



WCOG Attracts Top People to Governing Board

Seattle – The Washington Coalition for Open Government continues to attract dedicated transparency advocates to its governing board. The watchdog group is committed to ensuring government at all levels in Washington State remain open and accessible to the citizens of our state. Here is an update on our newest board members.

- **Karen Peterson** – The former editor of The News Tribune, Karen joined the board in 2015. An extraordinary journalist and transparency advocate, Karen served as editor of The News Tribune from 2008 to 2017. She was managing editor for three years before that. She joined the paper in 2000 as local news editor. She has been a reporter and editor for newspapers in Hawaii and Indiana, and for an Army publication in Germany. She and her husband, a retired Army officer, have two grown sons and live in Gig Harbor. She's a graduate of Western Michigan University. Peterson is a past board member of the Associated Press Managing editors and member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Investigative Reporters and Editors, American Society of News Editors and Washington Coalition for Open Government
- **Brian Sonntag** – For 20 years Brian served as Washington State Auditor. First elected in 1992, Brian has been widely known as a leading advocate for open and accountable government. In 2013 he was inducted into the national Open Government Hall of Fame. He has had a distinguished career in public service. Brian was elected Pierce County Clerk when he was 26 years old. After serving eight years in that office he was twice elected Pierce County Auditor. Brian received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Northwest University in 2013 and in 2007 was named Distinguished Alumni by Tacoma Community College. As a Certified Government Financial Manager, Brian brought professionalism to each office he held. Brian Sonntag spent many years as a youth baseball and basketball coach, an avid weightlifter and will be entering his fifth season as a high school umpire. Brian and his wife Jann are lifetime residents of Pierce County. They have 5 sons and 11 grandchildren.

- **Kate Riley** – Kate is the editorial page editor of The Seattle Times. She works with The Times editorial board to develop the opinion page's positions on issues. She joined The Times' editorial page in 2002 as a writer and columnist. A graduate of Redmond High School and the University of Washington, she returned to the Seattle area after spending 17 years working at Eastern Washington newspapers where she was a reporter, editorial writer and editorial page editor. She started her career as a farm writer for the Times-owned Walla Walla Union-Bulletin (Think Walla Walla Sweet Onions and the wine industry.)
- **Fred Obee** – Fred has been a reporter, editor and manager of weekly, twice weekly and small daily newspapers in the Pacific Northwest for the past 30 years. He is a graduate of Western Washington University's journalism program, was editor of the Whidbey News-Times in Oak Harbor, WA for 11 years, editor of the Daily Triplicate in Crescent City, CA for three years and spent 18 years at the Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader in Port Townsend, WA., first as a writer and editor, and finally as the General Manager. He is a former Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce President, a current Rotarian and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association. He lives in Port Townsend with his wife Mary.
- **Angela Galloway** – Angela practices employment, civil rights, open government and intellectual property law at MacDonald Hoague & Bayless. Her media practice includes counseling and representing clients in First Amendment, privacy, defamation, copyright, trademark, and public records and open public meeting matters. Angela previously worked as a litigation associate at Davis Wright Tremaine in Seattle. Her practice at DWT included employment, media, intellectual property, privacy and data security law. She maintained an active pro bono practice focused on First Amendment litigation and access to state and federal public records. Prior to law school, Angela spent about 15 years as a newspaper reporter in Seattle, Philadelphia, New Jersey and elsewhere. Her work included daily and investigative coverage of government, politics and social and health issues.
- **Matt Beaton** – Matt is the elected Franklin County Auditor and has served in that position since January 2011. In his time as Auditor he has served as Co-Chair for the Washington State Association of County Auditors Legislation Committee and has been recognized with a statewide award for Voter Outreach by the Washington Secretary of State. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1991 with a BA Degree in Business Administration. Having earned his Real Estate License at 19 and later his appraisal certification he went on to work for 16 years in the real estate valuation field in the corporate and small business settings prior to running for office. He is currently a member of Pasco Kiwanis Club.