



the Open Line

WESTERN STATES HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS' ASSOCIATION - TRAINING CRISIS NEGOTIATORS SINCE 1986



Spring 2026

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 18, 2026

Dear WSHNA Members,

I am incredibly honored to step into the role of your incoming President. Taking the lead of the Western States Hostage Negotiators Association is a huge responsibility, and I don't take it lightly. As we kick off this next chapter together, I want to talk straight about where we are heading. To get there, I want to focus on three big areas: Recognition, Resiliency, and Resources.

First up is **Recognition**. What we do in crisis negotiation saves lives, plain and simple. But it is just as important to talk about *how* we do it. It is not just about showing up; it is about active listening, patience, and absolute focus

under intense pressure. I want to make sure your dedication gets the spotlight it deserves.

Our communities and agency heads may, or may not, have the eyes to see the elite professionalism you bring to every single callout.

Next is **Resiliency**. Let's be honest, this job is heavy. It takes a real mental and emotional toll on everyone on the team. You cannot just "tough it out." Real resiliency takes proper training and real-world operational experience. I want to make sure we are looking out for each other, building stronger peer networks, and creating spaces where we can process the stress of the job so we can all enjoy long, healthy careers.

Finally, we need to talk about **Resources**. To do our jobs right, we need the right tools. That means fought-for budgets that give us up-to-date communications gear, throw phones, and the best software out there. But resources also mean training. I will push hard for the funding we need for top-tier seminars and realistic scenarios. You can't perform at your best without the right backing, and I am going to fight for that backing every day.

Thank you for your trust and for your commitment to bringing people home safely.

I am excited to get to work alongside all of you to make WSHNA stronger than ever. Remember, you're not just a negotiator. You're a WSHNA negotiator and that's something to be proud of.

Sincerely,

Joe Miller

WSHNA President-Elect

SOCIAL MEDIA

Communication is key, of course as a Crisis Negotiator, you already know that. Follow WSHNA on Facebook, X, & LinkedIn.

PLANNING AHEAD

Our 41st Annual Training Seminar & HNT Challenge will be in April 2027 in Salem, Oregon, hosted by the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Details on the 2027 Seminar Page at www.wshna.com. Speaker recommendations needed. Contact via www.wshna.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This is what your incoming Board of Directors looks like.

Executive Director
Bruce Wind
Retired Seattle (WA) P.D.
Appointed Position

President
Joe Miller
Retired Salem (OR) P.D.
Oregon Department of Public Safety
Standards and Training

Term Expires 2028
[President's Message](#)

Vice President
Andi O'Brien
Retired Washoe County (NV) S.O.
Term Expires 2027

Vice President of Events
Mark Eakes
Retired Lakewood (WA) P.D.
Appointed Position

Treasurer
Stacy Rejaian
Marion County (OR) S.O.
Term Expires 2028

Secretary
Devon Schrum
South Correctional Entity (SCORE)
SeaTac, WA
Term Expires 2027

District 1 (Washington & Alaska)
Tara Simmelink
Pierce County (WA) S.O.
Term Expires 2028

District 2 (Oregon & Northern California)
Lisa Cain
Oregon Department of Correction
Term Expires 2027

District 3 (Nevada)
James Sylvester
Washoe County (NV) S.O.
Term Expires 2028

District 4 (Idaho, Montana & Wyoming)
WSHNA Historian
Greg Heun

Retired Idaho Department of Correction
Term Expires 2027

Representative at Large
2027 Seminar Chairperson
Jeremy Schwab
Term Expires 2027

**WSHNA HAS BEEN TRAINING CRISIS
NEGOTIATORS, LAW ENFORCEMENT &
CORRECTION, SINCE 1986**



MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Association is to develop in members a higher degree of proficiency in the performance of their professional duties. The Association shall provide training for members, and the Association shall act as a resource and conduit for information sharing.

WSHNA depends upon your involvement as a member to accomplish these goals. WSHNA represents police & correction crisis negotiators from the Western United States, Alaska, & British Columbia.

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.
- Membership allows access to the NCNA Website.
- Discounts at John E. Reid Classes.
- Support the WSHNA Mission.
- Lots of quality 'negotiator time'.

2026 WSHNA AWARDS



2026 Tom Moyer Memorial Award Winner - Sergeant Bill Maxwell (r), Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (Oregon) [Read Nomination](#)



2026 Distinguished Service Award Winner - Sergeant Jason Robinson (l), Edmonds Police Department (Washington) [Read Nomination](#)

2026 HNT CHALLENGE – PRODUCED BY CRISIS SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT



1st Place WSHNA 2026 HNT Challenge.
Washington County SO.



2nd Place WSHNA 2026 HNT Challenge.
Eugene PD



3rd Place 2026 WSHNA HNT Challenge.
Clackamas County SO

MICROSOFT TEAMS

Microsoft Teams Communications Platform. If anybody is using Microsoft Teams in any way for your Negotiation Team, please contact Joey Guerra, Plano (TX) P. D. Team Leader, joeygu@plano.gov.

REMEMBERING TOM MOYER



A great memory from Bend 2017. Bruce Wind, Executive Director, Andi O'Brien, Vice President, & the late Tom Moyer, Board Member. The President's Award is named in Tom's honor. Bend 2017. Tom, you are missed by many. Seminars are not the same.

