

NAMI Elections 2009

Information for Candidates & Nominating Affiliates/ State Organizations

The NAMI National Board is a “working board” whose members play active and important roles in the success of the national organization. To best serve in the Board role, members are expected to:

- Attend and participate fully in all Board meetings, Annual Conventions, Leadership Institutes, and other organizational functions;
- Understand and protect the fiduciary health of the organization;
- Understand and adhere to the democratic process of a non-profit Board;
- Understand and support NAMI’s programs and public policies;
- Be NAMI members in good standing; and,
- Make what feels to the individual to be a significant financial contribution to NAMI National, on an annual basis.

To ensure compliance with NAMI’s bylaws, 75% of the Board must be “persons who have or have had lived experience with serious mental illness, or parents or other relatives thereof.” Candidates are asked to make a statement to this effect.

Note for 2009: The current board has two (2) members who do not identify themselves as having lived experience as family members and/or consumers. No more than two (2) other non-family/consumer members may be elected to the board this year.

Nominations for the NAMI National Board of Directors are DUE by April 9, 2009 (90 days prior to the Annual Meeting and voting at the 2009 Convention). Only NAMI Affiliates and State Organizations in good standing may nominate candidates for the Board. Nominations should be sent to:

**NAMI Elections 2009
2107 Wilson Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201**

Nominations may be made by State Organizations and Affiliates in good standing (membership dues paid 90 days prior to voting) via e-mail by forwarding a signed letter of nomination on Affiliate or State Organization letterhead as a PDF attachment. E-mail submissions must be sent to Governance@nami.org

On Thursday, April 9th, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time (7 Central, 6 Mountain, 5 Pacific) all candidates are asked to join a **Candidate Information Conference Call** for a review of election policies and procedures – and to answer any questions you may have.

By Friday, April 10th all candidates for the NAMI National Board *must...*

(OVER →)

- 1) **Have been formally nominated in writing** by a NAMI Affiliate or State Organization in good standing (nominations are DUE by April 9, 2009);
- 2) **Complete and return the Candidate Certification Form** and provide a brief statement (max. 50 words) regarding lived experience with severe and persistent mental illness;
- 3) **Respond to the following questions** that have been put forth by NAMI leaders.
 - a) Answer all five questions in a total of 300 words or less for inclusion in the election issue of the *Advocate* (allocate word count as you see fit; questions are not included in word count)
 - b) Answer each question in 300 words or less for posting on NAMI's Web site and distribution at Convention.
 - c) The Questions
 - i) Please describe your previous board experience and what you regard as your greatest contribution to that organization's work through your service on their board.
 - ii) How can you contribute to NAMI's evolution as "a dynamic, well-run organization that seeks and engages a diverse and growing membership," as called for in the NAMI strategic plan?
 - iii) What fund raising, financial oversight, and legal expertise do you have to offer to the NAMI organization?
 - iv) What advocacy and organizational priority areas do you believe NAMI should be pursuing in the next three years?
 - v) What brought you to NAMI – and what is most valuable to you about your participation in the NAMI movement?
- 4) **Provide a high resolution photograph** (jpeg preferred) suitable for publication in the election mailing and on the Web.

Statements will not be edited and will be presented as submitted. Statements that exceed the word count limit will be cut off at 300 words. Electronic submission of all materials is preferred. Submit all documents to Governance@nami.org

Campaigning: Candidates are not permitted to campaign actively for office and may not seek direct contact with members and delegates for the purposes of promoting their candidacy, except as provided for here. Campaign items such as buttons, stickers, hats, etc. are not permitted.

Candidate Visibility: Based on surveys of candidates, those voting in recent elections, input from NAMI's advisory councils, and the National Board's desire to make as much pertinent information available about candidates as possible, the following opportunities will be provided for members to acquaint themselves with Board candidates:

- The **Advocate** will carry a photograph, the 50-word self-identification statement, and the 300-word response to candidate questions.
- www.nami.org/voting will have posted for each candidate (1) letter of nomination, (2) photograph, and (3) responses to all questions (long and short versions)
- **Voting packets** with credential forms, an absentee ballot, and links to the Web site are mailed to every Affiliate and State Organization in good standing
- **NEW!** Candidates "**stump speeches**" will be available on the Web
- Candidates will make **speeches** at the 2009 Convention on July 7, 2009
- Large **poster/bulletin boards** with candidates' information will be on display at Convention ... and perhaps other options as elections approach – stay tuned!

Questions? → Governance@nami.org