# Let your Light Shine!



"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

# 2024 STEWARDSHIP Assumption Greek Orthodox Church



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

2023 was an exciting year of ministry at our Parish! I wish to thank everyone who joined in our mission to grow in faith and love through Christ. The success witnessed over the past year, from our largest ever Bite of Greece to our new Small Groups Ministry, has breathed new life into the ways we serve, learn and grow together. I am extremely humbled by all the good works our parish com-

munity has done and is planning to do in 2024. It is clear that God is continuously working through His stewards so that Assumption may be the light of Christ on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

Your generous gifts of time, talents and treasure are the fuel for our new and existing ministries. Through your 2023 stewardship we introduced an Eight Dates Marriage Ministry, hired a Director to revitalize and grow our Youth and Family Ministry, provided for over 1,300 weekend hunger bags to children in King County, revitalized our Welcome Ministry, remodeled the parish bookstore, and supported the growth of Orthodoxy in Latin America. Thank you for your faithful support which has made all of this and much more possible.

As our spiritual journey continues, we set our hearts and minds on growing in faith and love through Christ. Our mission comes to fruition through the generosity of your stewardship. As we grow in our faith, in our love and in our stewardship, the exciting work and progress of the past year will grow as well. Our map for the journey is percent giving, where all are invited through prayer and planning, to steadily increase the amount of time, talent and treasure we offer to Assumption, and ultimately for God. The material in the following pages has been lovingly assembled by the stewardship ministry to help you in your stewardship journey, so that you may discern how to use the unique gifts Christ has entrusted to your care to do his good works. And, as always, if you have any questions or feel called in some additional way please contact any of us on the stewardship ministry!

I give thanks to the good Lord for your involvement with, and presence at, Assumption. Let us pray for a prosperous 2024 where Christ magnifies the work of our hands as we continue on our journey to be a vibrant, shining beacon of the light of Christ on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

Your Faithful Servant,

Gus Mehas, Stewardship Ministry Chair

### **ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP 2024**

## Let your Light Shine!



#### STEP 1: REFLECT

Please prayerfully reflect on all that God has given to you. Think about your hopes and dreams for our community in the coming year. Using the resources in this book, learn more about how God may be calling you to let your light shine and to give generously in the coming year. How can you be part of helping us to be a vibrant and engaged community and a shining beacon of the light of Christ on Seattle's Capitol Hill?



#### STEP 2: RESPOND

Complete the 2024 Stewardship Pledge form included at the back of this packet. Tear/Cut it out and return it to the church. You can also make a secure online pledge at:

https://assumptionseattle.360unite.com/stewardship

Your pledge information will remain confidential and can be fulfilled anytime during 2024.



#### STEP 3: REJOICE

Bring your pledge cards to church on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, for Stewardship Sunday. We will collect all of the pledge cards and Father Dean will offer a special prayer service for the gifts we are offering back to God and our community.















## Because of you...THANK YOU!



For O.C.M.C. missionaries Jesse and Juanita Brandow to help grow the Church in Central America













Dormition of the Theotokos Endowment

\$1,000 to support DIGITAL CHANT STAND
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

provided children with weekend hunger bags

246

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

Time & Talents From:

Chanters

Acolytes

Readers

Ushers

Greeters Attendees

1,800 joyful volunteer hours the week of the Bite

Over

Small Groups Christmas for a family of

gifted through the Advent giving tree

## All of this was possible through your generosity.

Beautifully Revamped Bookstore



1 New Logo

IC XC
NI MA

ASSUMPTION

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Invested \$4,000 in

Psalter Groups

SEATTLE . WA



to support the ministries of the Metropolis of San Francisco 250 PALM CROSSES 180 RED EGGS Parishioners offering time & talent in the revitalized Welcome Ministry

Catechumens
8 Baptisms
4 Weddings
12 Funerals

Clergy
Appreciation
Luncheon
where Fr Dean
was gifted
New Sets Of

Vestments

Facility
Maintenance
Plan

300+

Christmas Hygiene Gift Bags for Homeless Women at ANGELINE'S DAY CENTER Myrrh Bearers



Bite of Greece
Marketing Intern

## ASSUMPTION'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Strategic Plan is one manifestation of how we grow our Church *in faith and love through Christ*. Assumption's mission, vision, values and strategic plan were created based on the direct input and ideas provided by over 250 members of our parish community using the 3 channels below:

- 16 Members of our Strategic Plan Leadership Team
- 27 Parishioners who participated on our Vision Teams
- 228 Survey Participants who provided 988 written survey comments

All of this culminated in a fully developed strategic plan (ask us for a copy!) which was approved by the General Assembly in the spring of 2022. We are using this plan to set our course for the next several years, and perhaps more significantly, the plan clearly expresses what it means to be a Steward at Assumption:

OUR MISSION: Growing in faith and love through Christ

OUR PARISH VISION: Assumption will be a vibrant and engaged community and a shining beacon of the light of Christ on Seattle's Capitol Hill

OUR CORE VALUES: Worship & Prayer & Love & Welcomeness Education & Family & Inclusiveness & Forgiveness

All of these inputs led to the creation of our **4 key strategic areas**, **with corresponding strategic objectives**. Collectively, these four areas represent the greatest opportunities to significantly and positively impact the mission and future of our parish.

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

Expand connection to prayer and the worship experience while growing one's spiritual and faith formation

#### YOUTH & FAMILY

To provide a safe, welcoming, and loving environment for Orthodox youth and families to grow in faith and love through Christ

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Nurture a culture of stewardship and generosity, so we grow in our Orthodox faith

Our Plan Was

Shaped by

Many Handst

#### OUTREACH

Increase support and connection to all parishioners, visitors and local, regional and global communities

You are invited to offer your time and talents to the implementation of the strategic plan. Contact Kristina Mehas at <a href="mailto:kmmehas@gmail.com">kmmehas@gmail.com</a> or (206) 390-7233 for more information.

## OUR IMPACT, REACH & NEED IS GROWING...

#### Reaching our goal in 2024 will allow us to...

- Hire a second priest in the fall of 2024
- Cultivate a new speaker/retreat and guest series
- Continue to cultivate new and innovative ministries
- Increase our reach to support to our local, national and international outreach partners
- Continue to support the growth of the Orthodox Church in Guatemala and Central America

 Hire a part-time Facility Manager to carry out critical maintenance, improvements, and updates to our campus and property



Homes Pledged: 252 Median Pledge: \$800 Stewardship Collected: \$408.130



Homes Pledged: 224 Median Pledge: \$900 Stewardship Pledged: \$432.640

\*As of September 30, 2023



"Your generosity and commitment allows Assumption to continue our growth and increase our investments in ministries to help those within and beyond our walls. By accepting this invitation of generosity, we remove the limits to our mission of growing in faith and love through Christ! This is the goal we are all invited to reach through the use of our gifts."

\*Rev. Father Dean Kouldukis\*

Return your pledge card by Stewardship Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Pledge and give online today at assumptionseattle.org



### DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES



As good stewards we gratefully acknowledge that all we have, and all that we will receive, comes from God. As we cultivate our stewardship of time, our prayer life and faith grow. As we give our stewardship of talent we enter into the Lord's work through the ministries of the Lord's church. The following pages include a description of each of the current ministries at Assumption

If you aren't currently involved in a ministry at Assumption, we encourage you to read through the following pages to discover how you might offer your time and talent to grow your faith and grow the Church!! Please reach out to the listed ministry lead with questions or to see how you can get involved.

#### LITURGICAL SUPPORT MINISTRY

#### **AV Support Ministry**

Assist the parish in using video outreach to support the ministries of the parish community. Gus Mehas • (206) 321-9875 • gmehas@mac.com

#### Prosphora Ministry

Provide fellowship, instruction, and baking of prosphora for parish worship.

Tasoula Pampoukas • (206) 246-7573

#### **Church Cleaning Ministry**

Provide a sanctuary and narthex that are clean and tidy for all services.

Chris Pampoukas • (206) 850-5111 • cgpamboukas@comcast.net

#### Koliva Ministry

Assist Philoptochos when parishioners request assistance in preparation of Koliva for a Memorial.

Mary Lou Barton • (425) 432-9592 • barzar@comcast.net

#### Icon Decoration Ministry

Assist in decorating the icons for feast day services.

Jillian Chandler • (206) 323-8557 • parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

#### Chanting Ministry\*

Assist the parish in praying the services of the church.

Fr. Dean Kouldukis • (206) 323-8557 • frdean@assumptionseattle.org

#### Reading Ministry

Join a team who reads the Epistle during Sunday Liturgies and other feast days.

Jillian Chandler • (206) 323-8557 • parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

#### Acolyte Training Ministry\*

Train and coordinate boys from ages 8-16 to serve and assist the priest in the altar.

Fr. Dean Kouldukis • (206) 323-8557 • frdean@assumptionseattle.org

#### FAITH FORMATION/EDUCATION MINISTRY

#### CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

#### Church School Ministry\*

Provides the religious education foundation for a lifelong practice of the Orthodox faith for Pre-K to high school aged children.

Rachael Pamboukas • (425) 432-2786 • rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

\*THESE MINISTRIES ARE INCLUDED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN\*

#### CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY (continued)

#### Youth Stewardship Ministry

Laying the foundation of our Orthodox tradition of generosity with our children.

Thom Dimitriou • (206) 931-5670 • tdimitriou@comcast.net

#### Oratorical Festival Ministry\*

Prepare church school students to speak on a variety of faith related topics at community and District level festivals.

Rachael Pamboukas • (425) 432-2786 • rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

#### All Saints Camp Ministry

Faith based youth camping program for grades 3-12.

Thom Dimitriou • (206) 931-5670 • tdimitriou@comcast.net

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

#### Psalter Group Ministry\*

Praying for one another while we pray the Psalms during the Lenten and Advent fasts.

Maggie John • (253) 377-0941 • maggiejohn@gmail.com

#### Studies in the Faith Ministry (Adult Catechism)

A survey course to give adult participants a foundational understanding of the Orthodox Christian Faith - its beliefs, worship and practices. This class is mandatory for those who wish to become Orthodox Christians. For those already Orthodox, this course will provide an enriched understanding of your faith.

Fr. Dean Kouldukis • (206) 323-8557 • frdean@assumptionseattle.org

#### **Pre-Marital Counseling**

Counseling to prepare couples to have a healthy, Christ-centered marital relationship.

Fr. Dean Kouldukis • (206) 323-8557 • frdean@assumptionseattle.org

#### Stewardship Ministry\*

Empower our parishioners to worship God through the sharing of their time, talents and treasure for the glory of God.

Gus Mehas • (206) 321-9875 • gmehas@mac.com

#### Eight Dates Marriage Ministry\*

"Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love." Each session is designed to engage couples in conversations on topics including: Trust & Commitment, Addressing Conflict, Sex & Intimacy, Work & Money, Family, Fun & Adventure, Growth & Spirituality, Hopes and Dreams.

John Skandalis • jskandalis@yahoo.com

#### FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

#### Sunday Fellowship Coffee Hour Ministry

Coordinate providing coffee and a light snack following church services to help us get to know one another, and help clean up after coffee hour has ended.

Sophia Foote • (206) 334-8049 • sophiafoote@comcast.net

#### Men's Fellowship Ministry

To provide the men of our community opportunities for spiritual development and fellowship.

Andrew Manolides • (206) 235-7135 • amanolides0815@gmail.com

#### Small Groups Ministry\*

Provide our parishioners with new opportunities for spiritual development, outreach, fellow-ship and parish support in a small group setting.

Laurie Skandalis • (206) 941-3805 • laurieskandalis@yahoo.com

#### YAL (Young Adult League)

To provide single adults, between 18 and 35 years of age, opportunities for fellowship, service, witness and worship.

Instagram: <a href="mailto:wyalseattle@gmail.com">wyalseattle@gmail.com</a>

#### **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

#### Welcome Ministry\*

Provides Christian hospitality to help guests feel at home in our parish.

Penny Peppes • (425) 503-3421 • ellinas1@msn.com

#### **Bookstore Ministry\***

To encourage and enhance the Orthodox experience in our parish by offering items that aid in the development and awareness of our faith: books, icons, cards, and items for the home altar.

Sophia Schier-Hanson • (210) 557-8528 • sschierh@gmail.com

#### Bite of Greece Festival Ministry\*

The annual celebration of our faith and heritage and our largest community outreach ministry of the year.

Kristina Mehas • (206) 390-7233 • <a href="mailto:kmmehas@gmail.com">kmmehas@gmail.com</a>

#### Society of St. John the Almsgiver Ministry

On the first two Thursdays of each month, this group prepares and serves dinner for homeless men aged 55+ at the Seattle St. Martin de Porres shelter.

Laurie Skandalis • (206) 941-3805 • <u>laurieskandalis@yahoo.com</u>

\*THESE MINISTRIES ARE INCLUDED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN\*

#### Family Outreach Ministry

Provides meals to those who have just given birth, to those who have recently lost a loved one, or to those in need.

Teresa Maschinsky • (719) 661-7013 • teresa.maschinsky@gmail.com

#### Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Ministry\*

Collaborates with and supports missionaries and their families around the world.

Ron Delarose • (206) 920-7692 • rwd348@gmail.com

#### International Orthodox Christian Charities (I.O.C.C.) Ministry

Collaborates, in the spirit of Christ's love, to offer emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide.

Ethel Barbas • (360) 387-7245 • eabcamano@wavecable.com

#### Philoptochos Ministry

Provides assistance to those in need in the church community, the Capitol Hill community, the USA, and internationally. Women and men of our parish are invited to join.

Diamando Bekris • (206) 354-3753 • mbekris7@gmail.com

#### **Ambassador Ministry**

Engaging our parishioners within our church community.

Gus Mehas • (206) 321-9875 • <u>gmehas@mac.com</u>

#### PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES MINISTRY

#### Parish Council Ministry

Administrative body that works together with Fr. Dean to fulfill the mission and vision of our community.

Penny Peppes • (425) 503-3421 • ellinas1@msn.com

#### FINANCE & REGULATIONS MINISTRY\*

#### Planned Giving Ministry\*

Encourage parishioners to use estate planning as a way to leave a legacy for the church that strengthens God's ministries and expresses thankfulness to Him.

Thom Dimitriou • (206) 931-5670 • tdimitriou@comcast.net

#### **Audit Ministry**

Assist our community in regularly taking account of the material blessings God has granted us.

Justin Franklin • (206) 734-6971 • justinfranklin@franklinpacific.net

#### **COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY\***

#### Webmaster Ministry

Assist our parish in the use of technology to communicate, educate and inform.

Jillian Chandler • (206) 323-8557 • parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

#### **Electronic Newsletter Ministry**

Assist our parish with electronic communications regarding parish, Metropolis and Archdiocese level events.

Jillian Chandler • (206) 323-8557 • parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

#### Information Technology Ministry

Provides system management, administration, and support to ensure our parish can continue to focus on outreach and evangelism.

Gus Mehas • (206) 321-9875 • gmehas@mac.com

#### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT MINISTRY

#### **Building Maintenance Ministry\***

Assist our parish in the maintenance and care of the facilities God has given us.

George Peppes • (206) 229-9485 • facilitiesmanager@assumptionseattle.org

#### **Grounds Maintenance Ministry**

Assists our parish in the maintenance and care of the grounds God has given us.

George Peppes • (206) 229-9485 • <u>gxp4658@gmail.com</u>

#### Renovation Ministry

Assist in planning for the continuing renovation of our church.

Rachael Pamboukas • (425) 432-2786 • rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

#### Parish Security Ministry\*

Working to provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of our parishioners and our guests.

Niko Pamboukas • (425) 235-9786 • pamboukas@hotmail.com

#### Clergy Family Support Ministry\*

Provide opportunities for continuing education and spiritual growth for our clergy and their families; plan regular opportunities for parishioners to show their support of our clergy and their families.

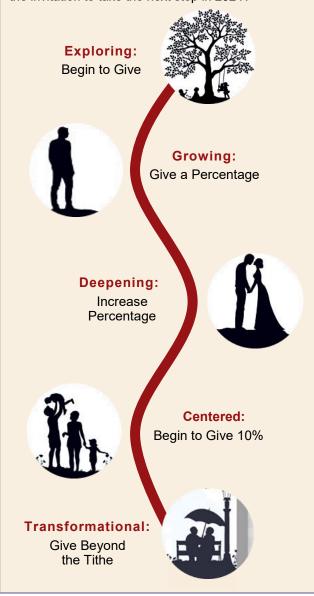
Jillian Chandler • (206) 323-8557 • parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

#### THE GIVING PATH

#### Why Move Along the Giving Path?

Every journey begins with a step. As we walk our spiritual journey, we are moving forward in being more Christ-like. Jesus said that, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The steps on the giving path are tools to help us grow in faith and love through Christ!! We ask ourselves: Where are we on this path? Will we accept the invitation to take the next step in 2024?



#### TIME

#### Offering Our Lives to Christ Our God

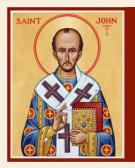
Prayer and participation in sacraments are the foundation of stewardship. This is how we lovingly prepare to offer ourselves in service to Christ and others.

God has graciously bestowed upon us the entirety of our lives. He has blessed us with 168 hours per week (or a little more than 10,000 minutes per week).

How many of those 168 hours do we offer to Him each week? Please take some time now to consider what you are willing to offer to God in thanks for all He has given you.

Here are a few ways we can offer our time to God each week:

- **D** Attend Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Sundays
- **D** Partake in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- D Attend Vespers on Saturday evening
- D Attend Orthros and Divine Liturgy on weekdays
- **D** Participate in the Sacrament of Confession
- **D** Pray the Jesus Prayer
- **D** Spend time daily in personal prayer
- D Pray together with loved ones
- D Read the Bible



"If but ten among us lead a holy life, we shall kindle a fire which shall light up the entire city."

-St. John Chrysostom

### TALENT

#### Offering My Talents to Parish Ministries

God bestows upon each of us unique and wonderful abilities. Listed below are ministries in which you can use your talents. Please take some time to consider what abilities God has blessed you with and mark the ministries below in which you would like to apply your talents.

Individuals should indicate areas of interest with a check  $(\checkmark)$ . If you've signed up to support a ministry in previous years, please re-confirm your interest.

Families, please mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife, or "C" for child.

FAITH FORMATION / EDU	JCATION			
Sunday School* Youth Stewardship Oratorical Festival* All Saints Camp Psalter Groups* Studies in the Faith Pre-Marital Counseling Stewardship* 8 Dates Marriage Ministry*	FELLOWSHIP  Sunday Coffee Hour  Men's Fellowship  Small Groups*  YAL (Young Adult League  LITURGICAL SUPPOR  AV Support  Prosphora			
PARISH SUPPORT  Parish Council  Planned/Estate Giving*  Audit Ministry  Webmaster*  Electronic Newsletter  Information Technology  Building Maintenance*  Grounds Maintenance  Renovation Ministry  Parish Security*  Clergy Family  Support Ministry*	Church Cleaning Koliva Icon Decoration Chanting Ministry* Reading Ministry Acolyte Ministry*  OUTREACH* Welcome Ministry* Bookstore* Bite of Greece Festiva St John the Almsgiver (Cooking for the Homeless Family Outreach			
PLANNED / ESTATE	Orthodox Christian Mission Center			

#### TREASURE

#### Gifting to Christ and His Church

Generous gifts of treasure enable Assumption's ministries and His Church to thrive and grow. Additionally, our journey through percent giving to tithing is an important part of our own spiritual discipline and growth, helping us to grow in faith and love through Christ through our faithful and cheerful giving.

	de for God's blessings, I/we commit t I His Church the following amount:
\$	per □ week □ month □ yea
Expected	l total for 2024: \$
	To pay by credit card,
	ing setting up recurrent payments, ease go to the "Giving" tab at:
•	w.assumptionseattle.org

#### Join Us on Our Journey to Become a Tithing Parish

...as stewards of the church, we give our time, talents and treasure to ensure that we are *growing in faith* and love through Christ, not simply to meet the expenses of the church.

...our financial gifts are proportional to our income. Using the methodology of "percentage giving", we pledge to the church a percentage of our income that we are able to give.

...we ask that, to the degree you are able, you round up your financial gift in 2024 to the next percentage point of your income.

...we then endeavor to increase our stewardship commitment by rounding up to the next percentage point of our household income, each year, until we reach a tithing level of at least 10% of our income.

#### GENEROSITY CHART

ANNUAL	WEEKLY GIFT				ANNUAL GIFT		
INCOME	1%	3%	10%		1%	3%	10%
\$25,000	\$5	\$14	\$48		\$250	\$750	\$2,500
\$50,000	\$10	\$29	\$96		\$500	\$1,500	\$5,000
\$75,000	\$14	\$43	\$144		\$750	\$2,250	\$7,500
\$100,000	\$19	\$58	\$192		\$1,000	\$3,000	\$10,000
\$200,000	\$38	\$115	\$385		\$2000	\$6,000	\$20,000
\$400,000	\$77	\$231	\$769		\$4,000	\$12,000	\$40,000

<sup>\*</sup> denotes areas that are part of our Strategic Plan Implementation

☐ Please send me info on

gifting a portion of my

estate to the Church.

Any talent not listed?

(OCMC)\*

(I.O.C.C.)\*
Philoptochos
Ambassador Ministry

International Orthodox

**Christian Charities** 

## INFORMATION YOUR NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE YOUR MOBILE PHONE YOUR HOME PHONE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH YOUR OCCUPATION YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION SPOUSE'S MOBILE PHONE SPOUSE'S EMAIL ADDRESS DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S NAMES & BIRTHDATES:

the parish directory?						
☐ yes ☐ no  If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:						
☐ Please add me to the parish email list.						
$\square$ Please add my spouse to the parish email list.						
☐ To help keep expenses down, I/we don't wish to receive a paper copy of the monthly bulletin.						
☐ Please send me updates via text message						
☐ Please send my spouse updates via text message						
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS						
How do I become a member of the parish?						
Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed steward-ship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talents and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.						
Why must I commit to give a specific amount?  Please keep in mind your financial commitment is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.						
What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?						
During the course of a year, circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.						
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH						
SEATTLE • WA						