



# Washington Airport Management Association

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April 2016

Fellow WAMA Members,



After nearly four months as WAMA Executive Director, I am gradually getting my feet on the ground—or, using an aviation metaphor, I should say I am slowly taking off. Since joining WAMA last December 1<sup>st</sup>, I have participated in board meetings, committee meetings, Aviation Awareness Day, the Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show, Airport Improvement Plan meetings, a visit to Paine Field, and connected with many of you through email.

Working with the WAMA Board of Directors, I continue to be impressed by the dedication, high quality of work, knowledge, and the support this organization gives. Each board member has taken on an Action Plan to improve or enhance the organization or maintain its course. You can be proud of the fact that each committee chairman approaches his or her assignment with sincerity and determination to do a quality job.

My goal is to visit as many airports as I can and to meet each of you, so when the weather becomes a little more consistently flyable, you can expect to hear from me. If there is something special going on at your airport or there is a time that works best for you, please contact me and we'll see if we can work out the visit.

I am here to assist and serve you, so if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me, and I will do my best to find out an answer for you.

Below are some of the activities I have been involved with.

## **Airport Awareness Day:**

What a great way to connect with the decision-makers! Washington State Department of Transportation/Aviation (WSDOT) prepared an excellent board display showing how distributing the monies collected through aviation excise taxes is benefitting airports **AND** the General Fund. \$637,000 is now reallocated biennially from the General Fund to the Aeronautics Account. This money funded 29 projects at 24 airports, leveraging \$10.6 million in Federal/FAA funding. The \$637,000 when combined with federal and local matching funds will ultimately result in more than \$13 million for airport projects **AND** returns approximately \$909,000 to the General Fund in sales and B&O taxes from these 29 airports. It has been a win-win situation for all!

Those who stopped by were taken on an individual tour of the board display to help understand the impact the redirection of excise fees has made. Hosted by the Washington State Aviation Alliance, members from WSDOT, Washington State Community Airport Association (WSCAA) and WAMA all



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participated. In the evening, a social hour was held at a local restaurant, which brought additional legislators and assistants to meet with our team. It was a very successful event!

## **Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show:**

The booth at the trade show in Puyallup provided a chance to spend time talking to mostly pilots about the latest happenings at our airports. Deb Wallace provided scholarship and intern information, which drew younger people to the booth, but the biggest hit of all, was the airport restaurant list prepared by former WAMA Executive Director, Warren Hendrickson. Pilots swarmed the booth and sent their friends over to pick up a copy. After running out of the first 200 lists, we printed a hundred more. Anything that draws people to the booth sets us up for two-way conversations that help answer questions and dispel misconceptions. The candy helped, too!

## **WAMA Conference in Vancouver:**

The annual WAMA Conference will be May 18-20. Your team of John Haakenson, Kelly Thompson, Diana Beeler, and the WAMA Board have done a fantastic job of putting this all together to make it a fun and informative gathering. They have lined up some great speakers, which I'm sure you will enjoy and find informative. An exciting new feature this year is that the Oregon Airport Management Association will be joining us. Here is a chance to connect and compare with others in our neighboring state. Please join us for the golf tournament. You can sign up on the WAMA website.

I recently toured the Heathman Lodge and I think you are going to like it. It is located only two blocks or so from the Vancouver Mall and there are lots of eateries within walking distance, plus they have a restaurant within the hotel. The hotel is operated by the owner of a lumber company. The modern interior is in rustic wood design with the wood processed from the local lumber company. Conference rooms are large and should be quite adequate for our needs. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Check out the registration if you haven't already done so.

Sincerely,

Marjy Leggett

Executive Director, WAMA