

FEATURING SHARI PARSONS

WASA Employee Spotlight



In this issue, we're proud to spotlight Executive Assistant to the Executive Director Shari Parsons. Shari joined WASA in August 2017.

Executive Director Joel Aune shares:

"Shari contributes so much to WASA and our effort to serve and support the membership. But what really stands out about Shari, is her 24/7 positivity and her sincere commitment to supporting the members and fellow staff at WASA. She brings an uplifting energy to the WASA team and willingly steps in to help others—often without being asked. Her accommodating demeanor and perpetual smile help set the type of tone we aiming for here at WASA."

What does your job entail at WASA?

I provide assistance and support to the

Executive Director and WASA President. I coordinate events and meetings for the Board, Components, Regions, and various committees. Facilitation of elections for President, Board, AASA Governing Board, as well as processing scoring for Superintendent of the Year, Honorary Awards, scholarships, and of course, "other duties as assigned," all keep me active, busy, and involved.

What do you like most about your job?

I love working with people and especially enjoy serving and supporting people who are doing great things for kids in our schools. At WASA, I first heard the phrase "Servant Leadership." I'd like to think I am part of WASA in the role we all play as servant leaders.

How has WASA changed since you were hired?

Working remotely.

What were you doing before you were hired at WASA?

I worked for 27 years at Yelm Community Schools in several positions, starting as a high school cheer coach, elementary paraprofessional in special education, and my final assignment in the district as an Elementary Office Professional for 17 of those years. I was known as "Shari, from Prairie."

What is your favorite memory at WASA?

At the old WASA office in the City of Olympia, staff could hear a local eatery blow the old Olympia Brewery whistle at 5 o'clock during the workweek. I would tease Executive Director Bill Kiem about the 5 o'clock whistle, and on his last day at WASA, we arranged an opportunity

for him to tour the facility and pull the end of the workday whistle. The look on Bill's face was priceless!

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

I enjoy the time spent with family. We have three sons, a daughter, their spouses, and eight grandkids ranging from ten years to nine months (four boys/four girls). My husband and I enjoy lots of quality time with grandkids as well as cheering them on as they become involved in sports. Also, since 1994, I have been heavily involved in the AWSL Cheer Leadership Camp program and have been a Camp Director since 2004.

Best vacation ever?

Hawaii, April 2021.

Where's your favorite place in the world?

I don't have a particular "favorite" place. I love the ocean, sun, sand, warm temperatures, and mountains. Really, it's not about the place for me. It is about who is with me, and the memories being made.

Do you have story about a former staff member that WASA members might enjoy?

A four-month transition period with my predecessor, Marilee Jensen. I really appreciated not only getting to know her personally, but I appreciated the opportunity to glean as much WASA knowledge as I could before she retired. It was an honor to have time to work alongside her.

Simple Majority

In 2007, Substitute House Joint Resolution 4204 was ratified by voters and eliminated the supermajority approval requirements for school district property tax levies.

In the 15 years since, the simple majority threshold has been vitally important for school districts to secure a consistent and reliable stream of funding.

On February 8, only 66 of 135 school district EP&O levies received a yes vote of more than 60 percent. Fifty-two more school district levies were approved with a yes vote percentage between 50 percent and 60 percent. Without

simple majority, local funding for students in 69 of 135 districts would have been put at risk. That's over half of EP&O levies failing, if not for simple majority!

There were also 63 capital projects levies on the ballot. These levies fund technology and infrastructure improvements to boost learning, preserve facilities, and keep students safe.

Only 26 of these levies received a yes vote of more than 60 percent, while 28 more passed with a yes vote between 50 percent and 60 percent. Less than 20 percent of statewide capital projects levies would have passed without simple majority.



AASA CORNER

Join AASA President Paul Imhoff each month for a discussion series focusing on self-care, student care and staff care, plus leadership change and bringing communities back together.

Upcoming Events

March 22	Student Care Expert Forum
April 26	Student Care Guided Discussion
May 24	Staff Care Expert Forum

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