Message from the Executive Director

Happy Fall!

Well, I know it’s officially Fall; but I’m still wondering what happened to Spring? Staying inside and working at my computer all day sure has made these past few months fly by. What a crazy time!

As the colder weather starts to creep in many of you are trying to figure out how to move your services indoors, while others are trying to maintain their services outside. Please join us this Friday, October 2nd for conversations on the challenges and issues facing all of you as we move into colder weather. Sharing of your plans will help shape new guidance to be created by WSDA and the Department of Health.

On October 7th and 14th we will continue our conversations but this time about issues facing you as a volunteer manager. What are your challenges and concerns – how can we help? Ginny Lang, Lang Consulting, will facilitate these calls and we plan to share with you concrete ideas and tools to safely oversee and recruit volunteers during COVID.

The WFC is also excited to share a Re-emergence series which includes trainings on Volunteer Management and Financial issues, that your organization could be facing during this time. Please see page 3 for a detailed list of trainings being offered to you as part of your member benefits.

With the upcoming holiday season, food distributions, toy, food drives and all the other assorted activities, we want to remind you it is also time to renew your membership to the WFC for 2021. Membership renewal will begin in November.

We are all facing so much during this time. If you think the coalition could be of help to you, please feel free to reach out. info@wafoodcoalition.org or 206-729-0501.

Stay safe,

Trish Twomey
trish@wafoodcoalition.org
206-729-0501

Our Mission: The Washington Food Coalition actively educates and networks with organizations that strive to alleviate hunger throughout Washington

Our Vision: The Washington Food Coalition is the unified voice for a strong emergency food system
The hunger relief system has faced unprecedented challenges since COVID-19. Each of you, individually and organizationally, has risen to that challenge in heroic ways. Your efforts and personal sacrifices are recognized, appreciated, and essential in addressing these challenges and those to come. Now is the time to acknowledge where we have been and prepare for a future that has an ever changing landscape.

Our initial efforts were focused on responding to a crisis that was already in full swing. Your distribution systems were significantly challenged as you dealt with a lack of resources, lack of volunteers, and lack of available guidelines to operate safely in an unknown environment. We came together to address these challenges by creating a coordinated response through the Food Security Coordination team, developing new and expanded partnerships focused on emergency food and personal protection equipment, and establishing vital communication and support channels. The response was critical and yet at times overwhelming as resources flowed in. You’ve dealt with multiple funding sources, each with its own set of requirements, but in the end resulting in benefits to the communities and people you serve.

We cannot predict what is around the corner but we can prepare for a multitude of options depending on the unfolding and yet unknown circumstances we may find ourselves in. We have learned many lessons from this experience. We are not only focused on meeting the existing challenges but on making improvements to the system as a whole.

There will be many changes coming that may feel uncomfortable at best. In November, you will experience a significant decrease in the amount of emergency food (either bulk or pre-packed boxes) received through the WA emergency food initiative (Food Lifeline, Northwest Harvest and Second Harvest) and December will be the final month of this initiative. However, we will continue to support your needs past this transition stage. Our WSDA Director, Derek Sandison, has developed a reserve of food should supply disruptions come into play again. We have a legislative proposal in the works to address additional supports for the emergency food system but also supports to address gaps in the system as they emerge. In addition, you will be receiving a large amount of TEFAP and TMP foods in the coming months. However, we will continue to support your needs past this transition stage. Our WSDA Director, Derek Sandison, has developed a reserve of food should supply disruptions come into play again. We have a legislative proposal in the works to address additional supports for the emergency food system but also supports to address gaps in the system as they emerge. In addition, you will be receiving a large amount of TEFAP and TMP foods in the coming months.

We are in it for the long-haul and will stand ready to support you. And yes, you are heroes in every sense of the word and continue to be an inspiration.

Thank YOU!

**WSDA COVID-19 calls**

Every other week, Tuesdays from 9 - 10 a.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/809174509

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
Access Code: 809-174-509

Link to minutes from all WSDA calls - https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/fo-covid-19

There is now a contractor only call, every other Friday at 9 a.m. Contact WSDA for more information.

**WFC Training Schedule:**

The WFC is proud to announce its training schedule for 2020/2021.

**Beginning in October 2020 the coalition will offering several trainings to address food bank operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

- **October 2nd & 6th – 9 a.m. Conversation on What’s Next?** Facilitated conversation on the challenges and issues facing Food Banks/pantries as we move into colder, rainy weather. Share your questions and concerns that will help shape new guidance to be created by WSDA and the Department of Health.
- **October 7 & 14th - 10 a.m. Volunteer Management** What are your pressing issues, challenges, and concerns managing volunteers during this time? The issues of managing and recruiting volunteers become more nuanced when those we expect to assist us in an emergency are either practicing self-quarantine or instructed to maintain social distancing, particularly if your volunteers are part of a vulnerable population group. We’ve all got brand new questions, challenges, and solutions in this environment that we’ve never encountered before. Come share and we’ll provide tangible solutions and tools.
- **RE-EMERGENCE LEARNING SERIES –** The last six months have been challenging for food banks. They have seen a surge in demand while funding systems have grown more complex and fundraising events have been canceled. Food banks have needed to quickly adapt, creating drive-through systems and new ways to keep volunteers safe. The stress is taking its toll as we begin a slow and intentional process of adaptation and recovery. How do we emerge from the challenge of COVID-19 with our organizations intact? How do we see our work with new eyes and greater resiliency? How do we take the lessons from COVID-19 and apply them to new ways of work within our organizations and our communities?

The Reemergence Nonprofit Learning Series is designed to give nonprofit leaders new insight and practical tools to strengthen their nonprofit’s resiliency. It provides an interlocked set of online classes and resources that provide a common foundation for nonprofits across the community as they address the impact that COVID-19 has had on their organizations and communities.

- **Oct. 19th 9-11 a.m. Nonprofit Financial Strategy in Response to Crisis (2-part)**
- **November 12th 9-11 a.m. Volunteer Management**
- **December 2nd - Get Ready for a Disaster: Information and Tools to help Nonprofits be Prepared for bad events.** You work hard to run programs and solve problems. You are focused on your work, not on getting ready for that disaster that might happen. You intend to do the right thing, yet limitations on time, funding, and technical knowledge can get in the way of getting your organization ready for something bad to happen.

Get Ready for a Disaster gives you information and tools to get your organization ready for a natural or pandemic disaster. This online course is designed for executive director’s, board members and staff so you can operationalize disaster preparation within your organization. It walks you through the why, what, and how of making your organization more resilient when facing natural or viral disasters.

**Other trainings:**

- **Food Safety Course** – including certification training
- **Food Bank Certification Course**- Five series course on Nonprofit Basis, Food Safety, Volunteer Management, Forms Training and Food Banking 101.
- **Client in-take Software System** – Learn about the various software systems that you can use to check in your customers.
Washington Food Coalition Membership Renewal

Our membership renewal process will begin in November. Please renew before the end of the year. Many memberships are paid by your EEFAP lead or contractor. We’ll be in touch with them soon.

For programs paying individually, we offer a sliding scale for dues based on your annual operating budget Annual Operating Budget (AOB):

- $25: AOB of $50,000 or less
- $50: AOB of $51,000-500,000
- $100: AOB of $501,000-1 Million
- $250: AOB of $1 Million +

Your membership comes with benefits!

- Discounted fee to our annual conference and other trainings and events.
- A discounted copy of valuable resources manuals– Food Safety, Special Dietary Needs, Food Banking 101, and Best Practices.
- Monthly E-newsletters and printed/mailed newsletters 4 times/year newsletters.
- Training opportunities for staff & volunteers plus on-call help and assistance answering your questions about programs and services, models, and best practices, and more.
- Food Bank Certification course for your staff/volunteers.
- Access to a discounted membership with WA Non-profits, for even more fabulous trainings that are offered both online and in person, across the state.
- Access to over 300 other WFC members – your colleagues in the fight against hunger!
- Discounted agency insurance through great American Insurance/Conover.
- Your agency has a vote in the election of your district representatives.

2020 Census

The 2020 Census is important because responses help determine congressional representation for each state, and guide how billions of dollars in public, private, and not-for-profit resources are distributed across the country for the next 10 years. Those funds are used for critical services like emergency response, fire departments, schools, health care, and transportation.

https://my2020census.gov/

May Ellen Segle
May 28th, 1952 - July 19th, 2020
Entiat Valley Community Services Food Bank

May served as the Administrative Program Director of the Entiat Valley Community Services Food Bank. Her passion was to serve the people in her community, which she did selflessly for many years. May served three terms on the Washington Food Coalition board representing District 2- Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas counties.

May was a kind, caring person who will be greatly missed in her community and by her food banking colleagues across the state.