the President of the California Association of Code Enforcement Officials (CACEO) and as the 3rd Vice President for the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE). Kerry has provided testimony at the state capitol, advocating for code enforcement legislation. Notably, she testified at State Senate hearings following the tragic Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, California, where 36 lives were lost. She has also instructed at code enforcement academies throughout California.



Kerry has worked her way up from Code Officer to Director of Code Services in Cities in California and Texas. Her program in Rancho Cordova, California, earned recognition for innovation from both CACEO and the Alliance for Innovation.

Kerry holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master of Public Administration. She is a certified Mediator, Facilitator, and trainer, and currently serves as the Northern California Code Enforcement Manager for Willdan Engineering.

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Speaker Bio

Victor Martinez, CCEA, CCEO
President, American Association of Code Enforcement

Victor Martinez currently holds the position of Code Compliance Officer for Willdan Engineering in Arizona. In this role, he is involved in Marketing and Code Enforcement Services in Arizona. With over 24 years of experience in the code enforcement profession, Victor is deeply passionate about his work. His dedication extends to providing excellent customer service and upholding a strong work ethic in public service. Victor is committed to sharing his extensive knowledge with others in the industry.



He holds certifications as an ICC/AACE Code Compliance Officer and Code Compliance Administrator. In Arizona, Victor has been actively involved in the State's code enforcement association (CELA), serving in various capacities such as Secretary, 1st Vice President, President, and Past President. This year, he was elected as President for AACE and will also serve as 1st Vice President for CELA. Victor's educational background includes a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Urban Policy. Outside of work, Victor enjoys quality time with his two children and engages in activities with them. He is also a proud dog-dad of a spoiled Pomeranian.

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Speaker Bio

Trooper Troy Giddings, Washington State Patrol

Trooper Giddings has been working for the WA State Patrol (WSP) for over 30 years. He has been the wrecking yard inspector for District 7 (which includes Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties) since 2003. Trooper Giddings has done initial inspections of numerous new wrecking yards, scrap processors, hulk haulers and RTTO's (registered tow truck operator) as well as ownership changes of these various businesses. New applications and/or ownership changes typically require local zoning sign off as well as SEPA evaluations in many cases. Trooper Giddings has conducted several thousand inspections on the aforementioned licensed and/or illegal businesses across WA State. Trooper Giddings has been tasked as the primary trainer for new wrecking yard inspectors from the Washington State Patrol as well as local agencies as requested.



Trooper Giddings has specialized in investigating and assisting with the investigation of crimes related to auto theft, illegal drug activity, weapons violations, Social Security Insurance (SSI) fraud and other criminal cases. Trooper Giddings has received hundreds of hours of training in subjects such as; VIN Basic Training, VIN Cloning, Title Fraud, Advanced investigative techniques, Auto Theft Investigation and Environmental Crimes investigation. Trooper Giddings has been honored with the Medal of Courage, Trooper of the Year award and numerous commendations during his tenure with the WA State Patrol.

Trooper Giddings has provided specialized training to entities such as the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA), multiple auto theft investigation units, ICE (immigration and Customs Enforcement), WACE (WA Association of Code Enforcement) as well as individual organizations such as code enforcement officers, health inspectors as well as several other police agencies. He has trained well over a thousand individuals during his tenure.

Trooper Giddings has been requested to provide expert testimony to legislative committees and industry stakeholders for proposed law changes and/or rule revisions on several subjects such as metal theft, illegal wrecking activity, impound regulations and more.

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Speaker Bio

Trooper Aaron Trombley, Washington State Patrol

Trooper Trombley has been working for the Washington State Patrol (WSP) for 15 years. He has been the wrecking yard inspector for District 3 (which includes Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Asotin, Garfield, Walla Walla and Columbia Counties) since 2020. Trooper Trombley has done initial inspections of numerous new wrecking yards, scrap processors, hulk haulers and RTTO's (Registered Tow Truck Operators) as well as ownership changes of these various businesses. Trooper Trombley has conducted several hundred inspections on the licensed and/or illegal businesses across WA State.



Trooper Trombley has specialized in investigating and assisting with the investigation of crimes related to illegal auto wrecking, auto theft, illegal drug activity, forgery, fraud, money laundering and other criminal cases. Trooper Trombley has received hundreds of hours of training in subjects such as VIN Basic Training, VIN Cloning, Advanced Investigative Techniques, Auto Theft Investigation and many more. Additionally in 2017, Trooper Trombley was awarded the Chief Will Bachofner Award (State Trooper of the Year).

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Speaker Bio

David Yuhas, Essential Survival LLC

Code Enforcement Officer, City of Medical Lake

Essential Survival LLC is owned and operated by Dave Yuhas and his wife. Dave's love of the shooting sports started in 1984, when his dad taught him to love, and respect the outdoors. With the help of his father, he began hunting, fishing, reloading, recreational & competitive shooting.

Dave became a professional auto technician in 1996, excelling at his craft until 2008 when the left industry as his dealership shop foreman. He moved on to an exciting and challenging career in Law Enforcement as a corrections Deputy. Dave was accepted to the Sheriff's office transport unit moving prisoners to medical, court, and prison.

In 2014, Dave was given the trust of his agency as a full time Firearms Instructor/Rangemaster. For 5 years he worked at a busy Law Enforcement training facility, and continued as an ancillary instructor. He holds 24 different weapon related certifications (7 instructor certifications) in law enforcement firearms related topics totaling over 700 hours of formal training.

He has taught firearms to thousands of students in topics ranging from basic academy, CCW POST firearms instructor and SWAT school. Dave continued development and received state approval for a Tactical Low Light class. He enjoys starting a new student with no experience and bringing through the levels of comfort, confidence, and competence with a firearm. He loves being a father of two boys, shooting, hunting, reloading and improving knowledge and skills related to his crafts and hobbies. Dave is a huge proponent of the Second Amendment, passionate about Firearms & Training and loves to share the sport.



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Class Descriptions

Be Exceptional - A Users Guide to Code Compliance

Keynote: Ed Nicholls, Jr.

Code Enforcement is a profession that requires total commitment. This Keynote talk will teach and inspire you to rise above the crowd and be EXCEPTIONAL!

I found you! Now What? Skip Tracing Basics

Kerry Simpson

Navigating the complexities of locating absentee property owners can be challenging, but with the right tools, it becomes an engaging puzzle to solve. Embrace the journey to foster compliance and community safety, ensuring every property owner is part of the solution.

Understanding Planning & Zoning

Victor Martinez

The goal of this class is to introduce students into beginning zoning terms and processes, reading proper legal descriptions, blueprints and looking at the different types of deed documents and types of ownerships that exist.

Identifying a Public Threat/Non-Lethal Self Defense

Dave Yuhas, Essential Survival Training

Learn about identifying a public threat and forms of non-lethal self-defense.

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Leadership from the Ground Up

Ed Nicholls, Jr.

This course offers a look at the principles of leadership and dives into the qualities and role models associated with leadership in the code enforcement profession.

Legal Aspects of Code/4th Amendment

Victor Martinez

The goal of this lesson is to introduce the Expectation of Privacy/4th Amendment components of code enforcement and provide the skills to the students which will enable them to efficiently performing their daily duties and responsibilities.

Back to the Future: Code Enforcement for a New Generation

Kerry Simpson

Join us for an insightful session on embracing innovation in Code Enforcement, where we'll explore cutting-edge technologies and forward-thinking strategies to enhance community safety and efficiency. Discover how to stay ahead of the curve and lead the way in modernizing your enforcement practices.

Manager to Leader

Kerry Simpson

When promoted due to technical proficiency, many managers find themselves leading people without a guide. In this course, we'll use video and conversations to explore strategies for building a strong team and inspiring them to reach their full potential.

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Junk Vehicle Affidavit Certification

WSP Troopers Troy Giddings & Aaron Trombley

Learn how to identify junk vehicles and complete the required affidavit.

Must attend entire session to obtain certification.

Strategic Planning & Organization

Ed Nicholls, Jr.

This course offers a basic understanding of the principles of strategic planning and a brief overview of the benefits of utilizing organizational skills in the code enforcement profession.

Defensive Tactics

Pierce County Deputies Courtney Quandt & Sedona Hall

Learn defensive tactics, pre-attack indicators and how to remove yourself from a potentially dangerous situation.

Neighborhood Leadership: Building Your Team

Kerry Simpson & Ed Nicholls, Jr.

This course will teach the value of team and neighborhood building as a tool to be used by code enforcement staff members. Attendees will learn to organize support and increase community outreach.