

History of the WSCA Unattributed, Undated

The WSCA was grown from small beginnings in 1965 when Ralph Bruksos, Seattle, then chairman of the Seattle Committee on Alcoholism, issued a call to all local alcoholism committees in the State to meet to consider a drive for a statewide council. Such a Council would provide a means of exchanging ideas and sharing common problems and concerns.

The 1st Annual meeting was held on Friday, May 13, 1966 in Vancouver with the Rev. Charles H. Fox, Wenatchee, elected President. At that time he said, "This meeting signals the successful completion of several years of work toward a coordinated attack on alcoholism by all citizens."

At that time, there were Information and Referral services and Committees in Whatcom *Bellingham* County, Chehalis, Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Yakima, Benton/Franklin counties, Spokane and Olympia.

By the time Judge Lyle Truax, Vancouver (Still active in the Council most especially in the areas of DWI and handling deferred prosecutions), became president in 1968, there were 16 community councils in areas branching out to Okanogan, Port Angeles, San Juan Island and Skagit.

The Council still grows and today counts an individual membership of approximately 400 individuals, 50 agencies and 10 corporate members. A concerted membership effort is being launched statewide as a part of this year's Council effort.

Organized with a President, 1st and second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus an Executive Board of standing committee members covering public policy, education, labor/management, clergy, research and evaluation, women, in-patient, out-patient, and community programs and a Board of Directors comprised of agency and corporate representatives, the organization also has, under the NIAAA grant, an Executive Director, Ted Knightlinger, former Coordinator of Alcoholism programs of Pierce County and Past-President of the Council and an Administrative Assistant, Nancy Greene, Specialist in Volunteer organization and an active worker in the field of Alcoholism, with offices located in Bellevue. Charles H. Nelson, Spokane, is currently President.

The WSCA holds its April quarterly board meeting at Lake Chelan (Cambells Resort) with a varied program consisting of Betty Thomas, special assistant to the California State Council on Alcoholism, as banquet keynote speaker on April 21, and a panel discussion of programs affecting youth and aging to be followed on Saturday morning by a workshop on the broader utilization of Volunteers in the alcoholism field and with Community Councils.

In an overview of programming, WSCA continues to work toward an effort to unify and coordinate projects and efforts to avoid duplication of activity, especially alert to any and all legislation pertinent to Alcoholism at all levels and, in short, to work toward projects designed to speak for the alcoholic and other victims of alcoholism.

In addition, WSCA works toward the broader development and coordination of Community resources and facilities designed to conduct research, detect, intervene with the alcoholic and family groups in the areas of treatment, control education and prevention strategies and to work at developing healthy attitudes toward the alcoholic individual to better enable that individual to seek help for the problem.