

General Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Debbie Arthur, WCEMS

Gary Baar, Treasurer

Justina Bass, WCFD 16

Dawn Cannizzaro, WCFD 17

Steven Cohen, WCEMS

Marc Davis, Lynden

Jerry DeBruin, WCFD 14

William Dennis, Cascade

John Granger, WCFD 11

Robert Howery, WCFD 17

Steve Larsen, BFD

Michael Lish, WCFD 11

Erica Littlewood, Mt Baker Ski

Phil Magistro, BMRC

Mitch Nolze, SWFA

Scott Painter, WCFD 7

Heather Ripke-Olson, WCFD 14

Ben Russell, WCFD 7

Becky Stermer, PHSJ

Jason Van Der Veen, NWFRS

Kristie Watson, Lynden

Jeremy Wilson, STS

Dwight Worden, Cascade

Guests: Dawn Stobaugh, Life Flight

Robin Stimac, PHSJ

Kelly O'Connor, Cascade

CALL TO ORDER: President Jerry DeBruin called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council to order at 7:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 2025 minutes, stand as written

REPORTS:

Executive:

Chief Baar provided a financial overview. The AED Committee and the need for funds to place additional AEDs were discussed. The E-Board recommends a \$5000.00 donation from the council and asks the hospital to match. There was a discussion on whether to make this an annual or biannual commitment.

Membership applications for 3 applicants: one for CQI, one for education, and one for the general council, were reviewed and recommended all for membership.

A nominating committee needs to be established for the upcoming elections for President and 2nd Vice President.

The Executive Board discussed having an injury prevention chair to oversee the subcommittees, work with them in an oversight role, facilitate their efforts, and provide an overarching report to each meeting of the Council.

Finance:

As of Dec. 31, 2025:

Checking: \$19,29444 Savings: \$71,146 Capital Group Investment Account: \$457,787

Education:

SIPQuik Cervical Collars were discussed.

CQI:

There was no CQI meeting in January. The next one will be held in April.

Regional Council:

Steve Cohen has been working on two different grants. The EMSC grant will be used to purchase a high-fidelity infant manikin and a pediatric restraint system. WCEMS will be working with the Council to purchase these items.

The other grant is a federal grant through the CDC and the state for overdoses. \$22910.00 will be used for training, vouchers for those who need care, and a camera.

Injury Prevention:

Teen Heart screen: Nothing planned at the moment for Whatcom County.

Car Seats: Erica L. has received multiple requests for car seats and will be seeking donations. The next car seat technician class will be in February on Orcas Island, and another in March in Snohomish County.

Safe Kids Whatcom County: Whatcom County is the first county in the state to sign an MOU that would allow the county to get funding from the state Safe Kids. This could lead to becoming a Safe Kids coalition. The MOU needs to be signed by an agency or the council.

M. Nolze will work on getting the injury prevention committee back together.

Fall Prevention: Health and Community Services are hosting a community partnership conversation regarding fall prevention at the community health education center.

Distracted Driving: 5 classes were held at Sehome High School using the Teen Target Zero program.

Stop the Bleed: Held a class last week. The next one will be next quarter.

There will be a CPR Instructor Development course on February 28th.

The next ESE Class is on April 11th.

TAB:

Looking at governance to see if additional bylaws are needed to clarify roles and responsibilities.
Discussed Levy planning.

EMS administration: working on setting priorities and making sure there is a clear alignment regarding the work that the administration is going to be doing within the system.
Reviewing financials and starting work on the next levy.

Hospital: PeaceHealth is working on the Pulsara implementation and its trauma center redesignation.

Unfinished Business:

Opioid grant: The grant has been awarded, and the paperwork is being prepared.

AED placement: Still looking for locations with high participation of youth athletes.

An AED will be placed in Hovander Park soon.

Some previously placed AEDs were recalled and are being replaced.

A maintenance list with expiration dates needs to be created.

Follow up with Jerry Marshke or Rachel Lucy for hospital funding.

Nolze/Bass: \$5000 from the council to expand the AED program to place additional AEDs, while requesting a match from outside entities, and for the committee to continue to consider the maintenance and replacement needs of the future, was approved.

New Business:

North Regional Council membership was discussed. Chief Nolze has an interest in becoming a N. Region council member.

Applications of Cameron Clark for the Education Committee, Philip Magistro for the general council, and William Dennis for the CQI committee were approved.

Robert Howery will head the Nominating Committee for the positions of president and 2nd VP. Chief Russell has volunteered to join the committee.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:16 pm