



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2019 PORT OF THE YEAR AWARD, OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS AND HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATION OF 70 PUBLIC PORTS RECOGNIZED THE PORT OF SUNNYSIDE, DEPARTING COMMISSIONERS JERRY OLIVER (VANCOUVER), CLARE PETRICH (TACOMA), COURTNEY GREGOIRE (SEATTLE) AND DEPARTING STAFF – JOHN CARTER (EVERETT)

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON (DECEMBER 5, 2019) – Each year, the **WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION** recognizes outstanding work within the port community at the association's Annual Meeting. WPPA presented five awards this year: the **2019 Port of the Year**, an **Honorary Lifetime Membership**, and three awards for **Outstanding Service to the Port Industry**.

WPPA is pleased to announce 2019's Port of the Year: the **PORT OF SUNNYSIDE**. The port has focused on the revitalization of their downtown business core, building and growing opportunities for local business expansion, along with recruiting new business, new jobs and creating economic development opportunities.

Of the award, Port of Sunnyside Commissioner Tyler Schilperoort commented, "We have worked long and hard to bring about the growth and revitalization we're seeing come to fruition in Sunnyside. Our primary goal is economic development, in order to ensure family-wage job growth and provide a heightened quality of life to residents of Sunnyside."

In an effort to stimulate economic growth, the Port of Sunnyside has purchased, revitalized or sold seven specific sites – renovating a downtown farm building into the new home of Varietal Beer Company, a former water department building was converted into an incubator winery, now home to Co Dinn Cellars, and the former Carnation Milk Plant was demolished to accommodate future industrial development. The Port of Sunnyside also ensured future job growth by selling 23 acres to the existing Darigold plant, recruiting Ostrom Mushroom Farms and Nutrien to bring a combined 220 full-time, year-round jobs to the community, and recruiting a purchaser for a 1.2 acre property in their Golob Landing Business Park, which now houses The Eye Center, Sunnyside Optical and Thompson Audiology.



From Left to Right: Port of Sunnyside Executive Director Jay Hester; Port of Sunnyside Commissioner Arnold Martin; Port of Seattle Commissioner Courtney Gregoire; WPPA President and Port of Tacoma Commissioner Don Meyer; Port of Vancouver Commissioner Jerry Oliver; Port of Sunnyside Commissioner Tyler Schilperoort; Port of Sunnyside Commissioner Jim Grubenhoff; WPPA Executive Director James Thompson

The port was also the recipient of \$1 Million from the Yakima County .09 funds used to service the Ostrom facility with biogas in place of natural gas. They are currently in the planning phase for a \$12 million Port Industrial Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion,

and a \$7.5 million dollar project for treatment to clean and upgrade gas to pipeline quality and inject to the Williams pipeline.

The **HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD** is presented to staff and commissioners that have served WPPA in a leadership capacity – on the Executive Committee, as a Committee Chair, or as WPPA Staff. As a Port of Vancouver commissioner, **JERRY OLIVER** helped usher in a period of tremendous growth and success at his port. When elected in 2007, the port had an annual economic impact of \$1.6 Billion and 2,300 direct jobs. Today, the port's annual economic impact is \$3.8 Billion, with nearly 4,000 direct jobs. Oliver's term as commissioner ends on December 31.

This year, three WPPA members received the **OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PORT INDUSTRY AWARD** – celebrating departing or retiring port commissioners and staff who have made a significant and meaningful contribution to the success of a public port district or the public port industry.

JOHN CARTER recently retired from his role as Chief Financial Officer for the Port of Everett. John Carter's thirty year career in public sector finance includes his six years as CFO at the Port of Everett, six years at the City of Bellingham as the Director of Finance and 18 years as the CFO at the Port of Bellingham. Under John's management, in January 2019, the Port received a State Auditor's Stewardship Award representing the State's highest level of financial achievement in government.

CLARE PETRICH has served as a Port of Tacoma commissioner since being elected in 1995. A steadfast advocate for improving and expanding port infrastructure to keep pace with a fiercely competitive global marketplace, over the past twenty-four years the Port of Tacoma commission has approved \$1 Billion in investments to create new jobs, strengthen port infrastructure and protect the environment. Key projects under her leadership include: opening the upper Blair Waterway for the Port of Tacoma and Puyallup Tribe, and approving the recent investment to prepare the port for Post-Panamax cranes. She was also instrumental in helping to create the Northwest Seaport Alliance.

COURTNEY GREGOIRE has served on her port's commission since 2013. In her time as commissioner, she has shared knowledge gained while working on President Obama's National Export Initiative, and from her policy-making background from her time as Senator Maria Cantwell's Legislative Director. She also played a key role in formulating the partnership of the Northwest Seaport Alliance, and has been a leader in promoting the importance of maintaining industrial lands. Gregoire has focused on sustainability with her work in sustainable aviation fuel. She has also championed diversity, equity and inclusion across port operations while making sure economic gains in the region are shared by all.

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ABOUT WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

As a state legislative and regulatory advocacy organization, the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) fosters public policy for ports to achieve their goals. The WPPA was formed by the legislature in 1961 to represent public port districts throughout Washington, serving as the focus through which ports work cooperatively to develop policy direction, share information, and address issues on economic

development, trade, transportation, and environmental stewardship. Public port districts offer a wide range of locally governed services including marine terminals, barge facilities, industrial development, marinas, airports, railroads, and tourism promotion.

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