NAMI Elections 2011

Information for Candidates & Nominating NAMI Affiliates/ NAMI State Organizations

The NAMI Board is a working board whose members play active and important roles in setting policy for 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, on an annual basis.

See the NAMI Board's "Open Letter" for a more complete discussion of the skills and expertise that is sought for NAMI Board service.

Nominations: Nominations are being accepted for candidates for election to the NAMI National Board of Directors at this year's Annual Convention. Five (5) candidates will be elected to serve for the standard three-year term.

Board nominees must be NAMI members and members of the NAMI Affiliate or NAMI State Organization making the nomination. Nominations may be made only by NAMI Affiliates and NAMI State Organizations that have submitted their membership and paid dues at least 90 days prior to the Convention. Each Affiliate and State Organization may nominate no more than one candidate. Nominations must be received by NAMI **no later than April 9, 2011** (90 days prior to the NAMI annual meeting) and addressed to:

NAMI Elections 2011
Attn: Lynn Borton
3803 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203

Nominations must be made on the letterhead of the nominating NAMI Affiliate or NAMI State Organization, including evidence authorization by the board of the Affiliate or State Organization to make the nomination, indication of the length of term for which the candidate is nominated, and be signed by the chief officer of the NAMI Affiliate or NAMI State Organization. (If the chief officer is the nominee, then another proper officer must sign.) Nominations via e-mail may be submitted to Governance@nami.org if electronically signed.

Board Composition: 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, including civil partners, thereof. Candidates are asked to make a statement to this effect.

All members of the current NAMI Board consider themselves to be persons who have or have had lived experience with serious mental illness, or parents or other relatives, including civil partners, thereof. No more than four (4) members who do not self-identify in this way may be elected to the Board this year.

By April 14, 2011 all candidates for the NAMI National Board *must*…

1) **Have been formally nominated in writing** by a NAMI Affiliate or NAMI State Organization in good standing (nominations are DUE by April 9, 2011);

2) **Complete and return the Candidate Certification Form** (a) confirming willingness to be a candidate and to serve if elected; (b) self-identifying as a person who has or has had mental illness or as a relative thereof, including civil and domestic partners; (c) providing a 50-word statement regarding this self-identification; (d) self-disclosing any current public office or current membership on the governing board or any for-profit or not-for-profit organization and any employment with NAMI or its NAMI State Organizations or NAMI Affiliates; and (e) committing to disclosing for yourself and immediate family (spouse, civil or domestic partner, parents, dependent children, siblings) any employment, business or other financial interest that involves NAMI, any NAMI Affiliate, or NAMI State Organization, or any other person or entity providing goods or services for payment that are related to mental health care. (DUE by April 13.)

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.

   i) What brought you to NAMI and what roles have you played in your NAMI Affiliate and NAMI State Organization?
   ii) What advocacy and organizational priority areas do you believe NAMI should be pursuing in the next three years and how can you help as a Board member?
   iii) Please describe any previous service on a board and what you regard as your greatest contribution to that organization's work through your service on its board.
   iv) 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?
   v) What fund raising, financial oversight, legal, marketing, or information technology expertise do you have to offer to NAMI?

   In support of NAMI Standards of Excellence, candidates are expected to adhere to NAMI's Style Guide in preparing their personal statements. 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.

4) **Provide electronically a high resolution photograph** (jpeg preferred; no less than 400 KB, 1 MB preferred) suitable for publication in the election mailing and on the web.

Electronic submission of all materials is preferred and required for the photograph. Submit all documents to **Governance@nami.org**

Candidate Information Conference Call: On Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time (7 Central, 6 Mountain, 5 Pacific) all candidates are expected to join a Candidate Information Conference Call for a review of election policies and procedures – and for answers to any questions candidates may have.

Campaigning: Candidates are not permitted to campaign for office and may not seek direct communication with members and delegates for the purposes of promoting their candidacy, except as provided for under these election procedures. Campaign items such as flyers, buttons, stickers, or hats are not permitted. Candidates are responsible for being sure that their supporters also abide by this rule.

Candidate Visibility: Based on surveys of candidates, those voting in recent elections, input from NAMI's advisory councils, and the NAMI 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, (3) responses to all questions (long and short versions), (4) disclosures and (5) stump speeches.

- **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

- Candidates' **"stump speeches"** will be posted on the web. These five-minute recorded speeches by each candidate allow those not able to attend the Convention to hear directly from the candidates. Speeches will be posted on **www.nami.org/voting** by early May.

- Candidates will make **speeches** and visit **state caucuses** at the Convention on July 6. States will be asked to indicate if they wish to have candidates visit their caucuses. States that welcome any candidate must welcome all candidates.

- Large **posters** with candidates' information will be on display at Convention.

- … and perhaps other options as elections approach – **stay tuned!**

Questions? → Governance@nami.org