

Staff Spotlight

FEATURING RYAN HICKERSON



In this issue, we're proud to spotlight our Professional Learning Assistant, Ryan Hickerson. Ryan joined WASA in August 2023.

Ryan is a dynamic person whose positive energy is positively impacting the culture at WASA and is rippling to each member he meets at conferences!

—Mike Nelson,
WASA Assistant Executive Director,
Professional Learning & Membership

What is your role at WASA?

I am the Professional Learning Assistant.

What does your job entail?

I set up in-person and virtual events, communicate with members regarding the events, and collaborate with sponsors and partner organizations to ensure they have what they need.

What do you like most about your job?

Relationship building. I have met a lot of cool new people.

How has WASA changed since you were hired?

We have added a lot more specific events through lunch and learns that tailor to out members' specific needs.

What is your favorite memory at WASA?

Roadtripping with Kim and Mike for Spring Conference in March. Being stuck in a car for that long encourages bonding.

What were you doing before being hired at WASA?

Electronics technician on F-18s and a training manager in the US Navy.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

Reading, playing sports, and family hikes. Though the playing sports is on hiatus due to a foot injury.

Best vacation you've been to?

Lake Tenkiller in Oklahoma when I was a kid. It was a family vacation with swimming and fishing and cook outs everyday. I also got to learn to play chess during that trip!

Where's your favorite place in the world?

My grandma's ranch in Wewoka, Oklahoma is my favorite place in the world. I spend a lot of time there as a kid, hunting, fishing, riding horses, and enjoying grandma's good cooking. It's very freeing when I visit there.

Reflect a bit on your professional mentor.

Kim Fry is the Assistant Executive Director of Learning Innovation and AI and my mentor. She approaches everything with humility and is always willing to help. She never seems to tire, and is always full of energy, which has a positive impact on me and the people who surround her. She is a good example of how energy can be a tone-setter. She sets the bar high, which makes work fun.

CONTACT US

GENERAL INFORMATION
360.943.5717

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
360.489.3641

Joel Aune, Executive Director | jaune@wasa-oly.org
Shawna Kiliz, Executive Assistant | skiliz@wasa-oly.org
Bella Troiani, Website, Communications, and Production Assistant | itroiani@wasa-oly.org

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
360.489.3642

Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director | dstele@wasa-oly.org
Heather Chard, Administrative Assistant | hchard@wasa-oly.org

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
360.489.3640

Kim Fry, Assistant Executive Director for Learning Innovation and AI | kfry@wasa-oly.org
Mike Nelson, Assistant Executive Director | mnelson@wasa-oly.org
Ryan Hickerson, Professional Learning/Membership Assistant | rhickerson@wasa-oly.org

ACCOUNTING
360.489.3643

Eve Johnson, Business/Infrastructure Manager | ejohnson@wasa-oly.org
Kaley VonVolkli, Accounting Assistant | kvonvolkli@wasa-oly.org

MEMBER SUPPORT & ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
360.489.3646

Andy Wolf, Assistant Executive Director | awolf@wasa-oly.org
Natalie Plott, Office Assistant | nplott@wasa-oly.org

WASA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Mike Villarreal, Hoquiam

PRESIDENT-ELECT
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SECRETARY
Chrys Sweeting, Arlington

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Linda McKay, NCESD 171

