



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

DISH *from the* DOLLIVER

July 2010

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CORPORATIONS & CHARITIES DIVISION

this ISSUE

- Corporations for Communities
- New Fees Aug. 1st
- Service Organization meeting summary

more INSIDE

Happenings	2
The Buzz	2
News Tidbits	3
Highlights	3
Helpful Hunts	4

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Washington businesses making a difference



Corporations for Communities

Coming September 1, Corporations for Communities will open the nomination process for its third round of recognizing corporations that give back to their communities. Award recipients for the upcoming nomination period will be announced this November.

Secretary of State Sam Reed created the recognition program “Corporations for Communities” in August 2009 to recognize standout businesses in Washington that make community a priority. “Corporations for Communities” is part of Reed’s third-term mission to encourage civic engagement and community involvement. The purpose is to applaud businesses that embody Reed’s “giving back” charge, honor its employees at a spe-

cial ceremony and award them with the state’s highest civics award – the National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Awards.

Anyone is able to nominate businesses for this honor. Any for-profit corporation, Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), or Limited Partnership is eligible for this award. The nominee must be registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and be in compliance with state and federal laws.

For your chance to nominate a great organization that has made a difference to you or your community, keep an eye on the awards program tab at our website www.sos.wa.gov/corps.

the BUZZ

Corporations information available on new iPhone app

Our cutting-edge Corporations Division is at it again. It just went live with an iPhone app that will allow customers to do corporation searches similar to the Corporations website from an iPhone. You will be able to find out if a company is registered, if it's current, what is the UBI, and who are the corporate officers and registered agent.

To download the application, search for "Washington State Corporations Lookup" from within the app store on your iPhone.

Back in May, we blogged about our new Android app that allows you to check on the status of registered Washington corporations from your phone. In fact, we are the first state to offer this info via Android, a feat noted by Public CIO Magazine.

We're the fifth state to offer corporation info searches on iPhone.

HAPPENINGS

NEW FEES—NEW DROP BOX

Effective August 1, 2010, the Corporation and Charities Division will see a change in fees:

- **Profit and LLC annual renewals** will be **\$69** (up from \$59)
- **LLP annual renewals** will be **\$60** (up from \$50)
- **LP annual reports** will be **\$60** (up from \$50)
- **Charities amendments** will be **free** (down from \$10)
- **Commercial Fundraiser registration** fee will be **\$300** (up from \$250)
- **Commercial Fundraiser renewal** fee will be **\$225** (up from \$175)
- **Filing of a commercial fundraiser contract** will be **\$20** (up from \$10)

NOTE: LPs are now required to file **annual** reports rather than periodic reports, as of July 1, 2010.

- **Paper and in-person expedite service** will be **\$50** (up from \$20)
- **Statements of change of registered agent or office** will be **free** (down from \$10)

CHARITIES

- **Charities registration** fee will be **\$60** (up from \$20)
- **Charities renewal** fee will be **\$40** (up from \$10)

For those who do not need their filings completed immediately and do not want to pay the expedite fee, we have made a "drop box" available for services.

Documents can be placed into an envelope that is provided, along with a check or credit card authorization and dropped in the secured box. Your documents will be processed in the standard time.

You are also welcome to receive service at the counter and have your payment validated, and have your documents placed into the standard process.

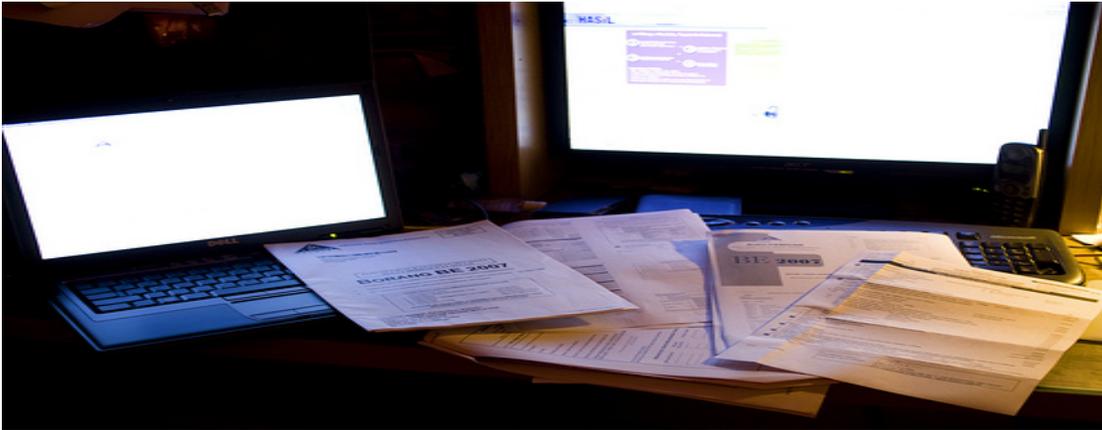
Service Organization Meeting Summary

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our June 23 meeting with service organizations.

We appreciate your time and input in our efforts to be sure we are meeting your needs. Below are some of the highlights of input:

- Changes to online formation to allow for provisional articles to be attached, and provide for numbering of sections (that means the numbering of the articles). Possibly adding an "opt out" choice.
- Improve online renewal print-out
- Put Initial Annual Report online.
- More options and details to online store.
- Train SOS teams to send online materials to the contact person, not the registered agent.
- Improve renewal postcards.
- Improve LLC online formation process.
- Give incorporators online the choice of where to send the returned documents.

HIGHLIGHTS



NEW FEES—ADDED INFORMATION

Online fee still \$20

Please note that if a customer walks into the office and asks us to “pull” an online filing for processing at the front counter we will be collecting an additional \$ 50 in-person fee.

Paper Expedite (In-Person, mail and fax) fee goes from \$20 to \$50

This fee applies to all customers and all documents including:

- Reinstatements
- All Reports, Statements of Change, resignations, etc.
- Trademarks
- Domestic Partnership filings
- Certificates or Certified Documents
- Charities filings

Expedite fee will NOT be charged for:

- Photo copies from the desktop computer or the Records Center.
Please note that copies which require extensive research will be charged the \$50 expedite fee for in-person service.
- Copy requests received by mail, fax, dropped off by organizations or ordered through our online store will be processed on a regular basis (3-5 business days) - Expedited service is not available.

CORPORATION FILING FEE CHANGES

- **Statement of Change forms can be filed at no cost (down from \$10)**

Expedited service is available for \$50

- **Profit and LLC Annual Reports go from \$59 to \$69**

This change will affect:

- Reinstatement fees (calculated by Secretary of State)
- “Back fees” for foreign corporations doing business in Washington before qualification. These fees will increase from \$7 per month to \$7.85 per month (7/31/10 and prior will remain \$7 per month and \$7.85 will begin 8/1/10)

News TIDBITS

NEW STAFF— As a result of fee changes approved by the 2010 Legislature, the Corporations and Charities Division is hiring several new staff to help improve our timeliness in filing documents, answering phones, and responding to customer service requests.

We are also in the process of hiring a Charities and Nonprofit Education Coordinator to help us provide education to our nonprofit and charitable organizations in the areas of compliance, fiduciary responsibilities, and other matters.

FURLOUGH DAYS— You may have heard or read recently that many state agencies are closing one day a month to help with the tight budget situation. The Corporations and Charities Division will not be taking furlough days like other agencies. The Secretary of State’s Office chose to reduce the budget in other areas in order to keep our doors open for customers—so come on in!

Your feedback makes a difference

If you have feedback or questions on any article in this newsletter or would like to see a specific topic in the next publication, send your input and/or suggestions to Kathy Kimbel, Manager at kimbel@sos.wa.gov or call her direct at (360) 725-0330

HELPFUL HINTS

NEW! CORPORATIONS TEXT FILE AVAILABLE

As of July 20, 2010, the entire Corporations database is available at www.sos.wa.gov/corps/corps_search.aspx.

Just click on the link for downloading the file and find that you now have a choice of XML or tab delimited formats.

If you recently downloaded the corporations XML data from the site, the file may have been incomplete. If so, please re-download the

information to ensure an accurate record. An error in the extraction process was corrected on July 20, and the new tab delimited format was added.

The website offers tips and instructions on using the data as well. The average file size is 70Mb, 750 MB uncompressed.



ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SOS.WA.GOV/CORPS/

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