

# empower magazine

Connected Locally, Networked Globally


Summer 2021

## *Spotlight*

*Women in the  
Workplace*

## *Leadership Tips*

*Identifying Imposter  
Syndrome*

 Women's  
Energy  
Network™



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**FOR ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**  
**from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. EDT**

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# Presidents Message



## June 2021

It is common knowledge that the Women's Energy Network is connected locally and networked globally. What you may not know is our mission is officially reflected now in the Board of Directors name. We have transitioned the name of our BOD from "National" to "Global". This new name may take getting used to, as all changes take time. However, we are working to ensure the name, "Global Board of Directors" is used regularly and will soon become the new normal.

The timing of our re-branding is perfect with our network expansion. California is officially the newest chapter of Women's Energy Network. The Carolinas Chapter is swiftly moving forward, and the Calgary Chapter, located in Canada, is rejuvenated again with an interest meeting in the works. We would like to give a warm welcome and a helping hand of support

to these chapters, as they launch their formation and join our global network.

Many of you know I was co-founder of the Appalachia Chapter and served as past president. I am proud of this chapter and their success. They have expanded into three separate chapters with very dynamic boards. This year marks their tenth-anniversary, and they will host an event this month to celebrate the milestone. It is hard to believe it has been ten years since my journey began with Women's Energy Network. I am truly thankful for all that I have learned, experienced, and the wonderful and fabulous women I have met along the way. I am proud of the women serving on the boards and the time they

take from their lives to give back to this organization. I have visited many of the chapters for their events, and I am always truly impressed by the caliber of work each chapter puts forth.

As in-person events are scheduled again, I urge everyone to focus on what we have learned over the past year. Due to the pandemic, we were forced to conduct our events virtually. Regardless of this drawback, members enjoyed the diversity of chapter events and the expansion of networks beyond their own. I wish to encourage each chapter to continue to offer these events along with hybrid in-person/virtual events as we move toward normal in-person networking again. Our live events are very important and face to face interaction cannot be replaced. Despite the past year's difficult circumstances, we should remember, and applaud ourselves, for our achievements of success. I was very impressed recently with the collaboration of two chapters that would have otherwise been

unlikely. The South Louisiana and Greater Albany Chapters hosted a morning coffee break together. It was one of the best virtual sessions demonstrating partnership between two very different geographical areas. I hope to see more of these types of collaborative events both virtually and in-person.

We are very excited that the Women's Energy Network conference planning is moving forward swiftly. I was able to visit Fort Worth and the conference hotel location and am confident this conference will be the best yet. We plan to have more technical topics and focus on substance, while not losing the aspect that is so very important to our organization - networking. Fort Worth is an amazing location for the event in April, and we hope that all of you will join us and enjoy a once in a lifetime experience. I look forward to meeting you there!

*Tara Meek  
Williams  
WEN President*



What was  
your first  
concert?

## Q & A with WEN

# Board of Directors



**Tara Meek**

WEN President  
Williams

My first concert was Jimmy Buffet when I was in high school. The parking lot was the most entertaining part of it. Grass skirts, coconut bras and beaches recreated in the back of pick up trucks.



**Kara Byrne**

WEN President Elect  
Baker Hughes

My first concert was Garth Brooks at Cheyenne Frontier Days. He was so cool, climbing the scaffolding of the stage!



**Kitrina Pople**

WEN Treasurer  
Ernst & Young

My first concert was \*NSYNC!  
But I think my favorite was Coldplay.



**Andrea Tettleton**

WEN Secretary  
Seabaugh, Joffrion, Sepulvado,  
Victory

My favorite concert would  
have to be Celine.



**Regina Eco**

WEN Programs Director  
Dominion Energy

I may have been too young to  
remember the first concert I  
attended. The most memorable  
one was in Lollapalooza - Eminem,  
Coldplay, Foofighters!



**Mary Frances Edmonds**

WEN Chapter Relations Director  
Williams

My favorite concert was Black  
Sabbath.



**Stephanie Warino**

WEN Membership Director  
Zweig Group

Alanis Morissette was my favorite  
concert!



**Sally Hallingstad**

WEN Marketing &  
Communications Director  
Western Energy Alliance

The first concert I admit to  
attending was Clay Walker  
and Sawyer Brown in  
Bismarck, ND. I later met Clay  
Walker when I worked with  
the ACMs. Best night ever.



**Katie Wilson**

WEN Sponsorship Director  
Wilson Workforce Solutions, LLC

My first concert was sponsored by  
B94, a local radio station, and they  
had a bunch of new up-and-comers,  
Christina Aguilera, Destiny's Child,  
Divine, Edwin McCain, Smash  
Mouth, and Sugar Ray! I would go to  
this concert again in a heart beat!



**Danna English Bland**

WEN DEI Director  
Deloitte

My first concert was none  
other than the incomparable  
Janet Jackson. I was 16 and  
I have attended every one of  
her tours to date!



**Jana Grauberger**

WEN Past President  
Liskow & Lewis

My first concert was Rick Springfield.  
I've now seen him live five times!

# The Pandemic's Effect on Women in the Workplace: How Do We Power On?

by Erin Magee

Last month, without notice and little fanfare, the COVID-19 pandemic was essentially declared to be “over.” Suddenly, we are magically expected to flip a switch and return to normality—like turning the lights on again. Poof. We’re done.

Since March 2020, women have adapted, modified, and redesigned their worlds. For many of us, home also became our place of work, and lines of demarcation between those realms simply vanished.

While we tried to start the transition with style and finesse, the process devolved into yoga pants and ponytails. In addition to full time work and our existing family obligations, WEN members also became teachers, caretakers, housekeepers, and a host of new roles carved into our “new normal.” Despite our best efforts, the pandemic’s toll on women in the workplace will echo for years to come. And, the statistics are brutal.

According to [McKinsey & Co.](#), “Women have accounted for nearly 56 percent of workforce exits since the start of the pandemic, despite making up just 48 percent of the workforce.” The organization fears that inequality will exacerbate post pandemic without deliberate and “bold” action.

The [National Women’s Law Center reports](#) that nearly two million women left the labor force during the pandemic and estimates that women will need 28 consecutive months of job gains at April 2021’s levels to make up for those losses. [Five million](#) women lost their jobs in 2020.

Writing for [Forbes](#), Tracy Brower concluded, “The pandemic has been tough, and especially so for women. But the opportunity going forward is for us to influence systems and structures to provide more advantages and equity for women—and for people to support each other in the process of empowering and enabling women to improve their conditions and create fulfillment.” **This is WEN’s sweet spot.**

Part of WEN’s mission includes providing resources for professional women in the energy industry. Watch for a renewed focus on member support and growth post pandemic. So, how do we build back?

Deloitte conducted a [global survey](#) of working women about the effects of the pandemic on their careers. Almost 70 percent of those women indicated that they had “adverse changes” during the pandemic that they fear will or could preclude their careers from progressing. In this study, respondents were asked to choose the most beneficial action(s) their organization could take to support them in their career and ensure they stay long-term in light of COVID-19. Their responses can be found below.

## What can companies do to support me in my role?

- 55% Promoting me/giving me a pay raise
- 48% Providing more flexible working options
- 47% Ensuring that teams are resourced adequately to provide the necessary coverage and support
- 46% Providing leadership, networking and mentoring opportunities
- 45% Providing better benefits (i.e. parental leave, sick leave policies)
- 44% Holding periodic, deliberate check ins with teams to understand “Are you okay?”
- 42% Providing childcare programs or support
- 40% Providing more learning development opportunities, interesting projects and/or “stretch” assignments
- 37% Providing more access to senior leaders in the firm
- 36% Providing more skills development opportunities
- 34% Offering short-term sabbaticals

Source: Deloitte [Global Survey](#)



Women’s voices are critical to the success, growth, and coming transitions in the energy industry. The light switch approach will not work—successful companies will continue to offer more flexible working options to retain and elevate women in the workplace.

Outside of the workplace, WEN provides many of the resources the Deloitte survey identified. Women’s Energy Network, through its Global organization, its 21 chapters, and the Foundation for Women’s Energy Network (FWEN), offers opportunities for leadership, networking, and mentoring. In addition, WEN is built on the concept of building skills to help women progress in their careers in energy. Just a few examples:

- Mentoring circles available in multiple chapters;
- 34 currently scheduled [chapter events](#) to build soft and technical skills;
- Recent virtual educational events now housed on our [YouTube](#) channel;
- The [WEN Podcast](#);
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities;
- FWEN’s September 2021 Symposium focusing on equal pay and eliminating other barriers to women’s success;
- The April 2022 WEN Conference in Fort Worth, with the theme “Power On,” and featuring tracks in legal, technical, and leadership skills

Furthermore, FWEN is working to help members finance their career advancement. First, the Foundation is offering partial grants to cover WEN membership fees for women in career transitions. And, the Foundation is launching its “Re-Imagine You” Grant, a new initiative created to encourage WEN members to advance their careers by supplementing the cost of participation in professional workshops, certificate programs, and other approved opportunities.

What makes WEN special is its status as a nonprofit, volunteer led group of women supporting women up and down the energy value chain. Leaning in isn’t our only option because we can lean on our fellow members in a safe and diverse place. Post-COVID, women are still top-notch innovators, problem solvers, multi-taskers, and communicators. We are assets to our employers and our diverse industry.

Ladies, it’s time to shed the yoga pants and put our heels (and our boots) back on. To move ahead, we need to go to places that are a little less comfortable for us, to think and push outside of the box. Together, we will take chances, break down more barriers, and power on.



Erin Magee

Jackson Kelly PLLC  
FWEN Co-Secretary | WEN Past President (2019)



1. Acknowledge
2. Reframe
3. Recalibrate
4. Happy Thoughts

# Why do I feel like fake spaghetti?

by Sarah Bartlett

Hi, I'm Sarah. I love high fives, wear my silliness as a badge of honor, and have a collection of what my friends call "Sarah Jokes." My favorite: What do you call fake spaghetti? IM-PASTA! (Giggle away, I can wait.)

Why did I share this with you? It's a joke that I can't get out of my head lately. You see, in the past year, I have completely upturned my career. I spent 13 years building myself up as a leader within my field and my organization. Last year, I walked away from my position as a Sr. Manager of Environmental, Health, and Safety at an oil and natural gas company to consult part time while I pursued a more fulfilling career. I took my passion for people and leadership and recently turned it into my own coaching practice. I'm pumped about this new endeavor, so why did I panic a little when asked to write this article? I didn't think I was qualified. Who would want to read something from me? In short, I was suffering from imposter syndrome.

Imposter syndrome, or imposter phenomenon, was first coined in 1978 during a [study](#) of 150 successful women. It is described as "internal experience of self-perceived intellectual phoniness." Despite the numerous accolades we receive, imposter syndrome leads us to believe we have duped those around us or got lucky to get to where we are. It's even more common in high-achieving, successful people. I'm going to go out on a limb and say that includes nearly all of you reading this article.

When is imposter syndrome most likely to rear its ugly head? When you're doing something new. I've lost count of the people I know who have experienced major changes in their life or career in the past year, whether by choice or by circumstance. [Study](#) after [study](#) after [study](#) indicate that working Americans are more motivated to make a change now than prior to the

pandemic, meaning more change and more imposter syndrome are ahead.

What can we do about it? While resources and advice are numerous, I've included my personal favorites.

## Acknowledge

Imposter syndrome can feel like anxiety or depression. What are you telling yourself in these situations? Can they be attributed to imposter syndrome?

Look for patterns when you feel this way. Which environments or situations did the feelings emerge? If you can recognize a pattern, you can anticipate it and be better prepared to respond.

As soon as we put a name to something, it becomes less scary. It's like when you're watching a monster movie full of ambiguity and suspense that triggers that fear and adrenaline, and as soon as the monster appears on screen, it's not scary anymore. Acknowledging "this is my imposter syndrome talking" can have a similar effect.

As important as it is to acknowledge the feelings and patterns around it, it is more important not to dwell there. Learn how to acknowledge these feelings in the moment so that you can be better prepared to act on them.

## Reframe

This one is all about rewiring your brain. How can you rewrite the narrative around the feeling? How can you turn a feeling of anxiety into one of excitement? Anxiety and excitement feel similar in your body, so cognitively thinking the latter when you feel this way can begin to retrain the mind and body to approach the situation more positively.

My favorite reframe came from a coach of my own as she helped me navigate this very syndrome. I didn't feel like I belonged in this new space of coaching. She said, "Imposter implies you don't belong, and you belong right where you are. Instead of imposter, you're the new girl." When I feel imposter syndrome creeping up, I ask myself how to embrace being the "new girl." What would a new girl do in this situation? Learn everything I can and give myself permission to practice without being perfect.

Remember, imposter syndrome creeps up when a high achiever does something new. So, if you're feeling like an imposter, you're probably doing something awesome. What opportunities are being foreshadowed by this pesky syndrome?

## Recalibrate

As humans, we can't help but compare ourselves to those around us. When we compare ourselves to people we perceive as above us in some way, it is called [upward social comparison](#). Upward social comparison helped us improve and adapt from an evolutionary standpoint. However, it can also lead to feelings of unhappiness or dissatisfaction. If you find yourself in a room full of people you look up to or perceive as better than in some way, how can you recalibrate your scale?

For example, I looked at the previous Leadership Tips section in preparation for this article. In it I saw a successful writer and speaker who had given a TEDx Talk. Pssshhht, no way can a newbie coach who loves dad jokes follow that, right? Wrong. Instead of comparing myself to the brilliant Terri Trespicio, I recalibrated to compare myself to the past version of me. I used to squirm if asked to talk publicly about non-technical topics that have more shades than black and white. I now have the excitement to talk about these things, the feedback to know people are interested, and am embracing being the new girl. (See what I did there?)

## Happy Thoughts

My final tip, consciously make an effort to think happy thoughts. I know how corny this sounds, and it's also one of the most important. Far too often we focus on what went wrong or didn't happen. This is evolutionary, as it's how we learned to survive.

When imposter syndrome shows up, it can trigger a trauma response in our brain (fight, flight, freeze, fawn) which activates your limbic system. Your limbic

system processes your emotions. Your prefrontal cortex, on the other hand, is your logic center. The prefrontal cortex and the limbic system are like a teeter-totter - when one is up, the other is down. This is evolution again, if you're being chased by a tiger, your limbic system pushes you into action before your prefrontal cortex can analyze whether you're in danger. When imposter syndrome dials up your limbic system, your prefrontal cortex isn't reminding you of the many reasons you belong there, nor allowing you to perform at your best.

Next time you're preparing for a presentation, interview, big meeting, etc., consciously spend one or two minutes prior to think about how much of a badass you are, what's exciting about a situation, or what you are thankful for about an opportunity. These types of inquiries generate positive emotions and are scientifically proven to calm down the limbic system and allow your prefrontal cortex to activate; the benefits are endless.



[Sarah Bartlett](#)

WEN Colorado  
Sarah Alice, LLC

# WOMEN'S ENERGY NETWORK PODCAST



Apple • Spotify • Google • Anchor  
[HTTP://BIT.LY/WENPODCAST](http://bit.ly/wenpodcast)

## How WEN helped me find my dream job

by Maggie Teliska

A recent study showed that [“85% of jobs are filled through networking.”](#) Additionally, [fewer than 30% of jobs are advertised](#) online, which means if you aren’t networking, you’re missing out on 70% of open positions.

I learned about WEN years ago from a chance meeting with a WEN member in the women’s room of a local event called ‘Batteries and Brews.’ Dominated by male attendees, the event should have been called ‘Batteries, Brews, and Bros.’ Turns out that restrooms are a great place to network and because of that conversation, I ended up joining WEN Boston that night.

For me, the purpose of joining communities like WEN is to expand my network while developing both my professional and personal skills. One of the first WEN Boston events I attended featured networking expert, Julie Brown. She gave us great tips, all of which I have used successfully. My favorite excerpt from her book, [This Sh&T Works](#), is “The people you meet will change your life like nothing else. Networking is how you meet those people. Not the trading business cards and asking “what do you do” kind of networking - the kind where you make the most extraordinary connections simply by being yourself and doing things you enjoy.”

It didn’t take long for me to jump into a leadership role with WEN Boston, taking on the role of Marketing & Communications Director. Part of my responsibilities include meeting with our chapter sponsors. For one sponsor, Enel Green Power, I worked closely with their Human Resources Director, Alan, and together we created and promoted events and programming within WEN Boston for Enel North America. During our conversations, Alan recommended and facilitated opportunities to network within Enel with people he thought I had shared common interests. It was an excellent opportunity to

meet people I may not have met otherwise! Flash forward to October 2020 when I was looking for a new job, wondering how I would find one during a global pandemic. Lucky for me, I found a job that looked like the perfect fit for me at Enel Green Power. After applying, I immediately sent a note to Alan and that afternoon, he set up a call with the assigned recruiter. In addition, he connected me with more internal recruiters to see if I was a fit for different positions, some of which were not yet advertised. The following week I had two interviews. The next week I had an offer. The next month I started my dream job.

I am now five months into the job and couldn’t be happier. I’m appreciated and respected in my position, and my company values my work with WEN.

My advice to fellow members is to take advantage of all that WEN offers, both professionally and personally. Proactively networking enabled new connections, which enabled new opportunities. All of this was made possible through my involvement with WEN Boston. As Julie Brown says, **“your relationships will 100% affect how successful you are.”**



Maggie Teliska

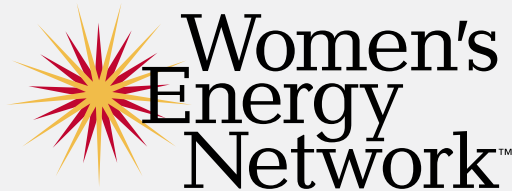
WEN Boston  
Innovation at Enel Green Power



**POWER** *On*

APRIL 3-5  
**WEN 2022**  
**CONFERENCE**

Omni – Fort Worth, Texas



#WEN2022

[womensenergynetwork.org](http://womensenergynetwork.org)

# WEN Foundation

CREATING BRIGHT FUTURES

Dear WEN Members,

Nonprofit organizations have faced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic including how they raise funds and deliver services. During these times of economic stress, the programs of the Foundation for the Women's Energy Network's (FWEN) are more important than ever, as they offer support for women to expand their educational and career growth.

FWEN has launched several new initiatives to help support women of all ages and during various stages of their school and career life. Read on to learn more about these wonderful opportunities. The Board of the FWEN thanks you for your ongoing support and hopes that you consider supporting one or more of our programs! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



[Nene Gianfala](#)

FWEN President  
Chaffe & Associates, Inc.

## Join the Foundation100!

The Foundation100 represents a group of like-minded donors who support brighter futures for women in energy. Created in March 2021, this program asks individuals to make a one-time, tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to fund our annual scholarships and recurring grants.

Foundation100 donors, both individual and corporate, receive special recognition on our website, access to early-bird pricing for the FWEN Symposium in September 2021, the ability to participate in the selection of scholarship and grant winners, and are encouraged to continue developing scholarship winners through a mentoring program. Click [here](#) to be part of the Foundation100 today!

### *"Re-Imagine You" Grant*

This grant is a new, key initiative created to encourage women working 5+ years in STEM-related and energy industries to update their professional skills. Recipients can use the funds to participate in professional workshops, certificate programs, undergraduate/graduate degrees, or other FWEN-approved opportunities.

### *Trailblazer Scholarship*

This scholarship provides financial assistance to women pursuing STEM-related education at either an undergraduate or graduate level, and identify as part of historically underrepresented groups, including Black/African American, Hispanic/Latin, American Indian, or Native American or Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders.

### **WEN Conference Scholarship**

The WEN 2022 Conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 3-5 and is widely regarded as the leading forum for professional women in the energy industry. We believe people working in all segments of the energy industry would benefit from the opportunities presented at the event. FWEN understands that for some potential attendees, company budgets or unemployment could limit the opportunities to attend. FWEN created the Conference Scholarship to provide financial assistance to a potential conference attendee.

[Visit our website](#) for additional details and/or to apply for one of these grants or scholarships.

# Lessons Learned

## **What challenge did your chapter face in Q1 and how did you overcome it as a team?**

### **Boston**

WEN Boston kicked off 2021 with a new board and new events, with the small challenge of having board members who had never met in person! Our focus was to find better ways to work together successfully while still in the virtual space.

Virtually inducting new board members and integrating them into the board team can be challenging. We decided to hold a board workshop to get to know one another and to realign our priorities. After filling out an assessment of our WEN Board team's effectiveness, we focused on aligning our leadership, goal setting, and decision-making for the upcoming year. The workshop was a hit and put us in a better position to continue our mission by setting us up for success.

The WEN Boston Board hopes to resume in-person meetings this year. However, we are not sure when and how they may look. Thanks to our work as a team, we are in a solid position to provide a platform for engagement and education within our three pillars: Expertise, Career Development, and Community for 2021.

### **Chicago**

WEN Chicago was excited to take on the challenge that presented itself at the beginning of the year. On December 15th, Amanda Payonk, the WEN Chicago Chapter President, gave birth and stepped back in Q1 2021 to enjoy her maternity leave. Our chapter was preparing for this day starting with the virtual board meetings and retreat sessions that occurred during the weeks prior to Amanda's leave. We planned out our Q1 events ahead of time and discussed chapter goals and initiatives for the year.

The board really came together to work as a team to keep WEN Chicago not only afloat but thriving. We continued our monthly board meeting calls and moved forward with our Q1 events, including January's Virtual WENformation Session, February's Mentorship Kick-Off, and March's Virtual Floral Arranging Workshop and Digital Grid Series. Now, our fearless leader has now returned, and we are excited for Amanda to take the reins again and lead us throughout the rest of 2021!

### **Greater Atlanta**

In Q1, WEN Greater Atlanta had low engagement with our members. We believe a lot of our members, similar to the general population, are experiencing COVID burnout. However, for International Women's Month, we partnered with the local chapter sponsor, Southern Company Gas, for a donation drive. The Atlanta, NW Metro, and Gwinnett service centers assisted with collecting donations for Atlanta Mission Union to donate goods to support the women and children at the shelter. Our partnership gave our members and friends something to organize around and propel us forward!

### **Greater Pittsburgh**

Q1 proved to be challenging in providing valuable content to WEN Greater Pittsburgh members. Our chapter saw a decline in event registrations as the pandemic continued to limit in-person events. In an effort to reach additional members and attract new members, we partnered with the Society of Women Environmental Professionals to host a virtual trivia event. This event allowed members from both groups to network while showing support for a local charity. More partnership events will likely occur based on the success of this event!

### **Houston**

The biggest challenge WEN Houston faced in Q1 was similar to what we faced in 2020 – finding ways to connect in an all-virtual environment and deliver





relevant content to our members. The WEN Houston team was able to deliver expertise they would not have been able to access otherwise by using the remote nature of our world to connect with experts across the globe to discuss relevant topics on the energy industry and energy transition. We have found ways to foster connections through online wine tastings, mixology classes, and virtual networking, in addition to our professional development webinars. Our members found them to be even more accessible in a virtual world.

As we look toward the second and third quarters of 2021, the next challenge we will face is how to transition back to in-person events and defining what that looks like. As with any challenge, the WEN Houston team will continue to be resilient and will find the best path forward for our membership base.

## North Texas

WEN North Texas struggled in deciding the appropriate time to return to in-person events. Since January, our team has had ongoing dialogue about the situation and decided to put it to our members. At the end of April, we had a member happy hour to discuss the options and people's comfort level. Though we are still working through details, we have learned that communication beyond the leadership team has been helpful in making our chapter decisions.



## Permian Basin

When you think of the first quarter of the year, most challenges center around post-holiday blues and New Year's resolutions. Unlike the start of 2020, our lives are still very much affected by the pandemic, all the struggles that have come with multiple quarantines, and the overall uncertainty as to when our lives will return to normal. As WEN Permian Basin continued to rely on virtual events and meetings to engage our members, Winter Storm Uri had other plans for our first event.

Winter Storm Uri, or as many have coined, "Snow-vid", overwhelmed most coast-to-coast regions over the period of February 12-17, 2021. The snowfall was then followed by damaging ice storms further impacting local communities. While many areas faced subzero temperatures and increasing snowfall, Texas faced a much more serious issue in the form of power outages. In a region less prepared for impending freezing temperatures and severe winter precipitation, the Texas power infrastructure failed, leaving upwards to 3.5 million households and businesses without power. Not only did this lead to lack of power, but road conditions were beyond poor, and many Texans faced food & water shortages.

During this time, WEN-PB had plans to kick-off the year with a virtual happy hour and wine tasting. Due to the effects of "Snow-vid", we postponed the event to a later date and time with the goal of keeping everyone safe. Dealing with the ramifications of the event changes was a reminder that sometimes you just have to go with the flow. It helped teach our board to continue practicing flexible scheduling and to always look to better days!



# Lessons Learned



## South Louisiana

In Q1, WEN South Louisiana was challenged by being unable to host in-person events due to Covid regulations. However, as a team, we worked together to host several virtual luncheons, which have been a great success and provided our members with a safe way to network and engage. The South Louisiana Chapter is looking forward to returning to “normalcy” and hosting in-person events again soon!

## Washington D.C.

One of the biggest challenges the WEN Washington D.C. faced in the first quarter of 2021 was dealing with “Zoom fatigue.” We worked together to come up with new ideas to keep people coming to our events. Because we couldn’t do our standard kickoff event in January, we attempted to replicate the interactive and social nature of our traditional kickoff with a virtual trivia night. We also created and sent out a survey to our D.C. members asking for their opinions on what types of events would be most useful to them and what time of day for events worked best.

In addition, we held a brainstorming session during one of our Board meetings to flesh out ideas for new virtual events and future in-person events. This resulted in securing a prominent government speaker for our

May event that attracted members from a number of chapters. In addition, we partnered with another prominent professional organization, the Women’s Council on Energy and the Environment (WCEE), which gave us the opportunity to expand awareness of WEN as an organization to the WCEE membership. WEN D.C. will continue to look for new, innovative ways and partners to keep and build member interest throughout the rest of the year.

## DON’T SEE YOUR CHAPTER FEATURED?

Please use the [Empower submission form](#) to submit your answer and be featured in the next issue of Empower magazine, which is produced quarterly March, June, September, December.

The deadline for content is the third Wednesday of the month prior to publication.

# LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT CAREER OPPORTUNITY?



The WEN Career Center is a part of the Engineering & Science Career Network, a nationwide network of employers and job seekers.

VISIT THE CAREER CENTER

