

TRACY PAGE CANDIDATE STATEMENT NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Please compose and attach a 500 word (or less) candidate statement, answering the following two statements/questions.

1. Provide a brief biography and explain why you are running for the office.

I am the Aquatic Education Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. I have a strong background in environmental education, administration, and aquatic resources, and outdoor skills. Dual undergraduate degree in marine biology and oceanography, master's degree in Zoo and Aquarium Management and Nonformal Education, as well as a professional masters certificate in Communications and Business Management.

I have been a part of several boards in the education realm including our state environmental education group, where I have served as a general board member, education/marketing and outreach/finance committee member, and as the graphic designer for over ten years. I have valuable and diverse skills that could help AREA thrive for the future including networking, conference planning, graphic and web design, accessible documents and programs and much more.

I am a strong advocate for connecting with the outdoors through fishing, boating, learning and other recreational opportunities. We pride ourselves on conducting unique programming and offer the public diverse opportunities to learn, connect and use our natural resources in a way that they are comfortable. Starting from that comfortable place you are able to create lifelong users and stewards of our resources.

2. What are your priorities for AREA and how will you work toward them?

Having built a good rapport with other members in our region, I would love the opportunity to bring us closer together as a network, to share more resources, learn from each other, and contribute back to the national group. I hope that I could help as a bridge from the outdoor/recreation education world to the environmental education world, to help make strong connections between resource managers/biologists/R3 and educators that could help get those messages to young people. I also can contribute my skills in web management/design, graphics design, conference planning and more.

Having attended national and regional AREA trainings, and having planned a regional training here in Michigan, and joined the national training committee, I can say that I am more committed to bringing great opportunities to AREAs members so that they can take those back and have greater impacts in their home state.