

AQUATICS NETWORK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HELLO EVERYONE!

My name is Sarah Fitzgerald, and I'm excited to be the WRPA Aquatic Network chairperson this year! I have 15 years of experience working in municipal recreation, including 4 years focused on aquatics for Spokane County and the City of Wenatchee. I'm still in awe of the creativity & resiliency of aquatic professionals as they respond to the unique challenges thrown their way every day. I've leaned heavily on this group for support during the last 4 years, and I'm eager to continue learning from all of you through this great network!

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

Our WRPA Aquatic Network has established a reputation that extends beyond state borders for being one of the strongest professional networks in the field of aquatics. To keep this amazing resource relevant, your feedback is needed!

Please complete [this short survey](#) to help inform the next year of our network conversations and efforts.

RED CROSS CORNER

- All First Aid/CPR/AED Instructors should be teaching the r.21 course materials as of 8/30/22.
- Instructors certified before 2022 should have already completed the r.21 update; if not, make sure to complete it ASAP!
- The 2023 Price List is now available under "Announcements" in the ARC Learning Center.

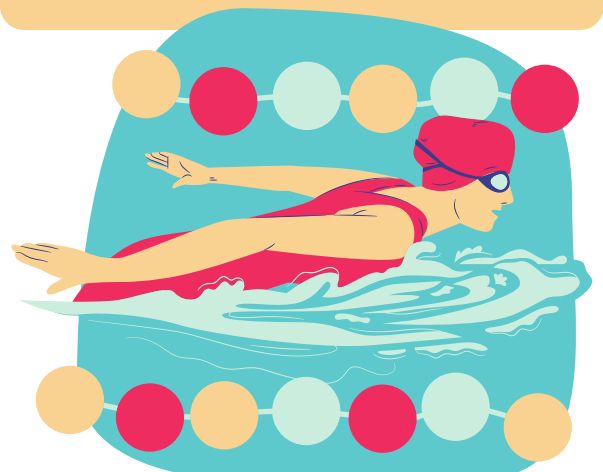
Contact Tatyana Kiselyov with any questions:
tatyana.kiselyov@redcross.org or 206-491-9390

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ✓ Oct 13-14: NDPA Drowning Prevention Symposium ([Register here.](#))
- ✓ October 17, 9am-12pm: WA State Drowning Prevention Coalition Network Meeting on Zoom ([Register here.](#))
- ✓ November 4-6: AFO Course, EWU Cheney
Call 509-359-4252 to register.
- ✓ November 10, 10:30am: WRPA Aqua Network Meeting ([Join here.](#))
*Meetings are second Thursday of Jan, Mar, May, Sept, & Nov
- ✓ November 18-20: LG Instructor Course, EWU Cheney
Call 509-359-4252 to register.
- ✓ November 25, 8am-6pm: ARC LG Review Course, Rec Pavilion, Mountlake Terrace ([Register here.](#))

JOB BOARD

- [Assisant Aquatics Manager, Lake Stevens School District Pool](#)
- For inclusion in the newsletter, please email info by the 15th of each month to SFitzgerald@WenatcheeWA.gov or wrpaaquatic@gmail.com



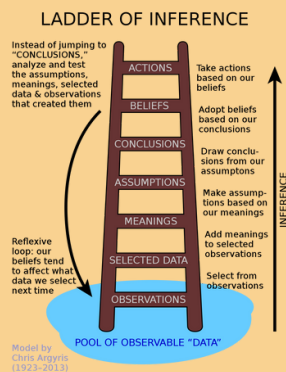
2022 AQUATICS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

If you weren't able to join us last month in McMenamin's Anderson School, Bothell... it was your loss! We shared an amazing couple of days as aquatic professionals sitting through fantastic educational sessions, eating great food, and enjoying the camaraderie of other professionals working through challenges similar to our own. Here are some highlights...

DAY 1: CULTURAL COMPETENCY

On Day 1 of the conference, Dr. Ginny Templeton helped us improve as managers by digging into our own deeply held mental models, which limit us to our familiar way of thinking and acting.

We discussed the Ladder of Inference and the way it significantly affects our everyday decisions and actions. One of the biggest take-aways for me was "in the absence of information, we make up the stories ourselves" without being consciously aware that we are doing so.



DAY 2: MAINTENANCE TIPS & TRICKS

Day 2 began with Bill Haugen & Chris Klontz hitting us with 100 maintenance tips & tricks. They had SO much helpful information to share that it was hard to keep up...here are a few of my notes from their fantastic presentation:

- Vitamin C tablets can be used to scrub away rust stains on pool deck or liner
- Make sure your respirators are rated for organic vapors (or whatever the chems you use require!)
- Replace vinyl tubing if color has changed at all
- Daily inspections: DO THEM, DOCUMENT THEM
- When storing wheelchair lift batteries, put dielectric grease on the battery terminals.

DAY 2: PETE DEQUINCY

The remainder of Day 2 was filled with a ton of incredible information from Pete DeQuincy. We talked about how to make more effective budget presentations to advocate for our departments, the details surrounding drowning scenarios, plus discussed great ideas for staff recruitment and retention. Some highlights:

- Track all PREVENTION efforts, not just rescues.
- Call your new programs a "pilot program"; it gives you permission to fail.
- Regular swim breaks force parents to check-in on the ability/function level of their kids.
- There is a CRISIS in recruiting. If you can't sell what you're offering to potential employees, they will find someone else to work.
- Enlist a "maven" among your staff team to lead recruitment efforts.



Rose, Pete, and Bridget in the lovely gardens at McMenamin's. Aquatic Network Conference, September 2022.

For inclusion in the newsletter,
please email info by the 15th of each month:
SFitzgerald@WenatcheeWA.gov
or wrpaaquatic@gmail.com