

WATOA NEWS

WATOA FALL CONFERENCE

October 2006



October 19 & 20

The fall conference will take place in Downtown Yakima at the New Hilton Garden Inn.

Gerry Lederer from Washington DC will be the keynote speaker. Lori Panzino-Tillery, President of NATOA will bring an update from NATOA and present on many aspects of HR5252. Randy Lewis will provide insight and instruction on how to Lobby, and Victoria Lincoln will bring us the view from Olympia. There will be a panel discussion on how PEG is affected by pending legislation and what all Municipalities must do now.

The registration for the two day conference is \$100.00 and will include lunch for both days. The hotel rate is \$99.00 and the Hilton Garden Inn has extended that rate for Wednesday-Friday. You may reserve your room by calling (509) 454-1111. A registration form is posted at www.watoa.org If you can only attend one day of the conference please preregister with Chas Hilton. Registrations will be taken at the door beginning at 8:00 am Thursday morning. Sessions will begin at 10:00 am on Thursday. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday.

Thursday evening will be a Presidents reception at the Capital Theatre on stage. It will be a treat you won't want to miss. Friday's lunch will include a wonderful local art performance.

I just traveled over Snoqualmie Pass this last weekend. The fall colors are beginning to show and it is just beautiful. The journey from Spokane, Walla Walla and Portland should prove to be just as nice. Yakima has been enjoying wonderful warm fall days. The forecast predicts sunny days at about 65-67 degrees.

WATOA CALL FOR 2007 BOARD OFFICERS.

Please email your nomination or volunteer to jd@midvalleytv.com. The slate of officers will be sent by mail ballot in October following the fall conference, the ballots will be collected and verified by the Nomination Committee and announced in November.

Jill Novik is your 2007 WATOA President

If you would like to sign up to participate or chair a 2007 WATOA Standing Committee: Legislative, Nominating, By-Laws and Membership please email jd@midvalleytv.com

The majority of Board meetings are held by monthly Teleconference calls.

HR5252

Advanced Telecommunications Opportunity Reform Act HR5252 The time is becoming short for this bill to be brought before the Senate this session. This is not a cue to relax. The Senate will need 60 votes to move this bill to the floor, or this bill could be attached to an omnibus bill that may force Senators to vote on it if attached to something more important that they want passed. You must contact your Representatives of the Senate and inform them to not let this happen. The legislation has too many flaws and negative impacts on local governments, Internet, White Noise licenses, cell phone tax, and other issues, if passed this year as written. If it does not pass this session we still will need to be diligent to work with our Representatives. Next year Congress will focus on a Telecom Rewrite.

State Franchising most likely will be an issue for Washington next session. We must act now to inform Olympia on the negative impacts of State Franchising. Seattle and Enumclaw have shared letters they are sending. Olympia must hear from us now! Victoria Lincoln, AWC has offered support on this topic. If you have specific points you want heard on behalf of your city

NATOA NEWS

COMMUNICATING WITH CONGRESS - NATOA encourages Local Governments to Communicate with Elected Officials. Visit www.natoa.org for examples and Information. The Policy/Advocacy page has information on Telecom legislative issue updates.

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

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