



LEOFF I COALITION

Newsletter

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

Representing Active and Retired Members of the LEOFF I Retirement System

July 2017

LEOFF I Coalition Board 2017-2018

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WA St. Retired Deputy
Sheriff's & Police Officers Association

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Congressman Dave Reichert
Ret. King County Sheriff
Honorary Board Member

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The LEOFF 1 Coalition Board
is all volunteer

2017 Legislative Session Has Finally Concluded for the Third Time



Andy Wilson, President Dave Peery, Secretary Mark Curtis, Lobbyist Joyce Willms, Lobbyist

The Legislators Have Gone Home and We Still Have Our Pension

President of LEOFF I Coalition, Andy Wilson, Secretary, Dave Peery, and Lobbyist, Joyce Willms, lobbied 90 percent of the House of Representatives and 20 percent of the Senate. When speaking to legislators, they all knew LEOFF I Coalition and what we lobby on: no mergers, no access to LEOFF 1 Pension Funds without LEOFF 1 member approval and protecting the LEOFF I Law Enforcement and Retirement Trust Fund. Our concern, simply stated, is the protection of our hard-won employee pension benefits. Thanks to Senator Miloscia (R), Senator Fortunato (R), House of Representatives, and other State Re-

tirement Groups, no merger or fund raid was introduced for 2017. Taking the LEOFF 1 money is a band-aid approach, they need a funding source for education, not our retirement money.

The Coalition is the only organization that represents both Retired Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters with a lobbyist available 24/7 in Olympia.

The LEOFF 1 Coalition is a highly respected organization by the State Legislators and other state retirement groups. If the State Legislature merges one retirement group, who is going to be next? 🇺🇸

If You Have Questions or Need Help, Call Joyce Willms at the LEOFF I Coalition
360-570-1035 • 877-553-6631

The mission of the LEOFF I Coalition is to protect the integrity of the LEOFF 1 Law and LEOFF I Retirement Trust Fund. LEOFF I Coalition members are law enforcement officers and fire fighters.

The LEOFF I Coalition newsletter is for active and retired members of the LEOFF I Retirement System (Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters). LEOFF I Coalition is a 501 c 5 non profit organization. The LEOFF I Coalition and its designer, Washington Media Services, assume no responsibility for the correctness of the information supplied herein or for opinions expressed. Material subject to editing. No portion of this document may be reproduced without written permission from the Coalition president. LEOFF I member database is for official LEOFF I use only. For meeting information call 360-570-1035

LEOFF 1 Coalition

Letter to Our Members



Andy Wilson, President



Dave Peery, Secretary

In April LEOFF 1 Coalition President Andy Wilson and I were invited to meet with representatives of several other LEOFF 1 groups. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a proposal by Retired Fire Fighters of Washington President, Richard Warbrouck, to hire a lobbyist to represent all the LEOFF 1 groups.

Mr. Warbrouck, the paid president and lobbyist of that organization, was proposing that we all band together to hire a single lobbyist to aid in the protection of our LEOFF 1 member's pension and medical benefits in Olympia.

We listened respectfully to the proposal and were told that Mr. Warbrouck had selected a lobbyist that he felt would serve our needs. We were informed that the lobbyist was familiar with the LEOFF 1 Law and that he was married to a retired LEOFF 2 member. Mr. Warbrouck said that a meeting could be arranged so that we could determine for ourselves if that lobbyist would be acceptable to us and would meet with our member's approval.

Both Andy and I had reservations about the proposal but were willing to meet with the proposed lobbyist before making a final decision. Sadly, no such meeting was scheduled. We were left to reach a decision based upon our own information and data. Our decision was simply not to add another lobbyist to our effort or to leave behind our current LEOFF 1 lobbyist, Joyce Willms.

We have worked with all our related LEOFF 1 groups in the past as we saw fit and see no reason not to do so in the future. We also recognize that our members pay no dues, thus obligating them to a monthly payment to support another lobbyist would not be appropriate without their prior approval. Another concern we had was the fact that the proposed lobbyist was married to a retired LEOFF 2 member. While unlikely, that could potentially result in conflicts of interest between our two pension systems.

The Retired Fire Fighters of Washington (RFFOW) is currently an organization that represents both LEOFF 1 and LEOFF 2 members and is an organization that collects annual dues from its' members. That is commendable, and is as it should be for a social organization. Today, it is primarily a LEOFF 1 organization, but Andy and I can easily see that as that organization accepts more LEOFF 2 members, the focus of legislative efforts might well be swayed in directions not necessarily advantageous to our own LEOFF 1 members. Our Coalition members consist of active and retired police officers, fire fighters and deputy sheriffs from around our state who all belong to the LEOFF 1 pension plan. Membership in the Coalition is strictly voluntary and there are no dues. We welcome donations, primarily from members, and from those donations we fund our lobbying efforts and communications costs. None of our board members are paid for their time. We do receive compensation for actual expenses (travel/lodging/printing etc.) which must be approved by the board.

We respect all members of our respective public safety organizations, but there are differences between our pension/medical systems that ensure conflicts of interest can arise between our LEOFF 1 member and LEOFF 2 member interests in Olympia.

We respect all members of our respective public safety organizations, but there are differences between our pension/medical systems that ensure conflicts of interest can arise between our LEOFF 1 member and LEOFF 2 member interests in Olympia. The LEOFF 1 Coalition chooses to avoid those complications by simply representing our own LEOFF 1 member interests as ably as we can within the current structure and with our current lobbyist, Joyce Willms.

We believe that our Coalition members have been well served by Joyce Willms and her organization, Washington Media Services. Their offices are in Olympia and their presence there, as well as her close relationship with members of the legislature have proven invaluable in gaining access to legislative offices that might otherwise be closed to us. As our lobbyist, we can deal directly with Joyce without having to gain consensus between all related LEOFF 1 groups. With her presence in Olympia, our related LEOFF 1 groups can reach her office or can reach our primary board members as quickly as needed in response to legislative actions. If other LEOFF 1 groups choose to employ another lobbyist, we welcome that move and feel certain that we can work with them as we have in the past when our interests coincide.

Simply stated, we choose to remain independent and choose not to become an adjunct to leadership by the RFFOW. There have been a few requests by others to publish our funding levels and a related accounting of financial statements. To those requests we can only reply that we have

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Dave Reichert, Honorary LEOFF 1 Coalition Board Member

*Dave Reichert, Honorary Board Member
LEOFF 1 Coalition*

LEOFF 1 Coalition is proud to announce that Dave Reichert has accepted LEOFF 1 Coalition's request to be an Honorary Board Member for the LEOFF 1 Coalition. Congressman Dave Reichert served as King County Sheriff and is a member of the LEOFF Plan 1 Retirement System.

Congressman Reichert serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, with appointments to three subcommittees: Tax Policy, Human Resources, and Trade, of which he is Chairman.

Congressman Reichert has a remarkable record of service. Decisive leadership, integrity and tireless dedication are his hallmarks. From 1971 through 1976, Reichert was a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. In 1972 he joined the King County Sheriff's Office and in 1997 he became the first elected sheriff in 30 years. Under his leadership, the county saw a significant drop in violent crime. Sheriff Reichert brought national recognition to the Sheriff's Office as head of the Green River Task Force solving the largest serial murder case in U.S. history. As Sheriff, he also brought an unprecedented \$28 million in federal funding to King County law enforcement efforts.

Sheriff Reichert served as president of the Washington State Sheriffs' Association and an executive board member of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. 🐾

Letter to Our Members

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no knowledge of their internal finances, have no interest therein, and feel it prudent to keep our own council. We report only to our members and those government agencies that require that data. We see no need to spend our member's money or time simply to satisfy other's curiosity.

As always, we look forward to working together with our related LEOFF 1 groups in the joint defense of all LEOFF 1 members, spouses and families hard-won pension benefits. That is our core reason for existence and a position we hold dear.

The mission of the LEOFF 1 Coalition is to protect the integrity of the LEOFF 1 Law and LEOFF 1 Retirement Trust Fund. LEOFF 1 Coalition members are Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters. 🐾

Your Pension is Under Attack – Protect You and Your Spouse

The LEOFF 1 Coalition has been established to provide a powerful, efficient and respected voice for members and beneficiaries of the LEOFF 1 Retirement System since March 21, 2001. Our (LEOFF 1 Coalition) objectives shall be to unite ALL Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters, belonging to the LEOFF 1 retirement system. Another objective of the LEOFF 1 Coalition is to continue cooperation between Law Enforcement and Firefighter organizations representing active and retired LEOFF 1 members to protect the integrity of the LEOFF 1 Law and the LEOFF 1 Retirement System Trust Fund. We (LEOFF 1 Coalition) shall disseminate information to all member organizations regarding legislation and related matters which affect the interest and welfare of LEOFF 1 System members and their beneficiaries. We look forward to working together with our related LEOFF 1 groups in the joint defense of all LEOFF 1 members, spouses and families as appropriate and stand ready to share in the cost of legal representation as we see fit.

We need your donations to continue the fight to protect your pension and educate State Legislators.

Your support will pay for:

- Lobbying Expenses
- Legislative Research
- Attorney Fees
- Rent
- Website Updates
- Correspondence with Members and Legislators
- Office Expenses and Phone Bills
- Printing, Mail Prep and Postage
- Travel Expenses



These tasks all cost money. Our only source of funding comes from people such as you. None of our board members and volunteers are paid. We do compensate those members who must travel to meetings.

The LEOFF 1 Coalition and members have worked hard for over 17 years to protect the pension from the Legislature and we can do it again. Legislators want our pension money to balance the budget. The legislators go after the money just about every year, If we all unite, we can stop them again in 2018.

Please make a donation to LEOFF 1 Coalition so we may continue to fight for your pension. 🐾

**Thank You for Your Continued
Support Over the Years!**



LEOFF 1 COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters

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New Board Member Announced

The LEOFF1 Coalition board is pleased to announce our new board member to the organization, Dennis Hooper. He is a retired Spokane Police Officer and is also a board member of the Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriff's and Police Officers Association. Dennis and his wife Diane live in Liberty Lake, WA. Dennis looks forward to being involved with the LEOFF1 Coalition board.

Dennis was born in Spokane, WA where he spent most of his entire life, except for his military time he spent in the Navy as a corpsman. Joined the Spokane Police Dept. in 1965 as a patrolman and was on the Police Beneficial Board for 15 years. Retired in 1989.

Diane was born and raised in Spokane and as Dennis, spent most of her life there. She is a retired nurse. Widowed in 2004, however was very involved with her husband, a Spokane County Deputy Sheriff, who was also a member of the W.S.R.D.S.P.O.A. board during his tenure and 20 years in the organization. 🐾



Joseph E. Fischnaller, Attorney

The Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Coalition mourns the loss of a long-time friend and determined LEOFF 1 advocate. Joe has taken on....and won legal cases involving LEOFF 1 members across the state. His knowledge of LEOFF 1 law and contract law provided a solid defense against challenges our members faced in accessing and utilizing hard-earned medical benefits. He wrote opinions in defense of LEOFF 1 pension issues for members and for the LEOFF 1 laws affecting us all.

Joe passed away recently and apparently had been feeling ill for a brief time prior to passing. The LEOFF 1 Coalition has asked Mr. Fischnaller for advice on many occasions and he was always a dependable and valued source of reasoned, accurate and thoughtful information upon which we came to depend and appreciate.

His loss will be felt by all. His stature and his advocacy for our members will be long-remembered and deeply appreciated. 🐾