



WPPA Executive Committee Newsletter

May 27, 2022



WPPA President's Corner

We are only about a week away from Interim Executive Director Patsy Martin joining our WPPA team on June 1, 2022. For those of you who may not be familiar with the former Executive Director of the Port of Skagit, Patsy Martin began her career at the Port of Anacortes before coming to the Port of Skagit as the Property/Development Manager.

She worked at the Port of Skagit for nearly three decades, 14 years as an Executive Director. According to the Port of Skagit, Patsy's "...dedication to the Port of Skagit's mission of 'Good Jobs for the Skagit Valley' is punctuated by a long list of accomplishments and accolades that include the creation of an innovative wetland protection program, the expansion of buildings, public assets and funding partnerships to support Bayview Business Park, Skagit Regional Airport and La Conner Marina, the development of the 10+ miles of nature trails through the Port, investing in critical infrastructure to support the value-added agriculture sector, the acquisition of the Northern State Hospital property and the statewide distinction as Port of the Year by the Washington Public Ports Association in 2018 to name a few. More broadly, Patsy has led collaborative efforts to increase the effectiveness of ports through her strategic planning, relationship building, and leadership within partnering organizations." Patsy was awarded a lifetime membership by WPPA in 2020 for her dedication to the port community. I hope you are as excited as I am about welcoming Patsy to the team.



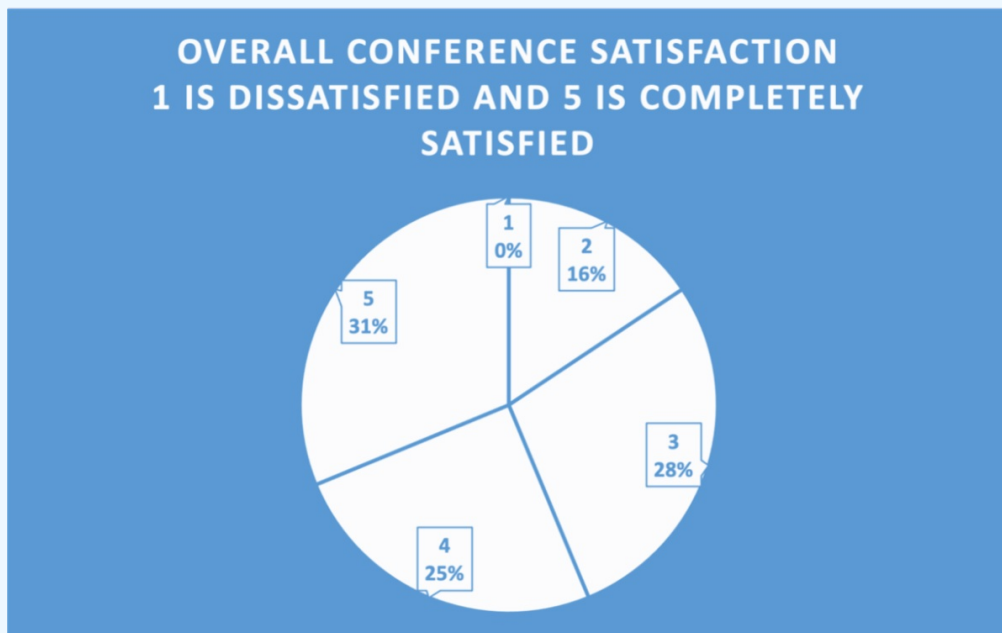
As for a permanent Executive Director for the Association, the Executive Committee has narrowed down the headhunter

firms to two possibilities, one of which will be offered a contract within the next week. Patsy will chair the search for the next Executive Director and will extend personal invitations to members to join the search committee when she arrives in early June.

I'm also excited to share that Port of Tacoma Commissioner Don Meyer has joined the Executive Committee as an Ex-Officio member. Historically, the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma have had Ex-Officio members on the Executive Committee, but not for the past couple of years. Commissioner Meyer, as you may recall, was WPPA President in 2019; he has a lot of relevant and recent experience to bring to this position.

Event information hub

We had 30 completed responses to our Spring Meeting survey, in which we asked a variety of questions related to satisfaction about our venue, registration, receptions, educational content, and session speakers; there were over 240 attendees at the Spring Meeting, so this small survey response limits the conclusions to be drawn. We will keep working to get quality feedback from membership to improve our meeting content because your input truly matters. On a high level, here's how the Spring Meeting scored:



All the educational content sessions (not meals or receptions) had an average score between 3.35 and 4.31. We appreciate the efforts of the WPPA staff, particularly

Jessica Wilson, who helped coordinate all the meeting content and training. We also take to heart your feedback about the event venue services and food as well because those details are an important component of the member experience.

The Director's Seminar registration is now live, [so you can learn more and register here](#). A big thank you to Rob Fix from the Port of Bellingham, Dan Worra from the Port of Anacortes, Sara Young from the Port of Skagit, Eron Berg from the Port of Port Townsend, Mark Wilson of the Port of Kalama, Lisa Lefeber from the Port of Everett, Diahann Howard of the Port of Benton, and Jay Hester of the Port of Sunnyside, the planning group for the Directors' Seminar for their leadership in putting this together.

Our Commissioners' Seminar planning efforts are also underway -- thank you to our working group members Dick Taylor of the Port of Shelton, Joe Melroy of the Port of Ridgefield, Angela Harris of the Port of Edmonds, Steve Burke of the Port of Port Angeles, Mary McClure of the Port of Kingston, and Patrick Reay and Meagan Blair of the Port of Walla Walla for their efforts in putting the event agenda together.

Our new event planner, Mandy Lill, will be in contact soon to develop the working groups for our upcoming Meetings. If you are interested in serving on any one of these groups, please send her an email at mlill@washingtonports.org.

Spotlight on...committees



The strength of any membership organization is the engagement of its members, and WPPA is no exception. Volunteers in the Association who chair and participate in the work of committees ensure that our work is member-focused and current. Serving on a committee is also a great way to network and build relationships with subject matter experts. Here's a roster of our current committees and their meeting cadence. *Please keep in mind that the Association is currently short-staffed, so have patience for responses to your inquiries.* We heard at the Spring Meeting that there is interest in re-forming the Communications Committee, so please reach out if you are interested in serving as a chair to get it up and rolling again. We appreciate each of our committee chairs and participating members.

Committee	Chair(s)	Typical	Open to all	Staff contact
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name		meeting schedule	members?	
Aviation	Jim Kuntz, Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority	Spring & Annual Meeting	Yes	Chris Herman
Budget	Kristine Meyer, Whitman County (Current WPPA President)	Per the Executive Committee schedule	No	Patsy Martin
Building	Dan Stahl, Port of Longview	As needed	By application	Dan Stahl
Dues	Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma	Committee is formed every five years and meets as necessary	By application	Don Meyer
Economic Development	Jim Rothlin, Port of Bremerton	Spring & Annual Meeting	Yes	Patsy Martin
Environmental Policy	Lisa Parks, Port of Olympia; Wanda Keefer, Port of Clarkston	Spring Meeting, Annual Meeting, and as-needed	Yes	Environmental Director
Environmental Technical	Rob Healy, Port of Tacoma; Patty Boyden, Port of Vancouver	Spring Meeting, Annual Meeting, and as-needed	Yes	Environmental Director
Finance	Scott Goodrich, Port of Vancouver; Tina Drennan, Port of Edmonds	Quarterly or more to plan the Finance Seminar	Yes	Tasha Cilurso
Legal	Lisa Lowe, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt	WPPA Meetings & Seminars	Yes	Member Services Manager
Legislative	Mark Wilson, Port of Kalama	June, October and as-needed during Session	Yes	Patsy Martin
Marina	Greg Englin, Port of Kingston	Spring & Annual Meetings	Yes	Environmental Director
Nominating	JC Baldwin,	A few times in	No	JC Baldwin

	Chelan Douglas Port Authority	the fall quarter leading up to the Annual Meeting		
Trade & Transportation	John Wolfe, Northwest Seaport Alliance; Randy Hayden, Port of Pasco	Spring & Annual Meeting; interim fall meeting in development	Yes	Chris Herman
Communications	TBD	TBD	Yes	Jessica Wilson

The Dues Committee is one of WPPA’s unique committees that comes together every five years to review the dues assessment and make a recommendation to the Trustees for approval. The Chair of the Dues Committee is typically comprised of an Executive Committee member, an Executive Director, a Trustee from Seattle or Tacoma, and other Trustees from various size ports, preferably with budget and finance expertise.

The Association bylaws call for a dues review by the Executive Committee, and a re-approval of the formula by the members, every five years. The dues structure has not been changed since 2007; in 2012 and 2017 the Executive Committee reviewed the dues formula and there was a recommendation to the Trustees that there did not need to be any changes which was approved by the Trustees.

If you are interested in serving on the current Dues Committee, we invite you to apply through your Port Executive Director to **Commissioner Don Meyer by June 3rd**. The Dues Committee will be focused working during the months of June and July to prepare a proposal for the members at the Tuesday Roundtable scheduled for August 2nd. The date for a final vote on the proposal will be set subsequently.



Washington Public Ports Association

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