

News **Splash**

FROM THE POOL

Washington Governmental Entity Pool
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Winter 2007

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Mark A. Kammers, Ex Officio

Executive Director, WGEP

Gordon Graham

Another Successful Training Seminar

What do you think of when you contemplate the word *risk*? When you attend a Gordon Graham presentation, you'll likely recognize your business as one that approaches risk as status quo, or one that realizes "the way business is

innovative approach to risk challenges us all to think twice about any activity involved in our organization. According to Gordon, "Risk Management is any activity that involves the evaluation of or comparison of risks and the development, selection, and implementation of

"Gordon is engaging and informative. I found value to add to many aspects of both work and home and was re-inspired toward being the difference!"

Pat Bara, Lake Stevens Sewer District

done must be re-evaluated." A retired Captain from the California Highway Patrol, Gordon Graham's sense of humor, dynamic personality, entertaining instruction, and

control measures that change, reduce, or eliminate the probability of the consequences of a harmful action." However, when *Gordy* says it, you're likely to be holding your

(GORDY Continued on page 3)

2008 Renewal Questionnaire

Policy Year 2007 has just begun and it's time to start thinking about Policy Year 2008!

Around the first of January, each member will receive a personalized Policy Year 2008 Renewal Questionnaire for the Pool's liability coverage. The questionnaire will list the information provided to

WGEP last year. This is the form which asks how many labor hours or emergency runs (for fire districts) your organization had in the 2006 calendar year. There are also member specific questions (questions specific to Ports, Park & Recreation Districts, Water Districts, etc.). The questionnaires are due back to WGEP no later than January 31st.



The Mission of WGEP

To serve as a risk sharing pool of local governments and special purpose districts operated and controlled by members. Our purpose is to provide stability through financial risk sharing and risk management service responsive to members' needs.

The Risk Factor... by SHERYL BRANDT

Q. When being served with lawsuit papers, who can accept the service?

If you are the designated individual for your entity to accept service and are served in person, it is fine to accept service. If you are served via mail, and are asked to waive personnel service, please contact your entity's attorney and/or WGEP. Generally, we recommend to not accept service through the mail.

Every entity should have on

record with the county auditor the individual who will accept service on behalf of their entity. There is now a penalty for failing to have an individual on record.

Please contact your county auditor immediately if you do not have someone from your entity on record to accept service. For a sample resolution, please contact the WGEP office at 800.462.8418.

Q. If our district is sued, what should we do?

Notify your entity's attorney and WGEP. WGEP will review the lawsuit and

inform you if it is covered under the Memorandum of Coverage.

Website and Email Address Change

Please note that WGEP has changed the extensions of the web site and email addresses for all staff. Before, wgep.spokane.wa.us followed the www. and each staff member's first initial and last name. We have dropped the .spokane.wa. Please update any and all address books that may contain the old extension address.

WGEP's new website is now:

www.wgep.us

Following are the new email addresses for the WGEP staff.

Mark Kammers, Executive Director

mkammers@wgep.us

Sheryl Brandt, Dir. Claims & Risk

sbrandt@wgep.us

Rafaela Ortiz, Dir. Admin. & HR

rortiz@wgep.us

If you wish to submit a question for Sheryl Brandt, Director of Claims and Risk Management, please visit our website at www.wgep.us*. Click on *Frequently Asked Questions* on the navigation bar to find the link to submit your question.

Suzanne Heath, Finance Services

suzanne@wgep.us

Joanne Bisquera, Member Services

jbisquera@wgep.us

Kathy Johns, AA Claims & Risk

kjohns@wgep.us

Marivic Mendoza, AA Board/Mktg.

mmendoza@wgep.us

Sue Cronk, AA Admin & HR

scronk@wgep.us

Kristin Martin, Receptionist

kmartin@wgep.us

Thank you for noting this change!

The POOL is GROWING...

And we'd like to welcome our newest members:

Greater Wenatchee Regional Events Center PFD

Klickitat County FPD #1

Klickitat County FPD #4

Lagoon Point Water District

Lewis County Cemetery District #1

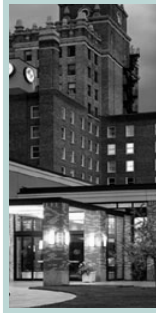
Pend Oreille County FPD #6

Snohomish County Public Facilities District

As of December 1, 2006, WGEP is 417 members strong!

WGEP Board Meetings

February 7	Board workshop
February 8	Board meeting
May 23–24	Board retreat
May 25	Board meeting
August 1	Board workshop
August 2	Board meeting
November 7	Board workshop
November 8	Annual Members' & Board meeting



The Board retreat in May will be held at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center in Walla Walla on May 23-24, 2007, followed by a Board meeting on May 25. Other meetings are held in Spokane at the WGEP office.

For more information on any of the above meetings, contact Marivic Mendoza at 800.462.8418 or mmendoza@wgep.us*

(GORDY Continued from page 1)

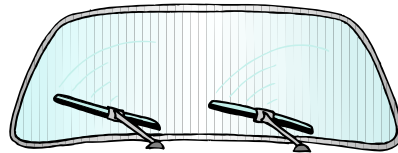
sides or slapping your knee. The many talents of this attorney, consultant, lecturer, and author include the ability to take a relatively “risky” topic and weave it into a day that makes a lasting impression.

Managing the overall risks of your organization and managing the risk of a specific event or incident were the two major themes the approximately 100 member participants heard on November 6 & 7 at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee and the Everett Events Center, respectively. Mr. Graham recognized customer service as alive and well in the United States – his examples included the success of companies like Nordstrom, Starbucks, and Lexus. He firmly believes their philosophy on the topic is directly related to their success.

When you attend a Gordon Graham presentation, you discover that the predictions and perpetrations of risk are very human. The tools he can provide to your organization are identifiable and implementable. The potential impact of his training on your organization can be immediately felt when you spend your day in his audience. Good decisions are an essential component of getting things done right. WGEP thanks **you** for making the decision of staff time to attend our fall training.

WGEP is always open to suggestions regarding training topics and preferred locations. Please contact Membership Services Coordinator, Joanne Bisquera, at jbisquera@wgep.us* for your risk management training needs.

Windshield Replacement



During the fall and winter months, sand may be used to make our roads safer from the build up of ice and snow. Over time, sand and gravel accumulate onto the roadways increasing the possibility of windshield damage. During these months, you may need to replace or repair a windshield.

For windshield replacement, the member’s auto physical damage deductible applies. For windshield repairs, there is no deductible.

The member’s vehicle must be listed on the WGEP vehicle schedule as having auto physical damage coverage.

If you need a windshield repair or replacement, please contact Kathy Johns at 800.462.8418 for more information.

The CEO's Take... by MARK A. KAMMERS

At the Annual Members' and Board of Directors meeting in November, the Washington Governmental Entity Pool reported favorable year-end results for fiscal year 2006. WGEP continues to dominate financial solvency with a profound 95% confidence level rating determined by the independent actuarial firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. This comes as no surprise

"the annual rates charged to members remain at 30% below average market prices"

because the Board of Directors has strategically targeted the steady increase of net assets to create a contingency fund to protect the future of the pool and to lessen the dependency upon the wholesale insurance market. The logic is very simple; the more the pool retains in net assets, the more control the pool has over reinsurance and the more stable the rates will be in the future. Each year the Board of Directors has dedicated a minimum of 5% of the annual revenue to net assets. While the financial success of the pool continues to gain ground, the annual rates charged to members remain at 30% below average market prices.

The financial assets of the pool grew to \$16.4 million or 14.7%.

The pool's annual operating revenue grew by 10% to \$6.3 million, largely due to growth, while operating expense was limited to only a 4.7% increase. The net assets of the pool (or members' equity) grew \$1.3 million for a total of \$5.2 million.

While maintaining a very positive financial position, WGEP is committed in providing the best possible coverage, price, and service as driven by the mission statement and continues to embrace the highest ethical standard of transparency regarding the governance of the operations.

The members are the owners of WGEP. The elected Board of Directors and staff are entrusted and driven to ensure the assets of the pools are protected by the best practices standards known in the pooling sector nationwide. The financial outlook and rates for next year and the foreseeable future is also positive because WGEP is proactively managing growth, strategically setting benchmarks, and transferring risk when appropriate.



2006 Claims Audit

WGEP has completed the 2006 independent claims audit performed by Marsh, Inc. Thanks to our dedicated claims staff, the results are very favorable. The auditor was especially impressed with our new claims management information system. The conclusion states, "WGEP is a well managed and effective government entity pool."



WASHINGTON STATE'S PREMIER RISK SHARING POOL

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Business Hours
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday

News Splash is a quarterly newsletter of the Washington Governmental Entity Pool. Produced by member services, copies are typically mailed to the commissioners/directors and contacts of the Member. If you would like to change the number of newsletters received, please call the office or fill out our General Information form on the WGEP website.

News Splash is also available on the web at: www.wgеп.us.

If you have risk management issues you'd like to be addressed in this newsletter, or any other comments or questions, please contact Membership Services Coordinator, Joanne Bisquera, at 800.462.8418 or jbisquera@wgеп.us.

* PLEASE NOTE:

Address extensions for WGEP have changed. Please update any address books you may have for your contacts at the Pool. We have dropped the *.spokane.wa* from our web address and email addresses.

Thank you