



WASHINGTON STATE PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

9024 Wyatt Ct SE | Tumwater, WA 98501

www.WSPMA.com | smalone@wspma.com

General Membership Meeting

August 24, 2024
Leavenworth, WA

Welcome and Introductions

Luke Rambo, WSPMA President, opened the meeting with a welcome message. He introduced the WSPMA Board and Executive Staff, thanked the vendors for their continued support, and welcomed special guest Dominique Stumpf, Executive Director of NPMA.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved with no amendments.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting, held in Hood River, OR in February, were approved with no objections as published in the WSPMA E-Bulletin.

Message from the President

Luke Rambo gave a reflective message about his time as WSPMA President. He recounted the rich history that brought the association to its current position and the support he received as he entered the industry. Luke emphasized the need to continue engaging with membership and supporting one another. He also expressed some frustrations from the past year, including delays in modernized testing, an uncovered cheating scandal, and challenges with door-to-door sales. Despite these issues, he reiterated the importance of advocating for members and representing the industry with the highest standards of ethics and morality.

Special Message from NPMA

Dominique Stumpf, Executive Director of NPMA, spoke about the numerous benefits of NPMA membership and the valuable resources available to joint state members. She highlighted key initiatives, including scholarship programs through the Pest Management Foundation, training resources provided by QualityPro, and the Executive Leadership Program, among others.



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New Business

WSDA Investigation

The WSDA's year-long investigation uncovered a multi-state cheating scandal. This investigation diverted resources, ultimately delaying the introduction of electronic testing. Discussions during the meeting focused on the fines imposed and the actions taken by the offending company. Members expressed concerns about the negative impact on the industry's image and the potential risks to consumers.

Door to Door Sales

The issue of unethical door-to-door sales continues to worsen within the industry. The WSPMA Board has taken steps to request support from NPMA, though they feel a sense of urgency to act now. Recently, WSPMA published a consumer reporting form on their website to gather data on consumer interactions with unethical sales tactics. WSPMA plans to use this data to approach the Attorney General in hopes of sparking legislative change. While there is currently little that can be done without changes in laws and licensing, WSPMA remains committed to advocating for its members and plans to provide future resources to help members communicate more effectively with their clients.

Board Position Voting

Two board positions were up for election. Don Thompson of Independent Pest Solutions was unanimously elected as Vice President, and Micah Flory of Prosite Pest Control was unanimously elected as an at-large board member. Both will begin their terms in January 2025.

Executive Updates

A brief financial update confirmed that WSPMA is on track with the budget, and cash flow remains stable. While membership renewals are still lagging, the association expects to maintain steady membership levels. Samantha highlighted that WSPMA currently represents only a small portion of applicators in Washington State and expressed hope for membership growth in the coming months.

Committee Reports

SPAR/Legislative Report

Billy Olesen provided updates on government affairs, highlighting key accomplishments, including successfully opposing legislation on neonicotinoid and sulfuryl fluoride restrictions. He also discussed the collaboration with a senator to propose a full-time urban entomologist position at Washington State University, participation in EPA regulatory processes, and strengthening the relationship with WSDA. The report emphasized the importance of industry collaboration and member engagement in these efforts.



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Education Report

The Education Committee has been highly active in developing engaging programs for WSPMA members. This year featured several hands-on workshops and virtual learning opportunities. Participation in Eastern Washington remains challenging to gauge, but efforts are underway to better connect and provide education to members across the state. In 2025, the committee anticipates offering more than 50 credit hours through WSPMA.

PWIPM

The PWIPM chapter continues to grow in involvement. This year, they held several in-person events and webinars featuring female speakers. The second annual Steps of Hope event doubled its participation from the previous year and raised over \$1,600 for Helping Hand House. PWIPM plans to continue fostering connections and supporting one another in the future.

PestVets

PestVets reported on their success with the National SkillBridge program, which connects transitioning service members with opportunities to train for careers in pest management. In addition to this impactful program, PestVets continues to give back to the community. This year, they organized a coat drive that collected and donated over 300 coats to those in need.

Old Business

WSDA Testing Updates

The discussion revisited the updates to WSDA testing. After more than a decade of effort, a form of online testing is now available at select sites across the state. Currently, only the Laws and Safety and PCO General tests are offered in this format. This progress is seen as a positive step and is expected to help alleviate the recurring testing backlog.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.