

WATERSTODAY

2020-2022 Board Elections



Looking for ways to get involved and make an impact at Waters?

Consider joining the WatersToday board or one of its committees!

WatersToday, the parent-led, 501(c)(3) fundraising organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the educational experience of the students of Waters Elementary, is looking to fill several board positions beginning in July 2020. All positions are two-year terms. Elections will be held at the WatersToday public meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020. WatersToday also welcomes volunteers to join or help lead several of its fundraising committees.

To learn more, visit waterstoday.org, contact us at info@waterstoday.org or attend our next public meeting at the school on February 10, 2020 at 6 p.m.

WATERSTODAY MISSION

WatersToday was created for the purpose of raising and administering money to support Waters Elementary School. Working collaboratively and respectfully with the Thomas J. Waters Elementary School administration, faculty and Waters community, WatersToday strives to continually support, augment and enhance the educational experience of Waters Elementary students. Our primary focus is to support the Waters ecology program and strategic school initiatives.

Vice President / President

The WatersToday vice president and president work together and collaboratively with the WatersToday board, the Local School Council, and the school administration throughout the year. The role requires thinking creatively and collaboratively to be successful and provide support where and when needed. For the second year of the term, the vice president moves into the president role. In general, the president conducts all activities of the board with the advice and consent of the board. This role is a good fit for someone that is well organized, a good communicator, likes to multitask, and can think long-term, big picture while managing short-term goals.

Jessie Novak (outgoing president) is the parent to current 3rd and 1st graders at Waters but has enjoyed being part of the Waters community well before her children were school-aged as a resident and community member. She has enjoyed and is thankful for the opportunity to serve with talented and generous board members and will continue to appreciate the richness of parent volunteering after her term. Likely places to find her away from school include local restaurants, yoga studio, or sitting on porches with neighbors and friends.

Kortney Moore (incoming president) has a 6th grader, 2nd grader and 4-year-old future Wildcat. This is her third year serving on the WatersToday board, two years as communications co-chair and currently as VP. She most enjoys working with the amazing group of board and committee members and volunteers who dedicate tremendous time and energy to make Waters a truly great school and an even greater community. In her free time, she enjoys experiencing the neighborhood and city with friends and family.

Co-Treasurer

The co-treasurers split the duties of running the business end of our 501(c)(3) organization. One performs bookkeeping duties and prepares monthly reports, while the other pays the bills and purchases materials. Other responsibilities include coordinating with a CPA to prepare taxes and audits, filing forms with the state, budgeting, assisting with grants, and providing donor receipts. The role is perfect for someone who likes a good spreadsheet and is willing to put in a weekly effort on their own schedule. It's rewarding to help the awesome teachers at Waters.

Paul Reschke (outgoing co-treasurer) has a daughter in 1st grade and a son soon to be in kindergarten. He enjoys timing the reservation lists at the best restaurants in the city, stopping in for samples at Augusta and Gene's and Vom Fass, and making sure people stick to their budgets. Paul's role as co-treasurer is to keep track of the plentiful and generous donations made by the Waters community as well as the expenditures on projects at Waters Elementary supported by those donations.

Sam Kaune (co-treasurer) has a 4th grader, 1st grader, and a 3-year-old future Wildcat. In his free time, he enjoys playing basketball, his monthly Waters dad's outings, and all things Iowa.

Secretary

The secretary is the custodian of all records and documents of WatersToday. This person acts as secretary at all board meetings, recording and filing the meeting minutes. S/he serves and files all notices of the organization, and also manages the WatersToday calendar.

Carolyn Byerly Dean (outgoing Secretary) has a 4th grader at Waters and thinks that being on the WatersToday board is one of the best ways to know what's happening at our wonderful neighborhood school. She enjoys gardening in the Waters garden, connecting with the Waters community, maintaining the fish tank in the school lobby, and volunteering with her therapy dog greyhound.

Fundraising Co-Chair

The fundraising team works together to coordinate the fundraising events throughout the year. Our primary fundraisers include the annual pledge drive, Waters' Big Night, walk-a-thon and holiday market. Fundraising is a great position for a creative and outgoing person as we are always looking for new ideas or ways to improve our existing events. The time commitment is heaviest during the fall pledge drive and Big Night (dates vary). All events are supported by full committees. Availability during the day is helpful but not required. Joining the fundraising team is a great way to meet many people in the Waters community.

Leah Rieger (outgoing fundraising co-chair) has a 4th grader, 2nd grader and a preschooler who will be a Wildcat next year. She and her family love the small community of Waters Elementary and the Lincoln Square neighborhood in general. You can often spy her going for runs in the neighborhood or having a beer at Gideon Welles. She's a physicist by training and works as a scientist at Fermilab.

Jaime Murphy (fundraising co-chair) has a 1st grade son and a 4-year-old son. Jaime loves helping raise money to give all of the students at Waters an opportunity to learn about the world around them through the one-of-a-kind ecology program. Jaime enjoys being a part of the beautiful community at Waters and watching her little ones grow. When she's not volunteering at Waters, Jaime can be found substitute teaching around the city or seeking out the city's best new restaurants with her super fun husband Brian, who she couldn't do all of this without.

Communications Co-Chair

The communications team shares news, events and other information on behalf of WatersToday, Waters Elementary and the Waters community. Primary activities include sending the Green Notes weekly email, maintaining WatersToday.org, and administering social media. Most work can be performed on a flexible schedule. This role is great for someone who is well organized and has a knack for marketing communications. It's also a great way to be in the know on what's happening at Waters!

Jennifer Davidson (outgoing communications co-chair) has a daughter in the 4th grade. Jennifer has enjoyed her time on the board streamlining and growing the WatersToday brand with other creatives in the community. But most important, she has built friendships with people on and off the board who she may have otherwise not have met. When not working on the WatersToday comms team, Jen enjoys spending time with friends, being out in our beautiful city (from museums to Cubs games to checking out the newest Chicago boutique) and walking her two dogs.

Mary Gallery (communications co-chair) has a son in kindergarten and an 18-month old daughter. She has found the Waters parent community to be extraordinarily kind and she feels fortunate to be a part of it. She grew up on the North Side, not far from Waters, and is a hopeless Cubs fan. As a member of WatersToday, she enjoys working on Green Notes, learning about school events, and working with the other parents on the board.

Volunteer Co-Chair

The volunteer co-chair is solely dedicated to connecting Waters parents and community members (including grandparents, etc.) to volunteer opportunities at Waters. We need volunteers to make all of the exciting things that happen at our school each year a success! For example, our volunteers create and run events like Pledge Drive, Harvest Day, Book Fair, Maker Fair, Big Night, the Art Show, Walkathon, and more. With great resources like Signup Genius, the weekly Green Notes email, Facebook, and simply tapping friends within the school community, the volunteer co-chair is able to bring the community together in a wonderful way.

Hope Nichols (outgoing volunteer co-chair) has a daughter in 7th grade and a son in 4th grade. Hope loves Waters School and all of the people in it. While on WatersToday, Hope has worked hard to connect the Waters parent body to volunteer opportunities that benefit our children and their school. She has seen growth in the number of volunteers, which has brought increased success to volunteer-led events and activities on campus. She founded and has led the Pledge Drive Ambassador Program, which is dedicated to inspiring parents and members of the community to get involved and lend a hand with fundraising for our school. Outside of WatersToday, Hope celebrates life daily, in all the ways, with her family and friends. This is easy to tell, because she's always smiling.

Maripa Abella Davison (volunteer co-chair) has a daughter in 2nd grade and a son in 3rd grade. In partnership with her awesome volunteer co-chair Hope, Maripa seeks volunteers for all the amazing, community-building events at Waters. Maripa and her family flew in from Asia on the first day of school in 2018, and have since been frolicking the Chicago neighborhoods through the curious and adventure-seeking eyes of the two kids. She loves to cook special dinners for family and friends, tours Chicago with kids in tow on her Madsen bike, and is a Universe wanderlust when meditating.

WatersToday Committees

Not ready to serve on the board, but still interested in getting involved with WatersToday? We are always looking for more volunteers to serve on or co-lead committees throughout the year. Committees are an integral part in helping to make our fundraising activities a success. Please consider joining one of these teams!

Waters Pledge Drive: The fall pledge drive is our primary fundraising activity. Help make it a success!

Waters' Big Night: Our fundraising party requires lots of volunteers and is a fun way to get involved.

Wildcat Walk-a-thon: This event promotes a healthy lifestyle and empowers students to be active in our school community.

Maker/Holiday Fair: The annual holiday market is a community-wide event that helps support the school.

Business Sponsorship: Help reach out to our community and parent-owned business sponsors, who give back in many ways.

Grant Writing: Have a knack for research and writing? This team finds and applies for grants to support specific programs at Waters.

Teacher Appreciation: We love our teachers! This team organizes activities to show our teachers how thankful we are to have them at Waters.