



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WASHINGTON PUD ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

*Retired Franklin County PUD General Manager Ed Brost and retired Douglas County PUD General Manager Bill Dobbins receive Lifetime Achievement awards; Good Samaritan awards go to Clark County Public Utilities' Jeff Wittler and Grays Harbor PUD's Helen Berglund*

The Washington Public Utility Districts Association presented its annual awards recognizing the achievements demonstrated by individuals serving public utility districts at the organization's Annual Conference Thursday, December 6, 2018. Winners included retired PUD General Managers from Franklin and Douglas PUDs and PUD employees from Clark Public Utilities and Grays Harbor PUD. The Washington PUD Association presents awards annually for lifetime achievement and meritorious action in a life-threatening situation (Good Samaritan Award). In addition, the Association presents a \$1,000 educational scholarship to a graduating senior of a PUD employee.

**Lifetime Achievement Award presented to retired Douglas County PUD and Franklin County PUD General Managers.** The Washington PUD Association awarded two Lifetime Achievement Awards this year, recognizing retired Franklin County PUD General Manager Ed Brost and retired Douglas County PUD General Manager Bill Dobbins. The award is the highest honor of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association. The award recognizes the commitment of an outstanding individual(s) to the philosophy and purpose of public power and to the Washington PUD Association.

Bill Dobbins was recognized for his 30 years of service in support of public utility districts including 21 years as Douglas County PUD's General Manager. Dobbins was also recognized for his leadership role in the Washington PUD Association. Dobbins served as Chair of the Association's Managers Committee and was instrumental in updating the Association's bylaws, organizational structure and procedures to ensure the future success of the Association. Dobbins was nominated for the honor by the Douglas County PUD Board of Commissioners. Dobbins retired in June of 2017.

Ed Brost was honored for his extensive work in support of public utility districts throughout his career. Brost served more than 30 years in the industry starting his career in 1984 at the Bonneville Power Administration. Brost joined Franklin PUD in November of 2006 and was promoted to General Manager in 2008. Brost was recognized for his leadership serving on boards and committees for the Public Power Council and the Washington PUD Association as well as United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties. Brost was recognized for his vast knowledge and experience which was instrumental in developing long-term power contracts with the Bonneville Power Administration, ensuring stable and reliable energy resources through 2028 and ensuring that energy was fairly allocated among BPA customers. Brost retired from Franklin County PUD in 2015.

**Washington PUD Association presents two Good Samaritan Awards to employees of Clark Public Utilities and Grays Harbor PUD:** The Washington PUD Association presented Good Samaritan Awards to two PUD employees who, in the past year, demonstrated meritorious action in a life-threatening situation.

Clark Public Utilities Environmental Services Manager Jeff Wittler was honored for his quick response coming to the aid of a 15-year-old boy whose leg was severed after he was caught under a slow-moving train near Washougal, Washington last May. Wittler, on his way to a baseball field, observed a vehicle pulled over with hazard lights flashing and stopped to see what was happening. Wittler, seeing the injured boy lying on the side of the train, climbed a ladder on the slow-moving train to get the boy and provide first aid, using his belt as a tourniquet and comforting the boy until emergency help arrived. Wittler was trained in first aid at Clark Public Utilities and it is believed his quick actions helped save the boy's life.

Grays Harbor PUD Customer Service Collector Helen Berglund was presented the Good Samaritan Award for coming to the aid of a woman who was found lying on the floor of a home in medical distress, unable to move. Berglund, working in a remote area of Grays Harbor County in July of 2018, arrived at the home on a customer notification call and heard cries for help. Berglund looked into the home and observed a woman lying on the floor. She immediately called 911 and entered the home to provide assistance. Berglund stayed with the woman until medical help could arrive, providing comfort. Berglund located the woman's cell phone and attempted to reach family members of the woman. Given the remote location of the home and the woman's weakened state and extreme heat, it is believed without Helen Berglund's assistance the woman may have suffered serious harm. Due to Helen's persistence and care, the woman received medical aid that allowed her to recover from her injuries.

**The Washington PUD Association presents educational scholarship:** In addition to the awards, the PUD Association presented a \$1,000 scholarship to a Clark County student. The Walkley Educational Scholarship is awarded annually to a high school student who is the son or daughter of a PUD employee in Washington. The scholarship was established by Glenn Walkley, a Franklin County PUD commissioner from 1945 to 1980, and his wife, Elvira. The Walkleys established a \$10,000 trust fund for the scholarship. The scholarship consists of the interest from this trust. In recent years WPUDA has augmented the award so that the total scholarship amount is \$1,000.

This year's Walkley Scholarship was presented to Jayson Maddux, the son of Clark Public Utilities Accounting Manager Jackie Maddux. Maddux is a 4.0 student, ranked #1 in his class at Prairie High School. He is a student representative on the School Board. He is an athlete, competing in several sports including rugby, football, soccer and track.

***The Washington Public Utility Districts Association advocates for 27 not-for-profit, public utility districts across the State of Washington and one joint operating agency, Energy Northwest.***

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