Johnette D. Bosarge Memorial Award

Background and Introduction

Johnette D. Bosarge (April 18, 1953 - March 13, 2013) was NMEA’s administrative assistant from 1999-2013. Family and friends described her as a loving mother, devoted wife, and unparalleled friend, and said she possessed impeccable organizational skills, was very giving, a good advisor, and the “glue” that held her family together. They also portrayed her as a very special person who could do all things, and said she possessed an infectious personality, razor-sharp intellect, immeasurable warmth, while being unassuming, and never wanting any credit for a job well done. She exhibited an enviable work ethic and was our rock – a heroine to so many people. As one friend stated, “Johnette was a world changer; that is who she really was!”

Award Information and Applicant Criteria

This is an annual, monetary award in the amount of $500—to be used—as the recipient deems appropriate for attending the NMEA Conference and/or in the recipient’s formal or informal facility for educational purposes. A sea star sculpture containing the recipient’s name will also be presented during the Awards Ceremony at the NMEA Conference. This award is not based on fiscal need.

The criteria for the Johnette D. Bosarge Memorial Award include the following, i.e., the recipient must:

- Be a NMEA member and a member of one of NMEA’s 17 chapters, in good standing;
- Attend the NMEA Conference to accept his/her award;
- Document service and dedication to NMEA or/or a NMEA chapter;
- Exhibit loyalty, efficiency, and enthusiasm for marine and aquatic education in a formal or informal setting—currently working or retired as a professional educator for preservice or inservice elementary, middle-school, high school, undergraduate/graduate, or special needs students or serve as a professional, kindergarten through elderhostel educator. The applicant may also be an educator who has “switched careers,” but who is/was active in the formal or informal teaching profession;
- Be well-respected by his/her peers; and
- Lastly, although not a requirement, the successful recipient is encouraged to prepare an article/blog/social media post for publication regarding the importance of this award to him/her professionally and personally, following the Annual NMEA Conference in which the award was received.
**Application Deadlines and Required Application Process**

The deadline for this application, to include letters of support, to be RECEIVED, electronically, by February 20 of each calendar year; the successful recipient and those who applied and were not accepted will be notified by March 25 of each calendar year.

**Johnette D. Bosarge Memorial Award Application Form**

Please complete the appropriate sections of this form—depending on if you are the nominator or the individuals preparing letters of support, scan, and send by e-mail along with supporting documentation as described below. Only digital submissions will be accepted. Applications that exceed requested information will be deemed in-eligible. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Sharon Walker at sharon@imms.org. Note: this award will be evaluated annually by a Committee established by the current NMEA President.

**Application Instructions:** The application package should be succinct with appropriate specificity. Please include the following (size and style of font: 11 font, Times New Roman)—the first 10 bullets should not exceed one page and the last bullet should not exceed an additional one page in length:

- Name of Nominee;
- E-mail address and phone number of Applicant/Nominee;
- Name, e-mail address, and phone number of Nominator;
- School or Informal Center in which Nominee is employed;
- Informal/Formal Audience and/or Grade Level(s) Taught;
- STEM disciplines in which instruction is provided to respective students/audiences;
- Provide examples of effective and innovative accomplishments—locally, regionally, or nationally and instructional techniques used for marine and aquatic education implementation;
- List examples of marine and aquatic topics integrated into multi-subject, STEM classes and successful student performance documentation;
- Document participation in NMEA and/or local chapter;
- List colleagues/supervisors from whom support letters will be provided, to include relationship to applicant/nominee; and
- Prepare a one-page explanation relative to your rationale for nominating this educator/applying for this award.

**Instructions for the TWO Individuals preparing Letters of Support for Nominee (all deadlines have been delineated above):**

- Prepare and provide a maximum of two pages relative to your support for this nominee to be the Johnette D. Bosarge Memorial Award recipient.
- Send this information to: Dr. Sharon H. Walker at sharon@imms.org.