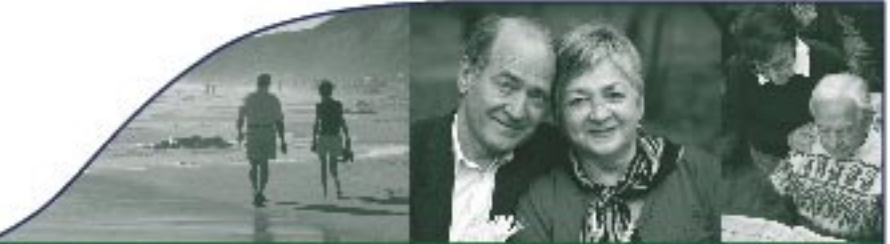




# LEOFF I COALITION

Representing Active and Retired Members of the LEOFF I Retirement System



August-September 2006

## Attend the LEOFF I Coalition Education Seminar September 12, 18, 22, & 29

**T**he LEOFF I Coalition now offers education and clarification on what your rights are. Any LEOFF I Coalition member and spouse can attend. This is free, no cost!


Some confusion has occurred:

- About what is necessary medical care. It may be viewed differently

by individual boards.

- Concerns occur when in conjunction with calculating prior LEOFF I law.
- We can educate on the meaning of the Snohomish County civil suit impact upon the responsibility of the board

decisions on medical benefits.

- Death benefits.
- We can explain what law says.
- We can explain some of the complaints that come out of controversial decisions by employers or impacts on boards. 

## Meet the Speakers...LEOFF I Coalition Education Seminar

### Dan Downs



**D**an Downs is a retired Fire Fighter, retiring as a Battalion Chief from the City of Richland Fire Department with

37 years of service. He is a member of the City of Richland Fireman's Pension Board, which serves as a Retirement and Disability Board, administering benefits of prior Pension Acts and as a Disability Board for the administration of LEOFF I benefits. He has served on the Board for 32 years. Dan is a past Washington State Council of Firefighters Dist. 2 Representative, a position he held for 13 years. During that time, he also served as

*(continued on page 2)*

### Joe Fischnaller



**J**oe Fischnaller completed his undergraduate work at the University of Washington and Central

Washington State College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business and economics, while working full time as a law enforcement officer for the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office.

He then attended the Gonzaga University School of Law, from which he received a Juris Doctorate degree in 1973, and was admitted to practice in Washington that same year.

Joe has been engaged in the private

*(continued on page 2)*

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



### Inside This Issue

- LEOFF I Coalition Education Seminar
- Meet the Speakers
- Seminar Schedule
- In the News
- Missing Member List



## LEOFF I Coalition Board

May 2006 through May 2007

**Bob Monize**, President

**Mark Curtis**, Vice President

**Jerry Birt**, Treasurer

**Don Daniels**, Secretary

**Don Kelsey**

**Gene Martin**

### Other Board Members:

**David Peery**

**Andy Wilson**

**Ed Caalim**

**Rich Greenshields**,  
at large member

**Dave Grayson**, Honored Retired  
V.P. Advisor

**Dana Williams**, Atty.,  
Registered Agent

The LEOFF I Coalition Newsletter, is an informational update for active and retired members of the LEOFF I Retirement System. Comments from the public are encouraged and should be sent to:

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4605 John Luhr Rd NE  
Olympia, WA 98516

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*Disclaimer: This publication contains opinions, interpretations, assumptions and predictions of various authors. LEOFF I Coalition, its management and WMS do not make warranties with respect to accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information in this publication.*


# Meet the Speakers...

## LEOFF I Coalition Education Seminar

(continued from page 1)

### Dan Downs *continued*

Vice President of the Council for eight years.

He served as the Chairman of the Pension and Legislative Committees for the Council and assisted in writing and lobbying for changes to the Pension Acts and Collective Bargaining Acts for Fire and Law Enforcement. He served as a State Representative for the International Association of Firefighters, trouble shooting Pension and Collective Bargaining problems for members of IAFF locals. He has owned and operated DD Labor Relations Consulting for the past 21 years. Dan is the current President of the Washington State Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Education Association, a position he has held for the past eight years. He has served on numerous panels on Pension issues and is regarded as one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the State on the Prior Acts, (41.16, 41.18, and 41.20). Dan is called upon by employers, boards and members to assist in resolving problems or questions about LEOFF I and/or the Prior Pension Acts. 


### Joe Fischnaller *continued*

practice of law, within the state of Washington, continuously since 1973. Mr. Fischnaller is admitted to practice before all State and Federal courts in Washington, and before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Fischnaller's special areas of practice include general civil trial and

appellate work, in both federal and state courts. He has extensive experience representing public employees before trial boards, administrative agencies and government boards of various kinds, and he has developed expertise in personal injury work, disability law, and in both public and private sector labor and employment law.

Mr. Fischnaller has handled many hundreds of police and firefighter disability cases dealing with every imaginable issue, and is, without question, the most experienced attorney in the state representing firefighters and police officers in connection with LEOFF disability claims, and is responsible for more Court of Appeals and Supreme Court decisions regarding LEOFF related issues than any other attorney.

After twenty-nine years of practicing law as a partner and the head of litigation in a mid-sized downtown Seattle law firm, Joe was still very much in love with the practice of law, but becoming increasingly tired of the additional administrative and supervisory responsibilities that come with being a partner in a law firm. Joe left his law firm and the hour long Seattle commute behind and moved his practice from Seattle to the Bellevue, effective July 1, 2001 where he continues to practice in the areas of Complex Litigation, Personal Injury, Public and Private Sector Employment and Labor Law, Commercial Litigation, LEOFF I and LEOFF II matters, Maritime and Admiralty Law, and Appeals. 

# Education Seminar Schedule

September 12, 18, 22, & 29, 2006

**Speakers are:** Dan Downs, rimrock@bentonrea.com  
Atty. Joe Fischnaller, Joe@jeflaw.com

Attendees are requested to pre-file questions with the speakers to allow them to contemplate or research your questions in advance of meeting for better responses.

**When and where:** **Tuesday, Sept. 12th • Lewis Co. Court House • 10:00 – 11:30 am**

345 W. Main St., Chehalis, WA. East of exit #77 hwy, 6 exit.  
Call Mark Curtis for assistance (360) 402-3853.

**Monday, Sept. 18th • Nile Shrine Center • 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Moundake Terrace – 6601 244th St. SW  
Off I-5 Exit 177, go West only about 100 yards, turn right into the grounds.  
A cafeteria is available for early birds and lunch.  
Call Mark Curtis for assistance (360) 402-3853.

**Friday, Sept. 22nd • Spokane Fire Dept. Training Center • 10:00 – 11:30 am**

1618 Rebecca, Spokane, WA.  
If coming from downtown or, Gonzaga U., drive east on Mission St. past Greene St.  
If coming from Spokane Valley or East side, drive West on Trent until it branches into mission. Or, take the freeway, get off the freeway on Freya exit and go North.  
If lost, call (509)625-7151.

**Friday, Sept. 29th • Mid Columbia Library, Kennewick • 10:00 to 11:30 am**

1620 So. Union, Kennewick, WA.  
From the west, drive south down 240, turn South at the Columbia Center Blvd, go to 10th, left to Union and south to the Library.  
If lost, call Joyce Willis, Librarian, (509) 783-7878.

**Don't forget to mark your calendar for one of the  
LEOFF I Coalition Education Seminars!  
Bring your spouse! This is as huge a benefit to them as it is to you!**

# In the News...

- Legislators lobbied this summer revealed no known proposed legislative Bill that would affect LEOFF I, at least not yet.
- Your Coalition Treasury is at \$171,466.47, with good CD interest rate management.
- Our share of the Commingled Trust Fund was at \$5,561,851,508.37, according to the State Investment Board, for June 30, 2006. It has been going up steadily. Our fund is in good shape at this time.
- We ask that you contact your legislators who are running for office and wish them well and to remember

that our position on pensions is that all of our pension funds belong to funding the benefits of LEOFF I members until a court of law says otherwise.

- We continue with arranging Coalition telephone trees for activation when and if a major problem with the legislature may occur. We are also asking for volunteers to serve to activate the phone trees. Volunteers please contact Mark Curtis, (360) 491-8282, email [mwcurtiscraft@comcast.net](mailto:mwcurtiscraft@comcast.net).

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

**Please help us relocate members who dropped off our address list as follows:**

Bakotich, Pete – Hoquiam  
Borgen, Donald & Virginia – Chehalis  
Bowker, Robert – Camano Island  
Ciminski, Gary & Randi – Oak Harbor  
Cothorn, Rick – Stanwood  
Cook, Jess & Leola – Freeland  
Cull, James – Marysville  
Danielson, Larry & Randi – Coupeville  
Emory, Lester – Marysville  
Enger, Bill – Camano Island  
Foxe, Jerry – Arlington  
Greene, Bonnie & Robert – Marysville

Haster, Karen & Patrick – Coupeville  
Kingston, William – Arlington  
Mushrucker, A.N. – White Salmon  
Mucshrucker, Connie & Tony – White Salmon  
Newsom, Barry – LaConner  
O'Brien, William – Coupeville  
Powers, Jim – LaConner  
Schaller, Robert – Stanwood  
Schmidt, James – Hoquiam  
Slack, Carmen & Patrick – Camano Island  
Smith, Ronald – Marysville  
Tayer, Jeff – Othello

**Please report address changes to Mark Curtis, [mwcurtiscraft@comcast.net](mailto:mwcurtiscraft@comcast.net), (360) 491-8282.  
LEOFF I Coalition • 4605 John Luhr Rd. NE • Olympia, WA 98516**



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4605 John Luhr Rd NE  
Olympia, WA 98516

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