



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER 3Q2013

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Meet a Real Champion: [Amanda Mesler](#) (YPO London, YPO Houston)

Being a champion can take a variety of forms, from advocating and fighting to promote a worthy idea, to achieving extraordinary goals. [Amanda Mesler](#) (YPO London, YPO Houston) takes both of those examples and incorporates them in a way that can only be described as truly impressive. Most notably, she is a huge advocate and resource for Lean In with WIN, as well as an accomplished marathon runner.

"I jumped in when WIN started working with Lean In because I'm a pretty big supporter of getting women to the executive level," says Mesler. She has been a driving force in cultivating Lean In and WIN across multiples geographies. Mesler has already set up and championed Lean In circles — groups that meet regularly to share and learn together — in Houston, Texas. She is in the process of establishing one in Nashville, Tennessee, and is preparing to launch the same in September in London, where she now lives. "I'm really passionate about it. The only way we'll have a voice if we have more women in executive positions." Raising three daughters has also inspired Mesler. "I would love to be able to rid from their experience that they are the 'first women' in anything."



For Mesler, WIN is a natural connection with the Lean In goal of getting more women executives. "The WIN network is fabulous, because everybody at WIN is already at that level," she explains. "This is a phenomenal organization to actually help that since we are role models because we have already done it." Yet she is clear about the fact that this task does not fall to women alone. "YPO, in general, is made up of accomplished CEO level individuals — men and women," says Mesler. "It will take both men and women to further the executive women agenda in general. I've been supported in my career by my husband, and by a few supportive and enlightened men at work. I am looking to engage senior men in Lean In as well, especially in London."

Mesler is currently the Chief Operating Officer at Misys, the US\$1.75 billion software company, where she has put her years of experience in leadership positions in public companies to a new challenge: private equity. "I'm also on the board of a public company," she adds. "I think the future will be more of the private equity side, since I really love transforming and helping companies grow."

The WIN Forum experience has proven to be extremely valuable to Mesler's own growth. "I'm in a multi-international forum, and unlike regular forum in YPO-WPO, it's all women," she said. "And it's just phenomenal. We meet quarterly and we talk about the same things we would in a regular YPO forum, but it is so different because it's just women's perspectives."

Even though she finds time to focus her passions toward all these other valuable activities, Mesler still has another remarkable facet to her life. "Nine years ago I got into running and ran my first marathon," she says. "About a year and a half ago, about 20 people in the Tri Sports Network were going to run a marathon on every continent in two and a half years, and I said, 'I'm going to do it!' Now, we're down to twelve of us. We just finished our fourth one, the most brutal toughest marathon I'll probably ever do in my life, in Africa." Having already run 26.2 miles in London, New Zealand, Tokyo and Kenya, Mesler is getting ready for a marathon in March in Antarctica.

As a woman who has the drive to race around the world, run a business, raise a family and actively promote the support system needed to launch women into the executive level, Amanda Mesler is the kind of real-life champion that everyone benefits from knowing!

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