



Washington Airport Management Association

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Letter to the Membership – July 20, 2015

Fellow WAMA Members:

The advent of the post-conference season means not only warmer temperatures (and especially so this year!) but also somewhat quieter behind-the-scenes work. Here's the latest...

Certainly the most significant highlight of the summer thus far is that 100%, vice the previous 10%, of the Aviation Excise Tax will now be permanently directed to the state aeronautics account for future grant funding. This has been a multi-year, multi-layered collaboration that has finally been achieved. Airports statewide will be the beneficiaries for years to come.

As important as this economic victory is to statewide aviation, there is another story that is just as important and holds great potential for the future. Paraphrasing the words of a former WAMA Board Member, this is the first time that the various Washington state aviation groups:

1. Worked effectively together, playing offense rather than defense,
2. Maintained the momentum over several years, remaining focused on the issue at hand,
3. Successfully executed an idea based on a long-term strategy, and
4. Ultimately recovered tax dollars paid by aviation users to be used for aviation purposes.

WAMA will continue to build on this success. Efforts continue to further develop the Washington State Aviation Alliance (WSAA) and our partnerships with other aviation organizations.

Federal Issue du Jour:

Being watched very closely are the proposals being offered in the other Washington relating to FAA Reauthorization and ATC Privatization. Expect to hear more on this topic and please keep the WAMA Board informed of your perspective.

Somewhat less noteworthy yet still essential...

This summer has also seen WAMA working in the following arenas:

- Responding to several member requests for specific assistance.
 - o This continues to be one of the most valuable facets of WAMA membership. The resources from your fellow members are there simply for the asking.
- Developing internal policies, specifically:
 - o Conference Presentations: Previous conference presentations will be made directly available via the WAMA website for the most recent two conferences. Following that period of time, presentations will be removed from the website but will be retained permanently in the archives should future retrieval ever be requested.
 - This policy is being established to reduce website storage size.
 - o Scholarship/Grant Awards Exercise Time Limit: Scholarship/Grant Award Winners will have a 12-month time limit to exercise their award, with the award year running from June 1 through May 31. Existing awardees will have until May 31, 2016 to exercise their award.
 - This policy is being established to avoid an undesirable impact on future budgets in the event of the delayed exercise of an award.

On the Executive Director's Plate...

My ongoing task list relates primarily to providing continual Board and Committee support. The Action Items task list is revised on a regular basis (and posted on the website). Additionally, a new Annually Recurring Tracking List has been created to better plan for those items that are addressed each calendar year.

At the moment, I am heads down developing the final cut of the WAMA Operations Manual. This document has my full attention presently. The intent of this document is to capture and catalog existing corporate knowledge on how WAMA conducts its operations, smoothing the transition for future members of WAMA's leadership team.

On a personal note, I am very pleased that the WAMA Board has both renewed my employment agreement and increased the monthly hours the Executive Director provides from 35 to 40 hours per month. I greatly appreciate the support I have received from the WAMA membership and will ensure that these hours are put to effective use.

Looking ahead...

When monthly Board Meetings resume in September, work will commence in earnest on next year's legislative strategy and preparing for the annual WAMA Board election. Six of eight Board Member positions will be up for election later this year, making this an excellent time to consider serving your organization as a Board Member.

And that's the latest from the shores of West Seattle...

Sincerely,

Warren Hendrickson

Executive Officers, Board Members and Executive Director

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