



PROUD PROFESSIONAL PROFILES

Greetings IAWP members!

Here is our **tenth** monthly International Association of Workforce Professional (IAWP) **Proud Professional Profile**.

I contacted our active member **Don Meseck**. He is currently a Regional Labor Economist serving Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Yakima counties.

Tell me how you first got involved with IAWP?

The first time I interacted with a group of IAWP members was in May 2014 when I conducted a State of the State economic presentation at the Washington State Chapter IAWP 2014 Educational Conference in Yakima. The members attending this conference worked in offices throughout Washington and held a variety of occupations within ESD. Frankly, I was concerned that my briefing would bore them silly. Not so. Conducted two workshops that day (16 May 2014) and was impressed with the IAWP members' keen interest in economic issues.

What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about IAWP?

This organization provides a great service collectively for our agency, for its members, and for our clients. For example, IAWP conducts conferences and educational events for members to learn new trends and practices, supports events which network past and present members, and sponsors a Veterans Day Celebration annually on the Capitol Campus in Olympia.

Tell me about someone who has influenced your decision to work with IAWP.

There are several people who have influenced my decision to work with IAWP, but two coworkers (and IAWP members) stand out: Sheila Johnson-Teeter and Clint Hede. Sheila asked me to speak at the 24th and 25th Annual Veterans Ceremonies in Olympia in 2015 and 2016. She has retired. But her dedication to furthering IAWP goals is to be commended. Clint Hede (LVER, Yakima) also spoke at this 2015 Veterans ceremony in Olympia. He is very active in IAWP, Yakima VFW Post 379, YesVets, etc. Clint frequently encourages me and our coworkers at WorkSource Yakima to get involved in IAWP activities. He leads by example.

What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?

Began work with our agency in 1983, following my first stint on Active Duty (AD) from 1973-1979, followed by graduate school at PLU (thanks to the G.I. Bill). Re-entered the US Army Reserve (USAR) in 1982. Subsequently had multiple recalls from reserve to active military service - totaling approximately seven more years on AD. For the last several years of my USAR service was assigned to the 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC). Retired from our unit in February 2001. However, from February 2009-February 2010, was recalled to AD and served in Iraq as Agricultural Chief for the 1st Corps, Multi-National Forces - Iraq. My military tenure spanned 26 years with 16 overseas assignments. It was an honor to serve in the military and I am very grateful to Washington State ESD for holding my job “open” for me when deployed.

What do you do when you aren't working or volunteering?

I try to keep a “physical-mental-spiritual balance” in life. My wife and I have two daughters, one son-in-law, and two granddaughters. (Our youngest daughter has not yet tied-the-knot.) We spend time together as a family. Our grandchildren keep us “young.” We engage in gardening, church activities, and physical training (PT). The one drawback of aging: much of my PT now stands for “physical therapy.”

Thank you **Don** and all your help to make the **IAWP** a better association. He is an asset to our organization and we appreciate all of our great members and volunteers.