WOMEN'S AQUATIC NETWORK

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECRUITMENT 2021
The Women's Aquatic Network, Inc.

The Women's Aquatic Network (WAN) brings together professionals with interests in marine, coastal and aquatic affairs and promotes the roles of women in these fields. Membership is open to all who are interested in WAN goals.

What is WAN?

The Women’s Aquatic Network is a private, non-profit organization incorporated in 1985 in the District of Columbia. It is led and organized primarily by women but its membership is open to all gender identities. Its mission is to bring together professionals with interests in marine, coastal and aquatic policy, research, management, legislation, and other areas. WAN members are scientists, lawyers, policy-makers, natural resource managers, entrepreneurs, environmental advocates, students, professors and from many other professions.
HISTORY

WAN was originally conceived in 1984 (and established in 1985) by three ambitious women who felt the need for a network of professionals in the marine and aquatic sector to help support and advance opportunities for women. In that decade, there were still far fewer women in leadership roles in the growing field. While professional networking wasn’t a new concept, it was clear that women with a mutual field of interest could benefit from targeted opportunities to meet periodically and share their experiences. The idea was to pave the way for professional advancement and integration between various Washington-DC based sectors that dealt with ocean and aquatic issues.

Since then, we can proudly say that the marine and aquatic sectors have benefited from many talented and professional women now engaged at every level, including the helm (how maritimy!) in numerous leadership roles across America. Thus, the purpose of WAN has evolved from a networking tool for women, to serve as a formal (and fun!) facilitation mechanism for professionals of all gender identities to network across shared interest areas.

We welcome the participation of young professionals. WAN is a great place to network, learn, find a mentor, or simply enjoy the social camaraderie!
WHAT IS THE WAN EXECUTIVE BOARD?

Purpose of the Executive Board

The WAN Executive Board is a group of 6-12 individuals who work together to lead the organization. This includes the planning of WAN events for the year, managing membership, monthly administrative activities to keep things running behind the scenes, and strategic planning and development to grow the organization. These individuals volunteer their time to ensure the collaborative spirit of the network is maintained and regular events are available for WAN members. The Board is self-governed.

The Executive Board receives input from and works closely with the Advisory Board. These senior-level professionals provide access to their networks, institutional and industry knowledge, and expertise in developing the next generation of water and ocean professionals.

Why join the WAN Executive Board?

Promote the WAN mission.
Create events for networking and professional development opportunities.
Develop and practice leadership and organizational skills.
Receive mentorship opportunities from Advisory Board members and other WAN community members.
Build your resume.
Give back to your network and the DC water, marine, and ocean community.
Join the fellowship of past and current WAN Executive Board members!

Read on to learn about our expectations for Board members and how we operate.
BOARD EXPECTATIONS

Regular attendance at:

- WAN events
- Monthly in-person board meetings (1.5-2 hours on a weeknight)
- Annual Executive Board day-long retreat (in DC)
- Bi-Annual Executive Board-Advisory Board meetings (in DC)

Serve as the lead for the organization of 1-3 events annually

Participate in 1-2 Board committees (You don't have to be experienced in those fields to be on a committee, and although we have committees, everyone can be involved in all aspects of the Board activities.)

Spend 4-8 hours/month on follow-up actions and committee activities

Help with fundraising and coordination leading up to and during the Holiday Party (sponsorships, soliciting auction items, selling raffle tickets, etc.)

The traditional term length is 2-4 years.
The Women's Aquatic Network Board is entirely volunteer run and usually consists of 6-12 individuals dedicated to advancing the mission of WAN and growing the network. We are self-governed and do not have traditional board roles (i.e. president, vice president, etc.).

We have a designated treasurer and the rest of the Board coordination is divided among the following committees.

- Board Management
- External Partnerships
- Digital Communications
- Membership

We consider the Board to be a collaborative work space, where assignments, roles, and responsibilities are shared. No one is the 'boss'. We use a consensus decision-making processes.
BOARD STRUCTURE

Board Management
Manages organizational and daily business operations such as annual budget, savings, bank accounts, event budgeting requests/payments/reimbursements. Ensures spending is in line with the WAN mission. The Treasurer and Co-Treasurer are the only specific roles on the Executive Board, as they are signers on the WAN Bank Account at SunTrust and hold credit cards.

External Partnerships
Provides WAN members and friends with ways to meaningfully give back to the community and next generation of marine and aquatic leaders. Builds connections between marine professionals and the broader DC-MD-VA community through hands-on activities. Participates in environmental cleanups and restoration actions to help keep our waterways and oceans healthy and thriving. Increases education, outreach, and mentorship for rising youth in the greater District area who have an interest in science, biology, policy, ocean, coastal, and aquatic affairs. Seeks event sponsorships and manages relationships with key external partners for WAN. Explores potential sponsorship options for WAN as an organization.

Digital Communications
Maintains website, social media platforms, Gmail, and Constant Contact accounts. Develops templates for event emails to memberships. Collects news, events, and opportunities from the Executive Board and WAN community for inclusion in email blasts.

Membership
Maintains membership list. Identifies members’ needs and develops ways to meet those needs. Tracking and evaluation of membership goals and needs. Develops membership and engagement materials and opportunities, from networking to mid-high level outreach. Engages Advisory Board and manages involvement.
All water, marine, or ocean-minded professionals are eligible to apply to join the 2021 WAN Executive Board. We welcome young through mid-career level professionals; all gender identities, sexual orientations, racial identities, and ethnicities are encouraged! Fill out an application on our website www.womensaquatic.org/join2021

**Deadline: July 31, 2020**