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Reed to honor ABODA, Schweitzer with prestigious civics award



Corporations for Communities

Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed has selected a Redmond real estate and housing firm and a Pullman-based engineering corporation to receive the state's most prestigious civics award this spring.

Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and ABODA were selected from a statewide pool of nominees as spring 2010 award winners of Reed's Corporations for Communities program, which honors exceptional Washington businesses that make community a priority.

"Both of these corporations have gone beyond just lending a helping hand to the community," said Reed. "They have built volunteerism and civics into their operations. The spirit of giving

back is at the core of their businesses."

Reed will also recognize several corporations for honorable mention certificates. This cycle, the honor roll includes Bartell Drugs, Behr Paint Corporation, Burgerville, Costco, Evergreen Ford, General Biodiesel, Mackay & Spósito, and Puget Sound Energy.

Reed will present the two corporations with National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Awards at a reception May 19.

The NASS Medallion is an award that recognizes voter education efforts, civic engagement, government services and businesses that give back.

*the BUZZ**Online corporate search expanded*

Capability to search for a corporation by using "Date of Incorporation" has been added as one of the search features.

A user can now specify start and end dates and any entity that incorporated during that time span will show up in the results of your search.

This capability can be found on our website as part of the advanced search:

www.sos.wa.gov/corps

Did You Know

The Corporations and Charities Division receives a daily average of:

- 550 phone calls
- 2,100 pieces of paper
- 700 paper documents for review and filing
- 185 online documents for review and filing
- 75 research requests

HAPPENINGS*2010 Legislative Session changes*

During the regular and the special session, new legislation passed affecting corporate entities. The new rules have varying effective dates, but most will take effect sometime in July. Here is a partial list:

Domestic LLCs will now be able to reinstate from a voluntary dissolution within 120 days of filing a certificate of dissolution. (HB 2657)

Non-profit corporations have some new dissolution laws. (SHB 3046).

The Commerce Department was tasked with preparing a plan in conjunction with the Small Business Development Center, for increased access to capital and technical assistance by December 1, 2010. They will present this plan to the Governor at that time. (SSSB 6667)

Corporation fees were restructured by HB 2576 and will go into effect on August 1, 2010:

Corporate renewals (annual reports) will increase from \$59 to \$69

Statements of change of registered agent or office will go from \$10 to free – and will soon be available online.

Expedite fees for paper documents will go from \$20 to \$50 (online will stay at \$20)

The fee increases will make the Division self-sustaining and enable hiring of staff according to the volume of work.

Recognize public service

Public Service Recognition Week event is May 5. The Corporations and Charities staff will be available at a booth on the capital campus to answer questions and hand out information between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.

The IRS is sponsoring a Small Business Forum on May 14, from 9am—noon at the Bellevue City Hall.

Information is available at http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/business/documents/WASmallBusinessForum_2010.pdf

*fact of the QUARTER***Online Store: It's busy, busy, busy...**

A few months ago, we launched our online store to allow customers quicker access to documents. The online ordering capability has been a success so far. The most popular requests have been for Certificate of Existence, Certificate of Incorporation, Articles of Incorporation and Annual Reports.

We had 684 online requests in January, 719 in February, and 887 in March.

Find this on our website www.sos.wa.gov/corps and click on New Online Ordering Services.

CHARITIES PROGRAM



Changes

In 2007, the legislature created an education program to educate Charities, their board members, and the general public. In the 2010 legislative session, HB 2576 funded that program with some significant fee changes. The fees will take effect August 1, 2010:

- Charities Registration fee will go from \$20 to \$60
- Charities Renewal fee will go from \$10 to \$40
- Charities Amendments will go from \$10 to \$0
- Charities expedite fee for paper documents will go from \$20 to \$50
- Commercial Fundraiser registration will go from \$250 to \$300

- Commercial Fundraiser Renewal will go from \$175 to \$225
- Filing a commercial fundraiser contract will go from \$10 to \$20

The increases will fund the education program open to all charities and non profits. The nonprofit corporation fees did not change. They remain at \$30 to file articles of incorporation and \$10 for a renewal.

An education coordinator will be hired within the next year and trainings will be held in different regions around the state to minimize travel and expenses.

IRS workshops

The Internal Revenue Service will hold three one-day workshops in Bellevue, WA on May 11, 12 and 13 to help small and mid-sized tax-exempt organizations in the greater Seattle area comply with their tax obligations and maintain their tax-exempt status. The workshops are designed for board members, officers, volunteers and staff of these organizations and for the tax preparers and stakeholders who work with them.

For more information and registration go to www.irs.gov/eo and click on Calendar of Events .

You're INVITED

First meeting for service organizations

Last year, we held our first meeting with service organizations with the goal of opening up our communication lines to be sure we continue to meet the needs of our customers.

From that meeting we committed to generate these quarterly newsletters and also to meet at least once a year to discuss how we are doing and listen to feedback, questions or suggestions .

Check your mailbox soon for an invitation for this year's meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for June 2010.

We are working to make it possible to join the meeting via telephone if you are not able to come in person.

Your feedback makes a difference

Do you have some topics in mind? Please send them to Kathy Kimbel, Production Manager via e-mail at kathy.kimbel@sos.wa.gov or call her direct at (360) 725-0330

TIDBITS

2ESSB 6143 requires additional reporting to DOR by entities who own land, buildings, or other real property in Washington. To obtain this information, DOL and SOS are revising the annual renewal applications to add the following questions:
Has an option agreement been executed in the last 12 months allowing for the future purchase or acquisition of the entity, that, if exercised would result in a sale of real property as defined under RCW 82.45.010(2)?

Has there been a transfer of stock, other financial interest change, or an option agreement exercised during the last 12 months that results in a sale of real property as defined under RCW 82.45.010(2)?

For more information on "controlling interest", please call the Department of Revenue at (360) 570-3265 and choose option 1, or visit their website at www.dor.wa.gov.

HELPFUL HINTS

Common Reasons for Document Rejection



Most common reasons for document rejection:

- Duplicate name
- No entity designation (Co, Inc, LLC, LP)
- Incorrect Registered Agent information
- Not providing valid Certificate of Status for foreign entities
- Not providing nature of business on annual reports
- Using DBA as corporate name on form

- Unauthorized signature on documents (requirements stated in instructions)

These reasons are some of the most common things that will cause a filing to be rejected and rejections are costly.

Please review the instructions for each form and feel free to contact us with questions corps@sos.wa.gov or **360-725-0377**.

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



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