



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

THE MANIFEST

SPRING MEETING THIS WEEK WILL BRING TOGETHER PORTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

The WPPA membership will gather this week at Suncadia Resort near Cle Elum for its 2017 Spring Meeting. This year we are continuing with our optional Training Modules on Wednesday morning. One module is titled "Port Finance and Taxation: Paying for Things." The other module will be on "Communications and Outreach."

The two keynote speakers for the event will each speak at lunch. Wednesday's lunch will feature newly-elected Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz. There will also be an opportunity to meet new State Auditor Pat McCarthy. Thursday's luncheon will feature President of the Association of Washington Business, Kris Johnson.

Additional meetings will include in-depth sessions on rural economic development, and on climate adaptation strategies. There will also be a series of policy committee meetings, as well as a report on the legislative session by

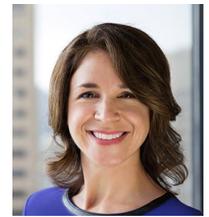
WPPA staff and Legislative Committee chair Mark Wilson of the Port of Kalama.

And of course, there will be the always-popular Port Reports; this year the ports of Bremerton, Clarkston and Vancouver will tell the membership what they are up to.

The Roundtables will also be continued, with opportunities to engage in interactive discussions on a variety of topical subjects. On Friday morning, we will continue with the Awards Breakfast, with announcements made for the winners of the Environmental Stewardship, Community Outreach, Creative Partnership and Outstanding Job Creators. ■



Kris Johnson



Hilary Franz

WPPA SPOTLIGHT

RADIO SHOW IMPROVES PORT RELATIONS IN SHELTON

Public ports build trust when they inform their communities about port activities. The Port of Shelton keeps its community informed by going on the air in a weekly radio broadcast called "Port of Call." The show has helped the port earn public trust and improve community relations.

In 2013—a time when its public image was suffering—the Port of Shelton decided to connect with its community by partnering with a local radio station to deliver timely port news and updates. Chairman Dick Taylor implemented the program when he responded to an invitation to go on air. Port of Call was the first radio program of its kind to be run by a government entity.

The forum is used to describe grant proposals, discuss expansion, and announce infrastructure and maintenance projects. Chairman Taylor and Executive Director, Wendy Smith, go on air to inform the public about port events or opportunities. A series of Port tenants were invited to promote their businesses on air and some local public

figures, like Luke Akins, share interesting stories on Port of Call.

The Port's Wendy Smith says, "[w]e are trying to highlight positive things that are happening in our port community." For example, the Port is home to some aging boathouses that were recently required to make safety upgrades. The Port publicized updates on air and publicly thanked the boathouse owners for their compliance.

Since the Port started its broadcast, the City of Shelton, Shelton School District, and Shelton Police Department have started airing similar programs on local radio stations. Port of Call airs every Wednesday morning at 8:40 a.m. and is now available via live stream at <http://www.ifiberonnewsradio.com/radio/>. ■





FROM ERIC JOHNSON

FAST BALLS, CURVE BALLS & CHANGE UPS

In case you hadn't noticed, the legislature is still in session. You can be forgiven if you forgot; they have not exactly been lighting the place on fire since the regular session ended April 23rd. In fact, the ending that Sunday morning was the quietest one I can remember. Most of the legislators had cleared out of town the previous Friday.

So what's going on? Well, there is no agreement on the need for new taxes. It is as simple as that. But when I say "no agreement" – I mean really no agreement. Republicans are willing to increase the state's property tax while simultaneously lowering local school levies. This strategy addresses the Supreme Court's mandate that the state has to increase its funding for basic education.

So far so good. Except that Democrats do not like this approach because they tend to represent the high property tax districts and will end up transferring money to the rural (code for Republican) areas. They want to either increase existing taxes like the B&O, or to create a completely new tax on capital gains. The Republicans will die in the last ditch to stop a new capital gains tax, seeing it as an income tax in disguise.

What about increasing the B&O tax – or maybe expanding sales taxes to new things like services? Well, Republicans point out that state revenues will have increased over twenty percent from 2015 through 2019. With increases like that, why in the world do we need to increase taxes? Democrats reply that the increasing needs for mental health and other social services require more resources.

Right now, each side is thinking that they will get a slightly better deal if they wait. That is a recipe for inaction. The current session ends May 24th, and you can bet that they won't have a deal by then. The Governor will call them back shortly after that, and the next thing to watch for will be the June 15th state revenue forecast. It will probably indicate that they have double-digit millions more to work with, but that will not be enough to close the gap between the two sides. There are some rumors it might go down – watch for a hasty deal June 14th if that happens.

They turn into pumpkins, so to speak, at midnight on June 30; there are no extra innings after that. Two years ago the Governor signed the budget with twenty minutes to spare. I hope we don't have an encore this year, but I'm afraid that we will. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finance and Admin. Seminar

June 14-16, 2017
Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine

Directors Seminar

July 13-14, 2017
Adrift Hotel & Spa and Chinook School, Long Beach

Commissioners Seminar

July 24-25, 2017
Alderbrook Resort, Union

Environmental Seminar

September 21 – 22, 2017
Heathman Lodge, Vancouver

Small Ports Seminar

October 26-27, 2017
Enzian Inn, Leavenworth

We hope to see you!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Assistant / Property Manager

Port of Friday Harbor

Airport Land Use and Strategic Programs Coordinator

WSDOT

Real Estate Representative

Port of Bellingham

Director of Operations

Port of Anacortes

Project Manager 2

Port of Anacortes

Marketing & Outreach Assistant

Port of Olympia

Full-Time, Temporary (Seasonal) Port Maintenance

Port of Bremerton

Director of Business Development

Port of Bremerton

Accounting & Financial Reporting Business Technology Consultant

AFR Business Technology Department
Port of Seattle

Executive Director

Port of St. Helens, Oregon

Security Duty Officer

Port of Seattle

Assistant Manager/Maintenance Supervisor

Port District No. 1 of Wahkiakum County

Marina Office Assistant – LaConner Marina

Port of Skagit

Port Auditor / Treasurer

Port of Walla Walla

Senior Manager, Planning

Northwest Seaport Alliance

Executive Director

Port of Coupeville

Sr. Manager Communications – Aviation Marketing

Port of Seattle

Airport Duty Manager – Airfield Operations

Port of Seattle

Senior Accountant

Port of Seattle

Contract Administrator – Construction

Port of Seattle

Director, Engineering

Port of Tacoma

Senior Real Estate Manager

Port of Tacoma

Assistant Director, Facilities

Port of Tacoma

If you would like information on any of these positions, visit washingtonports.org/washington-ports/employment-opportunities