

Thursday, July 15, 2015

Ms. Anne Block
Gold Bar Reporter

Dear Ms. Block,

It gives me great pride to inform you that you **were a nominee** for the first annual Kenneth F. Bunting Award from the Washington Coalition for Open Government. The award, named for former NFOIC Executive Director and former executive with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Ken Bunting, highlights exceptional journalistic work that supports and demonstrates the importance of open government and the OM/PRA.

Although not the top vote getter, we want to congratulate and recognize you for a body of work demonstrating the importance of open government and transparency. Your work involving transparency issues at all levels of government is important. The award committee and the board had a tough job selecting from the finalists.

This year, the Kenneth F. Bunting Award will go to Christine Willmsen, Lewis Kamb, Justin Mayo, Keith Ervin, and James Neff of The Seattle Times for their excellent series “Loaded with Lead.” The entries for the first year of this award were all excellent but the committee and the board felt the series “Loaded with Lead” was a wonderful example of the use of the Public Records Act to inform and educate the public.

Other finalists include Scott North, Chuck Taylor, and Rikki King of The Herald of Everett for their work on the UW Medicine’s response to the Marysville school shooting; JoNel Aleccia of The Seattle Times for her work on the superbug outbreak at Virginia Mason Medical Center; Steven Friedrich, former editor of the Vidette of Montesano for a body of editorial work on open government issues; and Ansel Herz of The Stranger for his work on transparency issues inside the Seattle Police Department.

The Award will be presented at our 10th annual Madison-Andersen Awards Breakfast on Friday, September 18th at the Washington Athletic Club. This year, we are partnering with PNNA’s annual conference and would love to see you recognized as a nominee at that event. Please save the date and I will be in touch in the coming days with details.

Congratulations to you for being nominated for this award. We hope to see you on September 18th.

Sincerely,
Juli Bunting
Communications Director, WCOG