



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Sheriff John Nowels
Spokane County

President-Elect

Chief Rafael Padilla
City of Kent

Vice President

Sheriff Joe Kriete
Grant County

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City of Redmond

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VACANT

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Chief Sam White
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Police Department

Chief John Batiste
Washington State Patrol

Mike Herrington, SAC
FBI—Seattle

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM

WASPC Office / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

President **John Nowels** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Executive Board Members Present:

Sheriff John Nowels, President
Chief Rafael Padilla, President-Elect
Sheriff Joe Kriete, Vice President
Chief Darrell Lowe, Past President
Chief Damon Simmons, Treasurer
Chief Cole Langdon
Chief Rebecca Mertzig
Sheriff Clay Myers
Chief Rick Johnson
Sheriff Mike Morrison
Chief Sam White
Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge - FBI – Seattle

Staff Present:

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director
Jamie Weimer, Chief of Staff
Rachelle Harwood, Executive Assistant

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for 9/17/2025: **Motion made to approve minutes by Sheriff Myers. Second by Chief Lowe. Motion passed unanimously.**

REPORTS

Finance Committee Report:

SAO Accountability Audit

The audit is in the final stages. We have provided the requested documentation and are awaiting next steps.

WASPC Grant Requests

Two grant requests were reviewed by the committee.

1. Omak PD – Staff support \$58,031.50
Community Outreach Response Engagement FTE 1 yr.
2. Liberty Lake Police Department – Mental Health Counselor \$40,000

Both grants are larger than the annual grant budget. Staff will discuss other potential funding opportunities with the agencies.

Disbursements

Check number 47961 through 48143 (11/10/25 through 1/31/26) for \$4,191,304.28 (full listing provided in board packet)

Motion made to approve disbursements by Chief Padilla. Second by Sheriff Myers. Motion passed unanimously.

Contribution Request

The Wa Law Enforcement Exploring Advisors (WLEEA) has requested a \$2000 donation for their yearly scholarship fund. WASPC has provided support in prior years. Historically, WASPC has limited donations to only the WLEEA and the Chief for a day programs.

Motion made to approve request by Chief Lowe. Second by Sheriff Kriete. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Update:

Executive Director Steven D. Strachan provided an update on current organizational and external matters. He shared feedback regarding the current legislative environment, noting that due to a short session things are moving fast. HB 2015 remains a particularly difficult issue, requiring ongoing monitoring, engagement, and advocacy efforts.

Director Strachan informed the Board that the Director of the Office of Independent Investigations (OII) has recently resigned also noting that four Washington State Supreme Court Justices are retiring in 2026, marking a significant shift for the judicial branch.

Finally, Director Strachan discussed ongoing World Cup planning and the expected impacts across Washington State. While several events will be centered in specific regions, the planning, security, transportation, and public safety considerations will affect agencies statewide.

OLD BUSINESS

Legal Matter Update — Jamie Weimer

Jamie Weimer provided an update regarding the ongoing legal matter. As of November 20th the suit was dismissed. WASPC has taken this as an opportunity to refine processes and training.

NEW BUSINESS

WASPC Committee Charter Changes:

Boating Safety Committee

Committee Charter shall stay as it currently reads. No changes at this time.

Professional Services Committee

The executive Board will task the Professional Services Committee with updating their charter to remove Executive Search and add Training and Education updates.

Technology Committee

Motion made to approve the technology Committee Charter by Sheriff Morrison. Second by Sheriff Kriete. Motion passed unanimously.

Accreditation Commissioners

As of December 31, 2025, there are several changes in the makeup of the Accreditation Commission requiring Board action. In summary those changes include:

Commissioner Joe Upton (Accreditation Manager) – retirement
Commissioner Joe Kriete (Elected sheriff) – term expired
Commissioner Ryan Spurling (Elected sheriff) – term expired
Commissioner Matt Brown (Accreditation Manager) – term expired
Commissioner Raf Padilla (Jail manager) – term expired

Criteria used for consideration of potential new candidates included:

1. Must be from an agency currently WASPC Accredited;
2. Experience with the WASPC Accreditation program;
3. Demonstrated good judgement;
4. Geographical balance representing agencies from both eastern and western Washington;
5. Ability to consistently attend Accreditation Commission meetings.

Based on these criteria, the following recommendations are presented for your consideration:

Commissioner Joe Kriete – appoint to a new term three-year term;
Commissioner Ryan Spurling – appoint to a new three-year term;
Commissioner Matt Brown – appoint to a new three-year term;
Commissioner Raf Padilla – appoint to a new three-year term;

In consideration of replacing Commissioner Upton, Kathy Armstrong (Spokane Police Department) has extensive experience with the WASPC Accreditation program and thus is recommended to appointment her to a three-year term. Kathy is the accreditation manager for a large agency and has assisted with numerous accreditation assessments as well as providing mentorship to newly accredited agencies. Kathy is highly knowledgeable on our program and is a frequent attendee to our conferences and accreditation trainings. Kathy would be a great asset to our list of distinguished commissioners.

Motion made to approve the changes to the Accreditation Commissioners by Chief Lowe. Second by Chief Langdon. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Member Disciplinary Proceedings

The Board considered matters related to member disciplinary proceedings.

Motion made to approve the plan for disciplinary proceedings by Sheriff Myers. Second by Chief Mertzig. Motion passed unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Approval of Membership Applications

Membership applications were presented for approval.

[Name First]	[Name Last]	[Organization]	Job Title	Sponsor
Colton	Richards	Douglas County	Deputy	Ryan Green
Justin	Gann	Lynnwood	Commander of Police	Coleman Langdon
Gregg	Curtis	Lynnwood Police Department	Jail Manager	Coleman Langdon
James	Scott	Kennewick Police Department	Lieutenant	Chris Guerrero
Derick	Lowe	Sedro-Woolley Police Dept.	Police Sergeant	Dan Mcilraith
Jaime	Newcomb	Lacey Police Department	Lieutenant	Robert Almada
Jake	Greger	Pierce County Sheriff's Department	Major	Keith Swank
Ray	Brady	Olympia Police Department	Deputy Chief	Shelby Parker
Frank	Brown	Pierce County Sheriff's Office	Major	Keith Swank
Erik	Clark	Pierce County Sheriffs Office	Major	Keith Swank
James	Loeffelholz	Pierce County Sheriff's Office	Major	Keith Swank
Jason	Mercer	City of Auburn	Chief Prosecuter	Mark Callier
Lawrence	Grant	Liquor & Cannibus Board	Chief/ Enforcement & Education Division Director	Mergerl
Glenn	Dewitt	Stanwood Police Department	Chief	Susanna Johnson
Robert	Goetz	Everett Police Department	Chief	Susanna Johnson

Motion made to approve the changes to the Membership Applications by Chief Padilla. Second by Chief Mertzig. Motion passed unanimously.

2026 Executive Board Meeting Schedule

The following meeting dates were reviewed:

- **March 18, 2026** | WASPC Office

- **May 13, 2026** | Spokane Convention Center
- **September 22–24, 2026** | Executive Retreat
- **November 10, 2026** | Three Rivers Convention Center

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Chief Padilla. Second by Sheriff Myers. Motion passed unanimously.