Announcements

Puget Sound Pilots Named Evergreen’s 2018 Marine Vendor of the Year

The Evergreen Shipping Agency (America) Corporation has awarded Puget Sound Pilots with their 2018 Marine Vendor of the Year award.

On December 19, 2018, Evergreen’s THALASSA AXIA became the first 14k TEU call to the Port of Tacoma. In preparation, Puget Sound Pilots custom designed a training to simulate maneuvering a vessel this size to/from the end of the Blair Waterway and docking/undocking from the Pierce County Terminal through the Blair Waterway and to/from the berth.

More Puget Sound Licensures!

We are excited to announce the licensures of three more pilots in the Puget Sound Pilotage District!

At the August 15, 2019 BPC meeting, Captain Pat Ninburg received Washington State Pilot License #205.

And...

at the September 19, 2019 BPC meeting, Captains Keith Kridler and David Melin received Washington State Pilot Licenses #206 and #207, respectively.

Congratulations on this achievement!

Farewell and Happy Retirement to BPC Program Specialist Shawna Erickson

BPC’s Program Specialist, Shawna Erickson, attended her last Board meeting as staff on September 19, 2019. Shawna retired from the State as of October 1, 2019, after 10 years with the BPC. She will be missed but we thank her for her outstanding service and wish her all the best in her retirement!
A Sad Time for Pilotage

The BPC is sad to report that Puget Sound pilot and former Washington State Ferries captain Fred Engstrom passed away on July 15, 2019. Captain Engstrom received his state pilot license in November 2012. He was an excellent pilot and will be remembered for his infectious laugh and good nature. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

BPC at the Port of Grays Harbor

The BPC continued the tradition of August meetings in Grays Harbor County. The Board met at the Port of Grays Harbor in Aberdeen for the August 15, 2019 meeting. The meeting was followed by a tour of Port operations, graciously conducted by Port of Grays Harbor Executive Director, Gary Nelson. Many thanks to the Port for a great day!

Women Offshore’s UNITE Conference

BPC Chair Sheri Tonn, representing Washington pilotage, attended Women Offshore’s 2nd annual UNITE conference, held in Houston, TX July 12-13. The conference drew maritime professionals from all over the world, including a panel of female pilots from several countries. The BPC attends several conferences focused on women in maritime each year.

District Snapshots

Puget Sound

Retirements:
Captain Dan Shaffer — 9/18/2019
Captain Dave Sanders — 9/30/2019
Thank you for your service to the State of Washington!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:
Captain Scott Coleman
Well done, Captain Coleman!

Licensure
Captain Patrick Ninburg — 8/15/2019
Captain David Melin — 9/19/2019
Captain Keith Kridler — 9/19/2019
Congratulations, Captains!

Training Program:
Currently in training are Captains Matt Miller, Trevor Bozina, Pete Velarde, Joe Siddell, Matt Hannuksela, Neil McGourty, Severin Knutsen, Eric Michael, and Ryan Gartner.
Captains Hannuksela, McGourty and Knutsen are transitioning to the Training Phase of their programs.
Keep up the great work!

At the July 18, 2019 meeting, the BPC increased the number of authorized pilot licenses in the PSPD from 52 to 56.

Grays Harbor

Training Program:
Captain Forest McMullen will begin training in the Grays Harbor Pilotage District in October 2019.

At the June 20, 2019 meeting, the BPC increased the number of authorized pilot licenses in the GHPD from 2 to 3.