

## Time to Pass the Gavel!

*As I write this*, we just finished our summer WPMA board meeting. The executive team along with each State Executive, President, VP, and EMA director met to prepare for the next year. I will have to be honest, it felt good to hand the gavel to Jeremy Bautista and slip into the past president role. It has been great getting to meet so many new people over the past year and expanding my knowledge of the industry. I appreciate the support from the executive team, state executives, and all the other board members. As many have said, you get more out of it than what you put in. Most certainly true with this position. Your association will be in good hands with Jeremy and the current board.

Congratulations and a thank you to Todd Shaw for filling the WPMA 3rd Vice President role. It takes people like him and the company he works for, Jubitz Corporation, to keep the association going. Todd has been on the WPMA board for many years, and we have complete confidence that he will represent you well.

I also want to give a special thanks to Steve Clark for his dedication and time on the board. He has been a great example for all of us, not only with his character, but also with his drive to take what he is given and make it better. His convention still stands as the most profitable ever and he was our first to spend two years as EMA director and two as WPMA President for a total of eight years on the Executive Committee!  
Thank You Steve!

Your board members covered a lot of topics during the meeting, generating ideas and discussion of how to keep the association strong. A few of these include:

**-DISCUSSION** and approval for a new hotel venue in 2026.

**-REVENUE** goals for WPMA and each state.

**-FUNDRAISING** ideas and approval to take a deeper dive into our scholarship program. How to promote our CDL program for future drivers and kids wanting to attend trade schools?

**-IDEAS** for speakers at the convention.

**-APPROVING** a CDL recruitment company as a new member service.

As we watched what happened in the state of Washington with the new cap and trade fees, our association brainstormed ideas and ultimately approved a WPMA legislative committee. We need to stay in front of new legislative agendas that will reach our other states. We do not know if this will be in one year or ten, but we need to be prepared.

Our industry will continue to evolve just like it has since the first patent was developed for the internal combustion engine in the 1800's. Whether we like it or even believe in it, there will be a push to lower our carbon footprint. Technologies will be developed: this may be a new engine, it may be new products, and it very well may be something we haven't even thought of. We have seen this for 150 years and we will continue to see it. We, as an association, need to continue to work together and adapt to these changes along with protecting what we have.

I hope the association is in a little better place than when I entered. Thank you for all your support!

Jeremy, Congratulations and good luck, the gavel is now yours for the next year.



*WPMA President*  
*Kary Tonjum*



Immediate Past President  
Kary Tonjum passes the  
gavel to incoming  
President Jeremy Bautista

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kary Tonjum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.