



Quiet Water Society/Quiet Adventure Society (QWS/QAS)

QWS/QAS Board Member Application

Introduction: Thank you for inquiring about QWS/QAS Board membership. We are eager to continue the long standing tradition of providing a relevant and sustainable Quiet Water Society (soon to be Quiet Adventure Society, hence QWS/QAS). An essential step is to maintain an active and dedicated board of directors to provide the necessary stakeholder representation and leadership. What follows is a brief overview of the organization.

Purpose and History: QWS/QAS presents an annual Quiet Adventure Symposium, formerly known as the Quiet Water Symposium. The symposium originally supported the QWS/QAS mission to promote non-motorized recreation, safety, and environmental best practices that went 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 overlapped with other non-motorized outdoor interests (hiking, bicycling, primitive camping, nature photography, environmental interests, etc.) so the name was changed and the content expanded to "quiet adventure" to be more encompassing. In 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. In 2021 and 2022, the symposium was presented virtually due to the covid epidemic, but we returned to a live event in 2023. In spite of a short planning horizon, (and a brief snowstorm on the night before the event), the 2023 Symposium was successful in drawing over 1000 people, 85 exhibitors and 33 speakers. Check the [website](#) to see the [program](#) and other information about the event.

Initially and for many years running, QWS/QAS 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/QAS 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 to make decisions regarding the continuation of an annual symposium as well as new QWS/QAS activities. How may we keep it exciting, relevant and sustainable? To what extent are professional event services needed?

Organization: The QWS/QAS is currently incorporated as a non-profit organization [501 (c) (3)] operating under the direction of a board of five to nine directors, under an established set of bylaws. 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 the QWS/QAS Board of Directors is comprised of willing and enthusiastic volunteer leaders working toward the purposes of the QWS/QAS by inspiring a growing network of like-minded volunteer-oriented collaborators and doers. We will be happy to provide you with the complete set of bylaws should you have interest in reviewing them as well as financial data.

Duties: The duties of the Board of 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/QAS board members have traditionally been ambassadors for QWS/QAS and active participants in the success of the annual symposium.

Meetings: In addition to the prescribed annual meeting of 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/QAS board membership is quite literally unlimited as to distance, making it much more feasible to reach across the state and beyond for director participation. Board business may proceed with a simple majority of the directors present. While we seek to limit the time demands on Board Members, there may be up to weekly meetings in the three months prior to the Symposium, as well as specific tasks undertaken by Board members.

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 1, 2023.

Name
Address
Email
Cell Number
Other phone if applicable

One page vita or web link.

In about one page, please indicate your interest in being considered for QWS/QAS Board Membership.

Please speak directly to the central aspect of your motivation to become involved as a QWS/QAS 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 Symposium 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/QAS 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/QAS should fill specific to its stated mission?

Please complete this application and submit it to info@quietwatersociety.org (and cc: cxdonovan@gmail.com) by date September 10, 2023. Feel free to contact Joe Lessard (jalesard@comcast.net), Pat Harrington (pathemail@gmail.com) or Cynthia Donovan (cxdonovan@gmail.com) with any additional questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your interest!