

FEATURING ANDY WOLF

WASA Employee Spotlight



In this issue, we're proud to spotlight Assistant Executive Director, Member Services & Administrative Operations, Andy Wolf. Andy joined WASA in July 2016.

"Andy Wolf is one of the most genuinely, authentic people that I have had the privilege of knowing. Andy truly shines as that personal/professional contact who thoughtfully supports WASA members... often during their hardest and darkest times. Andy is the competent and confidential friend/colleague who truly aches with and for others. I very much appreciate his down-to-earth and common-sense approach and demeanor."

Brian Talbott

What does your job entail at WASA?

Most of my responsibilities focus on being available to members 24/7 as a confidential sounding-board. I hope to provide light and

hope when they are in their darkest moments. I provide advice and perspective on legal services, contracts, bargaining, COVID-related problems, and board-superintendent relations. I work with new superintendents, arrange for mentors, and get them connected to resources. Much to Joel's consternation, I don't wear a necktie because I want to be approachable (laughs).

What do you like most about your job?

I am amazed at the courage and resiliency of our members. When I see and experience people who are ALWAYS willing to help me or their colleagues, I am inspired. I admire these people and how they stand for students.

How has WASA changed since you were hired?

Member needs have changed as the demands of their jobs have evolved. I think through our effort to serve members as best as we can, WASA has become more responsive to member needs. We are more adept in our ability to respond with resources in real-time. That is what today's members need, and I think we are meeting that need. Their jobs have changed and so has WASA. We used to focus our support on management-related issues. Now our work and support are more focused upon leadership and students. WASA looks different today—because the people we serve have different needs. I'm proud of that.

What is your favorite memory at WASA?

My favorite memories are those of the celebrations—region celebrations and the stories of leaders and students. My very best memory will be how WASA members stood strong and together for kids during COVID.

What were you doing before being hired at WASA?

I was superintendent in Yelm.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

I am kind of always working. Member issues and needs don't follow a typical schedule. I enjoy my family—my wife, kids, and grandkids are tremendous. I also appreciate seeing a project completed. Simple things like mowing the lawn or building something. Grilling for my family also gives me great satisfaction.

Best vacation ever?

There are two. 21 days on a motorcycle with my wife, traveling across the northern part of the U.S., which included a couple motorcycle rallies. A few years ago, 30 of my family members went to Hawaii for Christmas. That was a Christmas I will always cherish.

Where's your favorite place in the world?

Wherever my wife, Denyelle, is. I also enjoy being on or by the water. "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" was written for me (laughs).

Reflect on an employee who is no longer at WASA...

All WASA employees past and present have made a positive impact on my life. Three who have really stood out are Marilee Jensen, Bill Kiem, and Helene Paroff. Bill showed me how to understand and use data. His strengths complimented my strengths. I am thankful for Helene. I am sort of a country-bumpkin and she helped me find my words. She is a great listener and asked good questions. Marilee was the face of WASA when I came on board. She is such a great person and the first WASA staff member who greeted me when I walked in the door on my first day.

MORE REGIONAL AWARDS FUN!

