



## [NAHU Happy Hour Podcast](#)

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## COVID-19 Resources

We have all been inundated with information about COVID-19 over the past three months.

Where can you find reliable and current information?

### [WA Dept. of Health](#)

The WA DOH has a very robust site that can be viewed in 11 different languages, including ASL.

Another handy tool on this site is the State [Dashboard](#).

The Dashboard gives up to date information on confirmed cases, hospitalizations and deaths due to the virus by county.

If you are looking for information on how our State is reacting to the pandemic, check out [Governor Inslee's page on COVID-19](#). This will list information on policies and guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

Being a member of WAHU means that you have access to NAHU's huge amount of resources, tools and information to help support your business and your clients.

The [NAHU Coronavirus Information](#) page has details on the COVID-19 relief fund for members, administration resources, state and federal updates and the COVID-19 Compliance Corner Webinar.

## National Convention Goes Virtual

NAHU's National Convention is a multi-day event held in different cities around the country. The 2020 National Convention was to be in Chicago, but the pandemic has derailed this event, like so many others.

Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> saw the Awards Ceremony where our own Keith Wallace was honored as Recruiter of the Year for his incredible achievement of bringing 28 new members to WAHU! His goal next year is 60!

The Leadership Summit took place after the Awards Ceremony. It was great to see so many familiar faces, even if it was on Zoom. The National Convention and Capitol Conference are wonderful opportunities to create connections with members from across the country.

There were some great speakers with powerful messages and then the chance to break out into separate meeting groups to brainstorm on NAHU's direction and goals.

The main part of the convention kicked off Sunday, June 28 with the Opening General Session and Town Hall. This continued on Monday with breakout tracks and concluded on Tuesday with Regional Meetings and the House of Delegates vote to elect NAHU Board members.

Next year is scheduled to be in New Orleans, COVID willing. Let's keep our fingers crossed and our masks on!





Mary Pierce, President

*"Never accept **NO** from someone who doesn't have the authority to say **Yes**"*

## This month's WAHU Board Member

Taking care of business means taking care of your community. That has been my focus for my 25+ years in the small group employee benefits world.

Taking care of business as the new President for WAHU means taking care of our members

We will be focusing on ways to provide timely and

relevant information to you and our industry at large.

These are interesting times, to say the least. Every morning I brace myself to see what new challenges we will be facing.

Employers have been impacted by COVID-19 and some may never recover.

Employees have been laid off with no unemployment benefits for weeks.

Our cities and communities are shook not only by COVID-19 but the very real and painful changes in the way we think about policing, equity and justice.

These are not easy times, but you will be there for your clients, just as we will be there for you.

Let's make this better, together

## Legislative Update

There is speculation about a special legislative session in August or early September depending on the State revenue forecast.

Many sectors of the economy are shut down. Although tax increase proposals are almost certain, you can't collect taxes on shut down businesses. There is an expected \$10 Billion revenue loss that will result in huge cuts.

There will most likely be a proposed Claims Tax on health plans and will be just one example of a large volume of potential attacks on the funds.

Election Cycle: All 98 Representatives and 26 Senators are up for re-election in November. This is an odd campaign year with no kickoff campaigns due to social distancing policies.

The Dept of Employment Security is under scrutiny due to issues with security and the inability to handle the huge influx of unemployment claims.

Mel Sorensen – WAHU Lobbyist



## 2020-2021 Strategic Planning for WAHU

The Strategic Planning meeting was held virtually on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Earlier meetings were held with each committee so that the Planning meeting could focus on the broad vision for the next three years.

Year 1 Goal: Communicate in a timely and dependable way with our membership.

Year 2 Goal: Begin the work of establishing an Emerging Leaders program to encourage and develop the next generation of insurance professionals.

Year 3 Goal: Create greater connectivity and collaboration between Regional, State and Local Chapters by creating an annual 360° Round Table Event.

You can find the full document on our [Resources](#) page.

## Welcome New Members

Kasey Duus, Biggs Insurance Services, Vancouver WA

Joel Newman, Colonial Life, Renton, WA

Elijah Pleasant, Pleasant Insurance Services, Mill Creek WA

Patrick Shen, Biggs Insurance Services, Vancouver WA

Devon West, Bonney Lake WA

## Our Mission

The Washington Association of Health Underwriters promotes the highest level of professional and ethical conduct amongst its membership. We deliver education, public policy information and policy recommendations to our members. In addition, we advocate consumer choice, accessible and affordable quality health care for our communities.

## Local Association Chapter Presidents

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**EWAHU** – Spokane – Julie Shepard-Hall, [integrityins@msn.com](mailto:integrityins@msn.com)

**SAHU** – Seattle – Keith Wallace, [keith@riceinsurance.com](mailto:keith@riceinsurance.com)

**SSAHU** – South Sound – Laci Moyer, [lmoyer@pheinsurance.com](mailto:lmoyer@pheinsurance.com)

**TCAHU** – Tri-County – Harilyn Dumancas, [harilyn.t.dumancas@kp.org](mailto:harilyn.t.dumancas@kp.org)

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.wahealthunderwriters.org](http://www.wahealthunderwriters.org)

and our new LinkedIn page

