



NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

New York State

April 6, 2022

NAMI
Attn: Elections 2022
4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear NAMI 2022 Elections Committee,

The NAMI-NYS Board of Directors is proud to submit the name of Ellen Dresdale Ritz as a candidate for the 2022-2023 NAMI Board of Directors. The NAMI-NYS Board of Directors voted to nominate Ellen at a meeting of the Board on April 1, 2022. Ellen is an active member of NAMI Huntington and a current member of the NAMI-NYS Board of Directors through November of 2022.

Ellen has been dedicated to the NAMI mission for many years. She has served in various leadership roles at both the local and state levels, including president of a local NAMI affiliate and a vice-president on the NAMI-NYS Board. She is particularly active in overseeing and delivering NAMI programs, serving as program coordinator for two local affiliates and as the Chair of the NAMI-NYS Programs Committee for the past three years. She is also a certified NAMI Family Support Group state trainer.

Ellen is active in outreach activities at both the state and local level and actively seeks to provide a NAMI presence in the community. She has led the way in advancing Faithnet initiatives in New York, including a yearly retreat for faith leaders to discuss both their own mental health challenges and those of their congregations.

At the state level, Ellen also serves as the Chair of the By-laws and Policies & Procedures Committee. She is diligent in ensuring that by-laws and operating procedures are up to date and that the Board and staff follow established protocols. She has been an asset to the NAMI-NYS Board in this regard.

As a medical professional in the nursing field, Ellen has experience as both a provider and a family member of someone living in recovery. Her dual perspective is invaluable and helps to bridge the gap that often exists between providers and loved ones of people accessing services.

For these reasons, the NAMI-NYS Board of Directors supports the nomination of Ellen Ritz to serve families and individuals affected by mental illness as a member of the 2022-2023 NAMI Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Burch
Executive Director