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Inland Northwest BTA's Gerri Vance has been elected to serve as president for a third non-consecutive term. She was a founding member in 1997 and has been actively involved since. Vance was vice president in 2003, then president in 2004 and 2005. She is the administrative services manager for Purcell Systems, Inc. and travel management has always been one of her primary job responsibilities. She credits INBTA as an essential component in her success with Purcell Systems, as it provides ongoing educational opportunities, idea sharing, and valuable contacts. Vance says one of the best parts of her affiliation with INBTA is knowing there is always someone she can call on to answer questions or brainstorm with — and most of all, the lasting friendships she has made. She says "No matter what the business travel-related issue, our group always works together as a team to ensure that our goals are met."



Gerri Vance
President
Inland Northwest
BTA

This was Vance's fifth year of co-chair-

ing the annual Harvest Moon Auction and HalloWine Tasting event in October benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Alaska, Montana, Northern Idaho and Washington. Under the leadership of Vance, INBTA has provided education for its members, funded scholarships, promoted the value of networking, participation in the chapter presidents' council and the GBTA Board. They have been able to give to a charity each year and accomplish greater things by working together as a team. These accomplishments are some of the reasons Vance was awarded the Business Travel Professional Service Award in 2010.

INBTA's primary goal is to increase membership, Vance says. "We are always trying to find new ways to attract new members, as we're aware that almost everyone in a travel-related position is wearing many hats," she adds. And as work-loads increase, travel professionals are finding it increasingly difficult to take time from work to attend meetings.

"INBTA is committed to providing presentations of interest and value to attendees, making sure each one is relevant and to the point," Vance says. "In today's world, there are so many demands for every hour of our time that INBTA's goal is to provide information that will be beneficial in their business and personal lives."