



Young Professionals Committee Guidelines

Mission Statement

Recruit, develop programs for, and encourage participation in Section activities by young professionals. Create opportunities for education and development, offer professional skillset and network development activities, and create inter- and cross-disciplinary dialogue, in order to help develop leaders in the drinking water industry.

Goals and Objectives

- Encourage and maintain a diverse group of young professional membership of various disciplines, organizations, and professions within the water industry to serve and direct the action of the committee.
- Assist the Student Activities committee in advocating for the drinking water industry and its diverse professions and opportunities to undergraduate and post-graduate students at colleges, universities, and technical schools with active water-related programs.
- Provide and facilitate opportunities for professional networking and dialogue among peers and with seasoned professionals.
- Increase knowledge base of young professionals via information sharing, communication, and training opportunities.
- Encourage and promote Young Professional membership involvement and participation within Missouri Section activities.
- Promote Young Professional awareness to and represent Young Professional interests in the water industry.
- Identify and share engagement opportunities to Young Professional membership via participation in technical conferences, written publications, and other professional volunteer opportunities.
- Collaborate with Missouri Water Environment Association (MWEA) Young Professional Committee, and other like organizations as appropriate, in social and technical events to create increased opportunities for interdisciplinary exposure, professional development, and networking.

Deliverables

- Organize and host facility tours, educational sessions, and networking events within each major metropolitan area of Missouri, with a goal of at minimum one event per quarter.
- Work with Joint Annual Meeting planning committee and MWEA Young Professionals to organize and deliver Young Professional focused activities at the Joint Annual Meeting.

- Coordinate, support, and partner with other Section committees to support overall Section activity; particularly the Student Activities, Drinking Water Week, and Membership Committees.
- Liaise and collaborate with other Young Professional groups to provide cross-disciplinary networking and development opportunities.

Membership Commitments

- Actively participate with and assist committee leadership in organizing and delivering committee publications, activities, and efforts.
- Represent Young Professional committee to Missouri AWWA members, water industry non-members, and the general public.
- Participate and contribute to committee meetings, discussions, and events.
- Respond in a timely fashion to inquiries via email, phone calls from other committee members.
- Fulfill commitments made to other committee members, Missouri AWWA members, and other volunteers.
- Respect and consider other committee members' opinions and ideas.

Committee Membership

- All committee members must be current members of the Missouri Section.
- Committee shall strive to maintain a balanced, diverse representation of membership divided across a geographically diverse area of the state, but shall not be exclusive of members in rural areas.
- Inactive or non-participating members (including any leadership position) may be removed and replaced by a majority vote of committee members, except the position of committee chair, whose removal and replacement requires approval of the Section chair.
- The committee shall aim to be inclusive of all individuals who are interested in participation; however, it may be necessary at times to limit committee membership for practical reasons.
- The committee shall aim to maintain on an annual basis an active membership of 8-12 Young Professionals.

Committee Decisions

- A majority of committee members shall approve all matters and proposals brought before the committee. For example, approval shall be needed from four committee members of a seven member committee.
- The following issues shall be formally voted on within a planned committee meeting to which all members are invited:
 - Committee Guidelines ratification
 - Chair, Treasurer, and Sub-committee lead
 - Committee member removal

- Financial matters
- All other matters of the committee shall be discussed and decided upon in planned committee meetings to which all members are invited. In the case of a dispute which cannot be settled, the committee Chair shall act as final arbitrator and make a final decision.
- All major committee decisions shall be presented to the Missouri Section Board.

Committee Officers

- Chair
 - Leads the committee and reports directly to the committee's assigned Missouri Section Board Trustee.
 - Organizes, schedules, and leads monthly committee meetings and convenes sub-committee meetings as necessary.
 - Develops annual committee goals and budget for approval by Missouri Section Board.
 - Participates in Missouri Section Board meetings.
 - Provides written committee reports to assigned Trustee.
 - Represents and speaks for the committee at various functions and events
 - Communicates with other Missouri Section committees and other organizations as necessary
- Past Chair
 - Provides support and guidance the Chair.
 - Provides context on various issues and previous decisions made by Committee.
- Treasurer
 - Tracks, approves, and records all expenditures of the Committee.
 - Assists the Chair with development of annual Committee budget needs.
 - Conducts committee meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- Metropolitan area sub-committee leads (Kansas City, St. Louis, & Springfield at minimum)
 - Acts as responsible person for activities of the Committee within their metropolitan region, may or may not be Committee Chair, Past Chair, or Treasurer
 - Organizes, schedules, plans events of the Committee in the metropolitan region with the assistance and guidance of the Chair.
 - Takes initiative to meet the minimum goal of one event per quarter in the region
 - May coordinate activities with other young professional organizations.
 - Delegates responsibilities to other region committee members

Terms of Offices

- The Chair shall serve a two (2) year term beginning at the end of the Section's Joint annual meeting, and shall conclude at the end of the Section's Joint Annual Meeting two years later.
- The Committee shall self-nominate and a vote will be held on the appointment of a new Chair no less than six (6) months prior to the current Chair's end of term. Once the new Chair appointment is passes by the Committee, the Committee shall make the recommendation to the Section Chair.
- The Section Chair shall have final authority to accept or reject the Committee's recommendation for new Chair, and to make such appointment.
- If for any reason the Chair cannot complete their term, the Committee Treasurer shall fill the Chair position in interim until the end of the Section's next Joint Annual Meeting, or until such time that a replacement can be nominated by the Committee and recommended to the Section Chair. The Committee shall conduct a vote and provide a recommendation for new Committee Chair to the Section Chair prior to that next Joint Annual Meeting, or next regular Section Board meeting, whichever occurs first.