



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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January 3, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director:

None of us are accustomed to writing "2020" yet, but it did make me think about the fact that it was now twenty years ago that I was assigned as the overnight Shift Sergeant at my department at the time to plan and respond to the expected "Y2K" bugs. The computer crashes were predicted to result in all the planes falling from the sky, unintended missile launches, and widespread power outages. I think back and wonder what, exactly, the night shift Sergeant of a medium sized suburb was going to do about all that... but we prepared as best we could! We were pleased that none of that happened.

Here are a few updates for you as we begin the New Year:

As I mentioned a few newsletters ago, the Office of Financial Management issued their report recommending a "**Single-Point**" **firearms background check system**, and that it be housed at the State Patrol. We expect a bipartisan bill to be introduced soon for the upcoming session and that the concept will receive strong support legislatively. James McMahan, our Policy Director, will be providing updates on this and all the other legislative issues coming up with regular updates for those who have signed up to the Legislative Committee" listserv- if you would like to get those notifications, please contact Deb Gregory at [dgregory@waspc.org](mailto:dgregory@waspc.org). She will get you added to the list.

If you have not already marked it on your calendar, this year's **Law and Justice Day will be January 29, starting at 0900**, in the Columbia Room at the Capitol. If you wish, we will again provide shuttles from our offices in Lacey so you don't have to deal with parking- the shuttles will return at regular intervals so you can come back when you choose until about 2:30.

At the fall meeting of the Training and Education Committee in Chelan in November, we discussed and approved budgeting for staff or other resources to coordinate **executive development for law enforcement leaders** across the state. The Executive Board approved this request. Training Co-Chairs Chief Rod Covey and Sheriff Drew Hyer followed that by asking for volunteers who wanted to serve on an ad hoc subcommittee to look at identifying/creating a leadership training program that would help with the development of leaders in our state to better prepare them for executive level positions in law enforcement. There was an overwhelming number of people who wanted to assist, so many so that we may not have captured everyone's name. So with that in mind, if you have an interest into providing input and feedback on possible courses of action, you are invited to attend the first meeting of this group on Friday, January 24th at our building in Lacey. This meeting will take place from 0900-1200.

WASPC is looking to get feedback on a program that could be rolled out state-wide by as early as this summer, but we first need to know if it is going to meet the needs of our members. Additionally, we are looking to ensure any leadership training we implement to avoid duplicating anything being offered by CJTC. Related to this, there is a need to ensure that beginning at the first-line supervisor level, there are no gaps in the training provided. In other words, for the critical knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) required of sergeants, lieutenants, captains, commanders, and majors, there is training either through WASPC or CJTC for developing those KSA's. There should be no gaps, and there should be very little duplication of training.

If you plan to attend this meeting, please let Chief Covey's administrative assistant (Jen) know so that we can make sure to have adequate handouts and chairs for everyone - [Robinson.j@portseattle.org](mailto:Robinson.j@portseattle.org). Copy Chief Covey at [covey.r@portseattle.org](mailto:covey.r@portseattle.org). If you are unable to attend this meeting, but want to provide some input into this initiative, please send your comments to Rod and/or Sheriff Drew Hyer - [dhyer@co.garfield.wa.us](mailto:dhyer@co.garfield.wa.us). For those of you unable to attend, we will be putting together a summary of the meeting along with handouts and next steps, which I will get you in one of our newsletters.

For those of you who may not have been to our office before, here is our address:

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Finally, following the **tragic loss of Pierce County Deputy Cooper Dyson** on December 21 and the memorial last week, Pierce County Deputies visited a little boy who attended the procession. Even with their grief, the PCSO team took the time to visit this young man. If you have not seen it, it is worth reading this story from his parents which was posted on Facebook:

*Today Lamont had his 5th birthday party. He wanted a police party, where he could wear his uniform and no one would ask him if he knew Halloween was over. It's a common question because to him, he is an officer; why would anyone question his choice of uniforms? His role changes, sometimes he's the bomb squad, a SWAT officer, a deputy, animal control, a K9 handler (our dogs are not free from rigorous training,) the Chief of Police and the Sheriff. He is always "on duty" and occasionally "undercover." Outburst in the car "Pull over! That guy just littered and I have to give him a ticket." This particular day, celebrating his birthday means much more to us. His 5 short years on earth and he is a triple stroke survivor, he has overcome medical complexities that baffle even the best neurologist and hematologist at Seattle Childrens. He's autistic and until the last year and a half, he was completely nonverbal. With help of his forming eidetic memory he's fluent in OT, Speech Therapy, MRIs and medical lingo that no child should be aware of. He knows that he cannot take ibuprofen because he has kidney disease.*

*Now he's a chatter box, repetition about police gear, why cities, counties and state have different law enforcement agencies.. he is completely obsessed with law enforcement. We don't force him to wear his uniform but we don't discourage him either and when the opportunity arises, we do indulge him with special community events that give him access to bombard officers with various questions, give high fives and of course throw in the unpredictable stuff that a small child will say. Such as him once telling an deputy "I'm the sheriff, so you can go home. I've got it covered." Or another time asking an officer "Does your mom still make you take naps?" Lots of this is trivial to most people. To us it's monumental. These profound thoughts formed into words. Coming from a child we never thought would say "mom" or "dog."*

*At the funeral procession for Deputy Cooper Dyson yesterday he stood at attention with his right hand at his soft forehead. He said "mom, I know this is a sad day but I can't wait to have this many brothers and sisters."*

*All of his dreams unfolded tonight, in his home, his comfort zone. A knock on the door and he answered it, complete speechlessness, shock and slight embarrassment flooded him. In walked Sheriff Paul Pastor and three amazing deputies from the [Pierce County Sheriff's Office](#) cupcakes in hand. This moment will live a long time here in our home. They shared a cupcake and had some small talk. Sheriff Pastor swore in him in and pinned his deputy badge on him.*

*An extremely heartfelt thank you to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office for coming to our home and sealing*

*this bond in an ever wearying community. Taking this time to build a lifelong positive relationship. Although often not acknowledged nearly enough for the amount of wonderful and often life changing moments that the deputies are responsible for, they keep doing it daily. They are acknowledged today.*

*We close 2019 with the happiest 5 year old in all the land. The one with the light shining bright on his multi agency uniform.*



Condolences and thank you to Sheriff Pastor and all of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office! We will never forget Deputy Dyson's sacrifice.

Have a great weekend

***Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe***

**Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director**  
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