

The Journal

Spring/Summer
2025

BOARD MEMBERS

Marjorie Lund, PE, SE
Chair
Seattle
Term Expires 7/2026

Doug Hendrickson, PE
Vice Chair
Richland
Term Expires 7/2027

David Peden, PE, SE
Spokane
Term Expires 7/2025

Aaron Blaisdell, PLS
Snohomish
Term Expires 7/2025

Mike Harney, PE,
P.Eng, ENV SP
Seattle
Term Expires 7/2028

Maureen Jackson, PE
Lynnwood
Term Expires 7/2029

Matt Rasmussen, PE,
PLS
Kennewick
Term Expires 7/2029

Ken Fuller, PE
Director

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From the Chair

OPINION: Marjorie Lund, PE, Board Chair

I have served my second term as board chair from June 2024 to now and am very proud of the work accomplished by hard-working board members and agency staff. Board members are all volunteers who contribute to the health and safety of our professions, in addition to their very busy careers and family lives. The ongoing work of the board and staff includes approving licensing applications and renewals, maintain-

ing the RCWs and WACs, and providing information to the public and licensees. The agency also adjudicates complaints against licensees and unlicensed practice.

The following is a summary of some of the additional BRPELS's work during my current year as Chair.

PE Structural Exam Changes

My year has been primarily devoted to concerns with the new computer-based, four-section structural exam. As we have reported in emails, LinkedIn,

and the website, the two Depth sections of the exam will be changing in 2026 and again in 2027. These changes are intended to relieve some of the difficulties of working in the testing center environment and the time constraints that have led to low pass rates.

We have heard complaints about the PE Structural Exam from many engineers along with SEAW and are working to solve the problems. I have led a coalition of multiple state boards pushing NCEES to make changes to the exam. NCEES has a policy that any exam changes will only occur when

continued page 2

Licensing Improvements

Staff Report

BRPELS is making significant improvements to our licensing process. The goal is to improve efficiency, reduce waste and remove redundancies. In the early stages of the process, the licensing team developed a few "quick wins" through automated licensing and application workflows, which decreased the average approval timeline by approximately 2 weeks.

Additionally, the licensing team deployed a new [Law Review](#) interface, hosted on the BRPELS webpage. Licensees can take the exam and immediately get pass/fail feedback and download their certificate. This cuts down on waste, decreasing time for hand-grading law reviews, allowing more time for customer service.

In the coming weeks, BRPELS will also deploy a web-based Customer Service Portal, allowing real-time feedback from customers. We invite you to visit the new portal and give us feedback on our agency. This is all part of a Lean Six Sigma process, to drive positive organizational change.

From The Chair

continued from page 1

examinees have been given a year's notice. They announced recently that examinees will have an additional hour for the Vertical Depth and Lateral Depth sections starting in April 2026. We are still trying to negotiate earlier changes, but this is a start to solving some of the issues. They have also stated the Depth sections will change in 2027 to have only 48 items instead of the current 60. This means more of the examinees' work will count towards their scores. Other changes will occur then, reflecting results of a professional knowledge study.

Legislation

BRPELS is funded exclusively through licensing fees, ensuring the agency's independence from fluctuations in the general fund. However, the legislature recently passed a bill authorizing a transfer of \$440,000 (25% of fund balance) from BRPELS' account to aid in addressing the budget shortfall. This decision presents challenges for the agency as noted in the [following article](#).

BRPELS is in the process of updating our laws and rules. These include modifications to the procedures for applying to the Fundamentals and Professional Exams. We are proposing changes that will go to the legislature in this next cycle to decouple the exams from experience when the legislation is approved. Applicants may go directly to NCEES for their exams before applying to BRPELS for experience review and licensure. This sequence is common in many states, and we find that our residents are applying elsewhere as a way of taking their exams earlier. More information about this will be on our website when the changes occur.

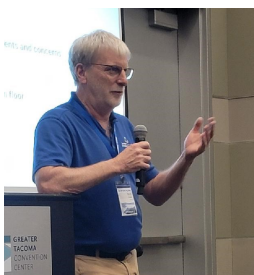
BRPELS has been active during the last legislative session supporting our state legislators in evaluations of proposed bills and testimonies concerning the potential effects on public safety as they relate to our disciplines.

Other Initiatives

BRPELS has recently modernized our law reviews and we have provided access to them on the [website](#). BRPELS staff continues to improve the speed of reviewing licensing applications, providing upgrades to our complaint process system, and streamlining investigation procedures.

Outreach to the public, our licensees, and future licensees has been an important initiative this year. We are pleased with the feedback we have received from attending professional conferences and the many students we have met at universities. These events are helpful in providing immediate answers to licensure questions and informing our constituents that we are readily available to help by emails or calls.

SEPTIC-CON



BRPELS presented at this year's "Septic-Con," the conference for on-site designers and inspectors, at the Tacoma Convention Center, January 24 and 25, 2025. Speakers reviewed rule changes, secondary safety barriers, age trends for on-site licensees, design considerations and complaint trends. About 80 people packed the event, with standing room only.

This year's presenters included Ken Fuller, PE, BRPELS Director, Bob Goodman, Designer and BRPELS On-Site Committee, Bob Suggs, Regulator, Tacoma Pierce County Health District and On-Site Committee, Kyle Goodman, PE, Goodman Engineering, Ric Wilkerson, Designer and On-Site Committee and Vonna Cramer, BRPELS Licensing Lead.



Former Board Member Passes Away

Former BRPELS Board member, Scott Valentine, passed away in Spokane, January 2, 2024. He was appointed to the Board in July 2005, serving two terms until July 2015.

He was a Professional Land Surveyor licensed in Washington, Montana and Idaho and was a former State President of both LSAW and of the Montana Association of Land Surveyors. He lived in Spokane, where he owned a small private land survey company, Scott Valentine Surveying. He practiced mainly in Eastern Washington with project work in Idaho and Montana.

His Board goal was to make decisions that are in the best interest of the public, his fellow land surveyors and the engineering profession. Scott was also honored as the LSAW Surveyor of the Year in 1988.

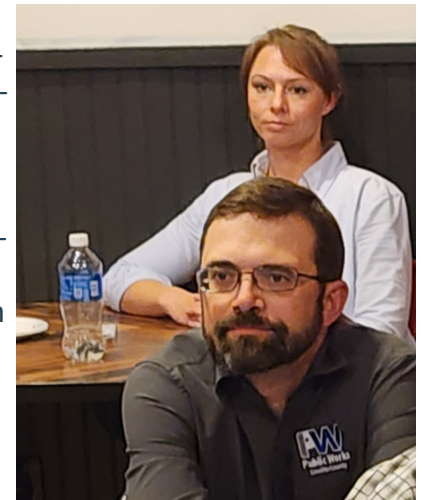


Scott L. Valentine
January 1, 1943 - January 2, 2024
WA PLS No. 18741 (March 1980)

LSAW Chapter Meetings



BRPELS staff continues its series of road trips, visiting Land Surveyors Association of Washington Chapter meetings around the state. On Wednesday evening, May 7th, they presented at the Lower Columbia Chapter meeting in Vancouver.



The group included Deputy Director, Kristina Horton, PLS, our new Investigations and Compliance Manager, Randy Garcia and Communication Manager, Greg Schieferstein. Kristina explained the latest on the agency, makeup of the Board, licensing and investigations. Randy answered many questions about the process of investigations. Greg reviewed the new BRPELS website, LinkedIn, Get Kids Into Survey and "Don't Cut Corners" campaigns.

"As we attend LSAW Chapter meetings around the state, we dispel some of the mystery surrounding the Board by discussing who we are and what we do," Kris said. "We answer questions about licensing, compliance/ investigations and the outreach we've been doing. It's always a great chance to get face-to-face interaction with students, technicians and licensees."



About 22 members attended the meeting, which included PLS's, LSIT's, students and retired surveyors. Recent chapter visits include Northwest (Bellingham), South Puget Sound (Tacoma), Cascade Columbia (Yakima), Southwest (Grand Mound), South Central (Tri-Cities), Inland Empire (Spokane) and Lower Columbia (Vancouver). If you would like to schedule a chapter visit or a presentation at any another event, please email Greg.Schieferstein@brpels.wa.gov

Exam Results

Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Results*

FE Exam CBT	Total	Pass	% Pass
October 21, 2024 - April 30, 2025	804	495	61.57%
FS Exam CBT	Total	Pass	% Pass
October 21, 2024 - April 30, 2025	21	11	52.38%
PS Exam CBT	Total	Pass	% Pass
October 21, 2024 - April 30, 2025	17	14	82.35%
PE Exam			
October 21, 2024 - April 30, 2025			
Chemical	Total	Pass	% Pass
	4	3	75.00%
Civil	Total	Pass	% Pass
	185	96	51.89%
Control Systems	Total	Pass	% Pass
	10	8	80.00%
Electrical	Total	Pass	% Pass
	47	27	57.45%
Environmental	Total	Pass	% Pass
	11	6	54.55%
Fire Protection	Total	Pass	% Pass
	8	8	100.00%
Industrial	Total	Pass	% Pass
	3	0	0.00%
Mechanical	Total	Pass	% Pass
	46	29	63.04%
On-Site Inspector			
March 2025	Total	Pass	% Pass
	17	10	58.82%
On-Site Designer			
March 2025	Total	Pass	% Pass
	4	2	50.00%
WA St Specific 4hr Land Surveyor			
March 2025	Total	Pass	% Pass
	36	28	77.78%

* The structural engineering (PE Structural) exam started with a new format starting in April 2024. We contacted NCEES and received the following: "NCEES doesn't plan to provide individual structural exam results in parts as people pass them. The reporting of individual parts of the exam being passed has caused confusion for boards. In the past, boards have mistakenly made assumptions about what a passing part means, versus passing the entire structural exam."

Investigations and Enforcement

Formal Actions - November 2024 to April 2025

Professional Land Surveying

Jared W. Riipinen
2024-09-2412-00LSV, et. al

Multiple investigations were opened after several complaints and a summary suspension was issued, based on the Respondent, Jared Riipinen, violating laws relating to unprofessional conduct, improper supervision, failure to meet professional development hours requirements, improper use of seal/stamp, improper placement of signature on a document, failure to comply with provisions of the Survey Recording Act, failure to respond to client inquiries in a manner expected from a prudent practitioner, failure to comply with Intelligent Interpretation standards on surveys and other survey-related deficiencies and violations.

The respondent did not file an answer or request a hearing within twenty (20) days of service of the Statement of Charges and thereby lost his right to an adjudicative proceeding before the Board.

Effective February 13, 2025, a Default Order was issued and the Respondent's license to practice land surveying was suspended for ten years. [See link for full details](#)

Case Closures

November 2024 – April 2025

Engineering

2024-10-3001-00ENG

The complainant submits that a professional engineer's engineering failed to meet stipulations in the contract and contained errors. They claim that the PE refused to provide engineering compliant to the contract, correct errors, or provide a refund.

The contract between the complainant and respondent stipulates that the structure shall be based on a set of drawings from a particular date. It also states the contact person is the architectural designer and not the owner.

In the Case Manager's opinion, the schematic level drawings that were attached to the contract, as the basis for design, did not have enough shear walls at the basement level to resist lateral loads on the four-story structure. Changes to the plans to resist lateral loads were necessary to meet building codes and permitting requirements. The respondent submitted emails indicating that this coordination was performed between the engineering firm and the designer, and the designer approved the changes. The contract did not require the engineer to contact the owner directly, and they stated that they presumed that the designer was responsible for this coordination.

Concerning the errors noted by the complainant, they are minor in nature and may not have changed the structural elements and may have been noted by the building officials.

The Case Manager's review is solely for the purpose of determining possible violations of state laws and is not an engineering review of the quality or correctness of the design documents.

Given the stipulations of the contractual agreement, there is no indication of violations of RCW or WAC regulations.

Based on the case manager's findings, the investigation was closed with no further action.

Investigations and Enforcement - continued

2024-12-3615-00ENG

The complaint alleges that he and a partner in August 2024 hired staff of the respondents to assess the need for a geotechnical report for a potential land slide zone for a property they wished to divide. The complainant alleges that several weeks later they reached out to respondent's staff who informed them a site visit indicated that no geotechnical report was needed but that the county required a letter stating this. The complainant alleges that a couple of months passed without action or communication, resulting in loss of surveyor services and a risk of land division permit expiring.

Respondent stated no services contract had been executed and no retainer received. Respondent added the complainant contacted respondent's office on the same day they were notified of the complaint and informed them the county had inspected the site and was informed a geotechnical letter would not be required.

Following remedial counseling the investigation was closed.

Land Surveying

2024-03-0530-00SLSV

This complaint regards a survey performed by the respondent on behalf of the complainant to resolve a boundary dispute and fence location between two neighbors. Complainant hired Respondent in October 2022 to complete the survey. Once the survey was complete, Complainant did not agree with the location of the boundary line as determined by Respondent. The complainant appears to have provided his own documentation supporting his determination of the boundary location to Respondent, but Respondent did not change his location of the boundary line based on the documentation provided.

The survey was recorded in March of 2023. It is unclear when the actual field work was performed, but it appears that the recording may have taken place within 4 months, after the survey work was done based on file. The survey meets the requirements of WAC 332-130-050.

After recording, the complainant tried to convince the respondent his determination of the boundary was in error and provided his own documentation and opinions on the boundary. The respondent declined to amend his survey based on the documentation provided.

The Case Manager review of this file is not to determine the accuracy of the survey, nor the location of the boundary, but rather if a violation of RCW or WAC has occurred. Based on the evidence provided it was determined no violation has occurred.

The case was closed with no further action.

On-Site Septic System Designing

2024-03-0585-00OSW

A complaint was filed against an on-site septic system designer and installer alleging they allowed the septic drain field to be installed on top of a water line. A new septic system was installed in early 2023 just prior to the previous homeowner advertising the home for sale. The complainant and his wife purchased the home in May 2023 and moved in in late June 2023. In December 2023, an excessively high-water bill indicated they had a water line leak.

Investigations and Enforcement - continued

During the complainant's leak investigation, he learned that his water line was under the new drain field (line was not sleeved). Further investigation revealed that the permit release drawings made it abundantly clear the water line was to be relocated to 5 feet or more away from the drain field and sleeved. The permit release drawings represent the conditions that were disclosed to the complainant at the time of the home purchase and not the actual location of the water line.

The onsite design in question was performed for the previous homeowner. The previous homeowner contacted the respondent's company to design a new septic system for her property, as the existing system was in a state of failure. Prior to making a site visit to excavate soil logs for the design, the respondent marked the property in white paint for identification by 811. The utilities were located prior to their site visit for soil log excavation on 24 October 2022.

The respondent personally excavated the soil log for the septic design on 24 October 2022. As 811 does not locate the water lines beyond the water meter, he asked the homeowner where the water line entered the house.

Her response was she was unsure where the water line entered, but she believed that the water line entered somewhere on the northeast portion of the house. They proceeded with their design of the replacement OSS and submitted the design to the County Health Department for review.

The case was reviewed by an on-site septic designer subject matter expert (SME). Following interviews with the respondent, environmental health department staff and SME this case manager determined there was no malicious intent on the respondent's part. There were a series of errors on several individuals involved in the project.

Following remedial counseling the investigation was closed.

2024-10-2789-000SW

A complaint was received alleging an on-site septic system designer was hired to design a repair/replacement for an existing failing on-site system. The respondent was hired in December 2023, and didn't submit the design for review until April 2024, which was then disapproved by the health department.

In response to the complaint, the respondent stated the design was disapproved by the environmental health inspector for many reasons. The respondent continued stating while there were a number of deficiencies on the design, most were due to his inexperience with this county's design procedures.

The respondent had spoken with the complainant regarding the Critical Areas Report (also known as a Critical Areas Designation (CAD) certificate) prior to submitting the design for review, and he asked that the respondent submit the design without the CAD, and follow up with it, once approved, during the design review process.

The respondent contacted the supervisor of the environmental health department and inquired about submitting the design without the CAD. The supervisor said that it would be unusual to do so but would result in disapproval of the design until the CAD could be completed and provided. The complainant agreed to this stipulation and directed the respondent to proceed per his request.

The respondent stated while he failed to meet some completion deadlines that he had communicated to the complainant, there were other influencing factors that prevented him from meeting these deadlines. He did not lie to the complainant, nor was there any intention on his part to mislead or deceive him.

Following remedial counseling, the investigation was closed.

Investigations and Enforcement - continued

Complaint Summary By Profession

November 2024 to April 2025 Complaints	Filed	Closed
Professional Engineers	10	5
Professional Land Surveyors	16	6
On-Site Designers	2	2
Unlicensed Engineers	1	0
Unlicensed Land Surveyors	1	0
Unlicensed On-Site Designers	0	0

The Engineer's Creed

I pledge to participate in none but honest enterprise, to place service before profit, the honor and standing of my profession before personal advantage and the public welfare above all other considerations.

Protect Your Property

BRPELS kicked off a new communication campaign, aimed at homeowners, landowners, contractors, etc., on the importance of hiring **licensed, professional** land surveyors, engineers and on-site designers. Our "Don't Cut Corners" campaign explains it with messaging, swag and links to our [special webpage](#).



- Always hire a licensed, professional land surveyor (PLS) when dealing with property boundaries or any situation where accurate property lines are crucial. They're trained experts in determining precise property boundaries, which can prevent costly legal disputes with neighbors and provide a standard of care for your construction projects to comply with regulations. They'll provide you with legal documentation of your land ownership.
- Always hire a licensed, professional engineer (PE), when a project involves critical design, construction, or safety aspects, as they possess the necessary expertise, legal accountability, and ethical standards to provide a standard of care that the project is completed correctly and safely. Professional engineers adhere to relevant codes, regulations, and laws to provide you the best solutions.
- Always hire a licensed designer of on-site wastewater treatment systems for your septic system, as they can ensure it meets local regulations and is suitable for your property. A professional will consider factors like your soil type, water table depth, and proximity to water sources when designing and documenting your system. Your safety is a top priority.

Connecting With the Public



BRPELS staff hosted an outreach booth at the annual State of Washington Public Service Week's Olympia Event, Wednesday, May 7, 2025. It brought recognition of our agency, while speaking with state employees who are also parents, landowners, etc.

We spoke with attendees about the importance of hiring a licensed, professional land surveyor in our new "[Don't Cut Corners](#)" campaign, along with getting kids interest-



ed in surveying as a career, with [Blaze the BRPELS Bigfoot](#) and other handout materials.

Do you know someone who would make a good Board member?

With a retirement this next year, the Board is looking for a Professional Engineer

- Must be actively engaged in the practice at least 10 years following registration, five years just before appointment
- Must be a resident of Washington State for at least the last five years
- Must be a US citizen



The Governor's office accepts applications throughout the year and considers all eligible candidates for upcoming vacancies. The application and instructions are on the Governor's website [here](#).

The Governor's office typically reviews applications in May, with a decision in June or July. Board members and agency staff do not directly screen applicants. However, they may suggest what experience is needed to keep the Board as diverse as possible. For questions, please contact Ken Fuller, PE, Director, at Ken.Fuller@brpels.wa.gov or Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director at Kristina.Horton@brpels.wa.gov.

BRPELS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

Board Staff

Ken Fuller, PE

Director
360-664-1565
Ken.Fuller@brpels.wa.gov

Agency Director and Chief Executive Officer for Board operations. Manages overall staff and program budget. Oversees liaison activities between the Board, other state agencies and stakeholders. Provides guidance on application of statute, rules and policies on engineering, land surveying and On-Site practice.

Kristina Horton, PLS

Deputy Director
360-968-3417
Kristina.Horton@brpels.wa.gov

Provides support to the Director related to staff management, guidance on application of statute, rules and policies on engineering, land surveying and On-Site practice. Provides guidance to staff regarding exams and investigations. Supports the Board's Survey Committee.

Mackenzie Wherrett

Executive Assistant
360-664-1568
Mackenzie.Wherrett@brpels.wa.gov

Executive Assistant to the Board. Coordinates all board meetings, minutes and schedules. Office coordinator and planner.

Shanan Gillespie

Regulatory Manager
360-664-1570
Shanan.Gillespie@brpels.wa.gov

Agency rule-making coordinator, records retention coordinator, public records officer. Supports the work of the Board's Executive Committee.

Jill Short

Investigations & Compliance Manager
360-664-1561
Jill.Short@brpels.wa.gov

Supports the Practice Committee and manages investigations and board enforcement. Conducts engineering, land surveying and On-Site designer investigations. Tracks Board Order compliance.

Randy Garcia

New Investigations & Compliance Manager
360-664-1561
Randy.Garcia@brpels.wa.gov

Preparing to support the Practice Committee and manages investigations and board enforcement. Conducts engineering, land surveying and On-Site designer investigations. Tracks Board Order compliance.

Greg Schieferstein

Communication and Outreach Manager
360-485-1688
Greg.Schieferstein@brpels.wa.gov

External & internal communication, outreach and education. Manages website, social media, photos and video. Editor of *The Journal* and assists stakeholder relations.

Vonna Cramer

Licensing Specialist - Lead
360-664-1573
Vonna.Cramer@brpels.wa.gov

Supports the work of the Exam Qualification Committee of the Board. Provides guidance to applicants and licensing staff on application of statute, rules and policies on engineering, land surveying and On-Site designer/inspector practice, as it relates to the licensing process.

Nghiem Pham

Licensing Specialist
360-664-1577
Nghiem.Pham@brpels.wa.gov

Processes exam applications for PE exams, PE initial licenses, SE exams, Professional Land Surveyors and On-Site Wastewater Designer/Inspector. Handles state specific PLS and OS exams, refunds, renewals, license verifications and general licensing questions.

Emily Weston

Licensing Specialist
360-664-1575
Emily.Weston@brpels.wa.gov

Processes PE comity, SE comity applications, EIT/LSIT exam and certifications and Corp/LLC applications refunds, renewals, license verifications and general licensing questions.

Bryce Dickison

Administrative Assistant
360-664-1575
Bryce.Dickison@brpels.wa.gov

Schedule and facilitate board meetings, events and resources. Assist licensing and answer general questions by phone and email.





Contact

Board Office Access

Board Mailing Address (documents without payments):

Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors
PO Box 9025
Olympia, WA 98507-9025

Board Mailing Address (applications or renewals with payments):

Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors
Department of Licensing
PO Box 3777
Seattle, WA 98124-3777

Board Office Location
605 11th Avenue SE, Suite #201
Olympia, WA 98501

Phone: 360.664.1575
E-mail Address engineers@brpels.wa.gov
Website <https://brpels.wa.gov>



Our office is in a secure building and public access is not available without an appointment. If you have a scheduled meeting in our building, please follow the instructions posted at the two main entrances and call our staff. Someone will bring you to your meeting.



2025 Events Calendar

MAY							JUN						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
7 LSAW Chapter Meeting - Vancouver							11 & 12 WSACE Annual Conference						
15-19 NCEES Western Zone Mtg - NM							16 & 17 BRPELS Annual Board Mtg - SeaTac						
21 UW Tacoma Presentation							16 & 17 SAME 'Meet the Chiefs' - SeaTac						
27 LSAW Chapter Meeting - Renton													
JUL							AUG						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
SEP							OCT						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
19 State PLS & On-Site Exams							8-11 ASCE Convention - Seattle						
							15 & 16 BRPELS Board Meeting - Pullman						
NOV							DEC						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
30							28	29	30	31			
19 ASCE Tacoma							10 & 11 BRPELS Board Meeting - Olympia						



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