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contact US

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Washington Secretary of State

A message from Sam Reed

Dear Friends,

As many of you may know, I recently announced that I will not run for re-election next year. I will retire as Secretary of State after January 9, 2013. This is a bittersweet decision for me and my family. I have such love and respect for this office and for the opportunities to serve the people of Washington.

But it is true, there is 'a time and a season' and for Margie and me, it is time to move on at the end of this four-year term.

Our office has compiled a remarkable list of accomplishments during the past 10½ years, particularly in elections, our State Library and State Archives, and fostering greater appreciation of Washington's history and heritage.

I'm pleased that we have improved the customer-service culture at our Corporations Division, including more efficient turnaround times. Our recently created Corporations for Communities program rewards Washington companies that excel in volunteerism and giving back to their communities.

I'm also proud of the work done by our Charities Division, which helps protect consumers by registering and tracking charity solicitors. We have streamlined charities' registration and added a whole new education program for them.



I am leaving elective office, but not public service. I plan to stay involved by being an enthusiastic volunteer in non-profits and charities, lecturing, writing and spending time on college campuses.

I will continue to champion civic engagement by all of us, working to build stronger communities that are inclusive of all.



the BUZZ**CORPORATIONS AND
CHARITIES DIVISION:**

THANKS!

Our director, Pam Floyd, and the team at corporations and charities would like to say thank you to all of the service organizations that attended the third annual service organization meeting. One of the purposes of this meeting was to share information on changes in law, policies, and procedures. But more importantly, we needed feedback from very important customers on how we can meet their needs better. If you couldn't make it to the meeting but have comments for us, please send an email to:

patrick.reed@sos.wa.gov or call Pam Floyd directly at 360-725-0310. She'd love to hear from you!

STORY IDEAS?

Send them to Patrick Reed, Manager in the Corporation and Charities Division at patrick.reed@sos.wa.gov

HAPPENINGS***2011 Legislative Amendments—Charities*****2011 Legislative Amendments to the Charitable Solicitations Act will take Effect August 1.**

The Charitable Solicitations Act, 19.09 RCW, was amended during the 2011 Legislative Session. Many of those changes have reduced the registration process with the Secretary of State's Charities Program. Some of the changes include:

- Organizations that raise less than \$50,000 are not required to register if all the activities are carried out by persons who are unpaid for their services. (Threshold was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000.)
- Organizations required to register are no longer required to attach a copy of their Federal 990, 990EZ, or 990PF with the annual registration.
- Organizations are no longer required to attach a copy of the audited financial statement, if required.

A number of other revisions resulted from the legislation, including agency efficiency measures, such as providing agency authority to the send renewal notices by email. To view a summary of all the changes, please visit the Charities web page at :

www.sos.wa.gov/charities

**MORE CHARITIES UPDATES****NEW – Online Filing Option for Certain Organizations Exempt from Registration!!**

Online filings are now available for organizations conducting fundraising activities in Washington State, but are exempt from the state registration requirements with the Charities Program. If an organization conducts fundraising activities and meets any of the following conditions, the organization

is eligible to submit an online "Optional Registration."

- Any entity that is totally volunteer run *AND* raises less than \$50,000 a year from the public;
- Fundraising activities are on behalf of a specific individual if *ALL* of the proceeds are for the direct benefit of that individual;
- Churches and their Integrated Auxiliaries; and
- Political Organizations

All organizations that qualify are encouraged to complete the online optional registration. It's easy, quick, and it's free! Visit the Charities Program website at [Optional Registration](#) to access the online feature.

HIGHLIGHTS

CORPORATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES (CFC) 2011 NOMINATIONS

July 15-August 31, 2011 marks the time for the public to nominate their favorite community-centric corporations for Washington's highest civics award. Secretary of State Sam Reed announces that August 31 is the deadline to nominate businesses for a Corporations for Communities 2011 Award. The Corporations for Communities program was launched in 2009 by Reed as a way to recognize exceptional Washington businesses that demonstrate a commitment to giving in order to improve local or regional social and environmental conditions. Each year, Reed selects one large and one small corporation from among the public nominations to receive a National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion, which is the highest civics honor awarded by the state.

"This is an opportunity to encourage standout corporations that are choosing to make their community a priority," said Reed. "Particularly in these tough economic times, it's important to cheer on businesses that are going above and beyond to make a difference in Washington."

Anyone is able to nominate businesses for this honor. Any sized for-profit corporation, Limited Liability Company (LLC), or Limited Partnership is eligible for this award. Nomination forms are available on the Washington Secretary of State, Corporations Division web site at www.sos.wa.gov/corps.

NEW MULTI-AGENCY SMALL BUSINESS GUIDE

This spring, several state agencies got together in effort to consolidate the many business resource guides provided to new and prospective businesses.

The result was the Washington State Small Business Guide. This guide contains a wide range of information including sections to plan, start, run, and grow your business. The guide is available now, and can be found at www.ora.wa.gov/business.asp.



MASTER LICENSE SERVICE BECOMES BUSINESS LICENSING SERVICE

July 1, 2011 – Washington State's Business Licensing Service shifts to the Department of Revenue.

Information about the Master License Service, renamed Business Licensing Service (BLS), is now available at <http://business.wa.gov/BLS> or by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-451-7985.

All previous online content has been redirected to the new site. Previous phone numbers will continue to work, too. Those seeking in-person business licensing assistance may visit:

6500 Linderson Way SW, Suite 102
Tumwater, WA 98501
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

The Department of Licensing, <http://www.dol.wa.gov/>, continues to issue, renew, and regulate "professional" licenses

News TIDBITS

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO CLOSE EVERETT OFFICE, OPEN BOTHELL OFFICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Washington State Department of Revenue is closing its Everett office and relocating the staff to its Bothell location. The Everett office will close Aug. 26. The Bothell office will open its new customer service counter on Monday, Aug. 30.

The Bothell office is located at 19800 North Creek Parkway, Suite 101. For directions and contact information, visit our website at dor.wa.gov and click on [Contact us](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

The Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) helps you find the information you need to start and operate your business and navigate environmental permits. ORA – real people with real answers connecting you with the resources you need. Visit our website at www.ora.wa.gov or contact our Information Center at 1-800-917-0043 or help@ora.wa.gov for information.

WHAT DOES "Dish from the Dolliver" MEAN?

The Corporation and Charities Division is located in the historic James M. Dolliver Building in downtown Olympia, named after former Washington State Supreme Court Justice James Dolliver. "Dish" refers to the colloquial expression "dish the dirt."

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Order your copies online!

There are several types of copies that can be ordered with the Secretary of State, Corporations and Charities Division. Did you know many of them are available online? www.sos.wa.gov/corps

The online and paper order price ranges from \$5 to \$20 per document (some surcharges may apply on large documents) and you may select from:

- Last Filed Annual Report
- Certified Last Filed Annual Report
- Original Registration Documents
- Certified Original Registration Document
- Certificate of Incorporation/Formation/Authority
- Certificate of Existence

Typical online orders take approximately 7-14 days to fulfill and return by mail. Should you need certified copies in a hurry, our front counter service is available for an additional \$50 expedite fee per entity. Expedite copy orders are generally processed the same day, or in expedite order received if additional research is needed.

Front counter service is only available in Olympia at this time M-F, 8-5



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

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Washington

