

**These excerpts were taken from "A History of the Washington City Management Association and the Council-Manager Plan of Government in the State of Washington" by Robert Maxwell Clark, 1985**

My purpose in taking these limited excerpts is to highlight a few themes from the history of our organization that link us to our past. These few passages and my observations may encourage you to read the whole history which provides some valuable insight into the history of this association and the council/manager form of government in Washington.

Lynn Karl Nordby, ICMA-CM

WCMA Secretary Treasurer

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Note that at this earliest time in the history of WCMA legislative issues were at the forefront. (LKN 9/13)

On April 10, 1959 the first organizational meeting was held by managers and supervisors of the state of Washington. After a brief discussion, the motion to form the Washington City Managers' Association was unanimously adopted. A proposed draft of the constitution and by-laws

for the WCMA was adopted after some discussion on specific points.

Officers nominated and unanimously elected were David D. Rowlands (CM, Tacoma) as President, George Hubbert (CM, Sunnyside) as Vice President, John Nicholson (CM, Normandy Park) as Secretary-Treasurer, with Archie French (CM, Anacortes) and Ben Mead (CM, Ellensburg) as members of the Board of Directors. The ensuing discussion focused on WCMA representation at the Association of Washington Cities. In what would turn out to be a long standing point of contention, it was suggested that two city managers be appointed to the Executive Committee of the AWC. Further discussion centered on matters to be discussed at the upcoming AWC Conference in June, and how those issues might be favorably resolved for cities at the next legislative session.

First and foremost was WCMA's focus on the state legislature. Financially strapped cities were being squeezed from two directions: on one side spiraling costs of exorbitant pension systems as a result of successful lobbying efforts by police and fire unions, and on the other side by the state's failure to re-apportion on an equitable basis receipts from sales and gas taxes. The sales tax issue would not be resolved favorably until the passage of Initiative 226 in 1967, while earlier progress was realized on the gas tax measure (1963). Other key legislative issues between 1959 and 1963 included the enactment of model planning legislation and measures intended to get under some control the burgeoning number of special purpose districts.

As early as 1966 WCMA was trying to establish working relationship with the University of Washington for the benefit of the professionals engaged in public management. (LKN 9/13)

Earlier efforts by Dave Rowlands, Joe Miller and Dean Hunter to establish a local source of professional training finally paid off in the fall of 1966. The first of four annual Urban Administrators Workshops, sponsored by the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, was held at Alderbrook Inn on Hood Canal. Funded under Title I of the 1965 Higher Education Act, they were led by Dr. Ernest Miller. Curriculum for the three day session centered around management and policy issues of urban governments and included participants from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The opportunities for women and minorities to contribute to professional city and county management in Washington were an early WCMA priority. (On a personal note, it was Severo Esquivel who told me about the MPA program at the University of Puget Sound after I was unable to find any program in the region that catered to working professionals with courses held in the evenings.) (LKN 9/13)

In late 1972 Mrs. Bernice Sowden of Medina became the first woman in the state to assume full and regular appointment as a City Manager, a position she would hold for five years.

An effort begun by ICMA to encourage the participation of assistants and minorities in all programs began to show some solid results in 1976. A "Women and Minorities" survey was conducted in March of that year. In April, Severo Esquivel, Assistant City Manager of Tacoma, accepted a newly created position on the WCMA Board for women and minorities. A resolution was adopted the same month at the northwest managers meeting in Portland supporting affirmative action.

We just witnessed the "end of an era" with Al Locke acting as MC of the WCMA awards ceremony at the 2013 Summer Conference. Mr. Clark's description of the "humor and repartee" exhibited by Locke, Hitchman and Miller is an understatement. It's fair and proper to say that their senses of humor were equally matched by their professional skill. (LKN 9/13)

Several members of the Association were however way ahead of the popular emphasis on "doing one's own thing." The humor and repartee exhibited at most any function attended by Al Locke, Don Hitchman and Joe Miller kept everyone either in stitches or on the edge of their chairs. Tacoma's Bill Donaldson could only be described as an unorthodox, outrageously outspoken "individualist". Kennewick's Art Colby exercised his ample dose of wit and satire, utilizing his literary talents as a ghost writer in his spare time.

The Puget Sound Cities Insurance Authority eventually became the Washington Cities Insurance Authority of which I was proud to have served as an Executive Committee member and eventually as President. (LKN 9/13)

Risk management was the subject of much of the 1977 Fall conference at Alderbrook. Specific topics included municipal tort liability, loss control and insurance legislation. Concern over this subject and passage of legislation in 1980 permitting insurance pooling led to the formation of the Puget Sound Cities Insurance Authority in 1981.

Spearheaded by Olympia's Eldon Marshall and then Dick Cushing of Kent, nine cities jointly self-insured their liability exposures and secured professional risk management services.

As noted above we witnessed the end of an era with Al Locke's participation in the 2013 Summer Conference. This shows just how long his service to local government in Washington has been. Also of note is that Charlie Earl mentioned below also came to the banquet at the 2013 Summer Conference. He recently retired from a long and successful career in state and local government service and Donna Hansen is currently in transition and has been an active WCMA member. (LKN 9/13)

Postscript: 1985

A couple of interesting "firsts" in the WCMA so far this year: First, WCMA is under the direction(?) of a County Manager(!), Charlie Earl. Secondly, Donna Hansen (CM, Normandy Park) became the State's first City Manager to give birth to a baby girl. Last but certainly not least, the City of Kirkland will soon have their first "second" City Manager with the retirement of Al Locke this June. Best wishes Al!