



Member National Council of Negotiation Associations

WESTERN STATES HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS' ASSOCIATION

2025 TOM MOYER MEMORIAL AWARD - MARK EAKES NOMINATION

From WSHNA Executive Director Bruce Wind

Mark & I have a combined total of approximately 75+-years of 'street-cop' experience. And, while we have never crossed paths in our uniformed experience, I got to know Mark through WSHNA. I also got to know people around Mark, and it is obvious the respect his peers & his subordinates have for him. Mark & I have worked very closely together in the operation of WSHNA, especially event planning. Many years ago, as we struggled in the world of the convention industry, WSHNA created a Board position that was specifically to understand the complex business of event planning. Mark enthusiastically took on this job and has become our 'resident expert,' which is invaluable during seminar planning. Mark and I have traveled some, mostly scouting new locations for the WSHNA Training Seminar. As you get to know Mark, in the bar where the real work is done, you start to understand that his jovial exterior is just a front for his serious interior.

We can only hope that after his pending retirement. one month after Sunriver, Mark stays with WSHNA for long enough to pass-on his knowledge to the next Vice President of Events.

And, if you get a chance, ask Mark about Oprah Winfrey, he will gladly tell you the story.

From WSHNA President Samantha Robinson

Mark always volunteers to lend a helping hand to all around him. Many do not see what he does behind the scenes for WSHNA. He does future site visits and even takes on the tedious task of doing the food order all while maintaining his role on the WSHNA Board and being a Sergeant at Lakewood PD. Mark continues to have a smile on his face and genuinely cares when he asks how you and your family are doing. He prides himself on the relationships he has made over the years, but most importantly he is a proud father and grandpa. Mark has dedicated most of his adult life to serving his community as a member of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office & the Lakewood Police Department. He is a long time Crisis Negotiator and well respected Team Leader for their CNT. He has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to negotiations. Mark has been a longtime member of WSHNA and exemplifies what this award stands for.

From NHS Global Representative Jennifer Herring

It is an honor to recommend Mark for the Tom Moyer Memorial Award. Throughout our many years working together, Mark has consistently proven to be an exceptional individual, and I truly value the opportunity to work with him on WSHNA events. Mark is thoughtful and engaging and always brings positive energy to every conversation. His sense of humor and approachable demeanor make him a joy to work with. In addition to his personable nature, Mark is incredibly reliable. His consistent follow-through and attention to detail have made him an invaluable client and partner.

I have great respect for Mark. What truly stands out is how he gives to his daily job in policing and role within WSHNA. I understand that the Tom Moyer Memorial Award recognizes people who consistently offer time and energy, Mark's passion, and commitment to giving back demonstrate his strong character and sense of responsibility. His professionalism and warm personality make him stand out in any setting. I had the pleasure of knowing Tom and know he would truly support Mark receiving an award in his name.

From Pierce County S.O. Detective Sergeant T. Simmelink

Mark Eakes has contributed to the negotiation community in many ways. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment by generously investing his personal funds through the purchasing of raffle tickets at every WSHNA conference. His generosity has raised significant support for various community charity efforts over the years. While his generosity has undoubtedly benefited these charities, it has often left other attendees wondering if Mark has a secret negotiation tactic for winning every time! Beyond his charitable contributions, Mark has been an invaluable member of the planning committee for the social events at the WSHNA conferences, dedicating countless hours to organizing and shaping events that foster relationship building and networking within the negotiation community.

From WSHNA Past Vice-President Dani Griswold

I love Mark so much! He supported WSHNA and negotiators for many years when we served together on the WSHNA Board. Mark was innovative, communicative, and supportive as a board member, and a peer department HNT Team Leader. As Peer HNT Team Leaders in the same county we served together many times, in training and real time events.

And through (so many) good times and a few bad times, I knew Mark would always be there - me, and for all of us. To know Mark continues to support WSHNA year after year, decade after decade (HAHA), speaks to his commitment to this craft of negotiations.

From WSHNA Past President Troy King

Mark exudes an authentic openness and approachability which draws others to him. He serves his fellow officers and negotiators selflessly, pouring his energy into supporting the wellness of those around him, leading the charge to identify the best training venues for each year's WSHNA Seminar, and advocating for excellence. Mark has been featured in a Huffington Post video on officer wellness, where many of his traits were highlighted as examples of self-care and caring for others. Mark volunteered to be featured in a negotiator wellness project called "The High Cost of Compassion" in which he openly shared his personal struggles with loss and provided tools for others to cope with their own challenges. Mark's leadership and influence has extended across the country as he has represented WSHNA with the National Council of Negotiation Associations and been an active yearly participant in the Police Unity Tour ride-in as part of National Police Week in Washington, D.C. While to this day he refuses to share his "System" for winning raffle prizes, he is otherwise an open book to those around him, creating the perfect conditions for interpersonal connection. For all that Mark has done and continues to do, and for who he is as a person, I highly recommend Mark for the Tom Moyer Memorial Award.

From WSHNA Past President Devon Schrum

Mark is the epitome of a good Negotiator. He listens, learns, adapts, and prioritizes empathy and compassion when communicating with others. This is who he is in and out of the uniform.

It may be hard to tell from his ruthless and unabashed ability to win raffles, but Mark is working before, during, and after every training event. He works throughout the year to ensure that WSHNA benefits from good contracts and appropriate venues for our growing training events.

From Lakewood P. D. Sergeant Charles Porche (Assuming HNT Team Leader from Mark)

Mark started with Lakewood in 2004. Shortly after he started employment a decision was made that the department would become part of the Pierce Metro SWAT team. Mark was tasked with being the lead to stand up the Negotiations element. He has been the Team Leader since 2004. We had several years as part of the Metro Team. We have since become an independent SRT unit comprised solely of Lakewood PD personnel. Earlier this year, with his retirement on the horizon, Mark stepped down from TL duties and I have taken over.

Needless to say, during Mark's 20 years of service with LPD as Negotiations TL has been entertaining. He laid the groundwork for us to successfully stand up a team. The experience he brought with him from Pierce County was invaluable. He was a mentor along the way to several new negotiators, established our basis of annual training, led the way on several call outs and in his normal manner provided lots of levity along the way. He has expanded his reach with his involvement in WSHNA. Over the years he has been adamant that members of the team attend this training for the many positives that we all experience every year at the conference.

We were fortunate to have someone that is greatly passionate about Negotiations to lead our team for two decades. Mark will be missed when he hangs up the phone for the final time. The saying is that it is not so important the things you leave this career with, but the lives that you have touched/affected along the way. Mark has stood out in this realm having affected those he has negotiated with and certainly the many officers/deputies he has worked alongside.

Congratulations Mark on your impending retirement and this well-deserved award.

From Lakewood Police Department Joanna LaVergne (Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police)

From Mark's original Lakewood P. D. (LPD) application in 2004, Mark began with the Pierce County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) in June of 1994 and stayed with them until February of 2004. He started with LPD that same month and began by running background checks for all ninety-nine new officers, as well as the handful of civilian staff, which was key to starting a brand new police department, LPD. During his time with PCSO he worked as Department Recruiter as well as all regular patrol duties and did new hire background checks for them, as well.

Prior to PCSO Mark served in the US Navy from November 1986 until November 1994. He served aboard the USS Roanoke AOR-7, which was a "Wichita-class replenishment oiler." She sailed on two deployments to the Persian Gulf supporting Operation Desert Storm between January 1991 and August 1993.

During his time with LPD Mark has received many awards, including two Life Saving Awards and three Police Chief Commendations. He has served as a SWAT Crisis Negotiator, and a Hostage Negotiator for at least 21

years and even served as Team Lead. In addition, he has served on our Peer Support Team for 21 years (2004-2025) and was a driving force in the Peer Support Team being created.

Mark has also been heavily involved with the Police Unity Tour for years, and we all know that it is very dear to his heart. He even participated in the Israel Unity Tour last year (only a small number were allowed to participate in 2024, and Mark was one of them) and he intends to return in 2025.

From WSHNA Vice President Andi O'Brien

Mark has been with WSHNA for all the years I have been a part of the organization. His commitment to making each year's seminar better than the last beams with each year. He is an invaluable asset to the organization as he provides the experience, knowledge, and commitment level necessary with the ever changing times of law enforcement. Those are all the professional qualities necessary for WSHNA to continue to be recognized as one of the best seminars in the nation.

Enough of the "professional talk". The stuffy regimented highlights might be important; however, I have known Mark for so much more than his professional example. His bright personality and charisma have been an instrumental piece for all new members finding WSHNA. Mark will gravitate to unfamiliar faces ensuring those new personalities find the organization inviting and inclusive to all. Through negotiations we have learned, diversity is key for a successful team. Everyone brings an important piece and uniqueness to the "Art of Negotiations". Mark has the ability to include each new member as if they are a part of his own small team. WSHNA continues to grow each year. Yet, Mark is the key as he walks the hospitality, event room, and vendor tables to remind people, WSHNA will never be too big where someone will be lost. He makes it known, if you are a wall flower, Mark will find a way to break you out of your shell and find your place in the WSHNA family.

I use that example as Mark did this very magical inclusion with me. He was an outgoing kind face which encouraged me to break out of my shyness and apprehension to mentor me and find my voice. He, along with other board members, are the mentors I refer to when addressing my own team. As Mark helped a shy, scared new negotiator (that is me if you don't know). I now reflect back on his easy going friendly encouragement with each new candidate desperately wanting to be on the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Hostage Negotiations Team. As I now command my own team, his face and mentorship from my first WSHNA days are the things I reflect back on when I am coaching our team's next generation.

If you buy Mark a beer he would be thrilled to tell you about his time with Oprah.

