



Hello WRA members,

My name is Mary Ellen Rutter and I have volunteered to serve as WRA President for the remainder of 2008. I am a Charter Member of WRA and a Certified Professional Reflexologist. I am looking forward to serving you in this interim period.

My background is mostly in the National Park Service. I ran a non-profit organization for the National Park Service and Forest Service for over 15 years, and understand how an organization operates. Having all of the National Parks and Forests in the Northwest behind me, I felt nothing could stop the organization from growing, and we did. It is my goal to help WRA grow toward becoming one of the most sought after professional associations in the state. Today, I am asking *you* to help WRA continue to grow into an organization that keeps the feet moving up the ladder.

I have stepped up and volunteered to be the interim WRA President. Now it's *your* turn to look within and ask yourself how *you* can serve WRA also. Ask yourself: does my contribution matter? Will it make a difference in the world? The answer is yes. By getting involved as a member, you will realize that you are helping to make WRA what it is today, and shaping its future... what are you waiting for?

You will soon be receiving a nomination form for the 2009 WRA Board positions. Picture yourself as a leader in WRA and put your best foot forward by saying yes to participating in the leadership of our association. If you are unable to serve on the Board, volunteer for a committee. WRA is only as strong as our members, and there are many initiatives that need your help. Please consider what you will contribute, however large or small.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you at our meetings, and helping WRA grow stronger together.

Blessings to all,

*Mary Ellen Rutter*

Dear WRA Members,

My name is Jeani Schwenk and I am your new interim Vice President. It is my pleasure to serve in this position and to continue the essential work of our association. I have been practicing reflexology for five years. My certification is through Seattle Reflexology and Massage Center, and I am also pursuing certification through the International Institute of Reflexology. In my practice I combine reflexology with herbal and aroma therapies. I derive great pleasure from my garden, organically growing many of the herbs I use during a session. I also work as a sign language interpreter for the deaf. My hands are my blessing!

Since joining the WRA, I have learned a lot about the organization and all the hard work the volunteer officers and members have done to bring about the exemption of reflexology from the massage law. This is of great importance to me because I chose not to become a massage therapist, but instead to focus on reflexology and share its amazing effects with people.

Today, WRA strives to maintain a professional organization for all of us. This is integral to our ability to continue practicing *independent of the massage law*. Reflexology is now becoming an important part of integrated health care. The WRA is necessary to demonstrate our strength in the community of CAM practitioners, to keep us connected to each other and to advance reflexology as a vital modality to the public.

WRA needs each of its members to step forward and volunteer time to make our association robust and strong, and to continue the needed work of our profession. We can all give a little time, as a committee chair, Board member, or simply to attend a WRA chapter meeting. It is all good. When we work together, it makes it easy and fun and amazing things get done!

I encourage you all to step forward and get involved. Requests for the 2009 nominations of officers will be occurring soon. Please, think about being a leader for the WRA in this new year. It is our organization, let's make it happen!

All the best,

*Jeani Schwenk*