

March 24, 2023

Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association (WSHNA)
2023 Tom Moyer Memorial Award

Dear WSHNA Board,

Please accept this nomination of Deborah McMahon for the 2023 Tom Moyer Memorial Award.

Deborah's contribution to WSHNA as well as negotiation across the nation has been and continues to be significant. Every year, for nearly a decade, Deborah invests more than one hundred hours designing, writing, and then facilitating a regional competition for WSHNA members. To maximize the training potential of the WSHNA competition, Deborah has ensured teams have practice materials and preparatory training sessions in advance of the event. These have included free online classes, free online scenario training, and the providing of full-length written scenario materials to any team who has so requested.

Throughout the two years during which COVID impacted the ability of WSHNA members to train in person, Deborah made online training available to WSHNA members, with most courses having free seats available specifically to WSHNA members.

Deborah has never requested or received compensation for the work described above, considering her efforts to be her duty to support all of those responding to the difficult calling of crisis negotiation.

For the reasons described above, it is our privilege to nominate Deborah McMahon as the recipient of the 2023 WSHNA Tom Moyer Memorial Award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Troy D. King, WSHNA Past President

Devon Schrum, WSHNA Secretary

Pierce County Sheriff's Department

Office of the Sheriff

930 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, Washington 98402
253-798-7794 253-798-3376 Fax



Date: March 23, 2023

To: WSHNA Board

From: Detective Sergeant Alexa Moss, Pierce County Sheriff's Department

Re: WSHNA Tom Moyer Memorial Award

I would like to nominate Detective Sergeant Simmelink to receive the WSHNA Tom Moyer Memorial Award. It is my understanding that this award was established to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to the art of police crisis negotiations, and I believe that Detective Sergeant Simmelink is truly deserving of this award.

Detective Sergeant Simmelink has been on the negotiation team for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department since 2010 and became our team leader in 2018. In addition to the significant impact and transformation on our own unit Detective Sergeant Simmelink has made in her capacity as Team Leader for PCSD SWAT, her contributions and dedication to crisis negotiation on a whole truly set her apart.

Detective Sergeant Simmelink conceptualized and developed two separate training presentations that she regularly presents to FBI Basic Negotiator courses in Washington. She consistently demonstrates her dedication to train new negotiators statewide and sacrifices personal time to assist with these classes. She has even traveled several hours away and stayed with family overnight to make herself available to teach a class outside of the area.

In 2021, Detective Sergeant Simmelink organized a multi-agency Crisis Negotiation Rodeo hosted at our agency. Crisis negotiations teams from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, the Tacoma Police Department, Pierce County Metro SWAT, the FBI, and Joint-Base Lewis-McChord attended and ran each other through complex scenarios. She included the Pierce County Co-Responders and made them available to all the teams for use as mental health consultants. Detective Sergeant Simmelink coordinated to ensure that the Pierce County SWAT Tactical Commander was also available and acting as tactical command for the scenarios to provide the most realistic training possible. The Crisis Negotiation Rodeo has since turned into an annual event and received glowing reviews by all the participants in 2022. The Rodeo is already scheduled in 2023, and with the foundation that Detective Sergeant Simmelink has laid, is sure to be a highly anticipated training regionally for years to come.

Organizing large-scale training takes a huge amount of time and energy. The training opportunity created and implemented by Detective Sergeant Simmelink has proven to be hugely beneficial to the negotiations community as it provides realistic training scenarios to agencies that may not have frequent training opportunities while also providing local agencies the chance to work together and network. Combined with the work to provide individualized training across the region, Detective Sergeant Simmelink's efforts have more than shown her to be worthy of consideration for this prestigious award.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alexa Moss
Detective Sergeant Alexa Moss

Date: March 27, 2023

To: WSHNA Executive Director and Executive Board

From: Sergeant Tom Thompson -Fife Police Department / Pierce Metro TRT

RE: Nomination for the Tom Moyer Memorial Ward

It is with great enthusiasm and sincere praise that I make a nomination for the Tom Moyer Memorial Award. This award was established to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association or a significant contribution to the art of police crisis negotiations in general. I believe that Detective Sergeant Tara Simmelink of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department is worthy of consideration for this award.

I first met Sergeant Simmelink in 2010 when she became a negotiator for Pierce County SWAT. I have had the opportunity to see her excel as a negotiator and grow into a Team Leader position in 2018. During this time, I have had several opportunities to work alongside her in my role as a negotiator for Pierce Metro SWAT and as a Negotiations Team Lead for Pierce Metro TRT. I have observed her under pressure and can say she is an outstanding negotiator and an even better team leader. It is sometimes difficult to work alongside members of other teams, but Sergeant Simmelink has always made me, and members of my team feel welcomed and appreciated when we have been forced to work together in times of crisis.

Since taking over the Team Lead role for Pierce County SWAT, Sergeant Simmelink has been focused on trying to get the Pierce County Negotiations Teams to train and work together whenever possible. Sergeant Simmelink would often talk about her desire to have the teams in Pierce County train together on a yearly basis. Her idea was that if she could make this a reality, negotiators from each team would be more comfortable working with each other when a priority event forced them together. She was known for hosting training classes and inviting different teams to Pierce County SWAT's training days.

In 2021 Sergeant Simmelink organized and hosted the first Pierce County Negotiator Rodeo. She invited teams from Tacoma, Lakewood, Pierce Metro, JBLM, and the FBI to take part in a multi-agency scenario-based training event. The training included actors, mental health professionals, and command level tactical officers who were part of each scenario. Each team was tasked with providing a realistic negotiations scenario for one of the other teams to work through. At the end of each scenario, constructive feedback was provided by those involved and different ideas were presented on alternate ways to approach a certain observation. At the end of the training, there was ample time for networking and getting acquainted with other negotiators from the area. The Rodeo was a huge success and received praise from all that attended. In 2022 Sergeant Simmelink and her team hosted the Second Annual Pierce County Negotiator Rodeo and it was bigger and even better than the year before. It has quickly become a training event that each team in Pierce County looks forward to each year.

The time and energy Sergeant Simmelink has put into creating, organizing, and implementing such a large-scale training event has been very impressive. Her dedication to her team, and the other teams in Pierce County, has been very much appreciated. The goal of WSHNA is "to develop in members a higher degree of proficiency in the performance of their professional duties." Sergeant Simmelink has very much followed WSHNA's goals, and I believe her efforts make her worthy of this award. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergeant Tom Thompson
Fife Police Department

Date: March 23, 2023

To: WSHNA Board

From: Sergeant Shawn Malott

Re: WSHNA Tom Moyer Memorial Award

After working in SWAT Negotiations for Tacoma PD for over 10 years now I have had the opportunity to work with many negotiators and leaders in the field both at the local and state level. With the proximity and size of Pierce County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), Tacoma PD's negotiator team has frequently worked with Sgt Tara Simmelink (Tara) and her team both in training and actual negotiations.

In training, Tara has developed a reputation as being a leader in the region, bringing together multiple Federal, State, and local agencies for yearly training. The process has been well received and has worked to expand the agency's sense of partnership and teamwork with each other.

What has always impressed me about Tara is her sincerity and care for her fellow negotiators and her sense of "teamwork". During negotiator selections for Tacoma PD's Tara has always been available to volunteer her time and that of her team to help with the selection process. During an Officer death and a protracted negotiation a few years ago in Tacoma, Tara's team was quick to offer assistance and jump in when negotiations had to be handed over. Most recently, Tara was the glue that held her team together when one of the team's tactical Officers at PCSO was shot and killed.

Despite Tara's full-time job and her commitments to CNT, Tara always manages to maintain a positive attitude and smile, which are just part of the example of how she leads from the front. It is for these reasons that Tacoma PD's team and I wish to nominate Tara for the Tom Moyer Memorial Award.

Sincerely,

Sgt Shawn Malott, #099
Investigations / Special Assaults Unit
SWAT Hostage Negotiator Team Leader / CIT
Police Department / City of Tacoma

Date: March 28, 2023

To: WSHNA Board

From: Special Agent Christine Hughey

Re: WSHNA Tom Moyer Memorial Award nomination

To whom it may concern,

Detective Sergeant Simmelink of the Pierce County Sherriff's Department would be a worthy candidate to receive the WSHNA Tom Moyer Memorial Award. This award was established to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association or a significant contribution to the art of police crisis negotiations in general. Detective Sergeant Simmelink embodies the nature of this award. Detective Sergeant Simmelink performs her duties as the team lead for her own negotiation team with Pierce County Sheriff's Department and endeavors to offer further opportunities for other Negotiation teams in Washington State. In addition, she regularly contributes to the FBI 40-hour Regional Crisis Negotiation Course (RCNC) and was one of the few local partners nationwide selected to attend the FBI 80-hour National Crisis Negotiation Course (NCNC) in 2022. Detective Sergeant Simmelink exudes leadership and program development through her actions. She provides local training opportunities through her creation and organization of a multi-agency Crisis Negotiation Rodeo hosted by Pierce County Negotiation Team. Multiple agencies benefit from this training and will continue to benefit from this annual event in the future. Recent participants included the FBI Crisis Negotiation Team, Tacoma Police Department, Pierce County Metro SWAT, and Joint-Base Lewis-McChord. She coordinated a large-scale training opportunity and invited other agencies and personnel to participate for the benefit of furthering their negotiation skills. This event also facilitated liaison opportunities and coordination between teams that otherwise would not cross paths. I would highly encourage considering Detective Sergeant Simmelink for the Tom Moyer Memorial Award as she truly demonstrates her professionalism and dedication to the Negotiation Program. Sincerely, Christine Hughey Special Agent

Christine Hughey FBI
Seattle Field Office



Clackamas County Sheriff's Office CNT



WSHNA Awards Panel:

Please accept this nomination for the WSHNA Distinguished Service Award. On March 3, 2022, at approximately 9:00 am, Oregon City Police Detective Jon Neece, who is a member of the Clackamas County Crisis Negotiation Team, responded to a suicidal subject that was armed with a knife and threatening to jump off a cliff.

Detective Neece arrived and contacted the subject, who was obviously in crisis. The subject was found sitting two feet from the edge of a 100' cliff and armed with a large kitchen knife that he held to his wrist. During the initial contact, it was observed that the subject cut his wrist and was bleeding profusely from his left arm. The contact was tense as the subject threatened suicide by cop and feigned jumping from the cliff.

Detective Neece used active listening and empathy to build rapport and was able to talk the subject into small changes of behavior, such as lowering the knife and moving away from the edge. Negotiations were progressing until the subject reverted back into crisis. His demeanor changed, and he moved back to the cliff, dangling his feet off the edge. At one point, the subject raised the knife and began cutting his throat to the point where he nearly went unconscious. Again, Detective Neece used his training and experience to calm the subject. After using several TPIs and offering several cigarettes, Detective Neece was once again able to get the subject to lower the knife and move away from the ledge. After several hours of negotiating, and with the help of the subject's defense attorney, Detective Neece was able to successfully talk the subject into putting down the knife, moving away from the ledge, and crawling toward law enforcement and medical personnel. He was then transported to the hospital, where he received medical care.

As we can all imagine, this was a difficult negotiation. Detective Neece maintained his composure, relied on his training, and was able to work through an extremely tense situation. Detective Neece should be commended for his thoughtful negotiation skills and ability, which allowed this person to get the help they desperately needed.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Hulsey".

Lt. Nate Hulsey
CNT Team Commander

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Jensen".

Sergeant Shane Jensen
CNT Team Leader