Association for Women in Science

Board Candidate Leadership Guide

2024
AWIS’ Mission

To ensure that all women in science can achieve their full potential. AWIS champions the interests of women in science across all disciplines and employment sectors.

AWIS’ Vision

We will be the voice for driving change and equity for all women in science.
AWIS will focus on four strategic priorities in the next three years:

**Cultivating and Expanding Partnerships**
We will strengthen and expand collaborations with like-minded allies to amplify and elevate our mutual impact.

**Equity for All Women and Girls in STEM**
We will work to accelerate opportunities that lead to transforming STEM places and to expand access that fosters an inclusive culture in STEM careers.

**Deepening Our Connections Through DEIB**
We will strengthen an empathetic, supportive, and equitable environment to dismantle any barriers and accelerate a responsive AWIS Community.

**Elevating AWIS Chapters**
We will support the sustainability, stability, and growth of AWIS chapters through effective leadership, membership engagement and resources.
Through AWIS you will impact and amplify the career achievements of women in the scientific workforce.

*Last year...*

6 AWIS members received scholarships to further advance their scientific careers.

9 AWIS members received recognition through our annual awards.

Over 100 women scientists were highlighted on AWIS’ social media channels.

Over 2,000 people registered for an AWIS webinar to enhance their skills.

Over 300 AWIS members volunteered in chapter leadership positions and 4 Chapter Leader events geared towards helping chapters succeed.

There were over 499,000 job searches on our career center and over 900 people registered for our virtual career fairs.
Director, AWIS National Board of Directors

**Job Description**

Directors are elected to serve AWIS (“the Association”) and its members by investing their time, expertise, and efforts to assist in the effective stewardship of the Association. Board members are the fiduciaries who steer the Association toward a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure the Association has adequate resources to advance its mission.

Together with the Association’s executive leadership, board members develop goals, strategies, policies, plans, and budgets that ensure the association is successful, growing, and executing its strategic plan. Through active engagement and participation at board and Association events, board members work collaboratively among themselves and with the Association’s executive leadership, operating committees, volunteers, and members.
Key expectations for AWIS Board Members:

1. Be elected to serve for a period of three (3) years and shall assume office on July 1 of the year following the election.
2. Attend national board meetings on a quarterly basis. One meeting will be in person and three will be held virtually. Travel expenses are not reimbursed by the association.
3. Serve as representatives to the Board of Directors on behalf of the Association’s general membership.
4. Commit to an individual financial contribution to AWIS.
5. Be an active member of the Board of Directors as defined in the association bylaws.
6. Serve on at least one board committee.
7. Use your professional and personal skills to further the mission of the Association.
8. Be a member of the association during their entire board term.
Legal Fiduciary Duties of Board Members

Duty of Care
- Prudent steward of the organization
- Due diligence in decision-making
- Exercise good business judgment at all times

Duty of Obedience
- Faithful to the mission and purposes of the organization
- Follow the governing documents, external laws, and rules

Duty of Loyalty
- Act in the best interests of the (entire) organization
- Avoid conflicts of interest that are harmful to the organization, for personal gain, or commercial gain
- Includes a duty of confidentiality

What is a fiduciary duty?
A board members fiduciary duty is the obligation to act in the best interest of the organization.

The responsibilities of fiduciaries are governed by federal and state laws as well as common law.
More about AWIS
Benefits of an AWIS Membership

**Development**
- High-quality, relevant programs and events
- Volunteering and mentoring opportunities

**Advancement**
- Virtual job fairs connect STEM jobseekers and employers
- Career center with job postings, resume review, coaching

**Encouragement**
- Webinars, weekly newsletters, AWIS magazine, and online content hub provide relevant news and inspiring stories

**Recognition**
- Member spotlights in AWIS magazine, social, awis.org
- Annual scholarships, grants, and awards
awis.org/join
awis.org/partner
awis.org/donate
awis@awis.org
twitter.com/AWISnational
linkedin.com/company/association-for-women-in-science
facebook.com/AssociationforWomeninScience
instagram.com/AWISnational