

Maria Efantis Brennan, CAE
President
American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) and the Foundation of AWRT

Maria Brennan is the President of American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) – a national, non-profit organization established in 1951 with a mission to advance the impact of women in electronic media. She has served as AWRT’s chief executive since 2002 and joined AWRT in 1998 as its VP of Communications & Development.

Brennan has more than 22 years’ of executive management experience with non-profits ranging in size from 2,000-33,000 members. She has particular expertise in the areas of strategic planning, branding strategies, event management and resource development (fundraising). She has been instrumental in the growth and success of the AWRT’s key programs and vehicles including The Gracie Awards, the Women’s Media Forum, AWRT’s national magazine, Making Waves, and the association’s numerous public service campaigns.

As the public voice of AWRT, Brennan is an experienced spokesperson and advocate for both media industry and workplace equity issues, having represented numerous nonprofits in addition to AWRT, such as the National Association of Women Business Owners, American Society of Women Accountants, and the International Exhibitors Association. She is a frequently quoted expert on issues of pay equity and work/life balance and has been published or featured in such magazines as Broadcasting & Cable, Working Mother, Association Trends, Selecta, and Radio & Records.

Brennan is an award-winning writer, recently receiving an EXCEL Award for her quarterly byline, “Hear Me Roar.” She was named by Association Trends as one of 20 “Inspiring Association Executives of the Year.”

In 2007, Brennan was elected to serve on the Women’s Leadership Board at Harvard University, and is a member of its strategic planning and communications board subcommittees. She is also serving her third term on the Diversity Board of the Federal Communications Commission, and is the appointed liaison to Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP).

Brennan earned her CAE distinction from the American Society of Association Executives; a certification earned by only 5% of non-profit executives in the U.S. She attended the University of Maryland in College Park, where she majored in Business Administration. Active in her community, Brennan volunteers with local charities including “So Others May Eat” (SOME) and her church. She is a native Washingtonian and resides in Chevy Chase, MD with her husband, Michael, and their two daughters.