

## A Message from the Executive Director

*Chris Fischer has been hired as NORCOM's Executive Director. In her own words, Chris would like to introduce herself....*

For over three years, I have been following the NORCOM effort and, from time to time, offering my advice and knowledge based upon my Valley Communications Center experience. At the time I decided to retire after 20 years as the Director of Valley Com, I had no idea that I would have the opportunity to share in something so exciting and challenging!



As many of you know, I am currently serving as President -Elect of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International (APCO.) I have also been very active in developing the national standards for communications centers. This national involvement has provided me with an opportunity to travel around the country and spend quality time in a variety of communications centers, large and small, and to better understand what it takes to be a well respected center. I hope to bring this experience to the transition process for NORCOM and integrate industry best practices and contemporary management.

*(continue to page 2)*

## Federal Appropriations Bill Includes \$1.7 Million for NORCOM 911 Center

This year's federal budget includes \$1,767,200 to provide technology systems and other start up costs associated with creating the NORCOM 911 Center. The funding was included in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The combined efforts of U.S. Representative Dave Reichert (R-WA 8th), U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) were instrumental in obtaining this funding for NORCOM.

*(continued to page 2)*

## Principal Agencies:

- City of Bellevue
- City of Bothell
- City of Clyde Hill
- City of Kirkland
- City of Medina
- City of Mercer Island
- City of Snoqualmie
- Eastside Fire & Rescue
- King County Fire Protection District 27
- King County Fire Protection District 45
- King & Kittitas County Fire Protection District 51
- Northshore Fire Department
- Shoreline Fire Department
- Woodinville Fire & Life Safety

-----  
Chris Fischer  
Executive Director  
NORCOM  
[cfischer911@msn.com](mailto:cfischer911@msn.com)

## Director's message continued....(from page 1)

Many in my profession will never have the opportunity to work with a group of partner agencies who are so committed to the success. The NORCOM model of partnership, collaboration, cooperation and commitment to excellence has convinced me that I want to be a part of this success. It is important that we work together to understand service delivery expectations, establish operational standards and develop an open and on-going method of communicating issues.

My immediate focus will be on operational and "people" issues, which have a tremendous impact on the success or failure of NORCOM. I can only imagine the concerns that dispatchers, supervisors and technology staff have regarding their future. We have much work to do to provide information that is meaningful and will be of value to those of you with questions and concerns.

The trained professional staff of the existing dispatch centers are our most valuable and important resource. I want to insure that the message is loud and clear that resolving the "people" issues are a top priority and to prove to those who feel uncertain or concerned, that each and every one brings value to our new organization.

We will be moving quickly to get information out as soon as it becomes available. As you might imagine, this is a very complex and challenging undertaking. I look forward to meeting as many staff members and customer agency representatives as possible and I hope to spread my enthusiasm for this organization to each of you. We have an opportunity to build upon the current success of existing dispatch operations and improve where we can to make NORCOM a nationally recognized and first class communications center. ✎

## Federal Funding....(from page 1)

"I am pleased to have included this funding for the NORCOM 911 Center," Murray stated. "Across the state and nation interoperability has become a top priority for emergency responders. The NORCOM 911 center represents a local partnership that can be looked upon as a model for taking on a problem and creating an innovative solution. The residents of East King County will be better served in the case of an emergency thanks to this forward thinking initiative."

Total technology project costs are estimated at \$5 Million. With this investment, the partnering agencies have determined that the NORCOM 911 Center would be able to provide a regional structure for data and information sharing that does not currently exist. In addition, it presents an opportunity to better coordinate emergency operations planning and response across all of the partnering agencies. ✎

Governing Board Meetings  
are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of  
each month at

Kirkland City Hall  
8:30- 10:00 a.m.

March 14, 2008

April 11, 2008

May 9, 2008

June 13, 2008

July 11, 2008

## Proposed NORCOM Logos

Thank you to those who submitted proposed logos and design ideas. Below are the proposed designs. Cast your votes by March 15, 2008 by sending an email to Tracy Burrows, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, City of Kirkland at [tburrows@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:tburrows@ci.kirkland.wa.us). Please include the proposal number.

NOTE: The website address (url) for NORCOM has been reserved as 911NORCOM.ORG. The selected logo will reflect the same word order.



### Governing Board Members

Steve Sarkozy  
City Manager  
City of Bellevue  
[ssarkozy@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ssarkozy@bellevuewa.gov)

Bob Stowe, City Manager  
City of Bothell  
[bob.stowe@ci.bothell.wa.us](mailto:bob.stowe@ci.bothell.wa.us)

Mitch Wasserman, City Administrator  
City of Clyde Hill  
[mitch@clydehill.org](mailto:mitch@clydehill.org)

David Ramsay, City Manager  
City of Kirkland  
[dramsay@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:dramsay@ci.kirkland.wa.us)

Mark Weinberg, City Manager  
City of Medina  
[mweinberg@medina-wa.gov](mailto:mweinberg@medina-wa.gov)

Rich Conrad, City Manager  
City of Mercer Island  
[rich.conrad@mercergov.org](mailto:rich.conrad@mercergov.org)

Matt Larson, Mayor  
City of Snoqualmie  
[mayor@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us](mailto:mayor@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us)

John Lambert, Fire Chief  
Duvall Fire Dist. #45  
[jslambert@duvallfire45.com](mailto:jslambert@duvallfire45.com)

Lee Soptich, Fire Chief  
Eastside Fire & Rescue  
[lsoptich@esf-r.org](mailto:lsoptich@esf-r.org)

Chris Connor, Fire Chief  
King County Fire Dist. #27  
[cconnor@king27fire.com](mailto:cconnor@king27fire.com)

Tom Weathers, Fire Chief  
Northshore Fire Department  
[tweathers@northshorefire.com](mailto:tweathers@northshorefire.com)

Marcus Kragness, Fire Chief  
Shoreline Fire Department  
[mkragness@shorelinefire.com](mailto:mkragness@shorelinefire.com)

Matt Cowan, Fire Chief  
Snoqualmie Pass Fire Dept.  
[mhcowan@hotmail.com](mailto:mhcowan@hotmail.com)

Dennis Johnson, Fire Chief  
Woodinville Fire & Life Safety Dist.  
[djohnson@wflsd.org](mailto:djohnson@wflsd.org)