

WATOA NEWS

from Judy Devall

December 2006



WATOA has many successes to celebrate for 2006. The accomplishments are the proof of dedication, passion, and stepping out of comfort zones. I was privileged to serve as your 2006 WATOA President. Achieving this position was most definitely me stepping out of my comfort zone. I like to be in the background, helping, working on the details. This time I have learned how tough it truly is to be a leader. Organizing a dedicated and capable board is in no way a challenge. The WATOA Board of Directors are very professional and gave more than 100 percent. If I asked for some help I always knew it would be there. That in itself is a huge success for an organization, especially with the size of our state. But learning to write organizational letters to Congressman and Representatives, and to make phone calls and speak on behalf of WATOA at the first ever Telecom Public Forum was all new for me. I believe I have grown a lot from the experience and understand more, even if at times I admitted to being frustrated with our system of government (like I'm the only one) it still pays to be persistent in a worthy goal. Our WATOA Membership increased 17 percent. We had a great turn out at our Workshop in Woodinville. Charter and Comcast were very honest when they said Municipalities had a tough legislative year ahead of them. The Fall Conference was attended by our National President Lori Panzino-Tillery and Statewide Franchising expert Gerry Lederer, which by the way, the video tapes and binders may be purchased at \$40.00 for both. A fantastic combination and tool at an exceptional price. Please contact Chas to place your order. The Presidents' reception was held at the Capitol Theater and the accommodations at the Garden Inn hotel and the food preparation was awesome. We did spend a little bit on this conference, so if you would be so inclined please place your order today for the binder and video! Gerry's report and presentation on Statewide Franchising is our number one topic for 2007. WATOA will celebrate a short victory from a 2006 National Franchising Bill not passing. We need to stay focused and diligent for January 2007 when statewide franchising is knocking on our sate door.

Randy Beehler will Chair the Technical Committee to work with AWC's Victoria Lincoln. I will participate in this committee as well and we need others to be prepared to join the battle against Statewide Franchising Legislation.

The FCC has passed rules for video franchising. They have not been reviewed yet. NATOA will post reports as information becomes available.

I look forward to working with WATOA in 2007 in the position of Immediate Past President. I am confident Jill Novik will provide constant and dedicated leadership, and I hope to see you all our at first workshop. A very Happy New Year to everyone.

Thank you,

Judy

On behalf of the Nomination Committee (Carol Mathewson - Chair, Chris Jaramillo and Chas Hilton) I am pleased to announce the **2007 WATOA Board of Directors** :

Jill Novik	President
Chas Hilton	Vice President
Marie Stake	Secretary
Ann Suter	Treasurer
Judy Devall	Past President
Regional Representatives:	
Mehdi Sadri	North & Puget
George Geyer	Puget & Coastal Areas
Sandy Garrett	Rainier Valley
Marlene Feist	Northeast
Janis Perry	At-Large (5,000 subs or less

NATOA NEWS

COMMUNICATING WITH CONGRESS - NATOA encourages Local Governments to Communicate with Elected Officials. Visit www.natoa.org

NATOA Annual Conference 2007 will be held in Portland, Oregon!

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