



OPEN LINE

Official Publication of the
Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association

TRAINING CRISIS NEGOTIATORS SINCE 1986

September 2026



**A LETTER TO
SPOKANE
CHIEF OF POLICE**

**VICE PRESIDENT
ANDI O'BRIEN**

Dear Chief Hall,

The WSHNA Executive Board would like to extend its deepest appreciation to the Spokane Police Department for serving as the 2026 WSHNA Host Agency.

The negotiators and staff of the Spokane Police Department worked tirelessly to host more than 300 negotiators who attended the 2026 Challenge and Seminar. Negotiators from throughout the western states had the opportunity to visit the Spokane area for purposeful training, professional development, and valuable networking opportunities.

The WSHNA Board was extremely impressed by the professionalism, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by your members. Hosting an event of this magnitude is no easy mission, and your team

went above and beyond all expectations to ensure its success.

Please accept this formal expression of appreciation for each of the Spokane Police Department members who participated in the planning and execution of the seminar, as well as for their leader, Lieutenant Dan Waters and Chairman Officer Ryan Snider. We hope your agency will consider issuing a letter of commendation to each member in recognition of the exceptional work they contributed both before and during the seminar.

As an organization, WSHNA would not enjoy its continued success without the tremendous behind-the-scenes efforts of each host agency. The Spokane Police Department exceeded our expectations and should take great pride in the success your team helped bring to our organization.

On behalf of the WSHNA Board of Directors, thank you for your outstanding service, professionalism, and commitment to the crisis and hostage negotiation community.

EVERYBODY LIKES AN 'ATTA-BOY'

Consider recognizing a deserving team member with an annual WSHNA Award. More details www.wshna.com.

**SOME BASIC SEMINAR INFORMATION**

The Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association (WSHNA) is excited to be traveling to Salem, Oregon for our 41st

Annual Training Seminar. Our 2027 Training Seminar will also feature a full day Negotiation Team Challenge on Sunday, April 25, 2027. There is a separate free registration link for the HNT Challenge. Our Challenge Event continues to be an enormous success and a quality training experience. Space is limited, so gather your team and enter now or you can register as an observer. **Note: You must be a registered seminar attendee to participate in the competition.**

Our Training Seminar will be at the Salem Convention Center adjacent to our host hotel, The Grand Hotel. All attendees can stay at The Grand Hotel or our overflow hotel across the street, Holman Riverfront Park Hotel. Links for both hotels at the negotiated WSHNA rate are at www.wshna.com. HNT Challenge, April 25th at 8:00AM, Seminar Check-In & Hospitality April 25th, Training Seminar April 26th, 27th, & 28th. Hospitality & social events each night, to be announced.

Your Training Seminar registration fee includes your 2027/2028 Membership (May 1, 2027, to April 30, 2028). The host committee from the Marion County Sheriff's Office is hoping you will come early and/or stay late and enjoy all the fun that the City of Salem has to offer. Visit Salem has provided information & specials for your stay. Of course, keeping with WSHNA standards, the Seminar will provide first-rate presenters to increase your crisis negotiation skills & team building events in the evening.

WSHNA – c/o Bruce Wind – 2416 46th Avenue SE – Puyallup, WA 98374

brucewind@comcast.net www.wshna.com

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FAQs

Where can I contact the organizer with any questions? Seminar questions to Executive Director Bruce Wind at brucewind@comcast.net. HNT Challenge questions to CSM Representative Troy King at troydtking@crisisnegotiation.us.

Are lunches provided? Yes. Lunches are included for Monday, April 26th & Tuesday, April 27th.

Is the last day, Wednesday April 28th, a full day of class? No. The morning will be a presentation and final WSHNA business until 1:00 PM. If requested, space will be made available for networking in the afternoon.

Are registrations transferable? Yes. We understand that our profession has scheduling challenges (court, special assignments, unplanned events, unusual occurrences, etc.). Thus, registrations are transferable provided you notify WSHNA via Bruce Wind. Planning for an event this size requires correct numbers. Cancellations will not be accepted after February 28, 2027. Arrangements may be made to carry over unused registrations to WSHNA 2028.

Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event? No.

What is the nearest airport? Portland International Airport (PDX) is 60 minutes away.

Is there parking? Yes, there is abundant underground secure parking included in the WSHNA room rate.

TRAINING FUNDS

WSHNA has training funds available for members in good standing. We have money for you in the form of Training Day lunches, coffee, donuts, etc. We also have money for you in the form of a \$500.00 Individual Scholarships. You can read all the guidelines on the Training Page at www.wshna.com

REID TECHNIQUE



WSHNA Members who are in good standing receive a discount at John E Reid Technique. POC is Toni

Overman, toverman@reid.com.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE PART OF WSHNA?

- Annual Training Seminar provides leading presenters in our specialized field.
- Fantastic networking opportunities.
- One of the best HNT Competitions in the United States.
- Team Training Funds & Individual Scholarship opportunities.

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- Discounts at John E. Reid Classes.
- Support the WSHNA Mission.
- Lots of quality 'negotiator time'.

MEMBERSHIP PORTAL

If you attended the training seminar in Spokane 2026, then your membership is valid until the start of Salem 2027. If you want to join now and see the benefits of WSHNA membership, here is a link at www.wshna.com.

RESEARCH TOPICS

Have you ever wondered if somebody else has previously researched a topic you are now tasked with researching? Well, WSHNA keeps a database of subjects that have been previously explored by WSHNA members. The list is an on-going collection of topics, and we realize that some of the contact persons/emails are no longer valid (retirement, left law enforcement, or correction). But it is a good place to start. There is a link on the home page of www.wshna.com.

A complete history of WSHNA is linked on our website at www.wshna.com. Lots of hard work by Board Member Greg Heun over several years has made this possible.

- **The Intel Pipeline:** That second forward stayed in direct radio contact with the guy up front. They acted as a part-time coach, but more importantly, they fast-tracked any juicy tactical intel the main cell uncovered straight to the formal cell.

This gives your forward element a lifeline without cluttering the tactical space.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow WSHNA on Facebook, X, & LinkedIn. Just a reminder that you should have bawind@comcast.net, brucewind@comcast.net, wshna1986@gmail.com, @mail.vresp.com, and @wbxmail.net on your 'safelist' or 'whitelist.' This will ensure that important WSHNA emails are not sent to your Spam or Trash folders. Government agencies very often have strict filters. Many in our line of work are abandoning social media (I understand) and we are having a challenging time communicating valuable information on the upcoming Training Seminar, outside training opportunities, & our

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generous training funds. Check your spam folders regularly, you may be missing great training opportunities. If you do not know how to manage your safe list, contact your IT person.



Travel Salem cannot wait to welcome you to Salem for the 2027 Western States Hostage Negotiators Association Annual Training Seminar! Located in the heart of Oregon's lush Willamette Valley, Salem is the perfect place to connect, learn and explore. Surrounded by rolling hills and rich farmland, Salem offers the best of a big city combined with small-town charm. Discover walkable downtown featuring restaurants serving locally sourced fare paired with craft beverages; cozy coffee shops; historic attractions; a thriving arts and culture scene and a riverfront park system larger than New York City's Central Park. Just outside the city, you will find more than fifty wineries, farm stores offering fresh produce and seasonal

treats, two wildlife refuges and unlimited opportunities for walking, hiking, and exploring. Come for the conference and make time to experience what we proudly call **the Most Oregon Part of Oregon.**



FREE TRAINING

Crisis / Hostage Negotiation - Level 2

Monday, November 2nd

Friday, November 6th, 2026

8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Location: Lewis and Clark County

Search and Rescue Building

2700 Valley Drive, East Helena, MT 59635

The registration is FREE as it is grant supported. The agency would only be responsible for the travel, lodging and per diem.

The host agency contact is Sergeant Chris Rebo, chris.rebo@gmail.com.

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