



Letter to the WAMA Membership – December 7, 2015

**Greetings to My Fellow WAMA Members:**

I am excited, eager, honored, and humbled to be a part of the Washington Airport Management Association team, and I look forward to meeting each of you and touring your airports. In the two days of intensive training during the transition from Warren Hendrickson's term of service to mine, I have learned a great deal about the organization and have come away very impressed with all that you do. Warren has been a great help and has left big shoes to fill.

Growing up near the downwind pattern to 10L off Vancouver, Washington's Evergreen Field, I spent lazy days lying in the grass, watching and listening to the drone of the planes as they flew overhead. That, along with a summer job at the Portland International Airport, an uncle who flew a Taylorcraft to Evergreen Field and a high school date with a boy in a Cessna 150 planted the aviation seed inspiring me to obtain my private pilot license. In 1984 I took my first private pilot lesson and in 1987 went on to get my instrument rating. As an airplane renter and borrower, I fly a number of planes, including a Cessna 172, C-182, a Piper Arrow, and a Beech Musketeer.

My career was not in aviation, though. I followed the path of education. I taught the elementary grades, in Mabton and Richland while pursuing a Master's in Education Administration, ending my career as the Dean of Students, which is similar to a Vice Principal.

After retiring, I dove into aviation, becoming involved with Vista Field Airport in Kennewick and a number of aviation organizations. Sadly, I watched Evergreen Airport close, then Vista Field—both airports close to my heart. The closure of those airports, along with others has left a gaping hole in the communities they served. Communication, along with education to the legislators, local government officials, and voting communities extolling the value of airports is crucial. Addressing legislation that affects our airports and increasing membership in WAMA to provide a louder voice in Olympia are two of my goals that will provide a positive impact on you and your airport. As your new Executive Director, I am here to help support you, your Board, and your airport. I look forward to meeting you, and when the weather improves, you just might see me landing at your airport.

Best regards,

*Marjy Leggett*