



# Northwest Management Association

**President**

Jeremy Pearson  
Longview, WA

**Vice President**

Greg Brusik  
Bellingham, WA

**Secretary**

Amy Evenson  
Vancouver, WA

**Treasurer**

Fair Stirman  
Albany, OR

**Area 1 Vice President**

Mike Backlund  
Seattle, WA

**Area 2 Vice President**

Mark Fansler  
Portland Metro, OR

**TSC Representative**

Nicole Bost  
Auburn TSC, WA

**Immediate Past President**

Jan Still  
Retired Bellevue, WA

Suite 150  
840 Ocean Beach Hwy  
Longview, WA 98632  
Phone: 866-687-9656

2019 began with a changing of the guard in the Northwest Management Association. Longtime NWMA president, Jan Still retired from the agency. Jan was a staple in the association and worked diligently to advocate for management across the region for many years. Her passion and experience will be sorely missed.

Newly elected Executive Council (EC) members (Vice President, Greg Brusik, Area II Vice President, Mark Fansler and myself) went to work immediately with current EC members to gain an understanding of what we did as an association. The EC met monthly to discuss management and membership concerns, obtain committee reports and plan for hosting the 2020 NCSSMA Annual Meeting. We also discussed NCSSMA resolution committees and their progress.

NWMA had several members across the NCSSMA resolution committees. The work that is put into these committees is astounding. Twenty six (26) resolutions were adopted at the 2018 NCSSMA Annual Meeting. NWMA members played an instrumental role in getting these resolutions to the finish line. A special thanks to all those that volunteered to assist in this critical work.

In February, the NWMA EC met with the Seattle Regional Executive team via teleconference to discuss topics submitted by members across the region. There were some difficult questions raised by our membership, which we presented during this call. Thanks to our strong, positive relationship with the Executives, we had meaningful dialogue with the executive team about these issues. I appreciated the Executive's willingness to respond productively to the concerns posed at this meeting. It was a very productive meeting.

As the Seattle Region shares a Regional Commissioner with Denver, we held a joint Seattle/Denver Executives meeting with DRSSMA and

NWMA. The meeting was held in Denver on July 26. Similar to the prior meeting, we received insightful and honest questions from Denver and Seattle Managers. Both associations were able to discuss these concerns openly with the executive team. This meeting allowed us to understand why certain decisions were made, as well as the opportunity to offer suggestions to improve the Region's processes. One executive commented that this was the best management association meeting they had ever participated in.

I attended agency and congressional meetings in Central Office (CO) and Washington D.C. in March and July. It was my first experience in CO and on the Hill. CO shared upcoming IT projects, the difficulties the agency was facing and ideas were being explored to resolve such issues. I shared management concerns and suggestions on different topics. It truly was a humbling, learning experience.

NWMA developed and ratified its inaugural college scholarship program in 2019. On May 31, 2019, The EC announced a program that would approve up to three (3) \$500 scholarships for NWMA members and/or their children who wanted to attend college in the fall. To be eligible, applicants must have been a NWMA member for at least a year or be sponsored by a member that had been a member for a year. Additionally, applicants had to be a high school senior entering college fall 2019 or a current college student working toward an accredited degree and enrolled in a two- or four-year undergraduate program, and be in good standing with at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA. NWMA awarded two \$500 scholarships to deserving applications in July. NWMA will continue this program and hopes to see even greater success next year.

NWMA spent 2019 actively preparing for next year's NCSSMA annual meeting to be held in Spokane, WA. NCSSMA Past President, Chris Detzler was able to assist in negotiating an outstanding contract that will keep costs low while providing a truly wonderful place to hold the meeting. I signed a binding contract with the Davenport hotel in December. The EC will be working hard over the next 6 months to finalize details and costs for the 2020 annual meeting. NWMA looks forward to hosting this meeting next year.

I continue to have monthly meetings with Regional Commissioner (RC), Mary Lisa Lewandowski to discuss topics important to management. These conversations have been very productive. Managers provided very constructive feedback that has been relayed to the commissioner. Several "hot topics" were discussed and resolved. NWMA appreciates our positive relation with the RC and her executives. I look forward to continuing an open dialogue with the RC in the coming year.

I am very excited for next year. NWMA will continue its focus on increasing membership to ensure we are representing all interested Seattle management on pressing issues affecting the management ranks. Additionally, I expect continued focus on finalizing the 2020 NCSSMA annual meeting. It is the first time for many members of the NWMA EC hosting an annual meeting. We are learning lots and hope to provide a fantastic meeting for all.

I want to thank the NWMA EC members for their dedication and hard work. The EC consists of Vice President, Greg Brusik, Area I Vice President, Michael Backlund, Area II Vice President, Mark Fansler, Treasurer, Fair Stirman, Secretary, Amy Evenson, TSC Representative, Nicole Bost and myself. We had a wonderful year and it could not have been done without their tireless efforts.

I extend a special thank you to NCSSMA Past President, Chris Detzler for his continued efforts to assist NWMA transition in new EC members and for being a resource for various workloads. He has been a tremendous asset to our region.

In closing, I express my gratitude for being elected president to such a wonderful management association. This is my first year and I have really enjoyed getting to know its members. I look forward to getting to know more of you from all the regions. I expect next year to be another wonderful year full of challenges and rewards.