



WASHINGTON STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY TREASURERS

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WSACT NEWS



WSACT News 12th Monthly Issue!!!

The WACO Conference in Tacoma was a great success. Thank you to the many Treasurers that were able to participate. Here is a very brief recap of the event .

Tuesday we started our session with a message from the Acting State Auditor Jan Jutte, CPA.

Shawn Myers then lead us through a draft of *Best Practices for County Investments* where we were able to complete a thorough review of approximately one half of the document. Shawn will be organizing a follow-up meeting to complete this review.

The Assessors then joined us for a one hour discussion about the multiple years refund issue. Wednesday was a full day of training by many excellent presenters on topics like customer service and working with the state legislature. The President's reception sponsored by *Dominion Voting* where many tributes were given to Caroyln Weikel for her service as president of WACO this past year.

Thursday began with a workshop on Ethics followed by a presentation of the joint Assessor/Treasurer/Auditor lobby at Clark County. Following Lunch was a WSACT business meeting where approval was given for the proposed legislation procedure/policy. Secretary of State Kim Wyman spoke briefly to our group and Dave Griffiths expressed his gratitude on behalf of all the Treasurers to her for the opportunity to use the Archive sites located around the state for our "Poly-Com" meetings . John Smutny



Washington Association
of **COUNTY OFFICIALS**
57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

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from Microfex Inc. gave a one-hour presentation on the effectiveness of his product for monitoring sales tax collections in our county. The Washington County Risk Pool provided us with a valuable personation by Janet May on preparing and conducting performance evaluations. The day finished with the Banquet and one table of Treasurers at the banquet is pictured on page 1.

Friday the legislation proposals from the affiliate groups was approved and a proposed amendment to the WACO By-Laws concerning budget approval was defeated. **Our Lisa Frazier was re-elected as a Trustee** to the WACO Board leaving us three strong on the Board (Ilene, Ron, and Lisa)!!! Following the Business Meeting, we broke into 3 Concurrent Trainings. Gordon and I attended the Introduction to LEAN .

My apologies for the botched phone conferencing we experienced during the Business meeting. Obviously the new program allows for conferences to be double-booked. I will work on finding a better solution. *Duane*

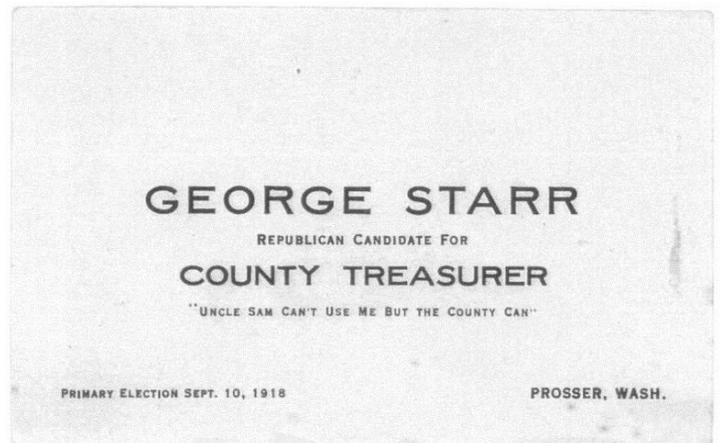
TREASURER HISTORY —DUANE DAVIDSON



George Starr
1919-1920

George Starr was the fifth county treasurer for Benton County. He was born in Manson, Iowa in 1883. His father was a Civil War veteran and his grandfather was one of the founders of Harvard Medical School. George moved to Prosser, WA with his parents when he was a young man in 1908. Shortly thereafter he was elected the county treasurer and served in that position during World War I. His journey to the office of County Treasurer was an interesting one. Several years before, George and his date were in a horse draw wagon waiting for a passing train . Spooked by a discharge of steam from the locomotive the horse overturned the small dray wagon pinning George’s leg and fracturing it near the hip. In two weeks time the injury had grown worse and doctors in Yakima decided to amputate. He soon recovered and returned home to Prosser. World War I was raging on and many men were being called to service including the Benton County Treasurer, Horton Huntington.

The office of Treasurer was vacant and George was personally dismayed he wasn’t able to help his country more , especially when so many of his friends were going off to battle. Having some business training he decided that running for county treasurer could help fulfill his desire for civic duty and yet his frustration of not being able to serve with his friends in very evident in his campaign business card located to the right were it states: “Uncle Sam Can’t Use Me But The County Can”. George married Mabel Twidwell during his term as Treasurer and they later moved to Portland Oregon where he established trade as a jeweler and watchmaker. He passed away in 1972 at the age of 89 in Astoria, OR.





TREASURER PROFILES

DUANE A DAVIDSON

BENTON COUNTY TREASURER

My Hometown: ***Carnation, WA***

The hardest thing I've ever done: ***Run for County Treasurer***

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: ***My Grandfather, Oswald Chambers, and Teddy Roosevelt.***

A dream I have is to: ***Travel to Scotland***

You'd be surprised to learn that I: ***I grew up on a dairy farm and when I was younger I was a volunteer fireman and an artificial insemination technician.***

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: ***Boarded an Amtrak train after graduating high school and traveled around a good portion of the country in a trek with no real destination or plan except coming back home in a few weeks.***

My favorite way to relax is: ***Fishing. Note: I haven't been relaxed for a couple years now.***

I'm most proud of: ***My three kids and an excellent staff.***

My favorite meal is: ***Steak off the grill.***

My pet peeve is: ***My inability to type with any speed or accuracy.***

My motto is: ***"The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you figure out why." Mark Twain***

The last book I read was: ***Mornings on Horseback, by David McCullough***

My favorite movie is: ***It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World. I've watched it numerous times over the years and it still makes me laugh.***

My favorite music is: ***Bert Kaempfert and Bagpipes in a parade.***

My Hero-or-Role Model is: ***My Grandfather, Lee Minshull. He passed away in 2008 but his portrait is in my office watching over me.***