

## Executive Director's Report: March 28, 2018

Spring is a busy time of year for WAMA with the Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show, preparing for the WAMA conference, scholarship applications due, awards, the Aviation Awareness Day, and monitoring legislation.

Your WAMA Board of Directors and the WAMA committees are continually striving to enhance the benefits of your membership. The WAMA Waypoints, a bi-weekly bulletin with the latest information has been available since February. Use this as a conduit to send information, news, requests for proposals, announcements, and job opportunities to the membership. Send your information to me at [director@wama.us](mailto:director@wama.us) .



Have you ever wanted to visit another airport to see how its operations compare to yours or to ask another airport manager questions? A new benefit to WAMA members is in the works. We will provide airport tours with a chance to spend time talking with other airport managers. The first visit will be in May at Port Angeles. Be watching for more information and a schedule of upcoming tours.

If you haven't signed up, be sure to do so for the WAMA/OAMA Conference coming up May 21-23. The Skamania Lodge is only holding our block of rooms until April 20. Early bird registration ends April 1st. We will have some new and exciting sessions, including "Show Me Something Cool" and "Airport Maintenance Round Table." State representatives from Washington and Oregon will also be present to talk about the aviation caucus and the latest aviation bills. For conference information, go to <http://www.wama.us/event-2798745>

This has been an interesting year in the Legislature with some successes and some disappointments. President Trump signed into law H.R.1645, the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus bill, which includes a substantial boost in airport grant funding. In addition to the \$3.35 billion for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), the bill provides an additional \$1 billion in airport discretionary grants targeted at small and rural airports. Currently, the FAA is awaiting funding guidelines from the Appropriations Committee. Once the guidelines are in place, airports classified as small and rural airports with projects ready to go will be most likely recipients.

The FAA reauthorization bill to corporatize the Air Traffic Control system appears to be dead—at least for now. Senators James Inhofe (R-OK) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are urging others in Congress to support contract tower funding for FY 2019.

Many of the Washington State bills that were under consideration have died in the Legislature. SHB.1656, which would have provided loans to smaller public use airports and the creation of a community aviation revitalization board, was vetoed by the Governor on March 27th. Although he supports the \$5 million appropriated for loans, he rejects the idea of legislators serving on the Community Aviation Revitalization Committee.

The bills that didn't make it through this year will give us a place to start for the next Legislative Session. To see the entire list of aviation-related bills, go to our website and check out the Legislative Report.

We have an amazing group of high-energy, hardworking board members. Consider volunteering to serve on a committee and see first-hand all that this organization does for its members.

--Marjy

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