



A Publication of the Water Systems Council

WSC SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

WSC Calendar

**Fall 2006 Members Meeting
November 8-10, 2006
Gaylord Texan® Resort &
Convention Center on Lake
Grapevine, Dallas, Texas**



**Spring 2007 Members
Meeting ■ February 27 -
March 2, 2007
Location: TBD
Washington, DC**

WSC Members Meet, Brief and Honor Congressional Leaders

During the Water Systems Council (WSC) Spring 2006 Members Meeting in Washington DC, 22 WSC members promoted the organization's message on Capitol Hill via 77 visits to Congressional leaders. WSC members briefed their Senators and Representatives or their staff on current WSC initiatives such as wellcare® workshops and Children's Water Festivals, WSC resources, and other topics.

Also during the Members Meeting, WSC President Dennis Coggins recognized outgoing WSC President Jim Dunbar for his service to the organization. WSC Executive Director Kathleen Stanley highlighted current and future WSC objectives, including the WSC wellcare® Model Project – aimed at promoting alternatives to traditional, long-pipe, centralized drinking water systems – and the WSC wellcare® Well Census Project – which will look to compile better data on household wells.



2006 WSC President Dennis Coggins (left), along with WSC Executive Director Kathleen Stanley (right), recognizes outgoing President Jim Dunbar (center).

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AROUND THE STATES

Georgia Advances Anti-Mandatory Connection Bill

The Georgia Drillers Association worked with state legislators to introduce House Bill 510 in the 2006 legislative session. House Bill 510 would amend Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government, so as to prohibit counties and municipalities from requiring connection with or use of water supplied by a public water system except when other water is unfit. The bill also provides exceptions that allow certain

New Mexico's State Engineer Proposes New Domestic Water Well Regulations

On January 3, 2006, New Mexico's State Engineer proposed new regulations on domestic water wells within the state. One new rule took effect immediately, increasing the application fee for the drilling of a domestic water well from \$5 to \$125.

Since 1931, applicants for a domestic water well essentially received the right to 3 acre-feet of water per year (afy).

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WSC MEMBER NEWS.....

WSC Members get a 25% discount on all products and publications.

Remember to Visit the Members-Only Section of the WSC website for...

★ **Around the States**, a summary of state legislative issues related to wells and drinking water, including a summary of legislative actions impacting the water well industry.

Around the States is a monthly publication for WSC members only.

★ **WSC Membership Directory**. If you have any additions and/or changes to your membership listing, please forward them to memberservices@watersystemscouncil.org

If you need assistance logging on to the members-only section of the website, e-mail memberservices@watersystemscouncil.org or call Kathie Auth at (202) 625-4387.

New WSC Publications Released

The 12th edition of the **Water Systems Handbook**, a reference for water well construction and maintenance, will be released in May. The new handbook includes up-to-date information on well construction, well components, questions and answers for self-testing, new graphics, and more safety information, all in full color.

Cost: \$48.75 for Members / \$65 for Nonmembers

The 7 Individual Booklets that make up the Handbook can be purchased for \$12 (\$9 for Members). Booklet titles: "Well Fundamentals," "Pumps," "Service," "Components," "Water Quality Assurance," "Electrical Safety, Controls & Regulators," "Community Water Systems, Shared Wells & Groundwater Heat Pumps."

Two new special reports were also recently released. "**The Well Log: A Survey of Water Well Completion Report Requirements**," summarizes the contents of Well Completion Reports required around the country and provides a copy of each state's report as of February 2006. "**The Water Well Census: A Compilation of Domestic Water Well Data**" contains information from the 1990 U.S. Census and best available data from state agencies for 2002 and subsequent years.

Cost: Special Report No. 3:

"The Well Log: A Survey of Water Well Completion Report Requirements"
\$26.25 for Members / \$35 for Nonmembers

Special Report No. 4:

"The Water Well Census: A Compilation of Domestic Water Well Data"
\$18.75 for Members / \$25 for Nonmembers

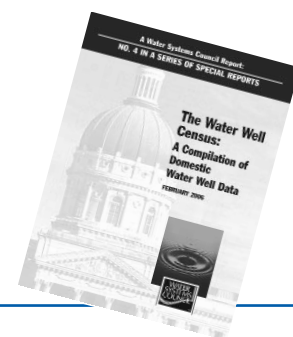
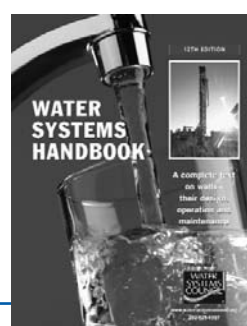
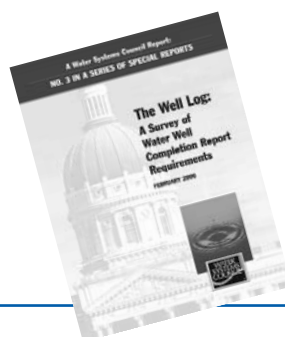
WSC also published a board book, **The Big Rig**, to introduce young children to the water cycle and how water wells are made. The board book is shaped like the vehicle for which the book is named and even stands on six rolling wheels!

Cost: \$4.46 for Members / \$5.95 for Nonmembers

The "**wellcare® Pocket Guide**," published in January, includes basic information about drinking water wells and is a ready reference on water well systems, well maintenance, and well water testing and treatment. For information on purchasing the Pocket Guide, contact Charlene Greenstreet at the number below.

To purchase any of the above-mentioned publications, visit <http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/bookstore/index.cfm>

For questions on any of these products, contact Charlene Greenstreet at (202) 625-4387 or charlene.greenstreet@watersystemscouncil.org or call the wellcare® Hotline at (888) 395-1033.



wellcare® Hotline Update

wellcare® Hotline Starts the Year Strong!

The wellcare® hotline opened 2006 as busy as ever, logging over 775 calls between January and March, reports Hotline Specialist Charlene Greenstreet. Hotline calls continued to come primarily from well owners, and a large number came from homebuyers as well.

The most frequent call topics were contaminants and testing, and the hotline also fielded questions related to mechanical pumps, treatments and a wide range of other topics. Callers in 45 states and the District of Columbia contacted the hotline, with the majority of calls coming from Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, and Florida.



The 2005 wellcare® Hotline Annual Report is now available! To receive a copy of the report and learn more about last year's hotline activity, contact Charlene Greenstreet at (202) 625-4387 or charlene.greenstreet@watersystemscouncil.org, or call the wellcare® hotline at (888) 395-1033.



wellcare® Hotline Frequently Asked Questions

Q.

When testing my drinking water, where should I take the water sample?

A.

If you would like to determine the quality of your well water, collect water that has not been filtered or treated. If you would like to test your filtered or treated water, collect the water that has already been treated by those devices.

Q.

There are so many contaminants that can be tested, how do I know what to test for?

A.

The wellcare® Hotline can help you determine which contaminants to test for, based on the area in which you live.

wellcare® Hotline
888-395-1033 or
[click here](#)



Above: Daniel R. Coats, Senior Counsel, King & Spalding's Public Policy & Government Advocacy Practice Group, addresses the group during lunch. Mr. Coats served in Congress as a Representative from Indiana (1981-1988) and as that state's senator (1988-1999). From 2001 to 2005, Coats was U.S. Ambassador to Germany.

Right: Allen Barnes, Esq., King & Spalding, highlights Supplemental Environmental Programs (SEPs), a potential funding source for wells.



Congressional Leaders

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WSC also honored Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) of Maryland and Congressman Charles Taylor (R-NC) of North Carolina with WSC well-care® Congressional Leadership Awards. Senator Mikulski and Representative Taylor were recognized for their support of WSC and its programs.

WSC Policy and Research Advisor Jesse J. Richardson, Jr., reviewed WSC's recent efforts to assist state associations in protecting private wells. Recent successes include thwarting a mandatory hookup requirement in a Tennessee town and revising a mandatory connection bill in Georgia. WSC continues to assist with similar problems in Illinois, Connecticut, New Mexico, and Michigan.

Guest speakers included Daniel R. Coats, Senior Counsel, Public Policy & Government Advocacy Practice Group, King & Spalding LLP; Timothy J. Lozen, Esq., Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C.; Jane B. Horton, M.S., and Lorraine Backer, Ph.D., National Center for Environmental Health, EHHE/Health Studies Branch, Centers for Disease Control; and Allen Barnes, Esq., King & Spalding LLP.

Georgia Advances Anti-Mandatory Connection Bill

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public water systems to mandate hookup to public water.

Public water systems that are permitted to mandate hookup include:

- (1) Any public water system having active service connection accounts that total more than 125,000 and average more than 200 per square mile of total area served;
- (2) A public water system that gives written notice to a property owner of that owner's right to opt out of connecting to the public system where the landowner fails to respond in writing within 45 days;
- (3) Any project of a public water system for which revenue bonds have been validated, issued and sold prior to January 1, 2007; or
- (4) Any public water system funded primarily through a federal or state grant that contains stipulations in such grant requiring the county, municipality or local authority to levy a charge or fee for water supply services made available but not used.

The bill also prohibits stipulations requiring fees for water made available but not used, or for mandatory hookup except where the water is unfit for human consumption, in all state grants, loans or contracts for services issued on and after July 1, 2006.

Bruce Widener, Executive Director of the Georgia Drillers Association and the

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Maryland/Delaware Children's Water Festival

More than 1,745 4th and 5th graders from Maryland and Delaware raced to uncover the secrets of water at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland on March 23! The 2006 Maryland/Delaware Children's Water Festival exposed the importance of water and water conservation through hands-on, educational activities, and showcased water-related entertainment from The National Theatre for Children, Charlotte's Crimson Chapeaus and the Docker's Quartet.

Takes Off!

"Our students really enjoyed the festival and they learned so much!" said Lynn Thompson, a teacher at Christian Tabernacle Academy in Lincoln, Delaware. "Thanks so much for putting forth so much effort, getting so many volunteers and teaching our kids in a fun, interactive way."

Activities, aimed at supporting Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) indicators and Delaware science standards, were presented by water and natural resource experts from Maryland, Delaware and beyond. Students enjoyed classroom activities such as "Clean Dirt" – which encouraged scientific hypotheses, experimentation and analysis to examine properties of clay, sand and loam – and built their own "Edible Aquifers," using clear soda, ice cream and colored sprinkles to represent water, a confining layer and contaminants such as weed killer and pet waste.

"Is there really weed killer in there?," asked one student as an instructor poured colored sprinkles onto his edible aquifer. "It still tastes good!," responded another.

In the water activity hall, children rushed for the opportunity to explore a stream table, stand inside a large bubble and view a groundwater model. At the Pit Stop, the children took a break from the action to sample water and enjoy entertainment from Charlotte's Crimson Chapeaus and the Docker's Quartet. (Some lucky students even witnessed Maryland Congressman Wayne Gilchrest join the ensemble onstage!)



Students learn about reptiles that live near water from the Salisbury Zoo's Jessica Bower.



Students view one of two big rigs on display at the festival.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BAY TIMES



WSC Executive Director Kathleen Stanley explains the stream table to Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD).



Students witness a watershed model at this Maryland Department of the Environment exhibit.

The National Theatre for Children's "Men in Plaid: The Water Files" engaged the children in a quest for an evil water-wasting alien, and taught water conservation techniques in the process.

As they reached the finish line, the students encountered a race car display, two live Big Rigs and an emergency response vehicle – courtesy of Goulds Pumps/ITT Industries, Lifetime Well Drilling and Shannahan Artesian Well Co., and the Maryland Department of the Environment Emergency Response Division, respectively. "I can't believe I'm touching a race car!" exclaimed one excited youngster as he crossed the finish line.

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More than 500 volunteers pitched in to keep the festival running, serving as class guides, Pit Stop servers, and more!
The Winning Water Organizing Committee, led by Festival Coordinator Dawn Greene,
had been planning the festival for more than a year.

2006 Maryland/Delaware Children's Water Festival Organizing Committee

Chesapeake College • Delaware Division of Public Health
Delaware Geological Survey, University of Delaware • Environmental Concern Inc.
Maryland Department of the Environment • Maryland/Delaware Water Well Association
Maryland Department of Natural Resources Watershed Services • Maryland State Department of Education
Department of Environmental Education • Maryland Cooperative Extension
Queen Anne's County Health Department • Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services
Salisbury Zoo • Water Systems Council

2006 Maryland/Delaware Children's Water Festival Sponsors

VICTORY LANE

Franklin Electric • Water Systems Council • Goulds Pumps/ITT Industries

PACESETTER

MD/DE Water Well Association • Pentair Water Group, Inc.

POLE POSITION

Aquaflow Pumps, Inc. • Lifetime Well Drilling • Milby Co. • Shannahan Artesian Well Company, Inc.

PIT CREW

Amtrol, Inc. • Atlantic Well Drilling • Baroid IDP • Blue Demon • Calvert Well Drilling
Campbell Manufacturing, Inc. • Clear Channel Radio
Cresline Plastic Pipe • Daisey Wells • Frank's Well Drilling • Law Office of Ronald B. Greene
Master Water Conditioning Corp. • Pierson Comfort Group LLC • RJ Seward
South Atlantic Well Drillers Jubilee • TELTRONIC • Water Doctor • Wooster Well Drilling



Other Contributors/Supporters

Baker Manufacturing Company • Bill Grasty • Charlene Shaw • Dolle's • Eashum • Industrial Valves
Johnson Screens • Kalas Bros. • Latchaw • M.A. Rhoades • Middleton Wells • Peterson • Resintech
Ryder Transportation • SJE-Rhombus • Sunnyfield • Taylor Electric Co. • Watermark Corporation

Georgia Advances Anti-Mandatory Connection Bill

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Association's lobbyist, led the charge to have the bill passed. The Association collaborated with the state homebuilders association, state farm bureau and state association of realtors. Water Systems Council assisted the Association in its efforts to have the bill passed by providing answers to questions regarding existing case law and other information requested by the Association.

On March 6, 2006, House Bill 510 was favorably reported out of committee. The Georgia Drillers Association felt confident the bill would pass the General Assembly and become law. Negotiations and compromises had produced a bill that all the various stakeholders agreed made sense.

Due to a scheduling error, the Georgia House of Representatives never voted on House Bill 510 during the 2006 session. Mr. Widener remains optimistic that the bill will become law in 2007. For more information on House Bill 510, see http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2005_06/search/hb510.htm

NM's Proposed New Domestic Water Well Regulations

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This amount could be used to irrigate lawns and gardens. The new regulations propose to cap this amount at 1 afy. If a homeowner wishes to use more than 1 afy from a domestic well, the proposed regulations allow the acquisition of water rights from another with the transfer of those rights to the site. Water rights currently sell for upwards of \$12,000 per afy. Note that New Mexico uses the "prior appropriation" rule for groundwater, giving those first to use the water priority rights over subsequent users.

In addition, the proposed regulations give the State Engineer authority to establish "domestic well management areas." A domestic well management area ("DWMA"), in brief, consists of any area that "requires special water resource protection," as determined by the State Engineer.

Although one public hearing within the geographic area is required prior to declaration of a DWMA, no guidelines constrain the State Engineer. The declaration remains within his sole discretion and fails to include any hydrologic standard.

Once a DWMA is established, the State Engineer may set forth additional limitations and restrictions within the area, including a required transfer of water rights prior to issuing a domestic well permit. Again, no scientific standards limit the State Engineer in setting these limitations. The cost of acquiring additional water rights along with severe constraints set by the State Engineer could prevent many individuals from securing a safe and clean water supply for their homes.

A public hearing on the proposed regulations will be held on April 21, 2006 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Runnels Building, Larazolo Auditorium, 1190 South Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information, see http://www.ose.state.nm.us/water_info_rights_rules_domestic_wells.html



WASHINGTON UPDATE

EPA Implements Revised Arsenic Standard

Effective January 23, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires a stricter standard for arsenic levels in drinking water. The new rule lowers the limit to 10 parts per billion.

The previous limit, set in 1975, was 50 parts per billion. The EPA announced its plans to lower the standard in October 2001, due to an increasing number of studies linking arsenic to cancer, diabetes and other diseases. Failure to comply with the new standard can result in fines of up to \$5,000 a day.

The standard applies to community water systems as well as other public water systems that serve more

than 25 of the same people for more than six months out of the year, such as schools, child care centers and nursing homes. The rule does not apply to small systems or individual wells, unless adopted as a local ordinance by the local health department.

EPA Toolkit Helps Schools and Childcare Facilities Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

Earlier this year, the U.S. EPA released a toolkit to help schools and child care facilities reduce lead in their drinking water. The toolkit includes guidance for water testing, sharing test results with parents and other interested parties and treatment. The toolkit will soon be available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/schools/guidance.html>

NSF Standard Allows Additional Stainless Steel Grades under Drinking Water System Standard

In early February, NSF International announced that “NSF/ANSI Standard 61: Drinking Water System Components” was revised to accept new stainless steel materials for the manufacture of drinking water equipment. The revised standard now includes Duplex stainless steel grades 2205, 2304, 2101, and 2003, in addition to types 304, 304L, 316, and 316L that were already accepted.

NSF/ANSI Standard 61 ensures manufacturing products and equipment do not leach harmful levels of contaminants into drinking water. Compliance with the standard is required by 45 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces.

wellcare® Briefs

MA Towns Examine New Road Salting Practices to Prevent Runoff into Local Wells

The town of Dunstable is considering alternatives to winter road salting, after hearing concerns that the practice increased saline levels in the town’s private wells. The Dunstable Board of Road Commissioners is looking to replace salt with a liquid distillery product called Ice Ban.

The Dunstable Board of Health said recent tests of the town’s water and those of new wells in the area have shown salt levels to be within acceptable standards, but it is examining salt alternatives in an effort to be proactive. Salt in water could contribute to health problems such as heart-related illness, particularly as the population in the town grows, said Board of Health Chairwoman Maria Amodei.

Elsewhere in the state, town officials in Upton have asked the Highway Department to stop salting a 1.3-mile stretch along Rte. 140, in order to protect the town’s main water supply and private wells in the area. For a roadway to be designated as a low salt area, the Highway Department must analyze 10 years’ worth of local water samples and conduct a year-long study to confirm that road salting is the cause of the problem.

Upton officials first became concerned five years ago, when a local bar’s well was shut down due to high salt levels.

DEP Examines Water Hookup Costs for Northern NJ Borough

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has asked officials at the borough of North Haledon to disclose the costs of connecting over 60 homes in the area to city water. The DEP said

about one third of the private wells in the borough are contaminated with trichloroethylene, at levels higher than the New Jersey standard of one part per billion. It is proposing mandatory hookup as a solution to the contamination problem.

NJ Residents Sue Borough over Mandatory Hookup Requirement

Residents of Saddle River, New Jersey filed a lawsuit February 1 against the borough after they were told to seal their private wells and connect to public water. The town claims the wells continue to be contaminated with possible carcinogens, including tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) installed point of entry treatment (POET) systems in Saddle River homes in the mid-1990s, but plans

wellcare® Briefs

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to end maintenance of the filtration systems after tests showed contamination in additional wells. The DEP has offered the borough \$1.2 million to fund the transition.

The property owners argue contamination levels are not high enough to justify closing the wells. The transition could be costly for the residents, who would likely have to pay \$4,000 a year for public water use.

Examination Discloses Failure of NC Regulators to Oversee Public Water Systems

Raleigh's News & Observer recently exposed the failure of North Carolina's Public Water Supply Section in overseeing the safety of the state's 7,000 public water systems. Tests for contaminants such as arsenic remain unmonitored and violations go unpunished, due to a lack of needed personnel at the state agency. The agency's chief, Jessica G. Miles, says her requests for additional funding to hire additional personnel have been unanswered.

MDE Finalizes Groundwater Protection Rules in MD

Early this year, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) finalized two rules aimed at protecting groundwater from contamination by motor fuel stored in underground tanks. The first rule, which became effective January 16, increases inspections of underground storage systems. Evaluations by MDE-certified inspectors will occur every 2 to 3 years, following an initial inspection.

The second rule involves emergency procedures to prevent methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) from reaching groundwater in the state's pri-

vate wells. The regulations require defensive measures on the part of gas station owners and owners of underground storage systems, as well as more frequent testing for contaminants and leaks.

ID Groups Argue Over Water Rights

Two Southern Idaho groups are asking for their share of water remaining from a winter that brought higher-than-average snowfall amounts. Officials from Idaho Power say the water from the snow melt belongs to ratepayers, while the Surface Water Coalition, which represents canal companies, says the water should be used to fill surface water reservoirs for irrigation, before it is used to recharge the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

The aquifer has been depleted over the past decade by drought and pumping, but some argue the recharge will only temporarily solve the problem.

NJ Receives Millions from Water Contamination Settlements

A New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company and service stations and energy companies across the state will pay millions of dollars in a settlement with the New Jersey DEP for contaminating local groundwater near their properties. Merck & Co. Inc., will pay \$2.4 million, fund a \$30,000 watershed restoration project and donate 10 acres close to the Rahway River.

The state will also receive \$2.2 million from Motiva Enterprises LLC and Shell Oil Co., \$22,938 from Pennzoil-Quaker State Co., and \$28,550 from Jiffy Lube International Inc. In addition, Shell will provide a conservation easement at the mouth of the Woodbridge River.

NC Pork Producer Agrees to Improve Practices to Protect Local Water Sources

Two NC hog farms – operated by Murphy-Brown, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods Inc. – have agreed to improve waste disposal practices under a settlement with local environmental groups. The Waterkeeper Alliance, the Neuse River Foundation and Lower Neuse Riverkeeper® sued the farms in 2001, claiming their waste disposal practices “violated federal laws and threatened human health.”

Large amounts of waste produced by the farms are sprayed into open-air waste ponds or used as fertilizer. Under the settlement, Murphy-Brown will use computers and electronic monitoring devices to ensure that fertilizer is not sprayed before, during or just after rain, and that spraying does not occur when wind speeds are over 15 mph. Murphy-Brown will also fund programs aimed at identifying and preventing groundwater threats and increasing stream buffers and wetlands.

CA Utility Settles Water Contamination Lawsuits

San Francisco-based Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) agreed to pay \$295 million to settle a series of lawsuits that were first filed about a decade ago, alleging the utility's operations contaminated the water in three California counties.

The complaints allege that PG&E was responsible for contaminating the water near its facility with chromium 6 – a possible carcinogen – affecting homes in Kings, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. A similar case against PG&E, which resulted in a \$333 million settlement, was portrayed in the movie, *Erin Brockovich*.



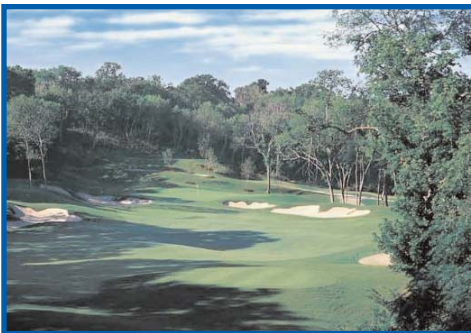
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Washington, DC 20007



Save the Date for the
WSC Fall Members Meeting!
November 8-10, 2006



Gaylord Texan® Resort & Convention Center
On Lake Grapevine ■ Dallas, Texas



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8:

Golf Tournament

Dallas Cowboys Golf Club

the only NFL-sanctioned golf club in the U.S.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9:

Committee & Members Meetings

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10:

Board of Directors Meeting

