

Open Letter from President Mueller

Dear Friends,

What an absolute privilege it is to address you from the WAMA president's seat! There is no other society of professionals I would rather see, break bread with, learn from or be corrected by (and it does happen) than fellow members of the Washington Airport Management Association. As an airport professional, learning about WAMA, and immediately joining, will always be one of the highlights of my career. My goal is to keep it that way for others, those who are new to airports, as well as those who have been a part of the industry and have not yet had the pleasure of being members.



Here are a few tenuously connected thoughts I would like to share as we begin 2021:

I accepted the nomination as president in hopes of giving back to the organization what will amount to merely a token of all the good it has done me over the years. This is a debt I will never fully repay. Being a member of the board has been deeply enjoyable. I learn from my peers every time we meet, just as we all do at the bigger events like airport tours and the annual conference. With the help of others in leadership, I have been able to serve in multiple capacities and have been enriched by the experience. To my fellow board members and officers, past and present, thank you for your kindness and encouragement. You guys are fantastic!

If I can be a functioning member of the leadership team, so can you, and you may be even better at it. I am a slow learner, fairly introverted, and picked up most of my airport education at the school of hard knocks. However, it is always easier to stretch yourself and risk making mistakes if you are surrounded by friends you trust. You will find this atmosphere if you become part of a WAMA committee or the WAMA board.

Lastly, I must say it always takes me by surprise just how much influence we seem to carry in our communities, whether we be airport management, staff, engineers, planners, those in public safety and public relations, pilots, or providers of goods and services within the aviation economy. As we push forward in 2021, people are looking for signs of hope, signs of goodwill. This is where our unsought influence can be used to good effect. Regardless of how viruses, politicians, markets, organizations or individuals behave, **we can choose** to demonstrate a positive, enterprising view of 2021. I am not talking about blind optimism here; I am talking about seeing the best in people and making the best of situations. While using our skills and talents, we can demonstrate that we believe we can make things better: better projects, better partnerships, better friendships, better environments in which to thrive. I know you can do this. I have seen it. I have seen it in your careful craftsmanship, in your patient assistance to others, in your encouragement, in your friendly countenance, in your helping hands. Your intentional acts in 2021 towards others will help make **their** 2021 a better year, and the result will be a better year for you, too.

Thank you for your membership, thank you for your time, and thank you for improving the world around you.

Sincerely,

Rich Mueller