



The Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) was formed in 2014 and represents all license-types in the regulated marketplace in Washington as well as ancillary companies which support the sector in every aspect of their businesses. Licensees range from fewer than 10 employees to more than 300. WACA's mission is to uphold a safe, quality-controlled, and regulated marketplace that works to keep products out of the hands of kids with an eye on the horizon for what's next.

Organization & Structure

Organized as a traditional trade association, WACA has a member-elected nine-person Board of Trustees where each Trustee represents their particular license type or related expertise such as transport or banking. The WACA Board is a working board. It meets regularly and oversees the work of the Association on behalf of the larger membership and serves as Trustees governing the Association's RETRO and health plan. WACA's governance and membership policies are codified in its bylaws and its code of conduct. Like other industry trade associations, WACA members pay dues determined by a sliding scale based on gross revenues. In 2022, dues ranged from \$500/year to 6,000/year.

Policy Agenda & Democratic Process

WACA adopts policy positions in a formal democratic process where sector councils (e.g. Producer Sector) convene regularly over the course of several months to identify concerns and determine priorities. Typically presented to full membership in the Fall, issues are debated and following a one-per-member vote, the Association establishes its legislative and regulatory focus for the upcoming year (full details may be found on WACA's website).

Beyond Advocacy

WACA hosts both a Spring/Summer and a Fall/Winter conference annually as well as regionally based receptions. These events are convened to discuss public policy, to ask questions and engage with industry and elected leaders, and to network with peers. The Association is the first in the country to offer access to a health plan as part of its member benefits, as well as an L&I RETRO plan that returns revenues back to plan participants. WACA also has its own 501(c)(3), a Medical Access Fund that provides modest grants to qualified patients. As part of increasing understanding about the industry and its contributions to communities, WACA invested in an economic impact analysis which found the legal industry directly employs 11,330 workers, supports 18,360 total jobs in our state, and generated \$660.8 million in state and local tax revenues for public services in 2020.

WACA works tirelessly to ensure its members embrace the responsibility to follow the law, earn public trust, and collaborate to strengthen the system of regulated cannabis and hemp. A decade after legalization of cannabis in Washington, we are proud to represent professionals from one of the first-ever adult use states, in a still-nascent industry where public safety, innovation and equity continue to shape public policy and will determine the future of the industry in Washington and beyond.

For more information, visit wacannabusiness.org or email us at info@wacannabusiness.org