From the President

Sheriff Dave Brown
Skamania County, WA

Since our birth as a nation, America has long been recognized as a nation founded on principles of freedom and individual liberty.

We are nation that recognizes the Rule of Law. There can be no perfect system for governing the imperfect, but for hundreds of years millions of people have shared a belief that the founding principles of America provide the best opportunity for individuals to seek out a productive life free from oppression.

As time has gone by our federal government has seeped into many facets of the American lifestyle. Our federal government has exercised enormous growth in recent decades and with that growth came the foreseeable urge to exert control and power. This federal control is most evident in the restriction of the use of public lands across the western United States.

Our nations Sheriffs' have long been at the center of the constitutional debate between the self-described "patriots" of America and the federal land management agencies. Federal land management agencies have promulgated rules and regulations that have longed restricted the open and multiple use of our nation's public lands. These rules and regulations often hamper the commercial efforts of our nation's ranchers, miners and loggers and can have very negative economic impacts on local communities, and the ability of local governments and schools to effectively provide basic services and education.

The restriction of the use of public lands can strike deep discontent within the hearts of American Citizens. Experiencing the reality that federal land management agencies have turned a deaf ear to the ideas and desires of local and State governments, the WSSA has, in recent years, taken a firm stand in ensuring that federal law enforcement on these lands be conducted consistent with the philosophy of the County Sheriff.

> We must resist ignoring the rule of law in order to change the law.

WSSA believes it is imperative that all local elected officials remain vigilant and strive to be fully informed on issues that impact the effective and appropriate management of our nation's public lands. The WSSA also believes it is incumbent on all citizens to appreciate and respect the mechanisms that have been established to affect change in our nation.

We must resist ignoring the rule of law in order to change the law.

We are charged with utilizing all legal methods in order to realize results that are consistent with the intent of the framers of our constitution and the legislative bodies who are elected to represent "we the people."

The members of the WSSA remain committed to protecting the rights of those we represent as enumerated in the constitution of the United States and the various constitutions of our member states. Remaining true to our oath of office and ensuring the unalienable rights granted to all persons is what defines us as elected officials and will undoubtedly preserve this constitutional republic so many of us have to come to appreciate and to love.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Western States Sheriffs Association is to assist Sheriffs and their Offices with Federal and State legislative issues, address policy and procedural matters, develop guidelines to promote uniformity in matters that are important to Sheriffs of the Western United States and to work together to keep the Office of Sheriff strong.

Man Up Crusade makes donation

This year the WSSA officially became a sponsor and supporter of the MAN UP CRUSADE.

This effort brings awareness to the issue of domestic violence across the United States.

In an effort to promote the cause of the MAN UP CRUSADE and the Western Sheriffs, the two entities sponsored a booth at the PBR finals in Las Vegas in October. This proved to be a great venue to provide information to attendees and to further the cause of both organizations.

In our effort to continue to promote the great work being done by the MAN UP CRUSADE, we are designating one day at our 2016 annual conference as "Purple Day." Purple is the official color of the MAN UP CRUSADE. Our fund raising efforts on this day will be passed on to the foundation to assist them in getting the word out.

WSSA is a proud sponsor of the MAN UP CRUSADE and we encourage you to become a donor and sponsor as well. To learn more about the MAN UP CRUSADE go to their link at www.manupcrusade.com

Did you know?

Across our 15 member states there is over 1 billion acres of land.

The federal government owns over 325 million of these acres or just over 31 percent.

WSSA Congressional Testimony

The Western States Sheriffs' Association has worked tirelessly over the past several years to slow the incursion of federal law enforcement across our nation's public lands.

We value the relationships we have been able to build with the law enforcement leadership within the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. While we do not always agree on everything, we have reached agreement with regards to the role and responsibility of the Office of Sheriff.

This past year WSSA was invited to Washington D.C. to testify before a congressional subcommittee regarding the "Accountability, Tactics and Policies" of our federal public lands law enforcement providers. WSSA President Dave Brown, Skamania County, Washington provided oral testimony at the House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing in July.

WSSA offered recommendations to improve the efficiency of federal law enforcement on public lands and increase opportunities to increase cooperative law enforcement contract dollars used by Sheriffs to patrol National Forest Lands.

As a result of the hearing, House Resolution (H.R. 3824) has been introduced on the floor of the House.

WSSA will now work with congressional representatives to create a final version that best represents the position of the Western Sheriffs.

About the Western States Sheriffs Association (WSSA)

The Western States Sheriffs' Association is comprised of Sheriffs and their command staff from 15 Western States that include Washington, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, Texas and Oklahoma.

The Association was formed in 1993 in an effort to allow Sheriffs to assist each other in fulfilling their duties and obligations related to law enforcement in their respective counties.

The mission of the Western States Sheriffs' Association is to assist Sheriffs and their Offices with Federal and State legislative issues, address policy and procedural matters, develop guidelines to promote uniformity in matters that are important to Sheriffs of the Western United States and to work together to keep the office of the Sheriff strong.

"The Sheriffs in the Western United States are faced with many issues that you do not find in the east. The wide open spaces and abundant public land require Sheriffs to work on developing and maintaining relationships with Federal and State agencies in order to provide effective law enforcement services in our respective counties.

The Western Sheriffs' maintain responsibility for the traditional law enforce¬ment needs of the county including search and rescue, tribal issues, jails and many other traditional Sheriff responsibilities.

This past year our executive board leadership team was fortunate to attend State Sheriff Association meetings in 12 of our 15 member states. WSSA recognizes the importance of our member Sheriffs and has long known the value of networking with our members in their home states.

The public safety issues that Sheriffs are faced with are common across the west. The WSSA leadership is passionate about ensuring ideas and best practices are shared with our members. It is also imperative that we stay connected throughout our western states in an effort to increase awareness of the WSSA and promote the organization in order to increase individual membership.

WSSA Addresses Texas Sheriffs

Our strength is found in our common issues and our combined voice.
To you Sheriffs in Nevada, New Mexico and Utah, we look forward to visiting with you in 2016.

National Sheriff's Association (NSA) President

Sheriff Danny Glick

The Western States Sheriffs' Association was founded because the Western Sheriffs did not feel the National Sheriffs' Association was representing them well on issues that were both pertinent and relevant to western Sheriffs. After 22 years of existence, both the WSSA and NSA have realized the mutual benefits each organization can offer the other. Through a great deal of persistence and a willingness to affect change, Sheriffs from across the west have gained positions on the NSA executive board and have worked their way through to the position of NSA President. The voice of the WSSA is heard in the arena of NSA now and it is a trend that will continue. In July this year, Sheriff Danny Glick, Laramie County Wyoming, was inducted as President of the NSA. Sheriff Glick has been a long time member of the WSSA and a tireless advocate for Sheriffs' across the western United States. Our membership congratulates Sheriff Glick and all the western Sheriffs past and current who serve on the NSA executive board and board of directors.
It is our hope that the efforts of the WSSA members who serve at the National level will prove to be of great benefit in bringing attention to the important issues across our western lands.

Sheriff Tom Bergin
Clatsop County, OR

Sheriff of the Year

WSSA has a long history of recognizing the accomplishments of our members. For the past several years we have selected one of our member Sheriffs to receive the associations "Sheriff of the Year" award.

Nominations taken from the membership are considered and selected by a committee of peers.

This past year, Clatsop County Oregon Sheriff Tom Bergin was awarded the 2014-2015 Western States Sheriffs' Association, Sheriff of the Year.

WSSA is proud to have Sheriff Bergin as a member and for the many contributions he has given to further the cause of WSSA.

Past recipients of the

WSSA Sheriff of the Year

2008-2009- Sheriff Dave Brown, Skamania County, WA

2009-2010- Sheriff Andy Bentz, Malheur County, OR

2010-2011- Sheriff Chris Kirk, Brazos County, TX

2011-2012 Sheriff Danny Glick, Laramie County, WY.

2012 - 2013 Sheriff Heath White, Torrance County NM

2013 - 2014 Sheriff John Cooke, Weld County, CO

WSSA Executive Director

Retired Sheriff Jim Pond

Every organization, business, farm or ranch has someone who takes care of the business on a day to day basis.
The WSSA is no different and our foreman or top hand is our executive director Jim Pond.

After a long career in law enforcement, Jim retired as Sheriff from Albany Co. Wyoming in 2010 and stepped into the role of executive director of WSSA in 2013.

Jim has been a long time member of WSSA and is one who has a strong and complete understanding of the role and the history of the Office of Sheriff.
Bringing his knowledge to the position of executive director, Jim is able to guide and prod the executive board and the membership in a path that best represents our mission and long-term strategic plan.

Jim has been very active in making certain that WSSA is well represented at the various state association meetings throughout the west.

Additionally, Jim stays current on issues affecting the office of sheriff and the western lands within our jurisdictions. Keeping current on issues related to public lands, grazing, mining, federal surplus programs, jail issues and a myriad of other public safety concerns, Jim has helped promote the WSSA across the U.S.

On behalf of the membership and the executive board of the WSSA, we offer our gratitude for your service and appreciation for all you do to promote the office of sheriff.

Visit us on the Web:

westernsheriffs.org

And 'Like' us on Facebook!

$$ How can you help?

Our efforts as an association require a great deal of support from our membership. We have been fortunate to see a strong desire from Sheriffs' across the western U.S. to participate in the many issues we have taken on.

You can help as well.
Your consideration of financial support is critical to our ability to continue to project a strong voice on issues that are important to you.

We would be extremely grateful if you would consider making a donation to the Western States Sheriffs' Association. As a 501c3 corporation, your donation is tax deductible.

All donations can be sent to:

Western States Sheriffs' Association
474 Rogers Canyon Road
Laramie, Wyoming 82072
Attn: Jim Pond, Executive Director

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