

# Why You Should Want to be a Washington Association of Conservation Districts Area Director

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## **Contribute to the future**

Conservation is about the wise, sustainable use and protection of natural resources: healthy land, air, and water ( RCW 89.08) from which everyone benefits in some way.

Serving as a local supervisor is an opportunity to leave a small, public service legacy footprint in your conservation district community. Serving as a Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Area Director is an opportunity to leave your public service footprint legacy on a statewide basis.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 12 Area Directors, 6 Executive Officers, and the President of the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) and serves as the governing body of the Association between yearly Annual Meetings. All board members except for the WADE President also serve as local conservation district supervisors. The costs to attend board meetings are reimbursable.

## **Limited time commitment**

1. Four board meetings a year with the potential for special meetings.
2. Attending one board meeting a year for the conservation districts in your area

## **Networking - Stay informed and gain a broader perspective**

1. Learn what's going on – not only at your local district and area, but from a statewide perspective.
2. Exposure to statewide and national ideas and events.
3. Build relationships among other conservation districts and outside partners.

## **Be part of decision-making**

1. You a part of the decision-making and direction-setting body for the Association's membership.
2. Build skills – meeting management, budgeting, setting organizational priorities– among others.

## **Learn and Mentor**

1. Get to know other CD supervisors, staff, and partners in Washington's CD world.
2. Learn advocacy practices - Mentor others and be mentored.
3. Practice and hone your communication skills.
4. Demonstrate commitment to your organization.
5. Bring ideas and innovations back to your own conservation district.

## **How do you become an Area Director?**

1. Read the [WACD Governing Documents](#) (Articles, Bylaws, and Policies).
2. Read your [Area's Bylaws](#)
3. Contact a current Area Director or an Executive Officer.
4. Area Directors are elected at their respective area meeting in October.
5. Mid-term vacancies will be made on an as-needed basis.

## **Resources** – Suggested reading

1. WACD By-laws - <https://www.wadistricts.org/our-governing-documents/>
  2. Board Source, excellence in non-profits and board leadership - <https://boardsource.org/>
  3. Doreen Pendgracs, *Before You Say Yes...A Guide to the Pleasures and Pitfalls of Volunteer Boards* (book)
  4. Jill and Daniel Welytok, *Nonprofit Law & Governance for Dummies* (book)
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