

Over the past year the WRC Board of Directors has seen some incredible things take place. We hired Diana Miller as the new Executive Director on an interim basis from October through December while we completed a full search that resulted in her accepting the permanent position. We are thrilled to have her at the helm.

We have seen much transition over the year, as well—both in staff and board members. In May, Eryn Redig left us to get married and move to Kansas City and Princess Kramer-Drazkowski went to the Twin Cities for graduate school. Just after the end of the fiscal year, Adria Sherwood left for another position in Winona and Brianna Mielke moved to the Twin Cities. Their service to the WRC and people of Winona County was invaluable and they will be missed.

We have also seen turnover in board members over the past year. Kelly Kirby, Jamie Sanders, Ruth Walsh and Jennifer Valentine have left us, though all three continue to be active and supportive of the WRC. At the same time, we have appointed (subject to confirmation by the general membership) new/returning board members Colette Hyman, Barbara Kulas, Julie Chiasson, and Kala Swenson and are excited about the direction the Board is moving in.

Despite all the transition, the WRC is moving ahead by leaps and bounds. It is a more welcoming place to visit, opening its doors to everyone, client or supporter. It is working in partnership with numerous organizations throughout the County. Diana and her staff are out working in the community, bringing the WRC into every discussion of domestic and sexual violence in the County and striving to keep those discussions focused on the victims. Over and over the past year, all I have heard is how impressed people in the community are with the direction that the WRC is taking. And the Board agrees.

Our events are getting higher and higher turnout. We are getting positive feedback about our events and our contributions to the community. Our membership is up. These are all signs that the WRC is moving in the right direction. Although the Board has had to make some tough decisions after the significant cut to our State grant funding, the WRC has pulled together to work effectively with fewer staff members and the Board is committed to finding ways to fund the needs of the WRC. We will continue to provide the best services possible to the people of Winona County.

The WRC can and should be a pillar in this community, serving those who have survived domestic or sexual violence and fighting to eliminate those crimes from our society. We are on our way to getting there. Through the continuing hard work of the staff and Board and the support of our members longstanding and new, we will get there.

Thank you for your support.

Stephanie Nuttall
Board Co-Chair