



Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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Executive Ethics Board News

Neil Gorrell, Chair
Linnaea Jablonski, Vice-Chair
Judy Golberg, Member
Mike Connelly, Member
Martin Biegelman, Member

March 13, 2009

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, March 13, 2009. All members were present. Others attending included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Ruthann Bryant, Board Secretary, Sue Jones and Nancy Lewin, Board Investigators, Mickey Newberry, AAG Prosecutor and Jerry Anderson, Senior AAG, Board Counsel. Other members of the public also attended.

Other

A. The Board approved the Parks and Recreation Commission's policy regarding operating a private business in a Parks provided residence.

B. The Board completed its proposed revision of WAC 292-110-010. The CR 102 will be filed shortly and the public hearing is scheduled to occur at the June 12, 2009 Board meeting.

C. The Board reviewed Advisory Opinions (96-1; 00-05; and 01-07), which address what agencies can do with funds received from non-state entities. There are two issues for the Board to consider:

1. If RCW 42.52 applies to individuals and not to agencies, and if monetary gifts given to the state or an agency are not gifts under RCW 42.52.140, does the Board have jurisdiction to limit how the state or a state agency spends a monetary gift? (AO 96-1 and 01-07)
2. Would a \$50 cash award given to a state employee by an outside nonprofit for "excellence" fall under the \$50 gift allowance, or is acceptance prohibited by RCW 42.52.110(1) which states that state employees may not receive any compensation or gift for performing official duties from a source other than the state of Washington. (AO 00-05)

The Board requested some additional legal analysis as to the jurisdiction of the Board over state agencies and will make their decision on these two issues at the April Board meeting.

Staff News

The Board staff will be relocating to the Capital Court building, located at 1110 Capitol Way South in May. More information regarding this move will be provided in the future.

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for April 10, 2009.