

Margie Bahr

2016 Nomination for Secretary

I am grateful to have been nominated for the position of Secretary of the Wisconsin Business Travel Association.

As the daughter of a commercial airline pilot, I have been involved in travel since birth. From an early age I knew that travel of any kind was magical and it would allow me to experience many cultures and introduce me to many interesting people. I love to travel personally and have visited a number of countries in Europe, South America and the Caribbean, in addition to many U.S. states. I was particularly excited to visit the Grand Canyon for the first time this year that included a spectacular view via helicopter.

Professionally, I have been directly involved in coordinating travel for over 20 years. Business travel is a challenging machine. Most of our staff travels because they are required to, not because it is something they enjoy. As executive assistant and travel manager in global businesses, I realized that helping my staff have as seamless of an experience as possible was extremely rewarding, even though it was difficult to achieve.

I enjoyed almost ten years as Travel Manager at MonsterWorldwide, responsible for helping to drive on-line adoption of 80 percent and managing a budget of \$8million. I was responsible for negotiating contracts with our vendors and drafting and enforcing our global travel policy. I assisted with our meeting management program and was responsible for managing our on-line booking tool through our relationship with Egencia.

I am currently working at Waterstone Mortgage as Executive Assistant to the President/CEO and am responsible for most travel and meeting management throughout the organization. Although our travel spend is not what it was at Monster, it is no less important. I keep current with regulations and regularly monitor our unused ticket program in an attempt to generate soft cost savings to our company. My travelers often express their gratitude for the seamless travel they experience, particularly when I am able to assist with complicated itineraries or simply help out when there are last minute changes during their travel.

Community involvement is very important to me and I help to coordinate many events through our Employee Engagement Committee, including care packages for our soldiers serving in Afghanistan, local blood drives, food drives, and collecting personal care products for local families in need.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Business Management, with a minor in Human Resources, from Concordia University in 2011. I believe that education, and the classroom experience I had, has helped me to better support the staff at Waterstone Mortgage, and will help in the capacity of Secretary on the Wisconsin Business Travel Association board.

Platform Statement

I recognize that the Wisconsin Business Travel Association has the responsibility to promote common business interests of those members who engage in the business travel industry.

If I am elected Secretary I believe that it is necessary to remain impartial with regard to support of our members, while at the same time promoting their business interests. My professional background in administration and as a secretary provides unique perspectives that will allow me to fill the role well.

I feel that my WBTA membership as a Direct member will allow me to enhance the organization, because I have worked as a client of many of those members I endeavor to support. I will support the social and political causes of the association to the best of my ability.