



WACE CODEWORD

Washington Association of Code Enforcement Officers

MARCH 2017

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2017! It's a new year with what will be new challenges in doing our job as code enforcement/compliance officers.



MICHELE FORKNER
CITY OF ISSAQUAH

Last year brought the biggest challenge for me in that it was my first year as WACE President. My goal was to increase membership, provide two well-rounded conferences that would attract most members, and to include the entire Board in conversations and decisions. I feel I/we accomplished these goals and I hope you agree. Your WACE Board will continue along this path and is currently working on presenters, topics, and a fabulous location for our upcoming Spring Conference.

With our website now going active and being maintained, the info will be posted for your perusal. I'm also excited about CodeWord being reactivated and we hope that all members will contribute articles, features, or items that would be of interest to fellow code officers. We all need to be part of this!

So here's hoping WACE will continue to grow in 2017, educate members, and provide the support we all need and deserve in doing our jobs. Thank you for being part of this. Take care and I look forward to seeing you at our conferences.

Michele Forkner, WACE President

SPRING CONFERENCE

April 28th, 2017

8am - 4pm

Woodmark Hotel

1200 Carillon Point

Kirkland, WA

SAVE THE DATE!!

September 20, 21, 22

Fall Conference

Leavenworth WA

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE—HOT STORY

Dear Membership,

I am grateful to all of you for your vote of trust and for the opportunity to represent our membership as the 1st VP of WACE. Debbie Blessington, 2nd VP, and I attended the National Conference in Kenner, LA this year and it was fantastic! We had the opportunity to visit New Orleans (Nawlins) which I can now mark off my bucket list. There were a total of 240 attendees and 24 different individual classes to choose from. It's impossible to attend all of the classes that you would hope to but with two of us we pretty much had it covered. The classes offered were very informative such as Removing Blight from our Neighborhoods; Game Theory & Code Enforcement and Developing a Motivated Workforce. We were able to bring back some valuable ideas to hopefully implement for the benefit of our membership and to encourage more involvement within our organization, such as; the importance of team work, setting goals, building trust and cooperation, recognition, challenge and competition. An idea I am thinking of is having "Code Officer of the Year" recognition amongst our membership.

The State Representative meeting I attended focused on some of the same issues that we face as an organization and are working to resolve. The President's mission was to have more States represented at the AACE Conference and at the President's Commission Meeting. We discussed outreach to get more people involved in AACE and had a brain storm session for ideas to accomplish that goal. We were instructed to break into small groups with each group coming up with a list of ideas to present. Each small group then shared their ideas and the top three ideas from all groups combined were chosen as the top priorities moving forward. 1) Post meetings and trainings of all State Associations on the AACE website and calendar. 2) Provide regional trainings and 3) Create associations in states where there are none. The brainstorming session was an effective way to come up with some new and innovative ideas for outreach, and I hope that WACE can also benefit from some of the ideas that were discussed. When you have a room full of folks with great ideas and only a short amount of time to capture all of the thoughts, this was about the only way to fly!

This year the WACE Executive Board; President and all other Officers positions are up for election. While it is true this is a time commitment, I would encourage anyone that wants to be involved in the Association to consider the opportunity to serve and consider running. Serving on the Board is a very rewarding and valuable experience. We generally hold the Board meetings by phone, reducing the need for travel, so maybe some members from East of the mountains can become involved as well.

Important information about Spring Conference is included in this Newsletter.

Hope to see you all there!

Spring Wathen, 1st Vice President



Louisiana



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE—HOT STORY

PART 2

Hello Members,

I was fortunate enough to be one of two board members, along with 1st VP, Spring Wathen to attend the AACE National Conference in New Orleans. I've never been to an event like that, so I wasn't sure what to expect. Unfortunately, I got off to a rocky start. When we arrived in New Orleans, we hadn't even left the airport yet, when I got tangled up with one of those cigarette stand ashtrays. I lost... It was ugly; face plant onto the concrete, resulting in two black eyes, a broken nose and a gnarly gash on my shin (go ahead and ask to see my scar). Luckily, Spring is a very good nurse. We got on the shuttle and things went very well for the rest of the trip (how could they not?).

The conference itself was great! I echo Spring by saying all the classes offered were very informative and held my attention, even after lunch! There were a lot of good ideas and programs that other cities have put in place that encourage a positive interaction with the community. They were realistic as far as implementing by both WACE and individual jurisdictions. The conference was very professional and well put-together. We got great ideas to implement for the Fall Conference. The AACE team added a lot of little elements, which added together were the finishing touches on an awesome conference.

We have a membership of creative and experienced people full of ideas. If you aren't already, please get involved in WACE. The opportunity to learn from other CEO's is one of the best benefits of getting together and going to conferences. I hope we see you at the Spring and Fall conferences.

Debbie Blessington, 2nd Vice President



Ouch!

MISSION STATEMENT

WACE represents and supports its members by:

- Provide mutual support for those involved in Code Enforcement
- Share procedures and information in order to provide alternatives to enforcement procedures
- Provide education to its membership through periodic general membership meetings, seminars and conferences
- To discuss matters of mutual concern
- Share training information and employment opportunities
- Identify with other professionals in your field
- Provide opportunities for networking



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SCOOP FROM THE SARG!

We have been working on updating the current By Laws for WACE and they should be ready to be voted on at the Fall Conference. You will all receive a way to review the changes and vote for them hopefully before the actual date of the conference and with some help from the team we are hoping to be able to use survey monkey to accomplish this. So please make sure your email addresses are up to date with Liz.

We will also be holding elections for the Executive Board this year. Those are the 7 main positions of the WACE board. Please be thinking about nominating someone or nominating yourself for a position on the board.

Bill Shultz, Sergeant At Arms

WACE Officers on the move!

Craig Salzman formerly with the City of Kirkland has moved! Craig now works for the City of Billings Montana
Cindy Keirseay formerly with the City of Everett and has gone to work for Kirkland.

Ladonna Whalen formerly with the City of Monroe has gone to work for King County.

Liz Krzyminski formerly with the City of Bellevue has gone to work as a Senior Housing/Zoning Inspector, RRIO Auditor with the City of Seattle.

Debbie Blessington formerly with the City of Bothell is now with the City of Kenmore.

Has anyone else moved?? Let us know.

Email us at: wacestory@outlook.com.





Code Compliance Officer Spotlight

John Fairbanks

Professional Background:

I am currently a Code Compliance Officer with the City of Wenatchee. Code Compliance is under the Community and Safety Department of Community Development. I started with Wenatchee in July 2016. This was a return to my hometown of



Ronald McDonald likes Code Enforcement in Wenatchee too! Great job John!!

Wenatchee from which I had left in 1989 to serve in the US Air Force. Previously I was employed with the City of Federal Way as a Code Enforcement Officer for 2-1/2 years. During my time in Federal Way, my other duties included being a member of the Task Force on Homelessness and Homeless Encampments and supervision of the Graffiti Abatement/Sign Code Enforcement crew.

Typical work day: In Wenatchee Code Enforcement operates primarily from the field with the assistance of our Code Compliance Coordinator, Yolanda Garcia in the office. Typical workload involves cases from substandard housing, fire inspections, junk vehicles, weeds, and the joys of Garbage and Debris. New for me with the return to Wenatchee is Snow Removal code.

What I like best about working for the city and Code Enforcement: I feel a great deal of accomplishment when providing relief to a neighborhood ridding them of a chronic nuisance drug houses or abating community eyesores.

People would be surprised to know: My life prior to Code Enforcement was in the artwork and signage industry. Owning and operating a small manufacturing company provided me with the opportunity of working with government rules and regulations. I am very proud of the fact that during this time I created projects for The Empire State Building, Safeco Field, Century Link Field, Air Force One, Woodland Park Zoo West Entry and Penguin Exhibit to name a few.



Federal Way Haggen Mascot sighting!

Hidden talents: I have been able to utilize my creative side creating logos for Federal Way Code Enforcement, and recently designed a new logo for our Building and Community Safety Department here in Wenatchee (shown on photo above).

Weekend activities: In my free time I enjoy volunteering with community projects, enjoying the beautiful outdoors of the Wenatchee Valley and surrounding areas, and playing with my two new little Corgi girls "Piper" and "Charlie". I live with my wife Karen who works in the healthcare industry and my daughter Madalyn who is attending Wenatchee Valley College.

Best advice received: Some of the best advice I have been given is "Do what you say you're going to do, and finish what you started."



Code Enforcement at it's finest!



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Hello Members!

Your Certification Committee (Debbie Blessington & Liz Krzyminski) have been hard at work!

We are in the process of applying to the International Code Council/ICC for WACE to become a chapter affiliate of the International Code Council. We are also applying to ICC to become a member of the ICC Preferred Provider Network.

Chapter affiliation with ICC will allow our members access to the many ICC benefits, including member prices on publications, access to ICC educational conferences, online classes and other benefits awarded by the ICC board of directors. Becoming a member of the ICC Preferred Provider Network will add to our organization's credibility and lend a layer of professionalism to the training we offer. Once WACE becomes a member of the ICC Preferred Provider Network, WACE CEUs will be weighted at a higher level. A percentage of weighted CEUs are required for maintaining ICC Certifications such as ICC/AACE Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector and ICC/AACE Zoning Inspector, Certified Code Enforcement Officer, and Code Enforcement Administrator.

In 1993 the American Association of Code Enforcement established a certification program to encourage professionalism and consistency among code enforcement personnel. The program includes comprehensive testing of candidates' knowledge of codes, standards, and practices necessary for professional competence. The examinations are now being used for both screening of prospective employees and merit raises for current employees.

You work hard as a code professional to achieve excellence in your field. You put a great deal of your personal time and effort into educating yourself on the most up-to-date regulations, rules, and technical knowledge to do your job well. The AACE/ICC Certification Program provides nationally recognized examinations and credentials so you can demonstrate your knowledge of the codes, standards, and practices of your profession.

Certification is voluntary, and verifies to governmental jurisdictions that you possess the technical knowledge of the practice of code enforcement, and that you care enough to get proof of your mastery level of competence. Professional certification verifies expertise as a code professional. Check out the complete list of certifications offered on the ICC website or click on https://www.iccsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/National_Certification_EIB-CBT.pdf) or for paper and pencil exams: http://www.iccsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/National_Certification_EIB-PP.pdf) to review the National Certification Examination Information Bulletins.



Download from Dreamstime.com

Your Certification Committee is working hard to achieve ICC Preferred Provider Status for WACE, so all training provided by WACE will fully count toward ICC CEU requirements for certification.



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WACE on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1361189557244744/>

Share, learn, and collaborate.
Query, experience, visualize.
Find a solution to a Code Enforcement issue fast!
Contribute your knowledge and experience in real time
with WACE members from across our ever-green state.

Private group open to WACE members only!

Verified by current roster membership.

Request to join at the link above today and see what we have learned so far.

Over 30 members have joined to date and growing.

Robin Zambrowsky

City of Bellevue 425-452-7245

RZambrowsky@Bellevuewa.gov



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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY:

SOCIAL MEDIA IS EVERYWHERE! So why not use it to your advantage? Why not try Facebook to connect with colleagues, or Twitter to get your message out, or even using LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/> during your next recruitment process. Of course, you might be thinking, "I'm not tech savvy?" Reach across that "generational divide" to that new co-worker, who was hired through NeoGov <https://login.neogov.com/> and ask for a little assistance. Link to neighborhood groups, with Nextdoor, <https://nextdoor.com/>. Create a YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/> highlighting the neighborhood champions in your jurisdiction. Consider joining the WACE private FaceBook page. Come collaborate and see each agency's answers to all your questions! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1361189557244744/>

You have spent your entire career helping others, so now's your chance, get on board and use technology to create, collaborate and communicate.

Elizabeth Krzyminski, Secretary



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MEET THE BOARD!



PRESIDENT
Michele Forkner
Code Compliance Officer
City of Issaquah
michelef@Issaquahwa.gov



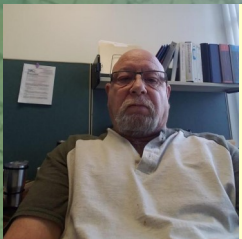
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Tell us your story!

Be our guest writer and share your story. Have you started a new job? Going to retire? Worked an unbelievable case? Reached compliance using unique resources? We want to hear from you! Contact the WACE Publishers at: wacestory@outlook.com

Help Wanted!! Qualified Applicants Sought for WACE Openings

President:

It's a big job, but somebody's gotta do it!...as long as they can be directly responsible for the supervision and guidance of the association's affairs, preside over all meetings, enforce the by-laws, and perform "other duties", which means have an ongoing, energetic, tireless dedication to WACE and the enhancement of the Code Enforcement profession in Washington State!

1st Vice President:

This is sort of like the "Mike Pence" of WACE! This person must be willing to preside over meetings in the absence of the President, chair the Steering Committee and assist the Treasurer in carrying out his/her duties.

2nd Vice President:

More than just an alternate, even though this person will preside over meetings in the absence of the President and the 1st VP, this office-holder will chair the Certification Committee and keep the President informed of the committee's progress and plans.

3rd Vice President:

You guessed it! The 3rd VP presides over meetings in the absence of the President and the 1st and 2nd VP's, but the job doesn't end there! They also must chair the Membership Committee, which means keeping a roster of current members and being involved in a continuous year-round effort to promote and increase WACE Membership.

Secretary:

No, this is not the WACE equivalent of Rex Tillerson's position, but it is a big job! The Secretary of this State organization shall keep a complete record of the organization's proceedings, be responsible for all WACE correspondence, keep readily available at all meetings such records as the book of minutes, the by-laws, the membership roster, various up-to-date committee standings, correspondence and a whole lot more.

Treasurer:

Those who have a flair for figures (financial figures that is!) and an aptitude for keeping books will do well in this position, which, includes being the custodian of all monies of the organization, chairing the Finance/Budget Committee, collecting membership dues in a timely manner and reporting same to the President. The Treasurer's books are audited annually and should always be available to the membership, and a financial statement must be presented at the annual membership meeting.

Sergeant-At-Arms:

This job is not as militaristic as the title might suggest, but the Sgt.-at-Arms does carry a big stick and is responsible for maintaining order during the meetings and functions of the association, and may serve as "Bouncer" if needed! The Sgt.-at-Arms is the chair of the nominations and elections committee, as well as ensuring that all votes are in accordance with provisions of Article III of the by-laws and that all members are notified of election results.

MEET THE PRESS



SPRING
WATHEN
EDITOR

BETTY CRUZ
PUBLISHER
AND DESIGNER

