THE WOMEN'S AQUATIC NETWORK

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

WHAT IS WAN?

The Women's Aquatic Network is a private, non-profit organization that was 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, science communicators, entrepreneurs, environmental advocates, students, professors, and many more from other professions.
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 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?

WHATEVER DO WE DO?

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
WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT:

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

Note: Events and meetings are currently remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WAN will consider people outside of the DC, MD, and VA areas to work remotely.

SERVE AS LEAD FOR 1-3 EVENTS ANNUALLY

OTHER:

- Participate in 1-2 Board committees (You do not 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 a 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
- JEDI Committee

We consider the Board to be a collaborative workspace, where assignments, roles, and responsibilities are shared. No one is "the boss". We use a consensus decision-making process.
BOARD MANAGEMENT
Manages organizational and daily business operations such as annual budget, savings, bank accounts, event budgets 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. Engages Advisory and Honorary Boards and manages involvement.

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS
Provides WAN members and friends with ways to meaningfully give back to the community and the next generation of marine and aquatic leaders. Builds connections between marine professionals and the broader DC-MD-VA community. Participates in environmental cleanups and restoration actions to help keep our waterways and oceans healthy and thriving. Increases education, outreach, and mentorship for 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. Explores potential sponsorship options for WAN as an organization.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS
Maintains website, social media platforms, and Constant Contact account. Develops templates for event emails to members. Collects news, events, and opportunities from the WAN community for inclusion in bi-monthly newsletters.

MEMBERSHIP
Maintains membership list. Identifies members’ needs and develops ways to meet those needs. Tracks and evaluates membership goals and needs. Develops membership and engagement materials and opportunities, from networking to mid-high level outreach. Engages Advisory Board and manages involvement.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION
Promotes diversity and inclusion in our events, partnerships, and community. Positively influence/support individuals from underrepresented identities within our community and the broader aquatic fields.
Interested in Applying?
JOIN OUR BOARD!

We value a diverse workplace and strongly encourage women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities, foreign-born residents, and veterans to apply. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our board, members, volunteers, partners, and vendors.

Fill out an application at:
www.WomensAquatic.org/join2022

**Deadline: September 15, 2021 11:59PM EDT**