



WASHINGTON STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY TREASURERS
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WSACT NEWS

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY TREASURERS



GIOA UPDATE GORDON HEIMBIGNER

Washington counties were well represented in Las Vegas at the 2015 GIOA conference March 11-13, 2015, with 7 counties being represented. This was the largest conference in the 11 year history with 210 government attendees and 235 corporate attendees.

Major takeaways from the conference:

- No one knows when rates are going up. We had estimates from this summer to spring 2016.
- GASB/SEC - GASB is working on reporting requirements at this time. These are going to be pointed at the 2a7 like pools (which is none of our longer WAM county pools).
 - ⇒ Exposure draft out June 30, 2015
 - ⇒ Comment period for 30-60 days
 - ⇒ Final Statement December 31, 2015
- The big take away - the SEC is not coming to get us, and it sounds like we all are external pools.

Here is the link to the GIOA website for the presentation handouts:

<http://www.gioa.us/events.html>



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SHAWN MYERS

HB 1798 Eliminating the collection of anticipated taxes and assessments. This is one of our priority bills that will eliminate the requirement for advance tax for real property segregations. This one died in House Rules. It did not have a companion bill.

HB 1799/SB 5768 Concerning County electronic public auctions. This is our other priority bill. The HB is stuck but, the SB is in House Rules. We have made multiple requests to our legislators about it. Keeping our fingers crossed.

HB 1333/SB 5439 Eliminating penalties on delinquent property taxes. These both are dead.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
SHAWN MYERS
CONTINUED

HB 1815/SB 5767 Revising local government treasury practices and procedures. It essentially removes the requirement to pass the fees for any processing costs for electronic payments to the payor. (ie; credit cards, debit cards, charge cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wires, and ACH). This is optional. It also removes the requirement that a duplicate warrant must bear the same serial number as the original. This one is in the Senate Rules "X" Files. Probably dead.

SB 5853 Modifying the authority and duties of county treasurers. This one failed to get through Gov Ops Comm.

SB 5654 Concerning partial payment of current and delinquent taxes to the county treasurer. This would allow any payment, anytime for current or delinquent by any method the treasurer authorizes. This one has an exec hearing in House Comm on Finance on April 3.

SB 5677 Allowing county treasurers to retain a portion to defray the costs of collection. This one is sponsored by two former and one current county commissioner. They get it. This one is going nowhere so don't get excited. Dead.

SB 5276 Concerning refunds of property taxes paid as a result of manifest errors in descriptions of property. This would give the Commissioners the authority to grant refunds and go back more than three years. Although we have concerns about this, the taxes can be recovered in the next year's levy. DOR is questioning what would happen to the State levy beyond the 5th year? This one also has an executive session on April 3, in the House Comm on Finance.

HB 1539 Concerning hardship property tax waivers for interest and penalty. This one might be tricky. The taxpayer may request a waiver due to hardship within 60 days of one tax due date as long as they pay it within 35 days of the new tax due notice postmarked or "message submission time stamp." What is that and why 35 days? This one is dead.

HB 1133 Authorizing counties to impose a public utility tax. This one would be a great revenue source to solve problems in many counties. Unfortunately, it isn't getting any attention. DOA.

HB 1462/SB 5390 This is the state treasurer's pooling legislation which Treasurer McIntyre has killed on his end.

Thanks to all of you that make the calls and send emails to legislators when requested. It makes a difference!!



CONFERENCE UPDATE NONA HABERMAN

If you have not registered for 2015 WSACT Conference please do so soon, June is arriving very quickly. We are excited about having our round-table sessions starting with a noon lunch Monday June 22nd. With new Treasurers and Chief Deputies on board plenty of time will be set aside for this session. Please e-mail Dave Griffiths or Nona Haberman with any questions or topics you would like discussed during this session.

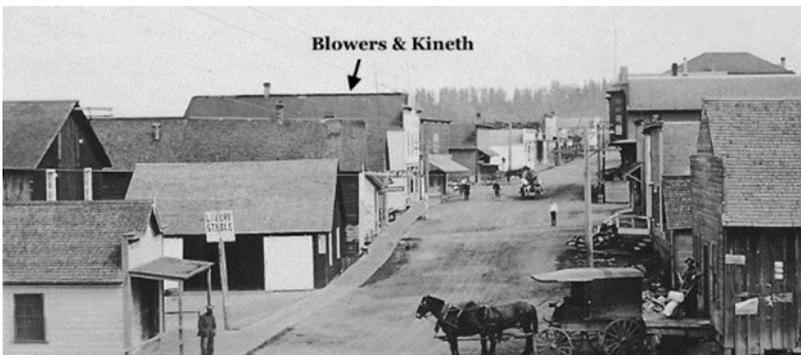
The next few weeks will be dedicated to building sponsorship support and having the agenda set in place. Our goal is to provide effective training, important to our roles as Treasurers, Chief Deputies and staff. Networking is also an important aspect of WSACT conferences even though it lends to more of a social setting. Sponsorship support for a social event has been offered by Thomson Reuters. Not sure how this will play out yet but stay tuned for the next update. Once the agenda is set you will be notified by e-mail. It will also be posted to our WSACT website.



COUNTY TREASURER HISTORY DUANE DAVIDSON

Our WSACT History column this month features Island County. This newspaper article from 1885 discloses property taxes during the territorial days was collected on a much different schedule than today. The Assessment Roll was delivered in September, taxes were delinquent after December 31st and surprisingly the penalty on delinquent taxes in this pre-statehood era was 10% and the interest rate was 20%!

Alvah D Blowers, Island County Treasurer was born in Franklin Township, Susquehanna, Pennsylvania in 1851. The picture below is of the Blowers & Kineth General Store in Coupeville W.T. (Washington Territory) in the 1880s. Alvah went on to establish a successful produce company in Seattle. He passed away in 1938. For more information on the Blowers & Kineth Store and Alvah Blowers' Residence, two very important landmarks in historic Coupeville, [click here](#) and refer to entries 15 & 53.



**Notice to the Tax Payers of
Island County, W. T.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Duplicate Assessment Roll of Island county, W. T., for the year 1885, is now in my possession for the collection of taxes levied therein. Said taxes will be delinquent on the 31st day of December, 1885, at 6 o'clock p. m., and unless paid prior thereto ten per cent. will be added to the amount thereof as penalty, and interest charged at the rate of twenty per cent. per annum until paid. Said taxes are payable at the office of the County Treasurer, at Coupeville, Island county, W. T., during office hours.

A. D. BLOWERS,
Treasurer of Island county, W. T.
Dated at Coupeville, Sept. 8, 1885.

Comments:

Duane Davidson, Editor

duane.davidson@co.benton.wa.us

Upcoming Meetings

NE District, Davenport
May 13, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
Lincoln County Courthouse
450 Logan, Davenport, WA

NW District
May 14, 2015, 11 a.m.,
Crane Room, 1800
Continental
Mount Vernon, WA

SE District
May 13, 2015, 10 a.m.
Dayton Library, Delany Room
111 S 3rd. St., Dayton, WA

SW District
May 27, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
929 Lakeridge Dr SW,
Room 101
Olympia, WA

WSACT Annual Conference
June 22-25, 2015
Enzian Inn
Leavenworth, WA

WSACT Legislative
Conference
July 27-28, 2015
Whitman University
Walla Walla, WA

**Remember your FI is
due to the PDC by
April 15, 2015**

<http://www.pdc.wa.gov>



TREASURER PROFILES WANDA GRONE ISLAND COUNTY TREASURER

My Hometown:
Coupeville (Whidbey Island)

The hardest thing I've ever done:
Running for election as County Treasurer

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:
Arthur Denny, Henry Yesler (original developers of Seattle), and John Wayne

A dream I have is to:
Travel to Italy

You'd be surprised to learn that I:
Have house rabbits

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:
4 wheeling back and forth across the Rockies, tent camping in the back country with 2 German Shepherds

My favorite way to relax is:
Watching House Hunters

I'm most proud of:
My 27 year-old daughter

My favorite meal is:
Texas BBQ Brisket (cooked over mesquite), with potato salad, served on butcher paper

My pet peeve is:
Mean people

My motto is:
The Golden Rule (the real one)

The last book I read was:
The Last Kind Words Saloon, Larry McMurtry

My favorite movie is:
Lost in Translation

My favorite music is:
Big Band Swing

My Hero-or-Role Model is:
My Dad