



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

Hope this newsletter finds you well as we deal with wildfires, smoke, COVID, the economy, civil unrest, and challenges both our profession and our society face. It is difficult, but necessary, for all of us, personally and professionally, to stay on the high road and approach these challenges thoughtfully.

This week two LA County Sheriff's Deputies were ambushed and we pray for their recovery. It is a searing reminder that women and men in our profession put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe.

This week highlighted, once again, the value and the importance of first responders as you handled significant wildfires and ongoing disruptions; all while continuing to serve 24/7 and connecting with your communities and team members. Amazing. If you are exhausted it's because you should be; you should also be proud.

I have not sent out a newsletter for a few weeks because I recently returned from a lengthy road trip to visit family out of state, socially distanced of course. As many of you have experienced, getting away for a while was helpful to set some context. People are adapting, they are generally being careful and doing their best, and social media is most definitely not real life. That is the real story that no one hears about- it's not clickable or interesting enough, I guess.

A couple of items to get you updated on- first, we are **working with CJTC to find a way to connect any potential academy attendees who may face layoffs** or elimination of their positions with new departments who may have openings. We are all on the same page, and I am just giving you a heads-up that if that occurs, we are working on a "pointer" system so interested agencies will have a way to hire those that may find themselves in that situation, and to do that seamlessly so there is no interruption in training.

Second, we have the **November WASPC conference coming up the week of November 16**. At this point, the current restrictions would not allow a regular conference in Skamania. We are, however, planning to conduct at least an abbreviated conference, which would include virtual training sessions, rather than simply cancel the conference. So- keep those dates available if possible on your calendar and we will firm up the dates and details as we get closer- we are committed to getting you some quality training no matter the circumstance.

[Here](#) is a good article this week on the **new Chief at Eastern Washington University**- congratulations Chief Day!

Here is a worthwhile [story](#) on the new **Jail Commander at the Yakima City corrections facility**- I really appreciate the way Yakima actively assisted a great employee with ongoing career development.

Here is **Cowlitz County SO's annual report**- I am attaching it because Sheriff Thurman and his team did a great job on this and it's a good example if you choose to do something similar.

Here is a [statement](#) from the IACP on the ambush of the two LA County Sheriff's Deputies.

Stay Safe!

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs