

WASHAA 501(c)(3) approval, organizational changes, open ED position.

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Dear WASHAA Members & Friends:

Summer is heating up here in Seattle and we hope that everyone is staying cool and enjoying the sunny weather. We would like to share with you a few important updates since our latest email communications a couple of months ago.

#### **501c3 Status Approved**

We are happy to announce that WASHAA is now officially a 501c3 nonprofit organization! After a long waiting period for a determination, we received the sought-after [501c3 designation](#) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated to our filing in 2012.

What does this mean for you? Your annual WASHAA dues are eligible for tax-deduction! Additionally, you are now able to make monetary and/or in-kind donations to WASHAA and your gift may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes. Please contact your tax advisor for advice on tax-deductibility.

#### **Organizational Update**

During the last two months, a few changes have taken place at our organization that we would like to share with you. We are grateful to have an engaged Board and administrative staff. We are welcoming a wonderful new Board Member [Gina Vogel Culbert, J.D.](#), an attorney in a large private law firm who joins the Board after her personal experience advocating for family.

We are also celebrating the contributions of Io Dolka (Executive Director), Senia Hussong (Vice Chair) and Jessica Kolstad (Administrative Assistant), who have resigned. We have appreciated Senia's strategic contributions, attention to detail, and deep knowledge of operations. The organization has also benefited from the tremendous work ethic, ability to juggle multiple priorities and organizational skills of Jessica Kolstad and wish her well in her new position at UW/Tacoma.

And finally, we are so grateful for Io Dolka's enormous commitment to advancing the organization over the past two and a half years. Her vision, dedication to cultivating partnerships and building the infrastructure of the organization has been pioneering in the field of patient advocacy. Please read [Io's letter](#) to WASHAA Members and Friends.

The field of patient advocacy is continuing to explode and we have the opportunity to continue to pioneer activities to support it. We are therefore looking to attract a new Executive Director. Could this be you or someone you know? Please take a look at the [open Executive Director position description](#). We would appreciate you sharing this

opportunity with colleagues and friends that might be interested.

Thank you for your continued interest and commitment to advancing the field of health advocacy in Washington State. We look forward to seeing you at a future WASHAA event.

Sincerely,

Robin Shapiro  
Chair, WASHAA



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