Washington’s first Pilotage Act was signed into law while Washington was still a territory in 1868. This year we are celebrating 150 years! The first chairperson of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners, when it was established in 1868 under the territorial act, was Captain Enoch S. Fowler, who was a prominent mariner in Port Townsend, WA, the Board’s first home.

In 1935 the Washington State Legislature created the Board of Pilotage Commissioners, as it exists today. We spent many years as a part of the Department of Labor and Industries. In 1977, when the Washington State Department of Highways became the Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Board was brought into this new group of “transportation agencies”.

Due to the connection with Captain Fowler, it was clear why Port Townsend was chosen as the location for the 150th celebration. Puget Sound Pilots coordinated the event, which included addresses from U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, as well as elected state legislators, the Mayor of Port Townsend, and Board Chair, Sheri Tonn. Several commissioners and BPC staff were present as well. It was truly a special day for pilotage!

The exam will be held on November 5, 2018 in Seattle, WA.
We are seeking candidates for both the Puget Sound and Grays Harbor Pilotage Districts. Please visit www.pilotage.wa.gov/exam-information

PILOTS NEEDED!
Help us develop the 2018 exam! Contact PSP President, Captain Eric vonBrandenfels if you’re interested in assisting.

And a HUGE thank you to those who have already donated their time!
Norwegian Bliss

On May 30th, the Port of Seattle welcomed Norwegian Bliss, the West Coast’s largest cruise ship and newest vessel in the Norwegian Cruise Line fleet, to the Bell Street Cruise Terminal at Pier 66. She was brought in by Captain Pat Kelly, Puget Sound Pilots. At 168,000 gross tons and a capacity of 4,004 double occupancy, the Norwegian Bliss will find a permanent home on the Alaska route.

Mary Nelson Retires from Port of Grays Harbor

In June, Port of Grays Harbor Director of Finance and Administration, Mary Nelson, retired after 23 years of service. The Board worked closely with Mary for many years on various aspects relating to the Port’s pilotage program. Her dedication to the Port and the Board, as well as her smiling face, will be missed! The Board welcomes her replacement, Mr. Mike Folkers, and looks forward to a continuation of the successful comradery with the Board that Mary helped to build. Best wishes on your retirement, Mary!

In Memoriam

Board Designated Physician Dr. Raymond Jarris, Jr. passed away on April 13, 2018. Dr. Jarris worked with the maritime community for many years and his contributions to personal safety on the water were significant. He will be missed.

DISTRICT SNAPSHOTs

Puget Sound

Retirements:
Captain Andy Coe — 5/1/18
Thank you for your outstanding service to the State of Washington!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:
There were no upgrades to Unlimited in April, May, or June.

Training Program:
Currently in training are Captains Keith Kridler, Sandy Bendixen, Ken Grieser, Travis McGrath, Pat Ninburg, Adam Seamans, David Melin, Matt Miller, and Trevor Bozina.

Captains McGrath, Ninburg, and Seamans are transitioning into the training phase of their programs.
Keep up the good work!

Grays Harbor

Training Program:
Grays Harbor is seeking candidates with the 2018 Exam.

In Memoriam

Photo credit: Cruise Business Review

Photo credit: Puget Sound Pilots. From left: PSP Pilot Captain Ed Marmol, the vessel master, and PSP pilot trainees Captains Sandy Bendixen and Travis McGrath arriving in the Seattle aboard the CAP PASADO.

The BPC Pilotage Quarterly is a publication of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners. It is available online at Pilotage.wa.gov. To join our distribution list, email PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov or call (206) 515-3904.