



## Washington Airport Management Association

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### Letter to the WAMA Membership – March 25, 2014

Fellow WAMA Members:

I am both honored and grateful to have been selected by our Board of Directors as your next Executive Director. Two years ago, Gary Green launched this new WAMA position into a great trajectory, so I already have some large shoes to fill. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Gary for his accomplishments.

Among many things I am looking forward to, certainly one is the opportunity to trade stories with you about how we arrived at our shared passion for all things aviation. In my case, it all started when I was a ten-year old kid standing on the observation deck of the Pan Am Worldport at then Idlewild, now JFK, Airport in New York City. My dad was a Clipper passenger heading to Liberia, Africa to build a window factory. Go figure...

From those early days on Long Island, I have been on a slow steady migration west – chasing airplanes and sunsets until arriving in West Seattle a few years ago. I have been truly blessed by my good fortune. I joined the Air Force to see the world... and never left Tucson, Arizona. After a few decades of flying and serving in management as a commercial pilot for both major passenger and supplemental freight airlines, I completed the trifecta by working for a large Puget Sound airplane manufacturer. I never left my general aviation roots however, and I returned to them in earnest two years ago when I joined Pierce County as its Aviation and Ferry Planner. Tacoma Narrows Airport (TIW) is my home field and I remain an active pilot with a local flying club. Great new runway and restaurant. Come visit!

I come to the table therefore with a comfort level at every facet of aviation Washington state has to offer. I am a strong subscriber to the principle of servant leadership. I am here to assist you and our Board achieve our mutual objectives. I look forward to being your resource, helping you connect the dots in whatever issues you need to tackle. I want there to be value received from your WAMA membership and value returned by your participation. I want to ensure that every

airport in the state is cherished as the community asset that it is. And by doing that, we will collectively enhance the value of aviation to the state of Washington.

Among the issues discussed during my interview for this position, I was asked which parts of the job description excite me most. They are communication, collaboration, and leadership. Regardless the variety of local priorities we face, these are the tenets of mutually effective relationships. Whether considering the needs of the airport or the desires of the community, there's a centerline waiting to be painted. We just have to find it. Working together and communicating effectively will ensure that we do.

I never considered myself much of a "Trekkie." Nonetheless, I greatly admire George Takei's comments during an interview he once gave. The parallels to the nature of the Washington Airport Management Association speak for themselves. Mr. Takei stated "The Starship Enterprise was a metaphor for Starship Earth. The strength of the starship is in its diversity. Everyone contributing their best, their vantage points and their unique experiences. Working as a team to face a common challenge. We can prevail if we have confidence in our problem-solving capabilities, in our inventive genius, and our innovative qualities."

Our mission at WAMA is to improve airports and airport management throughout Washington state. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you at Lake Chelan in May. Let's get started...

Sincerely,

*Warren Hendrickson*

*Executive Officers, Board Members and Executive Director*

Kandace Harvey, President; John Haakenson, Vice President; David Field, Secretary; Jennifer Skoglund, Treasurer

Ryan Zulauf, Past President; Ryan Sheehan, Jamelle Garcia, Deb Wallace and Ron Russ, Board Members

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