TO: The Board of Fire Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some of the benefits of membership in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association:

1. Legislative representation for all districts; the Legislature enacts laws under which we are governed and the association provides full time legislative liaison representation so that fire districts receive consideration.

2. The WFCA is a recognized fire service source of administrative education for districts. Our annual seminar series offers many important subjects including: interpretation of laws governing fire districts, available funding, conduct of board meetings, responsibilities to employees (whether volunteer or not) and other subjects vital to the successful operation of a fire district. Tuition assistance is available to districts with budget limitations.

3. An annual conference which includes classroom seminars and time for a relaxed interchange of ideas.

4. Broad health care and dental contract coverage is available to qualified personnel of member fire districts. (Note: Commissioners electing to participate in the medical/dental program must pay their own premium).

5. The newsletter Fireline which updates current activities within the fire service as well as providing information on available used equipment.

6. Fire District Lawbook—RCW 52 and other statutes that pertain to fire protection districts—an electronic copy is provided to each member district.

7. Fire Commissioner Handbook—This valuable copyrighted information is updated annually and provided electronically to each member fire district.

8. Fire Service Directory—an annual publication which provides information concerning the fire service in the state, including contact information for departments, districts, commissioners, chiefs and secretaries—one copy is provided to each commissioner, secretary and chief.

9. Official Online Fire Service Directory—The WFCA has launched an on-line, searchable directory containing much of the same information included in the hard copy directory. Members receive login credentials.

10. Wage and benefit updates—a compilation of data including wages, reimbursements, hours, benefits, etc.—an electronic copy is provided to each participating district, upon request.

11. An annual legislative day which gives members the opportunity to discuss fire service issues with their local legislators.

12. A website featuring resources and items of interest to the fire service, classified ads, a calendar of events and links to websites of other pertinent organizations, agencies and districts (visit www wfca wa gov).

13. Pamphlets and helps list (select the Library tab on the WFCA website, www wfca wa gov).

14. Notification to fire districts of county and regional association meetings and workshops.

15. Research and liaison services with state, local governments and other authorities.

16. Telephone and written responses to specific questions concerning fire district operations.
17. Research and consultation with the providers of all forms of insurance in order to help fire districts obtain adequate health care contracts and general liability protection.

18. In cooperation with the Association of Washington Cities, long-term care insurance coverage for LEOFF 1 employees.

19. Staff attends many county and regional association meetings to provide updates on current activities of the fire service as well as one on one discussions of local issues and programs.

20. Staff meetings with individual districts (upon request).

21. WFCA Board members attend regional and county association meetings for firsthand response and input for the betterment of the association.

22. Staff serves as a liaison with the state auditor for specific follow-up and help on audits.

23. Election help: lid lifts, bonds, special levy and benefit charge information.

24. Ongoing negotiations to preserve fire district funding authority and capacity.

Approximately 84% of fire districts in the state are active participating members in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association. These district commissioners, and other personnel, freely give of their own time and resources to help others. At our annual conference we see an exchange of ideas between district officials which helps provide better service to their communities. An association cannot do everything for its members; it can only serve as a focal point and central agency for an exchange of ideas with its primary function as a service organization for the membership.

The Board urges all of you to help the association, through your input and participation, to better serve fire districts in the state of Washington.

If you would like to ask a question about the WFCA please call any of the 2012 Board of Directors or Executive Secretary listed below:

Miland Walling, President (Klickitat 2) ................................................................. (541) 980-4185
Jim Farrell, Vice President (Mountain View Fire & Rescue) ................................. (253) 939-2569
Dave Fergus, Secretary-Treasurer (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue) ..................... (360) 377-8773
Joe Dawson, Region 1 (Spokane Valley Fire Dept.) .............................................. (509) 924-2619
Brad Langdell, Region 2 (Walla Walla 5) ............................................................... (509) 544-9199
Dwight Vander Vorste, Region 3 (Grant 10) ......................................................... (509) 346-9208
Les Riel, Region 4 (Yakima 4) .............................................................................. (509) 248-1190
Steve Lich, Region 5 (Camano Island Fire & Rescue) .......................................... (360) 387-7432
Chris Elwell, Region 6 (King 2) ............................................................................ (206) 784-8206
Verne Pierson, Region 7 (Graham Fire & Rescue) .............................................. (253) 875-5477
Keith Merritt, Region 8 (Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue) ............................................. (360) 423-7128
Gene Carmody, Region 9 (Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue) ...................................... (360) 437-4024
Roger Ferris, WFCA Executive Secretary ........................................................... (360) 943-3880/1-800-491-9322