



WACE Newsletter
228 W. Main St. MS-CH 20
Goldendale, WA 98620



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello and Happy New Year WACE. The next year promises to be a challenge for many of us, some positions have been reduced, others have been eliminated. Our best wishes and prayers to all that face new challenges in this new year. We seem to be doing more with less every year.

For those of you that made it to the 2008 Spring Conference it was a great time. We watched the snow pile up, in fact the Inn had snow up to the 2nd floor windows.

WACE had a very successful Fall Conference again, thanks much to the Conference Committee's efforts. They all worked hard and even with some last minute changes and bumps, the feedback has been very positive.

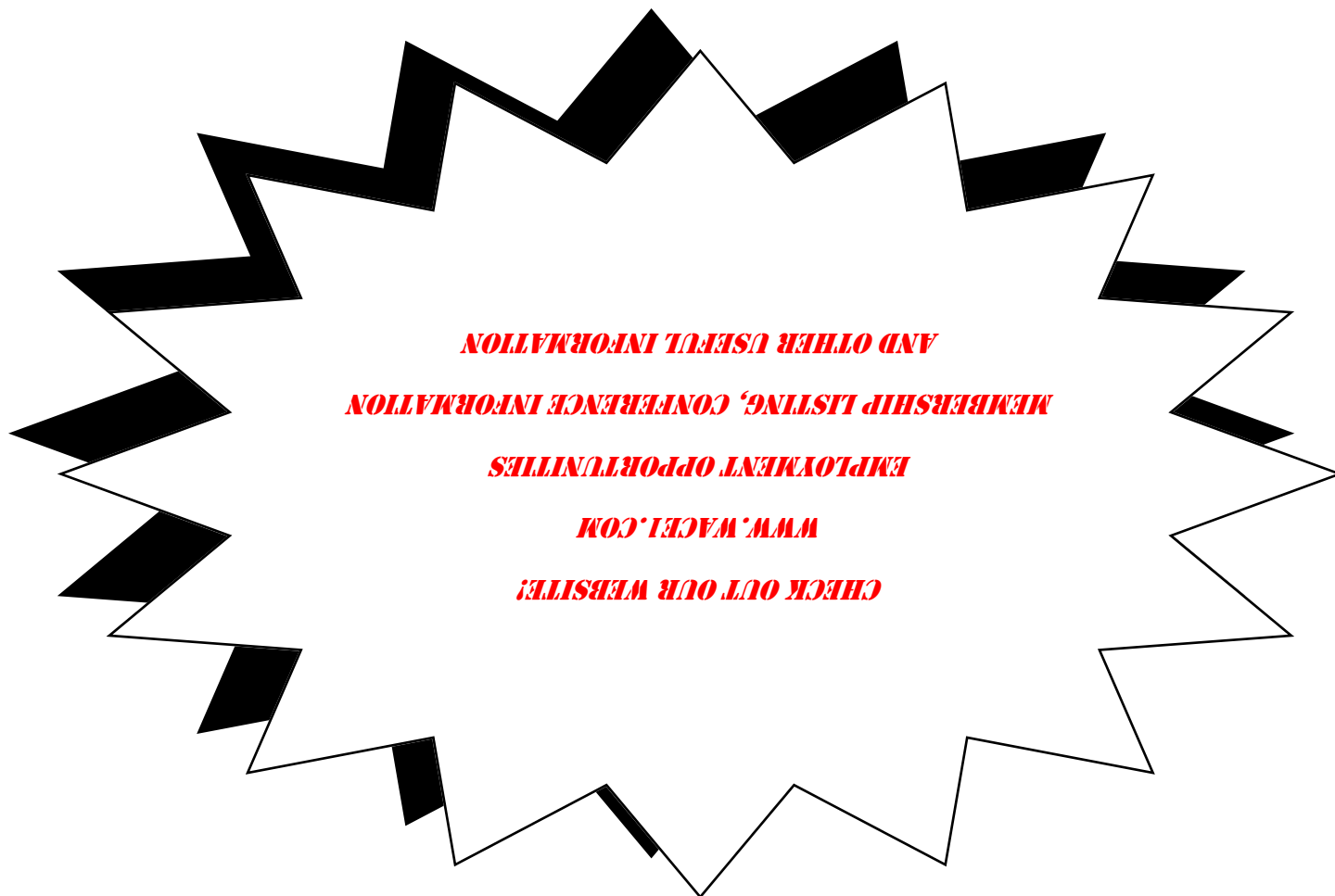
The AACE conference was held in Portland this year, in the Pearl District. Some of our fellow members visited some of the local cultural events. There were some very interesting stories during the conference breaks, including a bit of Karaoke. The AACE Board honored Brenda Wood for her assistance in organizing the conference sessions. The AACE Board also wants to help more with the State Associations and assist with outreach and organizing. There was discussion of providing an AACE membership to each State organization, but no decision was made. There was also some discussion regarding the cost of the annual membership, in light of budget cuts and the fact that many members pay their own dues. More to come on that in the future as well.

As many of you are aware, Officer Rodney Morales, Aurora, CO. Code Enforcement Officer was shot in the line of duty on November 13, 2008. The killer was arrested a day later. Just a reminder, this was a "simple" regularly scheduled apartment inspection. No motive or reason has yet been offered. Be sure to notify your local legislators, what we do out there is very important and sometimes it is dangerous. We deal with the same customers as the local Police do. Remember to be SAFE out there and remember Officer Morales and keep his family in your prayers. Information on the incident is available on the AACE website.

If you have any ideas or requests pertaining to Code Enforcement work, feel free to contact your WACE Board. We strive to advance our membership and provide for our needs. The Board has worked very hard over the past year, and continues to seek your input to provide you with the best training and information possible. Betty Cruz is taking web training classes in order to make our website more responsive to our needs. Orlando Howell continues to work magic with our accounts; he was off by a penny last year, pretty amazing stuff! Chris Grabowski continues to push for the Officer Safety Bill in Olympia; we expect a meeting in the early part of the session in order to make a new push for passage. Of course Brenda Wood, Tamra Gregory, Spring Wathen and Robin Blair, as well as the rest of the Board continue to work on the conferences year around. The fantastic work by Joyce DeVries on the newsletter is always appreciated, and she is always looking for topics for the next issue, including interviews with new or old Officers, new programs or questions from the membership. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have input or need information.

Again I would like to express my pride and gratitude in our membership, we are a great group of professionals, doing a job that most people can't fathom and few could do, yet we continue to keep our sense of humor and carry out our duties day after day.

Craig Salzman



FALL CONFERENCE 2008



Hoarders typically get attached to useless items and often don't want others entering their homes, said Jeff Szymanski, executive director of the Boston-based Obsessive Compulsive Foundation. They squirrel away newspapers, books, containers, animals, even garbage.

"Hoarders don't mind clutter and usually aren't happy with treatment because they don't think they have a problem," said Szymanski.

Many hoarders don't come to anyone's attention until someone reports them. They often keep the outside of their homes clean and clear even though the inside may have items piled to the ceiling, with only narrow pathways through the massive clutter.

Researchers have estimated that the disorder might affect one or two per cent of the population, although one study suggests it might be as high as five per cent, said Randy Frost, a psychology professor at Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

More courts and communities are dealing with the problem.

Fairfax County, Va., formed a hoarding task force several years ago after four homeless people died in a fire in an abandoned house crammed with papers and other items.

O'Bryan, who has attended some Cincinnati counseling sessions, was recently indicted on one count of aggravated arson and three counts of arson when firefighters had to put out a small fire next to his house. He pleaded not guilty Dec. 19 and was released on \$10,000 bond with electronic monitoring. His lawyer, Bruce Attenborough, has said that O'Bryan denies any involvement.

Prior to his arrest, O'Bryan said he had no complaints about the counseling.

"I don't mind it, if it can help me organize things," he said.

On the Net:

Obsessive Compulsive Foundation: www.ocfoundation.org

RESERVE YOUR FALL CONFERENCE DATES!!

(You can cancel later if necessary)

Numerous budget cuts have been made state wide affecting the training schedules of many Code Enforcement Officers. It has been the goal of WACE to provide valuable training to our members. Not only does this enhance our knowledge in the field, it also gives many of us the on-going training hours required to keep our certifications current.

That being said, there may be members that unable to attend training due to the cost of lodging. Perhaps they could attend if lodging expenses were shared with another member attending the conference. I have done this in the past, and it worked out pretty good. Many of us have become friends and sharing a room could be fun (except with Spring and Tamra...they snore. JOKING).

Maybe this could be the difference between attending or not. We would love to see as many of you there as possible

If you are interested in doing this we could create a list on our WEB page so members could contact each other.

Mental Health Experts Look at Compulsive Hoarding

By Lisa Cornwell, The Associated Press

January 2, 2009



Hoarding-related health code violations: Charles O'Bryan stands outside his home in Cincinnati. O'Bryan, who is on probation for hoarding-related health code violations, said he collects things, often fixing them to give away or sell at flea mar-

CINCINNATI - Charles O'Bryan hoards tools, electronics and a jumble of other items that end up piled inside and outside his house - and he doesn't see anything really wrong with that.

O'Bryan, 52, who was placed on probation for hoarding-related health code violations, collects things, often fixing them to give away or sell at flea markets. "Who's to say when something is too much?" he said. "A lot of people collect stuff."

Authorities say huge piles of hoarded items like those at O'Bryan's home create health and fire hazards.

Mental health experts say compulsive hoarding - where people acquire and fail to discard a large number of items with no apparent use and limited value - is not new, but only in recent years have communities begun recognizing it as a mental disorder.

A few communities have formed cleanup task forces, but a Cincinnati judge is trying to get to the root of the problem by requiring mental health treatment for severe hoarders as a condition of probation.

"The last thing I want to do in these cases is send someone to jail, but I have found that the threat of jail is what makes them get help," said Hamilton County Municipal

Court Judge Russell Mock, who oversees the city's housing cases.

Mock set up a program with Centerpoint Health, a non-profit behavioral health-care agency that provides counseling and treatment..

"These are criminal cases where you often have to lock people up or remove them from the situation because of health or safety issues, and six months later it's all back again," said Mock.

Hoarding is a big concern for fire officials, said Capt. William Long of the Cincinnati Fire Department. "We've had people die because buildings have been so packed with things that they couldn't get out, and it puts firefighters and neighbors in danger," Long said.

While mental health experts say compulsive hoarding has been commonly viewed as a subtype of obsessive-compulsive disorder, some researchers are studying it as a possible mental health disorder on its own. And they're trying to determine the cause.

CONFERENCE INFO

Here it is Spring 2009 and time is flying. 2008 was certainly busy!

As usual, Leavenworth was the perfect host for our Fall Training Conference and business meeting. We had great classes, great attendance, and wonderful fellowship with old friends, and fun meeting new ones.

Our Thursday night dinner was great! The open fire pit for cooking dinner was beautiful, the new outdoor tables and canopy were wonderful and dinner was superb.

We welcomed back Carroll's Club for part as part of our entertainment. The card tables, roulette, and other gambling was great fun, since it was fake money! The evening ended with a lively auction of our "jurisdiction baskets" using the money won.

It was lively and friendly, but was

decided that, if we do it again, we will need rules and a rules keeper!

Our speakers provided excellent presentations and were very knowledgeable.

Our speaker from Wells Fargo received the most compliments for his presentation on banks and code enforcement working together. Who would have known in September that we would all be bogged down trying to find out which bank owns the empty house causing us issues! Now not even the banks themselves know!!

Happy Spring and Summer to all of you!

See you at Conference!!

Brenda Wood. 1st VP and Conference Chair

Drawing Winners

2008 Fall Conference Fees

Joan Burlingame,
City of Sammamish

2009 Spring Conference Fees

Anders Olin,
Snohomish County

Icicle Inn Weekend

Kevin Fagerstrom,
City of Everett

2009 FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference is September 16, 17, 18 in Leavenworth. It is the 20th annual WACE Conference. We hope to have all of you there! Please send me speakers, class topics or training requests. I can be reached at either of following email addresses: Brenda.wood@kingcounty.gov or codebwood@hotmail.com

SPRING CONFERENCE

MORNING CLASS

PROCESS FOR INITIATING USAGE OF CITATIONS IN CODE ENFORCEMENT

Speaker: Ken Lee, Code Enforcement Officer, City of Mt. Vernon

We receive many questions in re: to using citations for code enforcement violations. It can be a lengthy process to get set up if you are starting from scratch. Avoid possible pitfalls by attending the class.

Mt. Vernon recently put into place the citation process for their code violations.

They will be sharing the process, from conception to use of legal citation (including all the paper work), with us.

For those agencies using citations please contact Brenda Wood Brenda.wood@kingcounty.gov. We are requesting participation in a discussion from the floor re: citations and their use, at the end of Ken's presentation.

AFTERNOON CLASS

Speaker: Ginger Holser,

Area Habitat Biologist, and Wendy Willette, CEO, both with WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife

Hydraulic Project Approval (When are they needed, what to look for with compliance, etc.)

Speaker: Kirk Prindle,
Wetland Biologist, City
of Issaquah

VIN REFRESHER CLASS

Cindy Keirse, City of Federal Way

I attended the Junk Vehicle Inspector's VIN refresher class that was held at the insurance impound lot in Tukwila on January 21, 2009. It was presented by our local State Patrol Officers Renee Padgett and Troy Giddings with the help of Marilyn Nelson, King County VIN Inspector. I found the class to be very informative and was disappointed that more people were not able to attend.

We had the opportunity to go over the codes for junk vehicles and got tips and updates on how to fill out the Junk Vehicle Affidavit (JVA). We were reminded to mark the JVA, by stamping or writing, "For Scrap Only" on the top of the form. The reason that we need to mark the form "For Scrap Only" is that the language on the form allows the JVA to be used as a new title document which is not our intent when signing the form. You can also write "Boat, RV, Trailer, or Camper on the form and attach a picture if needed.

After the short classroom time we went out into the yard to look at a great variety of vehicles including those pesky boats, travel trailers and utility trailers. We also did some completely burned out cars. We found the VIN on one vehicle that was burned to a crisp by looking at a flat area on the front of the engine that had a partial VIN on it. We sanded the flat area on the engine and cleaned it with a wire brush. Once the rust and debris was cleaned away it was easy to record the numbers. We found the VIN on old, new, big, small and even motorcycles. We filled out numerous junk vehicle affidavits and clearly marked them "For Scrap Only"

Here are a few tips for locating VIN numbers.

1. On American made vehicles, look for a body tag near the radiator.
2. On Toyota pickups, look above the front tire to the frame to view the VIN tag.
3. We raised the hood of an older Chevrolet pickup and looked in all the usual spots. We sprayed brake cleaner on the frame, used rags to clean the area and a wire brush to finally expose the VIN.

For our class, we used the tool bag brought by Marilyn Nelson. Her kit contained the following: cans of spray brake cleaner, crowbar, magnifying glass, mirror, rags, sand paper, wire brushes, flashlight, screwdriver and a wire cutter. I would strongly recommend that each of you put together your own tool kit!

I came away from the training with a bit more practice in finding VINS. I know that I can call our local State Patrol Officers or Marilyn Nelson, if your jurisdiction is located in King County, for additional assistance if needed.

If I have a partial VIN, or one that I just can't locate or does not come up on the data base, I can call for help from Marilyn Seward, VIN Specialist at (509) 249-6735 or Cliff Chezum, N I C B , a t (360) 456-4065 or (360) 239-1172.



SUSPECT CHARGED IN AURORA CODE OFFICER'S KILLING

BY MONTY WHALEY, THE DENVER POST

A man accused of gunning down an Aurora code-enforcement officer last week was charged Thursday with first-degree murder.

Harry Denard Williams, 22, of Denver also faces a mental evaluation to determine whether he is competent to stand trial in the killing of 40-year-old Rodney Morales. Morales was shot to death a week ago while working at an apartment building in the 1900 block of Clinton Street. He was shot in the chest and pronounced dead at the University of Colorado Hospital. Williams was arrested Friday after a massive

search involving K-9 teams, an armored car, a helicopter and hundreds of police from Aurora and Denver. The first-degree murder charge was filed today during an advisement hearing, said Adams County District Attorney spokeswoman Krista Flannigan. Adams County District Court Judge Vincent Phelps — after hearing a motion from the suspect's lawyer also scheduled a competency hearing for Williams for Jan. 21. In the weeks prior to that hearing, Williams will be evaluated by a mental-health professional, Flannigan said. Williams is being held without bail, she said.

PENSICOLA OFFICER SLASHED WITH MEAT CLEAVER

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- A Pensacola code officer is recovering after being attacked by a man wielding a meat cleaver.

Police say that Curtis Grace Johnson was arrested Friday after cutting Jason Hendricks on the head, nose and arm.

The officer had been responding to a neighbor's complaint that Johnson's yard was covered with junk including baby strollers, high chairs, toys and empty bottles of alcohol. Johnson remains in the Escambia County Jail on \$100,000 bond on charges of resisting arrest with violence and committing a felony that could cause death.

Hendricks was treated at a hospital and released.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Robin Blair, 3rd VP WACE Board

There have been a lot of changes over this last year. Many of our colleagues have unfortunately lost their jobs, or been reassigned to other departments. I have been trying to keep the WACE roster updated, but it has become a challenge.

If you know of a colleague that has left their position, for whatever reason, please send a brief e-mail to robinb@ci.burlington.wa.us so I can update the roster and make any other necessary changes.

On another note.....yes, I'm still working on the membership cards. I wish I could come up with a really good reason as to why I've fallen behind on them. The truth is, I just haven't set enough time aside to do them (and I'm a reality TV junkie). I have given myself a kick in the butt and will get back to work on them.....promise.

Membership invoices will be mailed out soon for those members that are in the March billing cycle. I might suggest that you remit your dues with your Spring Conference registration. Remember, membership applications can be downloaded from our website (www.WACE1.com). These forms help us keep an accurate financial record and update your membership information.