MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ABOVE AND BEYOND

FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY FOCUSED ON STRONG WORK ETHIC, CUSTOMER SERVICE

Of the many things I am privileged to do for our members, I enjoy going to their place of business to help them understand and comply with state rules and regulations. A few months ago, I fielded several phone calls related to the provisions of Initiative 1433, which not only increased the state's minimum wage, it also mandated a paid sick and safe leave policy with recordkeeping and reporting requirements. One of these calls came from a member of the Central Washington Home Builders Association and, when I agreed to help them go over their paperwork, I realized I found a hidden gem in Waterville, WA. This is how I ended up meeting the folks at Barnes Welding.



// AL AUDETTE

CODES AND REGULATIONS MANAGER

REPAIR NOT REPLACE

Weldon Barnes grew up on the family farm in Waterville where he learned to repair equipment vital to the operation. Barnes believed that anything man-made could be repaired not replaced, and by 1970, what started out as a hobby grew into a welding and machine business. His son David took interest in his fathers' work early on in life and hung around the shop anytime he could. After high school, David earned a bachelor's degree in industrial education at Central Washington University. After graduation, David returned to Waterville to join his father in expanding the family business.

As wheat farmers, they knew the economic impact a disabled machine could have on the bottom line. This led to the idea of the Barnes providing instant service for their neighbors who needed an instrument repaired or a part manufactured, which in turn led to the service they continue to offer today.

After college, David's son and Weldon's grandson Josh also returned to Waterville and joined his father to further their mission of being a friendly, resourceful team that is open to tackling new challenges. Proactively, they work with their customers who appreciate the value of a long-term, honest and reliable relationship.

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

Josh told me that their goal is to have the Barnes' business be the best place to work in their industry and their region. He said, "I believe I cannot compete with some of the options out there, but I do not have to make very many tweaks to be the best in our industry. I believe this allows us to attract a different caliber of worker that shares the same values."

I could see how this came into play as Josh and I worked through developing their new policies, which went well above and beyond the requirements of the new paid sick leave law. Their philosophy is the epitome of a family-owned and operated business that is involved and engaged in their local community.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

It's evident the Barnes "go above and beyond" in their business operations, and they take part in BIAW member benefits for that reason. For example, they participate in R.O.I.I.® Select, the Return on Industrial Insurance program managed by BIAW. As a participant in the program, they know and apply safety practices to ensure their employees enjoy a culture of safety and security in their business.

I feel the story of the Barnes family and their philosophy represents our members and what they do every day. It's also the reason BIAW leadership and staff do what they do every day, and why there is a deep level of commitment to members.

DISCOVER MORE AT BIAW.COM

BIAW provides a host of programs and services that can help you "go above and beyond" in your business and can keep you current on the latest industry and regulatory changes as well. I would encourage you to find out more through your local association about the benefits and services available to you through BIAW or visit ***BIAW.com*** for more information.

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BIAW Member Benefits

- R.O.I.I.® Select workers' comp retro program
- Health insurance
- Government affairs and advocacy
- Legal issues
- Continuing education classes
- Code & regulatory action
- Building Industry Insurance Program (BiiP)
- Member rebates
- Weekly and monthly industry updates