

**NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER EDITION**

**WASHINGTON** 



Official Chapter

**NIGP** 

**DECEMBER  
2023**

**“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;  
working together is success.”**

**– Henry Ford**



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays! The year is coming to a close and with it, the tastes, sights, smells and sounds of the season. This has been a busy year for everyone, and I hope that as 2023 wraps up, you can celebrate your achievements and learn from the challenges.

On November 2nd, the Chapter formally celebrated our 20th anniversary during the Fall conference at the Museum of Flight! It was great to see so many of you there – and to have several of our retired and former members join us! As we looked back over the history of the chapter, it was inspiring to see how many volunteers from so many agencies came together to plant the seed, water it, nourish it and help it grow, year after year. We had the opportunity to interview several founding members through a couple recorded zoom sessions – we had so much fun hearing from them. I truly appreciate them taking the time to chat with us – and for all the work they, and their colleagues did to grow this chapter. We will post the videos online and inform the membership where to access them. A special shout-out to Victor Leamer for his investment of time to edit the footage to be able to share at the celebration!

Strategic planning efforts are still underway; a huge thank you to the board for working on updating those strategic goals. They should be available in January for the new board to begin implementing! Speaking of a new board, we will have several new members representing you at the board level! It's exciting to see new faces to help ensure this chapter remains valuable to its members. We have several board members transitioning to new roles and a couple who will be stepping down to focus on other initiatives! It has been an honor to work with each one of our current board members, and I look forward to working with the new board in the Immediate Past President role.

Save the date! I hope to see each one of you at the Annual Meeting on January 18th! It will be held at the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) in Olympia, and we are hoping to have a hybrid option (more to come!). Joining us will be Nathan Dawson from the Department of Information and Technology Services for the State of South Carolina! We will have two education sessions with Nathan – one IT focused and one general education (still in the works – I hope you responded to the poll!). In addition to time to network, we will also honor our Procurement Manager of the Year and Procurement Professional of the Year!

As I wrap up my term as President, I want to thank each one of you for your support, friendship and for volunteering your time to keep our chapter vibrant, relevant, and collaborative! I have enjoyed getting to meet and work with so many of you – you truly are a blessing, and I am grateful for the opportunity to know you and look forward to continuing those connections! As I close, I'd like to leave you with the toast we used at the Fall Conference (a great example of how AI can enhance our messaging).

*Our theme this year has been Honoring our Roots and Growing our Future. I want to thank our visionaries throughout the years for seeing what could be, believing in the future of procurement professionals. For*

*taking the hard, time-consuming steps to create a chapter, to invest in the future – my future and your future –to see the need and fill it.*

*In a world where career paths often take unexpected turns and people come and go, the collaboration between the members of WANIGP is a beacon of stability and accomplishment. For twenty years, you have all worked side by side, combining your expertise, talents, and vision to achieve great success.*

*Our volunteers embody the values and principles that our organization holds dear. Your dedication to excellence, your unwavering commitment to our mission, and continuous pursuit of growth and improvement have not only contributed to our success but have also fostered an environment of excellence for us all.*

*As we raise our glasses to honor these 20 years, let us not only celebrate the accomplishments of the past but also look forward to the exciting opportunities that the future holds. I can only imagine the incredible achievements that the next two decades will bring.*

May you have a joyful holiday season, and may the New Year bring you peace.

*Maija Lampinen, CPPB, NIGP-CPP*  
Washington State Chapter President



***Me (on the far right) with some of my awesome City of Seattle Finance and Administrative Services coworkers at Mayor Harrell's Executive Order signing.***

**What are you known for by your friends, family, or coworkers?** I think the honest answer is that I'm known for making funny Facebook posts about my commute from West Seattle to downtown on the King County water taxi. A lot can happen at sea over the course of 15 minutes.

**What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?** I'm really into a dance fitness program called Oula Fitness. I can even teach you a little routine to FloRida's version of "What a Night."

# JESSE GILLIAM

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

**Title:** Policy Director, Department of Finance and Administrative Services

**Organization:** City of Seattle

**What year did you join the WA State Chapter?** 2022.

**Why did you join procurement?** I started my policy career on the national stage, walking the halls of the U.S. Congress to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Over time, however, I realized that the day-to-day decisions government employees make can create what is perhaps a more lasting and direct social justice impact. That's when I shifted my focus to procurement.

The City of Seattle procures over \$900 million annually in goods, services, consultant contracts and construction contracts. Every dollar is an opportunity and a responsibility to buy high-quality services and support business owners that have been historically excluded from winning government contracts.

I support fair, open and equitable processes that allow government to procure services that communities need while intentionally focusing on contracting equity for BIPOC and women-owned businesses to build community and create generational wealth.

**If on a committee, which committees do you currently volunteer with?**  
**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?** N/A.

**What is a highlight of your career to-date?** I've been thrilled to be part of the City of Seattle's procurement transformation project, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies for the past year. We've been working intensely with staff from the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation and the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab to identify and execute ideas that will make procurement fair, open and equitable.

**What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter public procurement?** Focus on the people. My conversations with fellow City employees, NIGP members and local business owners have made me a better procurement professional.

**What recent lesson learned are you implementing in your agency?** The City of Seattle's Mayor, Bruce Harrell, just signed an [Executive Order](#) that directs the City to take steps to expand contracting equity for women- and minority-owned businesses (WMBEs). The action items in the order are the result of lessons learned from community leaders about what works (and what doesn't). In the next year, a few things we'll do include launching Citywide WMBE training, relaunching the WMBE advisory committee and setting WMBE utilization goals.



# NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME!

Membership offers substantial benefits, both professional and personal. Our meetings, seminars and educational events can enhance your knowledge of our profession and promote the exchange of ideas and issues through networking opportunities with your colleagues.

Membership also brings opportunities to develop your personal leadership skills through volunteer efforts on committees, and as part of our governance team.

## New members – October-November 2023:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	EMPLOYER	TITLE
Merritt	Bruce	Auburn School District	Assistant Director of Purchasing
Chambliss	Selina	City of Seattle	Sr. Policy Advisor
Elliott	Adrianne	Community Transit	Parts Dept Administrative Assistant II
Simmons	Michael	Community Transit	Parts Manager
Gordon	Noelle	Intercity Transit	Procurement Coordinator
Jones	Lindsey	King County	Administrator I
Shisler	Skye	King County	Administrator II
Colebourn	Lindsey	Port of Everett	Procurement & Contracts Specialist
Clardy	Jerry	Port of Tacoma	Sr. Contracts Administrator
Rayray	Kimberly	Seattle City Light	Contracts & Procurement Manager
Campbell	Tom	Sound Transit	Procurement/Deputy Director
Sandy	LeAnna	Sound Transit	Sr. Contract Specialist
Valentine	Renaldo	Sound Transit	Sr. Design & Construction Contracts Specialist
Vasudeva	Rina	Sound Transit	Design & Construction Contract Specialist
Smith	Jessica	WaTech	Senior Contracts Specialist

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# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## CONFERENCES

- **SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Annual Business Meeting, Training & Honors and Awards Event**  
Date: January 18, 2024  
Location (Hybrid): Department of Enterprise Services (DES)  
1500 Jefferson Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

## CLASSES & WEBINARS

Looking for additional educational opportunities? Explore the websites below for upcoming classes!

- WA-NIGP: [www.wanipg.org](http://www.wanipg.org)
  - January 3, 2024 – Lunch & Learn: Modernizing Public Procurement: An Intro to AI Integration – [Register](#)
  - February 7, 2024 – Lunch & Learn: Hide and Go Seek: Finding the Right Cooperative Agreement
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Each Month (2-3pm) – Emerging Professional Roundtable Sessions
- NIGP: <https://www.nigp.org/learning/all-courses>
- NIGP Webinars: <https://www.nigp.org/learning/all-courses/webinars>
- Columbia Chapter of NIGP: <http://columbiachapternigp.org/pro-d/>
- Oregon Public Purchasing Association: <https://www.oppaweb.org/index.cfm>
- Idaho Public Purchasing Association: <https://nigp-idaho.org/content.php?page=Training>
- Institute for Supply management: <https://www.ismwww.org/>
- Municipal Research and Services Center: <https://mrsc.org/Home/Training.aspx>
  - January 17, 2024 – Digging into Public Works Fundamentals (Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA) – [Register](#)
  - January 24, 2024 – MRSC/PTAC Public Works Training-Everett (Everett Transit in Everett, WA) – [Register](#)
- American Public Works Association ([APWA](#))
- Washington Finance Officers Association ([WFOA](#))





# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

ARE YOU AN EXCEPTIONAL, PURPOSE-DRIVEN PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONAL WHO IS READY TO GIVE BACK TO OUR PROFESSION LOCALLY?

An organization is only as strong as those members who support its goals. Through the efforts of our committees, we continue to serve our membership and enhance an environment of professional development.

We need your time and talent to continue our success!

To learn more about each committee or to join, visit: [Committees](#)

## **Committees:**

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ By-Law Review          | ✓ Lunch and Learn                |
| ✓ Community Involvement  | ✓ Membership Engagement          |
| ✓ Education and Research | ✓ Newsletter                     |
| ✓ Emerging Professionals | ✓ Nominations and Elections      |
| ✓ Events                 | ✓ Public Relations and Marketing |
| ✓ Finance                | ✓ Scholarship                    |
| ✓ Honors and Awards      | ✓ Legislative Liaison            |





# FALL CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

## THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

Our chapter held its 2023 Fall Conference and 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Museum of Flight on November 2nd. The planning committee surveyed the 80+ attendees at the event and requested they share with us what they liked most about the training event, any opportunities for improvement, why they would recommend these trainings to their peers, and suggested presentation topics and/or networking opportunities for future events. Below are just a few comments from your fellow WA-NIGP members:

Survey Comments
I really enjoyed the presentation during the morning session as it was very eye-opening. It was great to get an expert's view and analysis on all that is going on across the Nation and how it impacts our work and even personal life. It is a great time to meet other colleagues with similar interests and roles as well as learn and develop in your field. I felt like this was a great forum and I am looking forward to the next one.
I liked the presentation given by Dr. Brian Lines on Procurement Leadership in the "New Economy" I wished there was more time to talk with other attendees.
I loved the speakers, the food and venue and networking. I would recommend these trainings to my peers as it is great for networking and the speakers always have something useful.

Survey Comments
I liked seeing the people, the training, the food, the location. Everything was great! I learned a lot and got to have meaningful conversations with colleagues. For suggested future topics, maybe how to elevate the status of procurement function within the agency so we don't get so many complaints, many of which have nothing to do with procurement. Thank you for the committee that planned and organized this event.
Hearing all the stories about how WANIGP got to be and the heroes who were present to share in the celebration. The networking was awesome! I highly recommend these trainings as both presentations were relative to our profession and addresses many issues that are important to all.
I liked the structure of the event. It would have been great to have included a virtual option. I learned a lot about the history of the chapter and the great job that has been done. For future trainings, please share stories about the success of the mentor-mentee program mentioned during the presentation
I like the networking. Wished there were more small group work. It was a great opportunity to meet new procurement professionals.

Missed the survey deadline and have feedback? The Board is always seeking member feedback! Please email any Board Member with your comments, feedback, suggestions, or concerns!

#### **Board Members:**

**Maija Lampinen, President** – [president@wanigp.org](mailto:president@wanigp.org)

**Linda J. Hodgson, Vice President** – [vp@wanigp.org](mailto:vp@wanigp.org)

**Erin Hamilton, Membership Secretary** – [membership@wanigp.org](mailto:membership@wanigp.org)

**Samantha Miller, Recording Secretary** – [secretary@wanigp.org](mailto:secretary@wanigp.org)

**Regan Givens, Treasurer** – [treasurer@wanigp.org](mailto:treasurer@wanigp.org)



# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

WE CAN HELP WITH YOUR TRAINING BUDGET!

## Scholarships

If you are interested in training and do not have the training budget, our Chapter has funding available for scholarships in 2024. The Scholarship Committee accepts applications year-round for continuing education, professional certification fees and courses. Check out the Scholarship Program on the website and SUBMIT your [application](#) soon!

## Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Debbie Strotz, City of Arlington, for the scholarship to the 2023 Fall Conference/20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Stacy Hupp, CPPB*

Scholarship Committee Chair

[scholarship@wanigp.org](mailto:scholarship@wanigp.org)





# EVENTS COMMITTEE

WE CAN USE YOUR HELP!

Thanks again to so many of you who helped with our last big event in November! The Fall Conference and 20th Anniversary event wouldn't have been as amazing without you!

Did you know the Chapter has a Committee that checks the following boxes?

- Don't have a lot of time to commit to Chapter activities but you'd still like to help?
- Do you enjoy welcoming people to events?
- Do you like to purchase coffee, snacks, and catering that everyone will enjoy?
- Don't mind putting the event room back in the shape we found it afterwards?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then the Events Committee is the perfect Chapter workgroup for you!

We certainly can use your help, in any capacity, to pull off the next WA-NIGP events, like at the Chapter's in person and virtual Annual Meeting, Training, and Honors and Awards event on January 18th!

If you might be interested to join this Committee, please contact me for more details.

*Linda J. Hodgson, CPPB*

Chapter Vice President | Events Committee Chair  
[vp@wanigp.org](mailto:vp@wanigp.org)



# HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONAL &  
PROCUREMENT MANAGER OF THE YEAR  
AWARDS!

The Honors and Awards Committee would like to thank the nominators for their time and effort to submit their nominations for these prestigious awards. The Committee looks forward to announcing and celebrating the great work these individuals do at our next Annual Meeting on January 18th.

Our Chapter's Procurement Professional and the Procurement Manager of the Year award criteria is based on the nominees' actions as they relate to NIGP's Values and Guiding Principles of Public Procurement:

- Accountability
- Ethics
- Impartiality
- Professionalism
- Service, and
- Transparency

Chapter award winners are also given the opportunity to submit their nominations for the national level's awards to be further recognized at the NIGP Forum in Charlotte, NC.

Please join us in January to celebrate these individuals' achievements and dedication to our profession.

*Linda J. Hodgson, CPPB*

Chapter Vice President | Honors and Awards  
Committee Chair  
[vp@wanigp.org](mailto:vp@wanigp.org)



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

## THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING!

Thank you to the members that supported our fall giving campaign for Treehouse! We were able to donate over 100 hygiene products and over \$150 in cash donations. Congratulations to our two raffle winners Linda Hodgson and Kristin Bruington. We appreciate everyone's contributions to this great organization.

The WANIGP Community Involvement Committee has selected the Thurston County Food Bank for our December and January charity. The Thurston County Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger within their community, in the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. At the Annual Business Meeting, Training, and Honors & Awards Event in January we will be collecting non-perishable food items. For every five items donated you will be given a raffle ticket to be entered to win a gift card.

Your donation of non-perishable food items will help the Thurston County Food Bank during one of the busiest times of the year. All donations collected will be delivered to the Thurston County Food bank after the event.

Unable to attend the Annual Business Meeting, Training, and Honors & Awards Event in January but still want to participate in this charity drive? You can donate to a local food bank or donate online: [Donate Money - Thurston County Food Bank \(tcfb.org\)](#). If you send your donation receipt or an email with a count of items donated to your local food bank to [community@wanigp.org](mailto:community@wanigp.org) you will be entered in the raffle to win a gift card. Donations from December 1<sup>st</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup> will count toward this charity drive.

*Anna Vogel, NIGP-CPP*

Community Involvement Committee Chair

[community@wanigp.org](mailto:community@wanigp.org)





# PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

## MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS ARE IN!

Our home page holds up to four (4) images in a slider format. In November, we reached out to the WA-NIGP members to help us create an amazing page by participating in our member photo contest!

The Committee received photo submissions from six (6) WA-NIGP members for a total of nine (9) photos!

The Committee conducted a vote and in no particular order, the photos that will be displayed on the WA-NIGP website home page were taken by:

- ✓ Cheral Manke, DES
- ✓ Sue Ownby, Retired
- ✓ Skye Shisler, King County
- ✓ Ellen Ataie, Port of Bremerton

Congratulations and thank you to all that participated!

Did you miss the deadline to submit your photo(s)? Don't worry, WA-NIGP anticipates conducting a photo contest once per year to keep the photos new and exciting!

*Magan Waltari, CPPB, CPSM, NIGP-CPP*

PR and Marketing Committee Chair

[publicrelations@wanigp.org](mailto:publicrelations@wanigp.org)