



WASHINGTON STATE PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

9024 Wyatt Ct SE | Tumwater, WA 98501

www.WSPMA.com | smalone@wspma.com

General Membership Meeting

February 24, 2023

Hood River, OR

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was moved to order by Billy Olesen at 3:47pm and seconded by Corey Chantry.

The Board and Staff was introduced:

Randy Moffat, President

Luke Rambo, President-Elect

Mark Lee, Vice President

Billy Olesen, Immediate Past President

Samantha Malone, Executive Director

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was not opened for approval.

Approval of the Minutes

Corey Chantry moved to approve the minutes as published in the Snapshot Newsletter, Elmer Bensinger seconded.

Message from the President

The WSPMA President, Randy Moffat, provided a recap of how 2022 has gone and how much the Board has accomplished.

Members of the Board (Randy and Billy) and Larry Treleven traveled to Olympia in January to provide testimony in favor of House Bill 1019, which would reestablish a pesticide advisory board.

In late December, the WSPMA Board met with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to discuss the archaic method of notifying test takers of results. Through the meeting, it was discussed that the test results could be posted online. By having results faster, should alleviate the need to continually "hold" spots for retesting. While it is just a band-aid on the process, we are hopeful that it will help our industry make it through this testing season. WSDA has stated that electronic testing is on the horizon and should be available the end of summer.



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The WSPMA Board worked with NPMA to submit a letter in response to the EPAs proposed interim decision. This letter was carefully crafted to detail the impact of the proposed changes on our local industry. Randy encouraged all members to reach out to legislatures and discuss how this could affect our industry.

The WSPMA has an established Benevolent Fund to be used to assist members in their time of need. In December, this fund was used to assist Ed's Dead Bug as Ed experienced an unexpected hospital stay and recovery. Along with the funds, several member companies participated in a day of service and helped build out 12 crawlspace access panels for Ed's Dead Bug. This act of kindness was very meaningful to Ed and his wife and allowed them to focus on recovery. Randy encouraged all members to continue to support this fund and to make the WSPMA Board aware if you, your team or your company is in need.

Randy's final point was about member involvement. The WSPMA has some wonderful opportunities for involvement through committees. The Education Committee, Diversity Committee, PestVets Committee and Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM) all meet throughout each month. If you are interested in what is happening, join a Zoom meeting and see what it's about.

Executive Updates

Financial Report

While Tim is not heading up the Association, he has taught Samantha well. She continues to report that the association's financial health is good and making improvements after a rough year in 2022. The previous year did not have great vendor support during our Fall Seminar and attendance was not as expected. That paired with the high cost of the venues resulted in a bit more outlay of funds than is typical. Moving forward, new, more cost-effective venues have been chosen. Additionally, the addition of five Strategic Partner positions has been sent. Target Specialty Products is the association's very first Strategic Partner and with their support, we can have a better impact on our members during our events.

Membership Report

In 2022 WSPMA grew by 17 new members, bringing our total membership to around 175. Samantha shared the list of new member companies and encouraged attendees to reach out and welcome them. There are over 1,000 licensed applicators in Washington and that means our membership has room to grow. If you see a company that isn't a member, talk to them about joining!



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Website Updates

The WSPMA website is undergoing a renovation and should be launched soon. The new site will have a member only area that will allow for contact details to be shared between owners and managers.

Committee Reports

SPAR/Legislative Report

HB 1019 - Establishing a Pesticide Advisory Board in Washington State. We are in support of the Bill. Randy, Larry, and Billy testified in Olympia earlier this year on behalf of WSPMA.

SB 5330: Concerning the Washington Pesticide Application Act (PPA). This is a bill to modernize the PAA to come into compliance with the EPA state minimum training standards. This bill does several things; the two main portions that would affect us are: raising the age to apply Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP) from 16 to 18 and changing the language to not require pesticide applicator plates on handheld equipment, even if it's battery or gas powered. Billy submitted written testimony in support of SB5330 on behalf of WSPMA.

WFFF: WSPMA is looking at how it can work more closely with Washington Friends of Farms and Forests and their lobbyists. Earlier this year Samantha, Larry, and Billy attended an event that invited State Legislators down from Olympia for a reception to talk about issues affecting all of us. It was an awesome event, and we made some great connections on behalf of WSPMA.

National Preemption: We are continuing to push for federal pesticide preemption. Federal preemption would make it so only one state lead agency in a state could regulate pesticides. This would prohibit cities and counties from imposing strict restrictions and having to navigate that mess. At this point getting something added to the Farm Bill is our best bet. Samantha, Randy, Larry, Luke, and Billy will be in Washington DC at the end of March for NPMA's Legislative Days visiting with our elected officials in DC to make this push.

Sales Tax Exemption: Billy asked if there was interest in seeking a sales tax exemption for pesticide applications. He has spoken with Representative Bateman's office, and they expressed interest in helping with this issue. Having our applications tax exempt would likely no longer allow for the benefits of a reseller's permit. We see pest control service as a huge contributor to good public health, why tax people when they're trying to just keep their families healthy. It would be a lot of work and wouldn't likely be something that would happen this or even next year. Membership expressed interest, so Billy will continue working on this.



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Any questions or suggestions please email Billy@peststop.com.

Education Report

Samantha reported good attendance for the February Workshops and reminded everyone about the upcoming March and April webinars. This year has shown that our membership is engaged and enjoying these early morning webinars.

Our Summer Meeting will be held at Skamania Lodge and will have several business development sessions along with committee meetings and networking opportunities.

The Fall Seminar is scheduled for November 2 (Eastern Washington) and November 4 (Western Washington) and will focus on Biting & Stinging.

Samantha thanked all those that serve on the Education Committee and invited others to be involved. It has been a while since the Education Committee was functional and it is important to have members representing multiple companies and locations provide their ideas on the development of our education programs.

PWIPM

The Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM) Chapter has been growing in interest since it was founded last year. Virtual meetings are currently held on the third Wednesday of the month. Guest speakers have been scheduled and focus on empowering women in the field as well as growing knowledge and connections across the country. In May, the PWIPM chapter will join forces with the Diversity committee to host a 5k to raise funds for future scholarships.

PestVets

Luke shared with membership the current fundraising opportunity of paracord lanyards. This fundraiser will provide the necessary financial help to allow the PestVets unit to participate in local job fairs and help spread the word about our industry. Look for future information regarding job fairs in the coming months.

Diversity Committee

The report was made that the Diversity Committee is still looking to gain momentum. In future virtual committee meetings, we will have guest speakers present on what diversity means, how to incorporate it in your workplace, what to do when there isn't diversity and all the tools that are available to you.



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Old Business

WSDA

Online testing results were launched early in the month and are now available to the public.

The WSDA is reporting that the implementation of online testing should be available by end of summer this year. We will continue to bring updates as we have them.

Laurel Hansen Scholarship

Kurt Treftz shared with the group the idea behind the Laurel Hansen Scholarship and challenged WSPMA members to rise to the occasion and raise enough funds during the Pacific Northwest Pest Management Conference Auction to turn this into an endowed fund, which requires \$25,000. Laurel Hansen spoke about the honor and was very grateful for the efforts. She continued to introduce the new entomology graduate student, Samantha Dilday, who will focus her research on odorous house ants.

New Business

Bylaw Change

Randy discussed the need to have a membership approval clause included in our bylaws. There was further talk about making sure that the approval is fact based, not opinion based. The Board will draft the language and present to membership for a vote during the Summer Meeting.

Adjourn

Billy Olesen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:13, Corey Chantry seconded.