



*Left to right: LEOFF I Lobbyist Mark Curtis, Senator Mark Schoesler, R., 9th Dist.*



*Senator Tim Sheldon, D., 35th Dist. Senator Mike Hewitt, R., 16th Dist.*



# LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

Representing Retired and Active Members of the LEOFF I Retirement System

## 2011-2012 Annual Report

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



*Left to right: Senator Randi Becker, LEOFF I Board Member Dave Peery, LEOFF I Treasurer Jerry Birt*



*Left to right: Representative Paul Harris, R., 17th Dist. Representative Barbara Bailey, LEOFF I Lobbyist Mark Curtis, LEOFF I Board Member Dave Peery, Treasurer Jerry Birt*



*Left to right: Representative Gary Alexander, R., 20th Dist., LEOFF I Lobbyist Mark Curtis*



# Annual Report

## LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

### LEOFF I Coalition Board

**President Don Daniels**  
Washington State Law  
Enforcement Association  
Retired Seattle PD

**Lobbyist/Secretary Mark Curtis**  
mwcurtiscraft@comcast.net  
Wa. State Retired Deputy  
Sheriff's & Police Officers Assoc.  
Retired Thurston County  
Sheriff's Office

**Treasurer Jerry Birt**  
jabirt@verizon.net  
Retired Seattle Fire Dept.  
Member At-Large

**Dave Peery**  
Retired Seattle Fire

**Martin Koleber**  
Ret. Fire Tri-Cities  
Member At-Large

**Andy Wilson**  
Retired King Co Sheriff's Office  
Wa. State Ret. Deputy Sheriff's  
& Police

**Gene Martin**  
Retired Yakima Fire  
Member At-Large

**Gary Lentz**  
Ret. Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Member At-Large

**Tom Hawes**  
Ret. Klickitat Co. Deputy Sheriff  
Member At-Large

**Rick McComas**  
Klickitat Co. Sheriff Office  
Member At-Large

## Another Year and We Still Have Our Pension

*By President Don Daniels*

Another year has passed, and we've fought another battle to protect our pension benefits and thankfully we have won another victory.

For the second year in a row, the LEOFF I community has beaten back attempts to merge the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 pension systems. HB 2350 and SB 6563 were bad bills for us. They gave us no benefits, only takeaways, and in reviewing them, we found a number of constitutional and contractual issues.

The LEOFF I Coalition thanks those legislators who helped prevent this ill-advised merger. We also want to thank all of you who took the time to email, write, phone or personally contact your legislators. Your efforts made a real difference in this last campaign.

We can enjoy the latest triumph, but the fight is not over. Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) plans to introduce the merger bill again next year, and we will have to be prepared to fight to protect our pension benefits in the 2013 legislative session.

What really disappoints me in this matter is where the proposal originated: with our LEOFF 2 brothers and sisters. They consciously chose to exclude LEOFF I organizations from participating in the earliest stages of a merger proposal and then attempted to secure passage of the merger bill before our members could mount an adequate response. They were wrong in what they tried to do, and they were wrong in their assessment of their ability to gain bill passage. In my view, they have forfeited any level of trust or respect normally afforded them by being members of our professions.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an article on the 2012 merger bills. It is an overview of the merger problem and what you can do to assist us in our continued fight against the attempt to merge the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 pension plans.

In closing, let me assure you that the coalition will continue its efforts to protect your pension rights and benefits against anyone who would attempt to diminish or control them. 



**There are  
8,000 LEOFF I  
Beneficiaries!**

The LEOFF I Coalition 2011-2012 Annual Report 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.  
Mailing Address: LEOFF I Coalition, 855 Trosper Rd. SW Ste. 108, PMB 127 • Tumwater, WA 98512

**Phone Number**  
360-570-1035

**Website**  
[www.leoff1coalition.org](http://www.leoff1coalition.org)

The LEOFF I Coalition and its designer 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

## Overview of the Merger Bill

State representatives in the House Ways and Means did not have a committee hearing on HB 2350 thanks to the chair and ranking chair, Gary Alexander. The Senate Ways and Means Committee had a committee hearing on SB 6563. Senator Ed Murray (D), King County, and Senator Lisa Brown, (D) Spokane, both sponsored this bad bill. After the committee hearing, they knew there weren't enough votes to pass it out of the committee, so the Senate Ways and Means Democrats attached SB 6563 as part of the Democrat budget.

### 9th Order of Business

Thanks to Republican Senators Joe Zarelli (R), Dist. 18 Clark and Cowlitz Counties, Don Benton (R), Clark County, Mark Schoesler (R), Dist. 9, Adams, Asotin, Franklin, Garfield, Spokane, and Whitman Counties, and Mike Hewitt (R), Dist. 16, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Walla Walla Counties, on Friday March, 2, about 4:50pm during a routine session on the floor, the republicans moved for a 9th order of business, a procedural maneuver that allowed the Republicans to seize control of the Senate floor and advance the Republican budget proposal from the committee to the senate floor. The Republicans used a version of the budget that was submitted by the Governor in December 2011.

With 27 Democrats and 22 Republicans in the senate, the roll call was sounded; all 22 Republicans and 3 moderate Democrat senators (Rodney Tom, Dist. 48, King County; Senator Jim Kastama, Dist 25, Pierce County; Tim Sheldon, Dist. 35, Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Mason and Thurston County) voted for, and passed the **Republican budget, that also stopped the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 merger.** This stopped the WSCFF from being in control of the LEOFF I pension plan. This is what saved your retirement plan. With 25 "yes's" and 24 Democrat "no's," the last time this maneuver was used was in 1997.

**Remember to vote for the people who supported your retirement pension.**

### Legislators Who Were Not LEOFF I Friends



### Sponsors and Supporters of These Bad Bills

The State Senators and House of Representatives legislators that sponsored and supported the BAD BILLS SB 6563 and HB 2350 for the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 merger are as follows:

Senator Ed Murray (D) - Dist. 43, King County  
 Senator Lisa Brown (D) - Dist. 3, Spokane County  
 Senator Craig Pridemore (D) - Dist. 49, Clark County  
 Senator Steve Hobbs (D) - Dist. 44, Snohomish County  
 Senator Nick Harper (D) - Dist. 38, Snohomish County  
 Senator Jeannie Kohl-Welles (D) - Dist. 36, King County  
 Senator Maralyn Chase (D) - Dist. 32, King and Snohomish Counties  
 Senator Steve Conway (D) - Dist. 29, Pierce County  
 Senator Karen Fraser (D) - Dist. 22, Thurston County  
 Senator Paull Shin (D) - Dist. 21, Snohomish County  
 Senator Brian Hatfield (D) - Dist. 19, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties  
 Senator Margarita Prentice (D) - Dist. 11, King County  
 Representative Pat Sullivan (D) - Dist. 47, King County  
 Representative Kevin Van De Wege (D) - Dist. 24, Clallam, Grays Harbor, and Jefferson  
 Representative Chris Reykdal (D) - Dist. 22, Pos. 1, Thurston County  
 Representative Sam Hunt (D) - Dist. 22, Pos. 2, Thurston County  
 Representative Timm Ormsby (D) - Dist. 3, Pos. 2, Spokane County

### The Ways and Means Committee: What Do They Do?

The Senate and House Ways and Means Committee is the primary fiscal committee for the Washington State. The Committee has responsibility for developing operating and capital budgets, and tax and pension policy.

## Who and What Are the Driving Forces Behind These Bills, And Why?

1. Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) was the driving force behind the merger. A merger of the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 pension plans, as these merger bills propose, would give plan 2 members control of the new plan and access to LEOFF I's purported "surplus" or "excess." They believe that any surplus belongs to plan 2 members.
2. Senate Democrats: Why did the Senate Democrats want the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 merger? They wanted the merger because SB 6563 and HB 2350 were created in such a way that would allow the state to skip a \$74 million dollar pay-

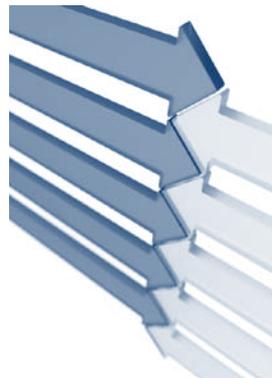
ment to LEOFF 2 pensions, thus helping the Senate Democrat's budget pencil out. They were proposing that the state shift hundreds of millions of dollars in current expenses to the 2013- 2015 budget when the state already expects a shortfall of \$1 to \$2 billion dollars.

3. The WSCFF knew the state Democrats were struggling to develop a balanced state budget and needed more money. As a result, Kelly Fox, two paid lobbyists, and a large number of volunteers went to the Capitol every day during session working hard to lobby in favor of the merger. 🐾

### Why Does the Coalition Oppose the Merger?

The coalition opposes merging plans 1 and 2 for many reasons. Some of the most important reasons are:

1. The bills contain a number of constitutional and contractual issues.
2. Administration of all benefits, including healthcare benefits for LEOFF I members, will be handed over to the merged plan's board of trustees. We fear losing current and future healthcare benefits now decided by local disability boards.
3. We see no additional benefits in these merger bills. We have nothing to gain and much to lose. 🐾



### Money • Fight • Save Your Pension Plan

We need your donations to continue the fight to stop the LEOFF I and LEOFF 2 merger that will continue in the next legislative session.

Your support will pay for:

- Lobbying Expenses
- Attorney Fees
- Legislative Research
- Website Updates
- Correspondence with Members and Legislators
- Office Expenses and Phone Bill
- 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 or volunteers are paid. We do compensate those members who must travel to meetings. 🐾

Check out our website!  
[www.leoff1coalition.org](http://www.leoff1coalition.org)

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





# LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters

PMB 127

855 Trosper RD SW STE 108

Tumwater, WA 98512

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG

U S POSTAGE

PAID

OLYMPIA, WA

PERMIT NO. 78



*Left to right: LEOFF I Coalition Lobbyist, Mark Curtis and Representative Rodney Tom, D. 48th Dist.*



*Representative Barbara Bailey, R. 10th Dist.*

*Representative Ed Orcutt R., 18th Dist.*



# LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

# 2011-2012 Annual Report



*Left to right: LEOFF I Coalition Lobbyist, Mark Curtis and Senator Jim Kastama, D. 25th Dist.*



*Left to right: LEOFF I Lobbyist Mark Curtis, Representative Mike Armstrong R., 12th Dist.*