



Officers Note Book



Volume No. 99-03

An Official Publication of the Washington State Law Enforcement Association

Fall 1999

WSLEA President's Message

By Mike Burris, President



J would like to begin by saying we had a great time at this year's convention. Credit for this success goes to our Executive Office

"volunteers", without whose hard work and dedication this convention would not have been possible.

We had a lot of fun. Our convention theme was "Teamwork" but I could not help but think of friendship. We saw old friends and welcomed new ones. We rec-

ognized the contributions of some outstanding officers and said thank you to a few friends who you may not have known but whose hard work and support has made our jobs better. We began a new tradition and paid our respect and honor to fallen officers. They and their families must not be forgotten; we cannot move forward and leave them behind.

You were generous with your praise and constructive with your comments. Based on your evaluations, we will once again seek a "resort" area and provide a "family" oriented program. Contrary to popular opinion, a

convention takes months of work and we have already begun the long process with your comments in mind.

I look forward to working with you on this and other issues in the coming year. I encourage you to contact us and share your ideas. We are just a telephone, e-mail and web page away. Just a little bit of work by everybody on the team only makes us stronger. The stronger we are, the further we can go. I encourage you to attend next year's convention and challenge you to bring a new person with you. Remember, the WSLEA/WSRLEA and the convention is really about you! ▼

WSRLEA President's Message

'Protect Your Investment'

By Terry Lattin, President



Jt has come... and now it has gone. For those of you who did not attend this year's convention, you missed a very good time

at a great facility with insightful and challenging training, well planned events for the Officers and their families, a good shoot competition and golf tournament and plenty of opportunities to greet old friends and make new ones. The WSLEA and the WSRLEA Co-Convention '99 was an event to remember! You need not take my word for it - it

was reflected time and again in the convention evaluations turned in. Reading the evaluations have given us much insight as to the planning of our next co-convention.

I would like to once again thank all those who came together to create a memorable time for us all. The theme this year was TEAMWORK and no where else was it more evident than in the planning of this year's convention.

As WSRLEA begins a new year, we are reminded that we need to take care of our current membership and to extend the benefits of membership to others throughout the state. I am convinced that there is no other or-

ganization for which \$10 annual membership dues gives the member so much in return. I will be exploring membership benefits in upcoming newsletters and we'll discover just what WSRLEA can do for you!! ▼

Look for a pictorial report of the convention in the upcoming Officers Note Book!

Trooper James E. Saunders

By Charlie Kirry, Washington Media Services

Trooper James “Jim” E. Saunders was shot to death Oct. 7, 1999, while conducting a traffic stop in Pasco, Wash. Transferred to the Kennewick office of the State Patrol in 1996, Saunders was first assigned to Grand Coulee when he received his commission in 1991. He had a previous cadet assignment with Governor’s Mansion security.

Saunders is survived by his wife Billie, daughter Megan and parents Mr. and Mrs. John Saunders of Wenatchee. An Oct. 14 memorial ser-



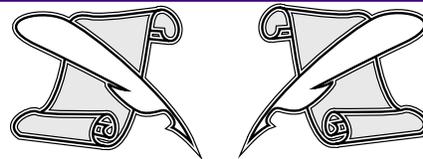
File Photo Courtesy Washington Media Services, Charlie Kirry

vice in Pasco was attended by nearly 1,000 law enforcement officers from throughout the Northwest and across the United States and Canada. A private memorial service was held in Leavenworth later that day.

Saunders graduated from Cascade High School in Leavenworth in 1986, earned an associate of arts degree from Wenatchee Valley College and a bachelor of arts degree in political studies from Whitworth College, Spokane, in 1990.

Two men, one an apparent illegal alien, have been arrested in connection with the shooting and are pending trial. ▼

Essay Contest



Our annual Essay Contest is underway. This years topic is “Violence in School — What

can be done”. The Essay Contest is mailed to all 8th grade schools in Washington with notification sent to all law enforcement agencies. Contest announcements were mailed the end of September.

Essays are judged for their content and 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners are awarded cash prizes in six {6} districts totaling 18 winners. They receive \$200.00 for 1st place, \$150.00 for 2nd place, and \$100.00 for 3rd place. The six {6} 1st place winners then compete for the overall state winner which receives an additional \$500.00 cash award.

Your support in spreading the word to your local school administrators would be greatly appreciated.

For more information regarding the Essay Contest and other Programs sponsored by WSLEA visit our web site at WSLEA.ORG or call 800-227-9753. ▼

Scholarship Program Updated

The 2000 WSLEA Degree Scholarship Program has been updated and opened to the WSLEA Members, spouses and children beginning with this year’s applications and is not restricted to degrees in law enforcement. Also, the Continuing Education Scholarship Program is open to WSLEA and WSRLEA members for any CJTC approved classes.

“With the changes it is our intent to focus this program toward WSLEA Members as a stronger membership benefit” says Scholarship Chairman, Lt. Dick Collins.

Applications must be completed and submitted to the WSLEA Executive Office by April 30th. To request an application, call the EO at 1-800-227-9753. ▼



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*Publication layout and design by
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Law Enforcement Camp

The Washington State Law Enforcement Association in conjunction with Washington State Kiwanis Clubs sponsored the Youth Law Enforcement Career Camp this year (August 18-22) held at the Washington State Patrol Academy.

Twenty three students from around the state attended this years camp. The camp consists of five days of training in all areas of law enforcement. Students attending the camp are introduced to academy style training (i.e., up at 5:30 a.m. for physical training; then breakfast followed by a full day of classes and practical experiences.)

Next year we hope to schedule the camp in July. To this end if any of our members have the opportunity to contact their local high school administrators it would be a great help if you could mention the Law Camp that is available to any 10th, 11th, 12th grade student that is interested in a career in



law enforcement. The students attending the Camp receive .5 credit on their school transcripts.

Information regarding the Law Camp can be obtained by visiting our web site at WSLEA.ORG. ▼

Arresting Officers

Christmas is coming early this year. The "Arresting Officers 2000" Calendar hit the streets in September. The calendar features 27 of the best and the buff of Washington State law enforcement agencies. Pictures were taken by international award winning photographer Al Berger of Cunningham Studios. All of the officers have donated their time to pose for the project in which all the profit will go to projects close to the hearts of all in law enforcement. Those recipients are Law Enforcement Chaplaincy, Red Cross, Special Olympics, Law Enforcement Memorial, and Special Projects.

The Law Enforcement Chaplaincy program takes the burden from street officers in delivering death notifications, comforting victims of trauma and crime. They perform weddings and funerals for employees of seven law enforcement agencies and victims. They provide extended counseling to survivors and employees. They allow the street officers to spend their time in crime investigation, accident investigation, patrol, and contacting witnesses, victims. All the chaplains are volunteers, and donate hundreds of hours yearly to our community. They are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. One of the first priorities for the profits of the calendar is to provide the chaplains with portable radios to increase their safety while out in the field.

The Red Cross assists law enforcement in long term searches, crime scene investigations, and disasters. They provide for shelters, food, and location of relatives.

Special Olympics has been a favorite charity of law enforcement for many years with departments, including ours, participating in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run.

There are National, State, and local law enforcement memorials. The maintenance, improvements, and adding names to the memorials is a costly venture.

Help support this worthy project by ordering your calendar now. Send \$15 per calendar to: Arresting Officers, 3909 S Moffitt, Spokane, WA 99206. Questions: ventheos@aol.com

The "Arresting Officers" Calendar has been two years in the making. Several local businesses have provided props and locations for photo shoots. The calendar seeks to portray the officers as real people. The youngest pictured is 20 and the oldest in his 50's. There is an Explorer and a Captain and everything in between. There are 4 women officers in the 27 featured. We have pictures of the motorcycle officers and the horse patrol. We have the work out room and the locker room.

With just a touch of risqué, the best and the buff of our area departments

are donating themselves to be examples of volunteerism to others in the future as the first annual "Arresting Officers" hits the streets. Currently the name is being copyrighted for future use. ▼

Order Form

Available Sept. 1, 1999

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Calendars are \$15.00 Each
Make Checks Payable to Arresting Officers

Send Order To:

Arresting Officers
%Rae Anna Victor
3909 S. Moffitt
Spokane, WA 99206

E-mail: ventheos@aol.com

509-892-6945

Please cut out and mail back

Legislative

(continued from page 3)

I-695 May or May Not Reinstate a Property Tax on Vehicles...

In 1937, when the legislature approved the MVET (motor vehicle excise tax), they opted out of allowing cities and counties to charge property taxes on vehicles. However, I-695 undoes this act, leaving cars, trucks, vans, and motor homes subject once again to property taxes at the state, city, and county level.

"I'm not sure it accomplishes what (Eyman) thinks it does," said Sen. Jim West (R-Spokane). "All personal property is subject to property taxes. When the MVET was approved, it exempted cars from property tax. This guy's so smart, he's repealing the exemption." (Tacoma News Tribune, July 9, 1999.)

Switching back to the system of the 30's will require millions of dollars in retraining staff and reprogramming state institutions. While the taxpayers will be picking up a similar tab, they will be stuck with having to vote on every tax and fee increase, which damages our system of democracy.

I-695 May or May Not Lead to a State Income Tax...

If Initiative 695 passes, we will probably see a push, in the legislature, to create a state income tax similar to Oregon's personal income tax. Our state would have to find ways to recover the lost income from I-695. As a

citizen of Washington state, I am happy to not have to pay a state income tax.

State Chair of the Republican Mainstream Committee, Phil Robins, said his group voted unanimously against endorsing this initiative. "This is not a good move," Robins said. "While everyone would like to pay just \$30 per car per year, it would only lead to a raise in some other tax or maybe even a new tax. It's just not realistic. We strongly support tax reductions, but they should be practical."

I-601 already requires voter approval for State tax increases

Passed a few years ago, initiative 601 requires that all State tax increases be approved by Washington's voters. However, I-695 would make counties and cities hold unnecessary votes to pass the smallest of tax increases to pay for essential services. Even if the city of Auburn wanted to raise the fee to rent a park facility, it would have to go through months of bureaucracy and spend thousands of dollars on a campaign to win the votes. That's just not a good way to run a government.

I-695 May or May Not Aid the Wealthy...

Simple math is the explanation for this point. Under I-695, if you buy a \$70,000 luxury SUV, you will

pay the same amount for tabs as a person who buys a 1988 Mazda-GLC. Consequently, while the Mazda owner may save \$30-\$40, the SUV owners could save over \$600! I-695 is unfairly tailored toward helping the rich get richer.

Car dealers are practically salivating at the prospect of I-695 passing so they can sell more cars. It is perhaps not surprising that Martin Rood, the co-sponsor of this initiative is the former president of Rood Nissan/Volvo car dealership. Mr. Rood knows how to sell cars and this is just his latest attempt.

Local Criminal Justice Programs May or May Not Lose Money...

Most people probably think that all of the money from license tabs goes to transportation projects. Not true. If I-695 passes, local criminal justice programs would loose more than \$81 million. Large portions of tab fees also go toward school funds and other projects.

From the Seattle Times: (Seattle Times, July 3, 1999) King County Councilman, Rob McKenna, R-Bellevue, estimates that the county would be forced to cut it's criminal-justice budget by 10 percent. They would also be forced to cut the public-health budget by about 5 percent. "It would be a huge hit," McKenna said.

Cutting money for the criminal-jus

(continued on next page)

Association Shirts

Association polo shirts are now available by contacting the Executive Office. These high quality tab shirts are white and have WSLEA embroidered on the left front in black with a red line and WSRLEA embroidered under that. These good looking shirts are perfect to wear with slacks or jeans. ▼

Please cut out and mail back

Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Polo Shirts are \$20.00 Each + \$3.00 Shipping
 Make Checks Payable to WSLEA
 Mail To: PO Box 7369 • Olympia, WA 98507
 1-800-227-WSLE (9753)

Legislative

(continued from previous page)

tice system would be bad. Local governments would be able to hire less officers. Prisons will not have the money to expand or house prisoners. Some have called I-695 a "get out of jail free card" for many of Washington's offenders. I-695 will mean less jail time for criminals.

Republican and Democrats May or May Not Agree That I-695 Is a Bad Idea...

On May 27, 1999, the State Republican party and the more moderate, Mainstream offshoot of the party declined to endorse I-695 (From The Associated Press, May 27, 1999). State GOP chairman, Dale Forman believes this initiative will be bad for state programs. "I didn't think it was in the best interests of sound transportation policy" to endorse the latest initiative, Foreman said in an interview. The measure would ham-

string the Legislature and put pressure on other taxes, he said.

However, under intense political pressure from Tim Eyman's political machine, the state GOP party has reversed their opposition to I-695. In a cowardly move, the state Republican party backed down from their previous stance and bowed to special interest pressure.

Phil Robins, chairman of the moderate offshoot of the party, the Mainstream Committee, said his group voted unanimously against endorsement. "This is not a good move," he said of the initiative. "While everyone would like to pay just \$30 per car per year, it would only lead to a raise in some other tax or maybe even a new tax. It's just not realistic. "We strongly support tax reductions, but they should be practical." ▼

Field Representative

Did you know that WSLEA has a full time Field Representative that spends time on the road contacting Police Departments and County Sheriffs Offices to establish contacts with members? The intent of the Field Representative is to open communication with our membership to ensure WSLEA Executive Board is providing the type of leadership the membership wants from their organization.

If you would like a visit from the Field Rep or would like to talk with him, call the Executive Office at 1-800-227-WSLE {9753}. If he's outbound your message will be forwarded to him. ▼

The Century of Honor

WSLEA is helping to sponsor the printing of "The Century of Honor" a book that will chronicle the actions of the men and women in Washington State law enforcement who have gone above and beyond for the citizens of the state. It will also give a history of law enforcement in general. The book will tell the stories of those who exemplify honor, courage, and those who have given the ultimate price. The book will feature the

Medal of Honor, Top Cops, Telecommunicator of the Year, Distinguished Reserve Officer and other state and national recognition for law enforcement excellence. The book will also be a comprehensive directory and history for all the law enforcement agencies and law enforcement organizations in the state with over 400 pictures. "The Century of Honor" will be a keeper. It will be an heirloom to hand down to the family members of those highlighted,

and a reference book for departments, organizations, and individuals with any interest in law enforcement in Washington state. Publish date has been extended until mid 2000 to enable us to include all figures for the 1999 year. ▼

To reserve your order of Century of Honor mail request to:

Century of Honor , P. O. Box 7369,
Olympia, WA 98507

Any questions please call
1-800-227-9753



Please cut out and mail back to: WSLEA/Century of Honor • P.O. Box 7369 • Olympia, WA 98507



The Century of Honor

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Books Ordered: _____ @ \$19.95 Total _____

Tax _____

Shipping & Handling _____ @ \$ 2.50 _____

I-695 Is Saturated With Landmines . . .

8 Reasons I-695 May or May Not Work

By Mike Matson, WSLEA Legislative Liaison

I-695 May Or May Not Take Money Away From Important State Programs...

An early budget analysis shows that I-695 could force the state to cut spending by nearly \$1.8 billion immediately. The motor-vehicle excise tax fees bring \$2.2 billion every two years. This is money that could be almost completely eliminated.

How would we replace these losses? We wouldn't at first. It could take years of bureaucracy and tax increases to attain a "pre-695" level.

On May 27, 1999, Transportation Secretary Sid Morrison said the plan would take \$1.8 billion from the state road fund. House Transportation Co-Chairwoman Ruth Fisher said, "If 695 passes, I'm resigning the next day."

(From Seattle Times, January 13, 1999) "The business community is viewing this latest proposal with skepticism. 'None of us like to pay taxes...but this is counterproductive to what we want,' said Don Brunell, president of the Association of Washington Business and a member of the Washington Transportation Alliance, a coalition of business groups. 'It would shoot a huge hole in the transportation budget.'"

I-695 May Or May Not Increase Traffic/Pollution...

This is perhaps the most obvious disadvantage of Initiative 695. With the reduction of license tab fees, more people will be able to afford cars and/or fuel for their cars. This will lead to an increase of cars and traffic on our already overburdened roadways. An increase in traffic obviously leads to an increase in pollution to our environment.

Proponents of I-695 will tell you that their initiative actually helps the environment. This is simply not true. Older, more fuel efficient cars are far

better for the environment than gas-hogging SUVs, vans, heavy trucks, and motor homes that I-695 promotes. An increase of heavy vehicles will create even more road problems. Inefficient vehicles coupled with an overall increase in motor vehicle traffic will create environmental problems we do not need.

Washington will not be able to support the growth in traffic. I-695 cuts money needed by the state for transportation improvements. Cut the funds, increase the traffic, things will get very ugly, very fast.

According to King County Councilman, Rob McKenna, R-Bellevue, (Seattle Times, July 3, 1999) King County would be forced to cut \$100 million dollars from its transportation budget and reduce Metro bus service by 20 percent.

I-695 May Or May Not Undo Voter Approved Referendum 49...

Referendum 49 was approved by the voters last November. Referendum 49 reduced the car tax by \$30 and financed a 2.4 billion dollar highway construction boom that has not yet begun. I-695 would virtually undo all of the positive effects of R-49.

According to David Ammons of the Associated Press, "That plan, which recently allowed lawmakers to adopt a grand \$4 billion highway budget - adding about \$1 billion...depends on money from the car-tab tax, also called the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET)."

State Senate Minority Leader Dan McDonald (Republican of Bellevue) also opposes the measure, citing its negative effects on R-49. "Eyman has put us in a terrible spot. If it passes, it makes governing very difficult and destroys the common-sense approach of Referendum 49,

which showed you didn't need a big gas-tax increase to...attack congestion," he said. McDonald added: "Me personally, I wouldn't vote for it. We pledged that tax money to pay the highway bonds back that the voters said they want." (Associated Press, July 2, 1999.)

Wasted time, more bureaucracy results of I-695. Initiative hurts democracy.

By making every city and county in Washington hold elections to raise even the smallest fee or tax would lead to wasted time and money campaigning for and against everything. Both sides of every issue would be forced to mobilize for the elections.

For instance, if the city of Renton wants to implement a 15-cent fee for photo copies made at the library, that will have to be voted on by the public.

Voters will become increasingly confused, having to make decisions on issues we trust our elected officials to make for us. Voter apathy is at an all time high. Many voters stay home because they are not informed enough to vote. Voting on all tax and fee increases will only create more confusion. This initiative actually hurts Washington State democracy!

State Representative, Jim McIntire, D-43, says "It would be a horrendous experience," noting that up to 50 tax and fee proposals could show up on the ballot on election day. "Everybody'd need their own tax accountant just to go to the polls to try to understand what's going on."

Conservative talk-show host, John Carlson agrees. "Every tax, every fee has to be subject to a vote? So the city of Redmond raises its fees for renting a... park facility. That has to go on the ballot?" Carlson asked. "Micro-managing from a distance can be difficult." (Seattle Times, January 13, 1999.)

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Professional Development Committee

By Ken Johnson, Chairman

WSLEA has made a commitment to provide quality education and training-state-wide. Our goal is to supplement WCJTC and your department's training programs with the training you need MOST. In order to accomplish this goal, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

What type of training would your department send you to, if we brought it to your area? Would you or your department be interested in sending officers to certified programs in the following areas if we could provide the training at no charge at or near your jurisdiction?

Defensive Tactics
Bloodborne Pathogens
First Aid/CPR
Firearms

It is our belief that departments, especially smaller agencies, could benefit from certain training offered on a regional basis. We are researching the feasibility of providing those classes

commonly referred to as "mandatory training," in a region where the departments do not have in-house instructors for those subjects. Is there a need, and if so, what type of subjects should we offer and at what locations?

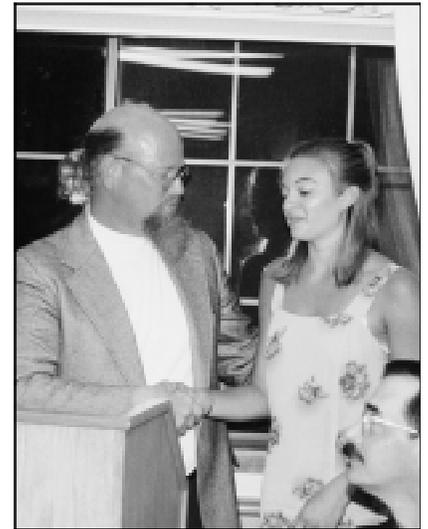
Please contact the WSLEA office at 1-800-227-WSLE or write us at WSLEA • P.O. Box 7369 • Olympia, WA 98507 and let us know what training we can provide to help your department meet your training needs.

Our intent is to supplement WCJTC-not duplicate or replace them. There is great concern about the impact of I-695 on department training budgets. Even without the impact of 695, we believe the state training budget-and most department training budgets, are not adequately funded. WSLEA's goal is to fill this needed void. With your input, we can bring needed training to your area. Please let us know what training needs your department has. ▼

To the members of WSLEA/WSRLEA

Jwould like to thank you very much for inviting me and my family to Leavenworth for the WSLEA/WSRLEA convention. I feel honored to have been part of it and we really enjoyed our stay!

Sincerely,
Amanda Sullivan



Essay winner Amanda Sullivan was invited to the WSLEA/WSRLEA Convention, where she read her essay and spoke to the members.

Medal Of Honor Committee

By Ken Johnson, WSLEA Representative

The Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Committee, by its very nature, deals with the loss of brother police officers. This year, however, we not only mourned the loss of a brother officers, we mourn the loss of a member of our committee.

Thor Giancesini (also known as Thor Gary) died suddenly this past August. Thor has served on the Medal of Honor Committee, as a representative of WACOPS, since our inception. Until his death, Thor and I shared the distinction as the only two original members of the Governor's committee, who have continuously served since the creation of the award.

Thor and I go back a long way. We have worked on various legislative issues for almost twenty years. Thor and I stood by Governor Lowry when he signed the Medal of Honor bill into law. We have worked side by side at every Medal of Honor ceremony since its creation.

The Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Committee will miss Thor Gary. I will miss Thor. ▼

Web Master Change

Washington Media Services of Olympia now serves as WSLEA's Web Master. If you have questions or comments, feel free to send an email to Web Master using wslea@olywa.net. Many thanks to Glen Hilts, WSLEA Executive Board Member, who served WSLEA as Web Master for many months and received the 1999 President's Award for his outstanding service. ▼

October 15, 1999	McGruff Halloween Bag Distribution Date	March 10, 2000	WSLEA Legislative/Membership Meeting @ Summit Inn
October 28, 1999	ONB Distribution Date	March 11, 2000	WSLEA General Board Meeting @ Summit Inn
November 13, 1999	WSRLEA General Board Meeting @Wenatchee City Hall	April 30, 2000	Degree Scholarship Applications Due
December 10, 1999	JOURNAL Distribution Date	June 9, 2000	WSLEA Legislative/Membership Meeting @ Summit Inn
December 10, 1999	WSLEA Legislative/Membership Meeting @ Summit Inn	June 10, 2000	WSLEA General Board Meeting @ Summit Inn
December 11, 1999	WSLEA General Board Meeting @ Summit Inn	June 2-4, 2000	Special Olympics Summer Games @ Tacoma
January 10, 2000	Legislature Convenes @ Olympia	July, 2000	Law Enforcement Career Camp @ State Patrol Academy
January 14, 2000	Degree Scholarship Info Distribution Date	August 11-13, 2000	Special Olympics Summer Sports Tournament @ Auburn
January 31, 2000	Essay Contest Entries Due	November 10-12, 2000	Special Olympics Fall Sports Tournament @ Seattle
February, 2000	Washington State LE Bowling Tournament @ Lynnwood		
March 3, 2000	Special Olympics Winter Games @ Wenatchee		
March 10-12, 2000	Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament @ Cheney		

'LEOFF Plan 3...Take It Or Leave It' Says the Joint Committee on Pension Policy

By Mike Matson, Legislative Liaison

The Joint Committee on Pension Policy (JCPP) is not interested in LEOFF II Reform in any shape or form. The JCPP has demonstrated its lack of responsiveness to the needs of the beneficiaries of the various pension systems. In a recently concluded JCPP meeting in Olympia, representatives from various Fire Fighter and Law Enforcement organizations set forth a number of important points to members of the JCPP.

To begin with LEOFF II members have the highest retirement age and the

worst pension system of all public safety pension systems in the United States of America. It is why tremendous returns on investments made on behalf of the members are not used for improvements to the LEOFF II Pension system. It is why our LEOFF I members, both retired and active have not shared in gain sharing of the excess investments funds.

Pension governance is an issue that is not going away. With governance comes fiduciary responsibility. Beneficiaries understand that and embrace the notion of fiscal good health in pension systems. Pension governance has

worked exceptionally well in other states and it will work well in the State of Washington. Many legislators believe that pension funds are tax payer funds. That is absolutely not true! Any contribution made by the employee or by his/her employer on behalf of the employee for pension purposes belongs to the employee! Let's always remember this important perspective, the employee we are talking about here is and will always be the "beneficiary!"

While the JCPP continues to stand pat on LEOFF Plan 3, the Washington State Law Enforcement Association will continue to stand pat in favor of LEOFF II Reform! ▼

Washington State Law Enforcement Association
 Washington State Reserve Law Enforcement Association
 P.O. Box 7369
 Olympia, WA 98507

