



WASHINGTON STATE PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

9024 Wyatt Ct SE | Tumwater, WA 98501

www.WSPMA.com | smalone@wspma.com

General Membership Meeting

December 2, 2022

SeaTac, WA

Welcome and Introductions

Billy Olesen moved to hold the General Membership on Friday, December 2 instead of the scheduled date of Saturday, December 3 as the Membership signed up to attend was all present. Randy Moffat seconded the motion; all were in favor. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Discussion led straight into the meeting and the agenda was not officially approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Randy Moffat motioned to approve the General Membership Meeting minutes as published in the Snapshot, Alex Duffield seconded; all were in favor.

Message from the President

WSPMA President Billy Olesen opened the meeting with a recap of 2022 and all the good things that WSPMA Board and Staff were able to accomplish. WSPMA was well represented at a host of National Pest Management Association events across the country. Through these events, we have been able to strengthen and grow our connections with other Associations and professionals. Our Membership has continued to grow throughout the year and we have seen more involvement in our committees and interest groups. Billy was very honored and proud to serve as President and is confident that the incoming Board will continue to help our Association thrive.



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Incoming Presidential Plan

The meeting continued with Randy Moffat communicating his desires for his presidency. As he has stated at previous meetings, he wants to focus on Member outreach and connection. Our Association is strong because of its Members, and it is long time that we begin to work on our communications. Phone calls and visits are much more likely to show the Boards involvement than sending emails, that may be lost.

The WSPMA Board has been interacting with WSDA regarding testing issues for the last 10+ years. The message regarding electronic testing and testing availability from WSDA has been "it's 2 years out." The WSPMA Board is looking for a better answer, a fix for now; and the Board will continue to advocate for our Members.

Executive Updates

Samantha Malone provided her first Executive Update.

Financial Report

Samantha, Randy, and Billy were able to sit down and review the WSPMA Budget in detail and have worked to update the expectations of expenses to follow with the rising cost over the past few years. As we look forward to 2023, Samantha will continue to work to save money where possible, as Tim taught her. She has been able to negotiate a very financially responsible rate for two new venues for our Fall Seminar and that will save the Association a tremendous amount.

Membership Report

There were about 9 Member companies that did not renew their membership for 2022-2023. Some of these companies were merged with larger companies and a few were from death and medical issues. Although there were 9 Member companies that did not renew, WSPMA has been able to maintain the historic Membership numbers around 185-200. Samantha is confident that through our Member engagement, interest groups and good educational programs that Membership will continue to grow.



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Committee Reports

SPAR/Legislative Report

Breaking News - EPA released their interim decision on rodenticides, we are still interpreting how this will affect the industry here in Washington state. A in-depth report will be out in the days and weeks to come.

Election updates - As we know the democrats retain control of the Senate while the republicans take narrow control of the House. This will affect how we pursue getting a federal preemption bill. It's a consensus that trying to get it added to the Farm Bill is probably our best bet. Preemption would not affect us here in Washington very much right now but as cities like Seattle attempt to take extreme steps towards pesticides and rodenticides there's the ability that the state could repeal preemption. If we had a federal bill this wouldn't be an issue. Preemption would make require one state lead agency oversee all pesticide regulation.

State Issues - The Legislature will back in session soon and WSPMA, NPMA, and Washington Friends of Farms & Forest will be monitoring the bills introduced and we will issue notices if anything comes up. If you see or have questions about a bill or have a close relationship with a Legislator, please reach out and let us know. Relationships are everything in politics.

Education Report

Attendance was a huge factor for our financial success this year. While attendance was down at every event, the events were successful and had raving reviews from all attendees. This year has been a learning year and we will plan further in advance, seek memberships voice, and continue to be innovative to draw outside participation. There was discussion on bringing back the early-bird discounts to help get assurance for attendance numbers.

The group conversed about the number of events that are offered and the strain it puts on our vendors to show up for them all. If WSPMA offers too many events, it waters down the attendance at our big events.

PestVets

Luke reported that there is not much new happening with the PestVets Unit but hopes that there will be some excitement from someone to tackle leading this effort. Samantha and Billy brought back



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Diversity Committee

Luke reported that the Diversity Committee is an important committee to keep going. While attendance at the Winter Convention Inclusion, Diversity and Equity portion of the meeting was not well attended, the topics covered were vital. We will “win with discussion.” The more these topics are kept on the top of our mind, the more we can normalize the discussion on how to remain the leaders on IDE. As always, all people are invited to attend our monthly Diversity meetings.

PWIPM

Samantha reported that the Professional Women in Pest Management chapter is gaining traction and interest. The fundraiser of Christmas ornaments and PWIPM swag will help create a scholarship for one woman to attend Laurel Hansen’s Ant ID Lab. PWIPM continues to meet monthly to strategize how to best empower and encourage women in our Association and the industry.

Old Business

Fall Debrief

As stated in the education report, attendance at the Fall Seminar was abysmal. The Education Committee is working to allow more advance notice and agendas of meetings. In 2022, all our educational events fell on weekdays, which we now know may not be best for everyone. There were a lot of competing events around the same time as our Fall Seminar and our Education Committee and Samantha will be working closely with vendors, suppliers, and other CEU holders to make sure our events don’t overlap.

Website Updates

Samantha has been meeting with our new website developer to get a new website launched in early 2023. This new website will allow for a more updated and well-maintained website that can serve members better.



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New Business

WSDA

WSDA reports that the electronic testing has gone out for bid, and they expect to begin the roll out of the program in late summer 2023.

Sales Tax

Billy was in contact with the Department of Revenue regarding sales tax exemptions for products purchased and used at our customers homes. He received a personal letter stating that he is exempt from paying sales tax on his purchases (of product only, not equipment). He will be working to obtain a statement that will allow all pest professionals to qualify.

Strategic Partnerships

Samantha spoke with many vendors about the possibility of a Strategic Partnership. This would be a level of financial investment that would allow WSPMA access to these funds at the beginning of the year and allow for a smoother planning process for our events. To test this new program, it will be limited to only 5 spots. Over the coming weeks, Samantha will send this out to vendors to secure these partnerships.

Laurel Hansen Scholarship

Luke Rambo has been talking with Terry Whitworth and Kurt Treftz about the newly established Laurel Hansen Scholarship with WSU. Treftz started these scholarships in the hopes to allow the growth of future entomologists in our area. Whitworth has agreed to match donations made to turn this scholarship into an Endowed fund – which requires \$25,000. There were signed Tim Baker playing cards used to secure donations. We will look to drive donations at our Hood River meeting in February.

Adjourn

At 8:16pm, Steve Weaver motioned to adjourn; Jimi Weaver seconded; all were in favor.