

WASHINGTON

The Political Season

Those political adds on television and the extra mail in your mail box is definitely on the increase as we move closer to this year's primaries. In Washington State there is an all-mail ballot primary election on August 7th and the top candidates regardless of their party move into the general election. The contest seems to begin earlier each year with signs and events extending the season longer and longer. Even after next weeks primary it will more than likely be days before we know the outcome for the close races so prepare yourselves for a marathon.

Another item on the rise is the number of State Initiatives on the ballot. In Washington, there must be 259,622 register voter signatures and the Office of the Secretary recommends at least 325,000 to allow for invalid signatures. These have to have been received by July 6, 2018. If my count is correct, the Secretary's website shows 104 have been registered and are contingent upon valid signatures.

Health care costs continue to be a political hot button, so Washington State has joined twenty other states in launching a new website to increase the transparency. Only six states use the "All-Payer Database" to provide the public with on-line access and Washington State is now one of them. In the weeks ahead, we will re-visit the other states within the Far West region.

- Jim Fitzgerald

AWARDS

Nominate a deserving CCA for the NWCAA of the Year award

If you know someone who would meet the qualifications and is an outstanding example of the CCA program, make your vote count! For more information, [click here](#). Nomination deadline is September 28th.

**Want your company's name on the big screen at the conference?
To be seen on every table at lunch?**

The Keynote/General Session sponsorship is for you!

This sponsorship includes:

- all media/print acknowledgment
- company acknowledgment before speaker
- complimentary exhibitor booth
- complimentary conference registration for 2

Planning for the worst: fire prevention plans

Unfortunately, our industry receives sometimes critical attention because we manufacture, store and sell chemicals. Just look at the incident in Piper City, Illinois in 2006. The agrichemical plant caught fire and a coalition of 8 local fire districts, sheriff's department, state police, county LEPC (local emergency planning committee), EPA emergency response team, department of agriculture, state emergency management agency, state fire marshal service, U.S department of firearms and tobacco, OSHA and workers comp all showed up to assess the situation. Fortunately, there were no injuries except to the companies bottom line which faced over \$2 million dollars in fire related expenses plus cleanup which took 2 years in total.

One of the best ways to avoid fire and fines is by having a written fire safety and prevention plan in place and having your employees trained for the worst.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to go here for more information: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/fire.html>

- Mark Swearingen

TRAINING

Safe Handling of Ammonia Training in Clarkston

Have you completed your safe handling of ammonia training for 2018? John Massey will be instructing a course on Wednesday, August 8th at 8:00 am at the Clarkston Quality Inn located at 700 Port Drive, Clarkston WA in the mahogany room. This 4-hour course will teach handlers the basic characteristics of anhydrous ammonia, selecting the best personal protective equipment, emergency response procedures, and an in-depth look at equipment used when handling, transporting, transferring securing and storing NH₃. Upon completion of this course, students will receive a certificate of completion which satisfies the requirements when handling ammonia. If you're interested, visit our website at www.fwaa.org and click the events tab to register.

- Mark Swearingen

A big **thank you** to our volunteers who are proctoring the CCA exam at the following sites today!

Boise, ID ★ Rexburg, ID
Madras, OR ★ Spokane, WA

**We have a total of 26 people
taking exams today - Good Luck!**



We want to partner with you!

Include a link to Far West on your company website and encourage others to benefit from the services we offer and those of the Certified Crop Adviser program. www.fwaa.org