



this ISSUE

- HOA Workshop
- Message from Kim Wyman
- Charities backlog?
- Phone service
- Passwords
- Corporations for Communities (CFC)
- Domestic Partnership reminder
- WSBA CLE Presentation

contact US

Dolliver Building
801 Capitol Way South
MS 40234
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 725-0377
corps@sos.wa.gov

Packed house at the June 28 Homeowners Association workshop

The Charity and Nonprofit Education program presented its first workshop for members of Homeowners and Condominium Associations on June 28 in Tumwater. It was a packed house, and there was a large waiting list for this event.

The featured speaker was Gary Ackerman, an attorney with Foster Pepper, PLLC in Seattle, who has specialized in real estate and homeowners association law for over 30 years. There also was a short afternoon presentation from Evan Ferber, Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County. Some of the comments received after the workshop included:



"Well done. Great coverage of law. Excellent to learn about DRC (Dispute Resolution Center)!"

"Please continue HOA workshops...other attempts have been infrequent and more focused on selling services than improving understanding by the volunteer members of an HOA."

"Definitely worth the time! I have taken many notes which I will share at a meeting. Learned that there are some things we need to improve upon; cleared up some confusion about by-laws vs. Articles of Incorporation vs. CCRs, etc."

The participants had a number of suggestions of things the OSOS can do to improve this type of workshop and the office will be utilizing many of them in future events. We hope to hold a similar event in Spokane in the early fall.

For more information and future events, visit the Charity and Nonprofit Education program page:

www.sos.wa.gov/charities/TrainingSignup

the BUZZ



A MESSAGE FROM
SECRETARY WYMAN:

Washington is blessed with many companies that give back to their communities. You have a chance to help recognize a company by nominating it for a Corporations for Communities Award.

Corporations for Communities is a super program because it shines a spotlight on some of these caring and generous companies. Now more than ever, it is important to honor businesses that make a difference.

If you know of a company that is deserving of this award, please send in a nomination by August 31! Nomination forms are available [here](#).

HAPPENINGS

Information on current services.....

No more charities backlog! Why didn't I wait on hold?

The Secretary of State's Charities Program has streamlined its registration and renewal processes, resulting in faster turnaround times. Due to these changes, the backlog that traditionally forms during the late May peak renewal period did not occur this year and incoming Charities Program mail is currently being processed within two to three business days of receipt.

This amazing team of six oversees the registration of nearly 17,000 records and processes approximately 12,000 renewals annually.



Answer: The Corporations & Charities Division has made several process improvements in recent years to better serve our customers. The average wait time for this past year, July 2012-June 2013, has been barely over two minutes out of 116,750 calls answered.

We try to answer every call as quickly and efficiently as possible to get our customers the information they need.

If you need information about a record in our office you can search our website, send us an email, or call our customer service team.

sos.wa.gov/corps
corps@sos.wa.gov
360-725-0377

Automated Passwords at BLS

Since its launch a few months ago, there have been thousands of passwords retrieved from this new service. As the paper forms are being used less and less, more people are turning to the online solutions to file their annual report.

Currently around 2/3 of all profit businesses required to file an annual report are filing them online. That number has grown consistently for the last couple of years.

Filing annual reports online has become the preferred filing method because it creates a cleaner image for public record, is easier for the customer to complete accurately, and is more efficient for processing.



Renew Your Corporation or LLC

Please sign in to begin

Use the UBI and password printed on your renewal notice.

ABC CLUB, INC C/O JOHN DOE 123 MAIN ST OLYMPIA, WA 98501	Unified Business ID No. 018 588 838 State of Incorporation WA Date of WA Inc./Auth. 07-27-2008 Expiration Date* 07-31-2011	UBI Number
---	---	------------

Important! If the Registered Agent/Office Address information is incorrect, mark the box and complete the reverse side of this form. If the address is incorrect, corrections may not be determined and could result in the dissolution of your company.

RENEWAL SECTION: After renewal your new expiration date will be 07-31-2012.

RENEW ONLINE! Go to: BLS.doc.wa.gov/renewcorp.aspx Use your UBI# and the password: 1737 2638 Password

UBI (Unified Business Identifier)

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Recognize businesses that give back!

Now is your chance to say thank you to a business that does great things in your community!

During these unstable economic times, it's noteworthy when companies make it a point to give back to their community. That's the point behind the Corporations for Communities program that began in 2009 as a way to honor those Washington businesses that make community a priority.

Through August 31 you can nominate any for-profit company registered with the Secretary of State that you have witnessed giving back to the communities they serve.

In September, one large and one small business will be selected from the nominations to receive the Corporations for Communities award, which honors exceptional Washington businesses that make community a priority. Each recipient will be presented with a National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion.

For more information about this award program, to see the nomination criteria, and to submit online nominations, visit <http://www.sos.wa.gov/corps/corpsforcommunities/>



"NASS Medallion"

Reminder—Domestic Partnerships convert to marriage 2014

The Office of the Secretary of State continues to file domestic partnerships. It is important to remember that **all registered domestic partnerships in which the parties are the same sex and at least one partner is 62 years old or older, will automatically convert to marriage on June 30, 2014.** To avoid conversion to marriage, the domestic partnership must dissolve, annul, or have legal separation pending as of June 30.

For more information, please refer to [RCW 26.60.100](http://rcw.wa.gov/RCW_26.60.100).

News TIDBITS

September 28, 2013
Washington small business fair.

One day, one place.
Learn from the experts
what you need to start
and run a business.

Bizfair.org

New business tax workshops with the Department of Revenue.

Attend a Business Outreach workshop to learn the basics of Washington State taxes. This free workshop will help you understand your tax reporting responsibilities. Tax reporting classifications, deductions, sales tax collection, and recordkeeping requirements will be discussed. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions regarding taxes that apply specifically to your business.

dor.wa.gov

Do you want to receive this electronically?

Contact Patrick Reed, at patrick.reed@sos.wa.gov

OSOS participates in May 17 Washington State Bar Association CLE

On May 17, Pam Floyd, Director of Corporations and Charities at the Office of the Secretary of State, joined Chris Brown of Summit Law Group, PLLC, and Elizabeth McNeil of K&L Gates LLP, on a panel to discuss the Top 10 Things Every Business Lawyer Must Know about the Washington LLC Act for the Washington State Bar Association's CLE for business attorneys.

The presentation included coming attractions regarding the revisions slated for 2015, as the bar committee continues rewriting current LLC law. Pam discussed filing requirements at the OSOS and the ongoing project to analyze and build a new online filing system. Chris and Elizabeth wowed the group with info about management of an LLC, what an LLC agreement is, mergers and upcoming conversions, dissolutions, and the corporatization of LLCs.

Other topics covered at the CLE included the Corporation Act, Securities Law, the Law of Cyberspace, Legal Opinions, Uniform Commercial Code, Nonprofit Corporation Law, and Conflicts of Interest.



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