

## QWS Board Member Application

### Introduction:

Thank you for inquiring about QWS Board membership. We appreciate your interest. We are providing this brief overview giving context to learning more about your interest in joining the organization. We are eager to continue the long standing tradition of providing a relevant and sustainable Quiet Water Society. An essential step is to maintain an active and dedicated board of directors to provide the necessary stakeholder representation and leadership.

### Purpose and History:

QWS presents the annual Quiet Adventure Symposium, formerly known as the Quiet Water Symposium. The symposium supports the QWS mission to promote non-motorized recreation, safety and environmental best practices that go with providing information and training for kayaking and canoeing enthusiasts. Over the 26 years of presenting an annual symposium, it became apparent the paddling community's interests overlaps with other non-motorized outdoor interests (hiking, bicycling, primitive camping, nature photography, environmental interests and so forth) so the name was changed and the content expanded to "quiet adventure" to be more encompassing. In the pre-covid days the symposium attracted 2,000 or more participants annually to MSU's Campus. The live event has always been held in late February and early March (MSU Spring Break), during Agriculture and Natural Resources Week. The last two years the symposium was presented virtually due to the covid epidemic.

Initially and for many years running, QWS and the annual symposium were entirely resourced by volunteers. With the relatively low overhead accomplished through volunteers, the organization was financially able to call for proposals and provided small grants to organizations whose services were compatible with the QWS mission. As this small army of enthusiasts have aged out, the Board has relied on professional event management services to organize the annual symposium. To operate in this manner required the revenue collected from participants and sponsors be entirely directed toward conducting the symposium. The granting aspect, therefore, has been dormant over the past few years. An essential initial focus of the new board of directors will be decisions regarding the continuation of an annual symposium. How may we keep it exciting, relevant and sustainable?

### Organization:

QWS is incorporated as a non-profit organization [501 (c) (3)] operating under the direction of a board of five to nine directors. It operates under an established set of by-laws. The by-laws provide for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officer and director terms must be annually re-elected by board action at

the annual meeting. Directors in good standing may serve an unlimited number of terms.

Though the bylaws make provision for reasonable consideration for compensation for approved duties and compensation for expenses, long standing precedent assumes a QWS Board of Directors is comprised of willing and enthusiastic volunteer leaders working toward the purposes of QWS by inspiring a growing network of like-minded volunteer-oriented collaborators and doers. We will be happy to provide you the complete set of bylaws should you have interest in reviewing them, as well as financial data.

Duties:

The duties of the directors are as follows:

- Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the articles of incorporation, or by these bylaws.
- Appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and, except as otherwise provided in the bylaws, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any, of all officers, agents, and employees of the corporation.
- Supervise all officers, agents, and employees of the corporation to assure that their duties are performed properly.
- Meet at such times and places as required by these bylaws.
- Register their addresses with the secretary of the corporation, and to accept as valid, the delivery of meeting notices by first class mail, by facsimile machine or by electronic mail.
- Not stipulated in the bylaws, the QWS board members have traditionally been ambassadors for QWS and active participants in the success of the annual symposium.

Meetings:

In addition to the prescribed annual meeting the directors, led by the President, the Board sets a meeting schedule adequate to carry out the annual agenda. Traditionally meetings have been held in central locations to accommodate the convenience of the majority. More recent adaptations in the quality of virtual meeting technology allow for meeting arrangements that can save on time and travel. In the same fashion, the QWS board membership is quite literally unlimited as to distance, making it much more

feasible to reach across the state and outside the state for director participation. Board business may proceed with a simple majority of the directors present.

### Moving Forward

We will be happy to respond to any questions you have. With retirements pending, the current board will move as quickly as possible to backfill these vacancies and potentially gather additional talent within the constraints of the nine member maximum. In a separate document, please provide us with the following information by September 15, 2022.

Name

Address

Email

Cell Number

Other phone if applicable

One page vita or web link.

In a half page please indicate your interest in being considered for QWS Board Membership. Please speak directly to the central aspect of your motivation to become involved as a QWS Board Member and refer to any talents, skills and/or experience that may equip you to perform a particular function on the board (leadership, organizational skills, event planner, financial management and budgeting, marketing, registration procedures, etc.)

Have you attended, presented, and or served as an event volunteer at a Quiet Water Symposium or Quiet Adventure held at MSU in the past? Please provide a brief description of this involvement.

Please identify and explain other experiences, training, leadership, employment within the "quiet adventure" sphere that you think relevant to your capacity to serve and contribute on the QWS Board of Directors.

Do you have a particular insight as to the relevance and prospect of continuing to provide an annual symposium? Is there a particular niche you believe QWS should fill specific to its stated mission?

Please complete this application and submit it to [info@quietwatersociety.org](mailto:info@quietwatersociety.org) by date September 15, 2022.

Feel free to contact Joe Lessard ([jalessard@comcast.net](mailto:jalessard@comcast.net)) or Cynthia Donovan ([cxdonovan@gmail.com](mailto:cxdonovan@gmail.com)) with any additional questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for your interest!