



*WPMA Chief
Executive Officer
(CEO)
Gene Inglesby*

A Year to Remember

This year is turning out to be a year to remember. With all the rules and regulations our industry endures, a pandemic would not have been in my first 1,000 thoughts of what could bring our industry, our nation, and our world economies to a screeching halt.

The good news for WPMA and the *WPMAEXPO* is we completed one of our largest Conventions and Expos in our history before everything went south; and with the technology of today we were able to have our June Board Meeting virtually and complete the crucial business of the association. We elected our new year's officers as follows:

The 2020-21 WPMA President is **Steve Clark** from *Seattle, Washington*

1st Vice President – **Leland Gould** from *Albuquerque, New Mexico*

2nd Vice President – **Kary Tonjum** from *Kalispell, Montana*

3rd Vice President – **Jeremy Bautista** from *Las Vegas, Nevada*

Senior PMAA Director - **Annie Marszal** from *Paia, Hawaii*

Immediate Past President – **Dennis Campo** from *Fruitland, Idaho* As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, many trade shows and industry events have been postponed or canceled to protect the health of attendees, exhibitors, and employees; and some of our members, exhibitors and partner companies have restricted corporate travel and events. In my twenty-five years of association experience, I have never witnessed our industry dealing with this type of a situation, or even a comparable situation. These are indeed challenging times we are facing.

Although most of our shows have canceled this year, our intent is to return in 2021 even stronger. In 2021, I am expecting a more normal economy with increased demand and growth as the nation continues to open back up. However, not knowing what 2021 will bring, we will be reviewing options for a possible virtual *WPMAEXPO* experience utilizing web conferencing services if needed. The WPMA Executive Committee, staff, and all our state associations are monitoring this very closely and will keep you updated.

The good news is the Association has good leadership to continue to guide us through the challenges we face and will face in the future. We have an excellent Executive Committee who have a keen business sense and are committed to the well-being of the association. WPMA and our eight state associations have had a challenging year. We are hoping for a much-improved economy and no harmful residual effects from the COVID pandemic as we move into 2021. We are looking forward to a great year in 2021 for our industry and our economy.