



Washington Airport Management Association

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Letter to the WAMA Membership – April 7, 2015

Fellow WAMA Members:

In this continuing series of Letters to the Membership, my goal is to keep you abreast of the activities of your Board and Executive Director. Please let me know if there is a particular subject or item of interest that you would like me to address in a future letter.

Having just completed my first year as your Executive Director, I first wish to acknowledge the tremendous support I have received in this position from your Officers and Directors. WAMA is privileged to have such a fine cadre of individuals addressing the needs of its members and advocating in our collective behalf for all airports statewide.

In addition to ongoing support of WAMA's Officers, Board, and Committee tasking, the past few months have been devoted to the following areas, explained in greater detail (when not self-explanatory) below:

1. Committee Structure Development and Action Items Tracking.
2. New WAMA Scholarship/Grant Documents
3. Airport Visits.
4. Green River Community College Curriculum Development.
5. 2015 WAMA Budget.
6. Creation of the Washington State Aviation Alliance (WSAA).
7. Support of Aviation Excise Tax Bills SB5324 and HB1526.
8. Airport Awareness Day, Olympia.
9. Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show.
10. Town of Eatonville Testimony: Aviator Heights Subdivision.
11. Annual Conference Preparation.
12. WAMA Operations Manual.

Looking ahead, the Annual WAMA Conference in Spokane next month is sure to be a big hit with our members and the Davenport Hotel Collection offers an ideal downtown venue.

Please know that I am always just a phone call or an e-mail away. Let me hear from you:
(253) 973-9687 or director@wama.us.

That's the latest from the shores of West Seattle...

Sincerely,

Warren Hendrickson

Committee Structure Development and Action Items Tracking

The heart of WAMA's work on behalf of its members is accomplished by its Committees. Every WAMA Board Member has an active role in WAMA's Committees, now identified as either Chair or Vice-Chair. This better defines the lines of responsibility and authority than the former use of Co-Chairs. Committees are augmented with additional members when appropriate.

The "Action Items" worksheet (posted on the WAMA website) is now a living document that tracks all Committee activities, specifically identifying the "what" and "who," as well recent progress, next steps, and deadlines. This document has already proven to be an effective management tool during every Board meeting and ensures greater accountability to our membership in meeting the goals of the organization.

New WAMA Scholarship/Grant Documents

WAMA's Scholarship and Grant Documents were completely revised by the Scholarship Committee during latter 2014, providing scholarship/grant details and an application in a uniform and consistent manner across all four offered programs.

One question that arose during this process was: Who is Tom Eller, for whom the collegiate scholarship program is named? Given that the first Tom Eller Scholarship was awarded in the fall of 1993, corporate memory of the circumstances among current WAMA Board Members does not exist. Thus began the hunt for the history of this program. During the search, I had opportunity to speak with members of Tom's family and they were most pleased to learn that the scholarship, now 22 years later, is still in Tom's name. A new Tom Eller Memorial Scholarship brochure includes Tom's biography and will be posted on the WAMA website with other scholarship/grant documents.

Airport Visits

Each of the following airports was visited this past fall, winter, and spring:

- Anacortes
- Skagit Regional
- Bellingham
- Lynden
- Concrete
- Darrington

- Southwest Washington Regional Airport
- Chehalis-Centralia
- Pearson Field
- Eatonville
- Paine Field

Not all of these airports are currently WAMA members. The outreach effort was made to ensure awareness of our organization and the value WAMA membership brings.

My goal for this past year was to reach as many western Washington airports as possible. I am looking forward to expanding my visits throughout eastern Washington this coming year. If there is a particular date or event you would like me to assist or participate in at your airport, please let me know.

Green River Community College Curriculum Development

This was a most interesting one day project. Green River CC in Auburn formally convened a DaCUM (Development of a Curriculum) panel to create a course of study for GRCC's new four-year Bachelor of Applied Sciences (BAS) degree program in Aviation Operations Management. Other participants included FAA ARTCC, WSDOT Aviation, Pacific Northwest Aviation Alliance, Port of Seattle, and Crest Airpark. I am willing to share a copy of the final report should anyone be interested.

Creation of the Washington State Aviation Alliance (WSAA)

The WAMA Board authorized my participation last fall as the administrative assistant to the WSAA Steering Committee. The five Steering Committee Members included WAMA (Kandace Harvey), WSCAA (David Ketchum), WPA (Les Smith), AOPA (Dave Ulane), and WSDOT Aviation (Tristan Atkins). With several meetings a month in a devoted and prolonged effort, the Alliance was officially created in late December 2014. The basic concept of the Alliance is to bring all statewide general aviation groups under a single "Umbrella of Strength." Its mission statement is: *The Washington State Aviation Alliance serves as a collective voice for aviation and airport-related organizations to protect and promote aviation in the state of Washington.*

Membership and website development efforts are now underway. Already signed on are: WAMA, WSCAA, WPA, AOPA, WSDOT Aviation, NBAA, PNBA, WSPA, and the RAF. Look for the website soon at www.wsaa.aero.

From my personal viewpoint, the Steering Committee could not have been in more capable hands. Everyone brought something to the table and the collaborative process was exemplary. This is an organization that will serve as a Washington state aviation force multiplier for years to come.

Support of Aviation Excise Tax Bills SB5324 and HB1526

There have been a significant number of legislative updates to WAMA members on this topic so I will not belabor the point. Suffice it to say that we are now in the end game and that the issue is now on the floor of both the state Senate and House. Having the opportunity to participate in an active legislative process has been very instructive and rewarding.

Airport Awareness Day, Olympia – February 9, 2015

Previously known as “Airport Funding Day,” this one day WAMA and WSCAA-sponsored event was timed during the current legislative session to bring awareness to State Senators and Representatives and their staffs regarding statewide aviation issues and needs. WSDOT Aviation created a superb display of storyboards that were highly informative. Participants included several WAMA members as well as WPA and AOPA.

Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show – February 21-22, 2015

Once again, WAMA sponsored a booth at the annual Puyallup NWAC&TS. WAMA Secretary Dave Field created a display centered on the theme “Support Your Local Airport.” Traffic was constant and networking opportunities with other airports, aviation organizations, and event attendees was highly valuable.

Town of Eatonville Testimony: Aviator Heights Subdivision

This topic is a much longer story. Suffice it say that a local developer has proposed turning a 2007-approved airpark residential area adjacent to Eatonville’s non-NPIAS Swanson Field (2W3) into a private residential subdivision. There are concerns with this proposal on many levels, not the least of which are Part 77 obstruction hazards and incompatible land use in accordance with WSDOT Aviation guidelines. FAA, WSDOT Aviation, and AOPA have all provided input to the Town Council highlighting multiple concerns with this proposal. WAMA testified before the Town Council in opposition to this plat revision as an incompatible land use. Nonetheless, the Council voted for approval of the revised plat, 3-2, at its March 23, 2015 meeting.

WAMA Operations Manual

A work in progress. Given recent tasking, the timeline for this important project has slipped. My words from last fall still apply:

“Yes, you could write a book about this. Suffice it to say that much of what we currently do and, in particular, how we do it is the result of longstanding corporate knowledge of our Board members and Officers. We are now capturing that knowledge in writing, to preserve the processes employed for smooth and efficient operations...”

Executive Officers, Board Members and Executive Director

Kandace Harvey, President; Ryan Sheehan, Vice-President; David Field, Secretary; Jennifer Skoglund, Treasurer
John Haakenson, Deb Wallace, Jamelle Garcia, and Rob Hodgman, Board Members
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