

Executive Director's Report:

Letter to the WAMA Membership – January, 2017

Fellow WAMA Members,

Welcome to a New Year in 2017—a new start, fresh beginnings, and new hope for a better year than in 2016.

Looking forward, we have some exciting events coming up that we all are anticipating.

Airport Awareness Day – January 18th at the Cherberg Building in Olympia. This is a once-a-year opportunity to speak with our representatives, sharing our concerns, and, in a casual setting, helping them understand the needs of airports and aviation. In the evening, there is a meet-and-greet at a local restaurant. If you are interested in attending, contact the WAMA president Arif Ghouse.

Northwest Aviation and Trade Conference February 25 and 26 in Puyallup at the Fair Grounds. WAMA will host a booth where we can share the benefits of WAMA, present information to potential scholarship recipients, and of course, pass out the highly sought after airport restaurant list created by Warren Hendrickson. I will be looking for volunteers to help in the booth. If you are available to help for a couple of hours, contact me at [Director@wama.us](mailto:Director@wama.us).

WAMA Annual Conference May 2-4 at Semiahmoo Resort in Bellingham. Arrangements are being made now to bring you an exceptional conference with relevant speaker topics, opportunities for networking, sprinkled with time for fun and relaxation. If you have a particular topic that you would like to learn more about, or if you know of an exceptional speaker, contact John Haakenson or Kelly Thompson. [johnh@portofbenton.com](mailto:johnh@portofbenton.com) or [kelly@portofbenton.com](mailto:kelly@portofbenton.com)

Membership Renewals: Thanks to all of you who continue to support WAMA with your membership. Renewal notices have been sent out, so be sure to return the invoices with payment when you receive them. The more members, the more weight we carry when it comes to addressing concerns with the decision-makers. We also welcome new members—both airports and associate members.

Passport Program: I have been working with Lizz Slabaugh and representatives from AOPA, Washington Pilots Association, and others to offer a Passport Program that will bring additional air traffic to your airports, resulting in additional sales of fuel, services, and food. The program also provides an incentive for pilots to land at every airport in Washington State. The program is exciting and is tentatively set to launch at the Northwest Aviation and Trade Conference this February.

Aviation License Plate: Another exciting program being launched by WSDOT/Aviation. Lizz Slabaugh, taking the lead on this, has done a fantastic job. You should be able to order your personal specialty aviation license plate by next year.

We have lots to look forward to in 2017.

I am always available for suggestions, comments, or questions. Always feel free to contact me.

All the best,

Marjy Leggett

Executive Director, WAMA