Reuniting public utility districts

Working cooperatively to preserve and enhance the ability of PUDs to meet the needs of their communities.

WASHINGTON PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

WPUDA

YOUR connection

Contact information for speakers

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  (509) 860-2318 cell
- George Caan, Executive Director
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Our History

- Formed in 1936 originally as the Washington PUD Commissioners Association.
- Original purpose was to support the activation of public utility districts during a time of legal and political battles waged by private power in opposition to the PUD movement.
- The name changed in 1952 to the Washington Public Utility Districts Association to reflect its expanded role in supporting the interest of the PUD customer-owners.

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Our Mission

"Advocating for our members who provide not-for-profit, locally-controlled utility services for the people of Washington."

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WPUDA today

- **Advocacy**-Facilitating a cooperative effort in support of policies that preserve, protect and enhance the value of PUDs to the communities they serve.
- **Training and education**-Providing instruction and education to support PUD operations and leadership excellence.
- **Collaboration and Information sharing**-Provide forum to share best practices, expertise and knowledge.
- **Policy research and analysis**- Providing information to make informed decisions.

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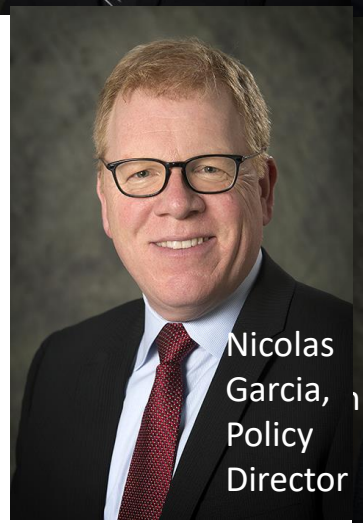
The WPUDA Team

Jamie Hanny
Business and Financial Manager

Carol West,
Government Relations Manager

Lena Mendiola,
Director of Member Services

Stefany Zelepuza,
Senior Policy Specialist


Nicolas Garcia,
Policy Director

George Caan
Executive Director

Liz Anderson
Deputy Executive Director

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Structure

- Board of Directors – Sets the strategic direction of the Association.
- Executive Committee – Elected officers plus three Managers appointed by the Managers Committee. They provide oversite of WPUDA operations as well as recommendations.
- Policy committees – Energy, Telecommunications, Water, Government Relations, Communications.
- Other committees – Commissioner Education, Strategic Planning, General Managers, Budget, Finance and Audit, Awards
- Professional Roundtables-meet twice a year for training, education and information sharing.

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Meetings

- WPUDA holds meetings every month except for May, June and August. Meetings are held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Committees are made up of one voting delegate per member PUD. PUDs may only have a voting delegate on policy committees for services they provide.
- Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each committee are selected by a vote of committee delegates every April.
- All members are welcome to attend meetings.

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Advocacy

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Advocacy

- Policy direction is set by the members.
- The Association lends strength to a single PUD, several PUDs or the entire family of PUDs in our advocacy work.
- WPUDA's lobbying team advocates year-round in support of members' interests.
- The Association engages in legislative and regulatory processes and provides frequent reports on activities to members and coordinates member engagement on issue.

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Advocacy services

- Legislative tracking
- Policy analysis and coordinated engagement in rulemaking and other regulatory processes.
- Legislative action alerts.
- Reports on legislative activities – update calls and lobbyist coordination meetings.
- Communication tools including testimony, issue papers, reports, comments, and briefings.
- Legislative outreach events including legislative reception, PUD Day on the Hill, Public Power Rally, and workshops.
- Serve as resource and point of contact on PUD issues for lawmakers, agency and legislative staff and stakeholder groups
  - Provide data, modeling and expert analysis for policy development.
  - Provide informed input into state and federal rulemaking processes.
  - PUD Caucus
- WPUDA Power Lunches
- Legislative policy briefings.
- New legislator "Introduction to PUDs" briefing.

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Training and education

Training and education

- New Commissioner training and mentoring program
- Commissioner roundtables, education and training at monthly meetings
- Biannual roundtables for utility professional staff
  - Managers
  - Finance Officers
  - Records Managers
  - Communicators
  - Administrative Assistants
  - Human Resource Managers
  - Customer Service professionals
- Industry news and information
- Utility briefings on industry trends, issues and opportunities
- Individual utility consultation and education

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Collaboration and information sharing

Collaboration and information sharing

- Association meetings
- Annual Conference
- Water Workshop
- Telecom Workshop
- Surveys
- Complementary efforts with other state and regional organizations.

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Thank you for being part of WPUDA!

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