



Women's History Month

March is [Women's History Month](#) from sea to shining sea! And here on the Salish Sea, we're privileged to have an ever-growing presence of female leadership. This includes the head of Washington State Ferries, Amy Scarton, who asked me to guest write this edition of our [WSF Weekly Update](#).



Oilers Ashley Hansen and Elizabeth Adams, along with Chief Engineer Maureen McGarrity, became our first all-female engine room crew in 2014. Elizabeth is now an assistant engineer.

Back in the early 1970s when brand new laws required state and federal agencies to increase employment opportunities for women and other protected classes, there weren't a lot of women working at WSF, let alone women in management positions. Since then, we've made great strides in creating a more diverse workforce. We have female captains, deck officers, engineers, electricians, pipefitters, and administrators. Almost half of our executive leadership team are women. While the transportation and maritime industries have traditionally been male-dominated, it is exciting to see how they've made room for these female trailblazers and how far they've come.

March 14, 2019

New "Triangle" route schedule begins March 31

Mark your calendars! Beginning Sunday, March 31, with the start of our spring schedule, our Fautleroy/Vashon/Southworth route will operate on a [new sailing schedule](#). The changes are the result of a [two-year public process](#), developed to accommodate a third 124-car Issaquah Class vessel that will be regularly assigned to the "Triangle" route.



We'll closely monitor the schedule's performance in preparation for the busy summer season and beyond. This year, we're also kicking off the Fautleroy terminal project and looking at other strategies to improve terminal operations, provide additional travel options and

Women's Transportation Seminar award

Being Women's History Month, it's only fitting that our [2040 Long Range Plan](#) received the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award last week from the [Women's Transportation Seminar \(WTS\) Puget Sound Chapter](#)! Released in January, the plan recommends a set of investments and service enhancements to be implemented over the next 20 years, such as building new ferries or adopting technology improvements. The plan included an extensive public outreach component, and several key members of the planning team so happened to be women, including subject matter experts in naval architecture, technology, and planning. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Acting Director of Community Relations and Planning Ray Deardorf and me with WTS Puget Sound Chapter leaders.

Awards for years of service

This month we're recognizing many of our longtime employees for marking significant milestones in their years of service at WSF. Here are a few of them:



Capt. Robert "Bob " Merideth (center) celebrates 30 years at WSF with his crew.

apply advances in technology or other operational efficiencies.

Popular Mukilteo pedestrian trail to close until fall

Starting Monday, March 25, and lasting through next fall, the popular pedestrian trail that runs between our [new Mukilteo terminal](#) site and the railroad tracks will be closed. We have reached the point in [the project](#) when we need to close the trail for the safety of those who use it. We will look for times during construction when we can temporarily open the trail and will notify our Mukilteo neighbors in advance of these openings.



We detoured the trail close to the railroad tracks in Mukilteo last month to keep it open as long as possible.

WSF in latest Washington Driver Guide

For the first time ever, we have our own section in the Washington State Department of Licensing's [Washington Driver Guide](#)! It now outlines how to safely approach ferry terminals, including how holding lines



Able-Bodied Seaman (AB) Roy Knisley (30 years, left) and AB Jeff Stoudt (40 years, right) with their crew.



From left, Terminal Supervisor Rob Myers (30 years), Capt. Mike Kelly (40 years), Able-Bodied Seaman James "Jim" Lesh (30 years) and Second Mate Barbara "Barb" Schaeffer (30 years) celebrate aboard Spokane.



45 years
Capt. John Shellman (left)



30 years
Terminal Supervisor Deborah Young (right)



40 years
Mukilteo Ticket Seller James Stockholm (left)

35 years
Capt. David Lawton (center)

work, how to avoid cutting lines and specific regulations that apply. The update [also includes](#) info on work zone and railroad crossing safety, as well as new and more robust sections on pedestrian and bicyclist safety.



WSDOT worked with DOL to add safety suggestions to the new version of the Washington Driver Guide.

Haiku contest finalists to be revealed next week



[State Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna](#) is currently narrowing down our [haiku cover contest](#) submissions to three finalists. Their poems will be posted on our [Twitter page](#) at noon Monday, March 18, for voting. The haiku with the most likes at noon Friday, March 22, will be named the winner and featured on our



30 years
Chief Mate
Randy Lodell

Summer 2019 Sailing
Schedule!

Congratulations to everyone who received a service award this month! Your dedication is greatly appreciated!

Stephanie Cirkovich
Acting Chief of Staff, WSDOT/Ferries Division



WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly

Questions? Contact us at WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov

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