

Washington

Secretary of State

SAM REED

SMART GOVERNMENT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE

WASHINGTON STATE PRODUCTIVITY BOARD

April 2006



“

Good ideas most often come from the men and women working in the field. We need to support and encourage those innovations at all levels of government.”

Doug MacDonald, Secretary
Department of Transportation

In This Issue

Public Service Recognition Week

Circle of Excellence

Word Search

Did you know?

“First Call” flagger to save thousands of lives.

The Department of Transportation is always looking for innovative ideas and technological advances. The department recently instituted the use of the “First Call” Flagging Machine, created by Bret Goss. Goss was recently featured on the Evening Magazine Show, February 28, 2006, as one of the Northwest Innovators.

Goss was outraged by the number of people killed each year in construction areas, and decided to see what he could do to “fix” the situation. While in Canada, he saw a prototype of an automated ‘flagging’ machine, and tried to market it in the United States, but had no success. It was then that he decided to revamp the idea, and create the “First Call” Flagging machine.



The First Call Flagging machine is totally computer operated by remote control and up to 20 machines can be operated by one person from one location. This not only reduces the risk of injury, but also reduces the need for several flaggers per work area, thus saving agency resources. While the cost of implementing these machines is something to consider, over the long term expenditures, they more than pay for themselves.

Special thanks to Frank Newboles and Marty Weed who were instrumental in helping Goss receive approval through state government.

For information, follow this link: <http://www.firstcallflagging.com>



Board Meetings

- May 5th, 2006
- June 2nd, 2006
- July 7th, 2006
- August 4th, 2006

Meetings are held at 10:00am in the Secretary of State's Office located in the Legislative Building.

Did you know?

Through the Employee Suggestion and Teamwork Incentive Programs, Washington State employees have saved the state over **52 million** dollars in first year savings.

The Washington State Productivity Board was founded in 1982 by the Washington State Legislature. The Productivity Board was created to stimulate creative thinking in government and drive down costs. The Board was created in one of the worst recessions in Washington State history.

Through the Productivity Board's two programs, public employees began suggesting money saving ideas for their respective agencies. In some cases, innovative ideas earned employees a cash award.

Innovations in State Government Awards

David Mueller, a Maintenance Specialist with The Department of Transportation suggested the agency install specific tank pipe fittings, and purchase a portable diaphragm pump in order to stop tank waste. This would allow for in-house inspection and repair rather than hiring a septic tank pumping company to empty the tanks. His suggestion has saved over 3,000 in first year ongoing savings.



DOT award winners pictured Left to right; David Mueller, "Innovative Employee Suggestions for 2005" Bill Ford Assistant Secretary Finance and Administration and Doug Choate, "Outstanding Agency Evaluators" award winner.

Public Employees at Your Service

Public Service Recognition Week is an opportunity for every level of government to recognize and honor the hard work of federal, state, and local government employees the first week of May, 2006.

During this week, annual celebrations are held across the state to honor the men and women who serve Washington State as federal, state and local government employees.



EXCELLENCE

Q D C P D B E X T R P P Y K A R T M A R
 N F R B C D M Y L Y R A W A T O C I A E
 Amtrak V o Z Q J J P R G O N U S X W J C K G H
 Cargo U S I M W A A R J E R N J S J H Y R M T
 Freight R E M T S O F E P P M U W X E L G O Y A
 Passenger Projects Q o P S A X C F Q A Y B B H E N Q I K E
 Route B T E K D T E R M I N A L S C Y G E H W
 Transit Weather F S R M S A R G L S V T N R N D Z E T V
 Aviation Culvert T R A F F I C O N E R T K Z A Y D B R W
 Railroad Highway N o I T A I V A P E S Y T V N A N A A A
 Passes R C U T E F I Q V S G S H F E R R I N J
 Bike Terminals O X A F C R R L O L N A E V T A O B S D
 Transportation O T H X T A U E F B S A W V N I A A I U
 Ferry Maintenance C G O S S C R L I T S E R V I L D A T R
 Traffic Roads W D D E E E Z G I G E P M T A R S Q F D
 H E K I A A W B O T H K F W M O A D Z X
 P I Y C U K A R Z K O T I I N A X R M B
 B Q O Z H A Q G D W B F U O J D P D F Q
 H Q G D Y I G W X J U O G I W U L F H R
 Q L N I T G T W Q G A S K E U Z B B U E

First Circle of Excellence Inductee



On December 2nd 2005, Mr. Paul Vilja was recognized by Secretary of State Sam Reed as the first member in the Circle of Excellence. The Circle of Excellence was founded in early 2005 as a way to recognize employees who actively participate in the Employee Suggestion Program by submitting ten or more eligible suggestions in a year that improve state government operations.

To become a member of the Circle of Excellence, simply submit 10 suggestions to the Productivity Board in 12 months time. Suggestions must meet eligibility criteria, For more information, visit www.secstate.wa.gov/productivityboard



“Smart Government is the result of hard work, diligence and innovative thinking. Our state employees exercise those qualities continuously to improve

A WORD FROM

THE CHAIR

customer service and strengthen the state of Washington.”

SAM REED
Secretary of State

Productivity Board Members:

- Governor Christine Gregoire - Ex-Officio
- Secretary of State Sam Reed - Chair
- State Auditor Brian Sontag
- Department of General Administration Director Linda Villegas Bremer
- Department of Social & Health Services Kathleen Brockman
- Private Sector Representative- Retired Mike Kerschbaum PEMCO Financial Services
- Speaker of the House Appointee George Masten
- Financial Management Quality Consultant Joyce Turner
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Washington State Productivity Board

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