

Autumn Magazine 2019

Washington Wire by Lea McCullough

The 2019 Washington Energy and C-Store convention is behind us, and WOW what a year!

Our newly revised format seems to work for vendors, members, and speakers, and is a schedule we will continue to use for upcoming years ... or until our members ask us for a change.

This year, we started off with a PAC Golf Tournament at Tumble Creek that raised over \$5k for the WOMA PAC. However, that is not nearly enough to sustain the needs of our contributions in the coming months. So we really need to get to work on this. As our President Chris Eerkes and Lobbyist Dave Ducharme have shared with you, our primary need for the Association is to fight our legislative and regulatory battles in Olympia so we can continue to have businesses that can flourish.

The Board of Directors met after the Convention on Thursday and debriefed with some stellar ideas for coming years. We are considering a couples-based wine tasting in one of the large fancy homes inside Suncadia, where we can all gather, connect, and raise money for our industry needs. What other amazing ideas do you have? Feel free to email me at lea@waoil.org if you have an idea that is REALLY working or could knock it out of the ballpark!

We shortened the business session this year to allow for the afternoon trade show and accommodate the needs of our vendors. We had a record attendance for both events, and we're excited to see if we can continue the growth. Your input for future business session content is welcomed, and I'm all ears for what it is that is important to YOUR growth.

We will continue to host our annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday starting with the Horse Race and rolling straight into the all day tournament on Prospector Course in 2020! We were all very pleased that so many stayed until the last day to golf, and our numbers GREW on the course! So great to see!

Next year we will follow the same schedule so you can plan accordingly. Save the dates for **June 22-25, 2020** at Suncadia! I plan to do something special for the Ladies Outing right on the Suncadia property, so you won't have to leave, but enjoy the connections and friendships!

Legislatively speaking, 2020 is not going to be a walk in the park. More Carbon initiatives, more LCFS, more carbon restrictions will be coming in the form of proposed legislation. Our triple-D House/Senate/Governor is a tough hill to climb. That's why your PAC dollars are intensely needed, so we can infuse logic and content into the vital conversations to be had by ALL of us, and our legislators.

Because the current Board is being very fiscally conscious and making some shifts for the financial health of the Association, the Board voted unanimously that it was not a good idea to host a Christmas Party this year. In the past, the event has incurred costs in excess of \$20,000, and we simply cannot charge enough to break even on the event. It's not really fair to charge our members what it costs us to host it. In previous years, we have just made it part of our expenses. Moving forward this event will be a year-by-year decision.

In other news, the City of Seattle continues to try and convert every heating oil consumer to electric – which seems like a terrible idea from an infrastructure standpoint, but somebody in Seattle and their Office of Sustainability believes that stressing the electric grid is a much better option than leaning into new technologies, BioHeat energy, and improved equipment as the answer. So our industry continues to fight for whatever we can to salvage a long-standing energy source and family businesses.

In addition, the Puget Sound Clean Air Authority is ramping up efforts to impose a Low Carbon Fuel Standard in its four-county region, including King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap. Their current proposal requires a 25% carbon intensity reduction, which is stricter than California's and Oregon's LCFS. They are moving swiftly towards this proposal, so WOMA is gearing up for our rebuttal.

SO HERE ARE THE BIG TAKEAWAYS:

- **Mark your calendar** for **June 22-25, 2020** for the WOMA Convention.
- **Support WOMA PACs** because legislatively we are in a major Carbon Battle.
- **If you own a business** in King, Pierce, Snohomish or Kitsap Counties, we need your voice to combat the PSACC proposal.

Thank you for always being a partner in WOMA's efforts. I truly do welcome your ideas for PAC Fundraising events, as well as ideas for the Ladies Event at Suncadia annually! Let's make this teamwork!