



Take the Helm®

Official Newsletter of the National Women's Sailing Association

January 2021

NWSA

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Seeking Nominations! Leadership in Women's Sailing Award

We are currently seeking nominations for the 2021 Leadership in Women's Sailing Award. The Award, co-sponsored by NWSA and BoatU.S.® (the nation's largest organization of recreational boaters) began in 1990. The award is given annually to honor an individual who has a record of achievement in inspiring, educating and enriching the lives of women through sailing. In recent years, the award has been made at the Marblehead Women's Sailing Conference held in the summer, however last year the award was presented virtually to Margaret Pommert during NWSA's OLÉ — on line expo.

Submission Deadline is February 1st, 2021! In addition to the nominee's name and e-mail address, the nominator must include details of why the person is worthy of the award.

Submit Nominations Here:

<http://bit.ly/LeadershipInWomensSailing>



Guidelines for nominations

- ◆ The recipient can be a person who has made a lasting impact on women and sailing.
- ◆ The person has multiple accomplishments which includes sailing endeavors, over a period of years.
- ◆ Their work can be local, regional, or national, but has had a significant influence beyond a local area.
- ◆ Their work has advanced the sport of sailing and expanded opportunities for women, helped educate women or otherwise enriched women's lives through sailing.
- ◆ This award could be considered a "lifetime achievement award."
- ◆ Their influence on supporting or educating women in the sport of sailing is much more than a personal accomplishment in competitive racing.

Pat Dieselman was the 2019 Recipient of the Leadership Award. For photos and articles of all past winners, visit the [Leadership Archives](#).



2020 in the Rearview!

February 1, 2020 — Sailing Convention for Women presented by Gail Hine kicked off the year splendidly. 200 plus enthusiastic women sailors were in attendance.

February 25, 2020 — CDC stated Covid-19 was headed toward pandemic status

February 29, 2020 — NWSA's Women's Sailing Conference chair Shirley Cassara suggested formulating a Plan B as a contingency for a possible conference interruption due to Covid-19.

February 17, 2020 — Margaret Pommert was named the 2020 Boat U.S./NWSA Leadership in Women's Sailing Award. Not only was Pommert an exemplary leader of women sailors, luckily she was well versed in virtual presentations. Pommert became a valuable asset in planning a virtual Plan B.

March 13, 2020 — President Donald Trump declared Coronavirus a national emergency.

March 16, 2020 — NWSA board reviewed a budget for virtual conference, considered announcements concerning cancelling the in-person event and developed a Corona Virus policy. The instructors and committee began working in earnest to present OLÉ. NWSA began a major update to the website in order to accommodate the on-line presentation and a members portal.

April 29, 2020 — NWSA presented the first She Sailor Sea Story episode on Zoom to announce OLÉ— On Line Expo a virtual women's sailing conference. Laura Howell stepped up and rendered a spontaneous telling of a strong woman's ode to her anchor.

May 5, 2020 — She Sailor Sea Story — Captain, My Captain with featured story teller Nancy Early successfully promoted OLÉ

May 15, 2020 — celebrated wear you life jacket to work day and National Safe Boating Week.

May 20, 2020 — Gail Hine and Haley Lhamon were joined by other notable sailors for a pre-conference episode of Sea Sailor Sea Story — LOOKING UP.

June 6-7, 2020 — OLÉ — On Line Expo!

July 13 to Aug 3, 2020 — In cooperation with Women Who Sail — Maiden Monday fundraiser for the Maiden Factor

August 4, 2020 — US Sailing, Starboard Portal — Increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the sport of sailing

September 18, 2020 — She Sailor Sea Story — RESCUE with Naomi Emmerson and guests; Anne Bryant, Elisabeth Hogan, Tammi Airhart and Danielle Stacey.

October 14, 2020 — US Sailing, Starboard Portal — Women's Sailing Panel

October 20, 2020 — Sea Sailor Sea Story — REEF

November 6, 2020 — Riverport Women's Sailing Conference

November 13-to 15 -Island Yacht Club Northern California Women's Sailing Seminar

December 10, 2020 — Member's Holiday happy hour and She Sailor Sea Story with host Naomi Emmerson

December 23, 2020 — Member's Holiday happy hour with Charlotte Kaufman and She Sailor Sea Story with host Anne Bryant.



Lucky women who took the NWSA women's diesel course pre-pandemic at the Narragansett Sailing School January 2020

RESOURCES

During 2020 NWSA added a great deal of content for women sailors to our member's video library.

<https://womensailing.org/members/members-video>



Women from across the nation (and beyond) attended and participated in NWSA's OLÉ — On Line Expo



SAVE THE DATE!

Stay Tuned!

- **We are Working on a new 2021 Calendar of Events!**

First National AdventureSail®

- **August 14, 2021**

AdventureSail® Save the Date

For two decades the National Women's Sailing Association has offered a look at the world of sailing to women and girls as a course of business for women sailors and through the AdventureSail program.

The intent of AdventureSail will stay the same, to give girls from under-represented and historically disenfranchised communities a chance to sail, and, to discover leadership, networking, and career opportunities in the marine industry! We continue to recognize the need for more young women in sailing and believe every girl deserves an equal opportunity to find their place in the wide array of professional and recreational opportunities sailing has to offer.

In cooperation with US Sailing, Tall Ships America, and established partners, NWSA is in the process of redesigning the delivery of the long-standing and popular AdventureSail program. We have optimistically penciled in August 14, 2021 as our first national AdventureSail Day. Please save the date for a nationwide celebration and introduction of sailing to underserved girls.



Sue Corl Youth Sailing Scholarship Opportunity

The Women's Sailing Foundation is offering the Sue Corl Youth Sailing Scholarship this year for young women applicants 14-19 years old who have identified a program that may include but not be limited to an advanced sailing program, a tall ship or live-aboard experience, a marine or marine-related program, such as environmental studies as an example, or a sail racing program. Scholarship funding is up to \$500 and will be awarded to one of the applicants.

This scholarship was suspended in 2020 due to COVID and we are hoping that more eligible programs will be available as 2021 progresses so we have set back our deadline to May 15 to allow more time for applicants to identify a program that will run this year.

The scholarship is named after Sue Corl who was a tireless advocate for introducing sailing to young women. She was the national co-coordinator of our AdventureSail program for many years having been an organizer of the first Boston AdventureSail program in 1997 at the Courageous Sailing Center in Boston Harbor. She also was a co-chair of the Inaugural Women's Sailing Conference held at Marblehead in 2001. She also served on the Board of Directors of NWSA.

WSF is committed to encouraging all eligible young women to apply.

Please go to our WSF website, www.womensailing.org/sue-corl-youth-sailing-scholarship/ for more information on eligibility criteria and to fill out the application form.

FROM THE COMMODORE

SAILING INTO A NEW YEAR

2021 came in as a welcome fresh breeze. The news of vaccines buoyed us with renewed hope for a foreseeable return to normalcy. The optimism may have been short lived.

After several years living and sailing near the Gulf Coast, I learned a bit about storms. Sometimes you think it is over, but it's not. Bands of a big storm require us to work long and hard, testing our limits. We sailors learn and understand resilience. Waves will keep coming. We simply deal with each, one at a time.

We also know having good crew, relying on one another, reduces the challenges for everyone. What may be insurmountable for a skipper alone, probably will be easy work for a coordinated crew. Inclusionary teamwork to stay on track and navigate, especially through dangerous waters, is what sailors do. It takes knowledge, skill and practice to reach that commonly sought destination.

What gives me, as a leader, optimism during this stormy passage is the skill, knowledge and practice NWSA has honed to promote equitable teamwork. We've learned, innovated and practiced gender equity in sailing for decades. We've fostered real progress during that time. So, we know how to expand our equity efforts, especially when it is stormy. We are steadfast in the belief sailing should be accessible to all persons regardless of their gender, color, sexual orientation or physical challenges.

To work toward our inclusive goal we realized the need to expand beyond a homogeneous circle of what a sailor looks like. We plan to do just that. Our outreach in 2021 will focus on inclusionary actions beyond "just" gender. We'll expand the circle, widening opportunities for women and girls who have stood on the wrong side of clasped hands. Read about our plans. Join me in my hopes for an improved outlook of health, both physical and social. I invite you to continue to be with NWSA, reaching out for others to join us in our love for sailing through your membership, volunteerism and financial support.

We will weather this and be better for having done so. - *Debbie Huntsman, President*

NWSA, Jackson Park Yacht Club and US Sailing planning post-pandemic National Women's Sailing conference in Chicago



Post-pandemic plans are rooted in what was learned in 2020. NWSA continued to practice increasing gender diversity in sailing as a regular course of business. Beginning with the OLÉ diversity panel, the board realized, as did the nation, diversity extended past our work with gender. The conversation of increasing inclusiveness in what NWSA offers began during OLÉ's panel and broadened with US Sailing's Diversity, Equality and Inclusion panels. NWSA's board had kicked around ideas to develop partnerships with clubs serving sailors of color. We knew we

should "do something" to include widely excluded groups of sailors. The pandemic and racial unrest presented the voice of women of color, clearly telling us how to change.

While plans are in the early stages, we hope all NWSA members, instructors and supporters will join the board of directors in supporting the National Women's Sailing Conference at a primarily minority club. It is high time we serve our overlooked sister sailors. Bear with us while we navigate some uncharted waters, as we are well aware the health and safety of instructors and participants is a concern for a successful event. Dates and details will be announced as they become firm.

FAIR WINDS GAIL!

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Gail Hine is a legendary figure for sharing sailing

For 30 years, the place where women could enjoy the camaraderie of other women sailors, learn from top instructors both on the water and in the classroom, and have plenty of fun was the Sailing Convention for Women presented by Gail Hine. Certainly some of the readers have attended one of Gail's Conventions. Many more have attended other similar events inspired by Gail's model.

Doris Colgate wrote upon hearing of Gail Hine's retirement, "Gail Hine is THE pioneer in creating programs to interest, excite, educate, and engage women in sailing. Her dedication to this mission inspired the original Board of the National Women's Sailing Association to create Take the Helm programs at boat shows on the East Coast, in Oakland (CA) and Chicago in the 90's where accomplished women sailors shared their knowledge and experiences with hundreds of other women (and their SO's) in how best to live the sailing lifestyle. Over the years, Gail has produced impressive annual Women's Sailing Conventions on the West Coast, creating the impetus for NWSA to conduct similar East Coast conferences for women, taught by women. The sailing world so many of us enjoy today would not be as comfortable as it is for women had it not been for Gail's unerring commitment to enhance women's lives through sailing. NWSA has been blessed to have Gail on its Board. She will be missed."

In 1992 Gail invited Linda Newland to speak at her Women's Sailing Convention in Southern California. The door was opened for Linda to meet women sailors beyond her home sailing grounds in the SF Bay Area. Linda led a crew of women, mostly from Southern California, in the 1997 Los Angeles to Honolulu Transpac. Linda said of Hine who introduced her to the National Women's Sailing Association, "Gail has been truly an inspiration and great leader in women's sailing nationwide. For over 50 years she led the way for women's sailing conferences in locales nationwide."

Amplifying Linda's comment a group of women sailors from Phoenix, Arizona attended Hine's Women's Sailing Convention in 2007. NWSA board president, Debbie Huntsman, and



members of the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club developed a women's sailing event near Phoenix, AZ. Hine gave the organizers advice and council and was even a speaker. As a result Huntsman later joined NWSA's board. "I'm honored to have had opportunities to work with Gail. Her contribution to women's sailing has inspired so many gains toward equity in the sport. Thank you Gail."

NWSA emerita member Joan Thayer wrote, "There is too little space in a newsletter to say all Gail Hine has done for NWSA. Without Gail and her Women's Sailing Convention, Sue (Corl) and I would never have pulled off the first NWSA Women's Sailing Conference in 2002. Gail Hine inspired, excited and supported our efforts. Thank you."

Gail Hine joined the NWSA board in 2001. During that time Gail, designed and published the newsletters, *Take the Helm* and *e-Breeze*, as well as fulfilling other graphic needs. Her contributions as a long-time board member are certainly not limited to the newsletters. Gail's guidance, leadership and humor made the work with her on the board a pleasure. Hine tendered her request for retirement effective January 1, 2021. We cannot thank Gail enough for her twenty years of service as a NWSA board member.

We love you Gail — fair winds.