

NAMI Elections 2022

Peer Leadership Council (PLC)-Elected Director Information for Nominators & Candidates

NAMI Board service is an honor and a privilege. For those who earn the opportunity, NAMI Board service must be a top volunteer priority. NAMI Board members must commit to do the following:

- Understand and protect the fiduciary health of the organization
- Understand and adhere to the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a nonprofit board
- Serve a three-year term; with the opportunity to serve two consecutive terms if reelected
- Attend quarterly meetings of two to three days' duration in Arlington, Virginia (note that due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted virtually via videoconference)
- Dedicate time weekly to NAMI Board service, which may include the following:
 - Service on three standing committees
 - Conference calls
 - other work groups as needed
 - travel for Board and other meetings
- Make what the individual believes 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 are desired for NAMI Board service.

Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for candidates from the Peer Leadership Council (PLC) for election to the NAMI National Board of Directors in June of this year. One (1) candidate will be elected to serve for the standard three-year term.

Nominations Requirements:

1. Board nominees must be NAMI members and current members of the PLC.
2. Nominations may be made only by a current member of the PLC and must have a second from another council member. Both the nominator and the person seconding the nomination must be NAMI members. Council members **may NOT** self-nominate, nor may they second their own nominations.
3. Nominations must be received by NAMI **no later than Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 11:59 pm ET** (60 days prior to the NAMI Annual Meeting) and addressed to:

voting@nami.org

OR

NAMI

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

Submission Requirements:

1. Letter of Nomination

- a. Nominations must be made in writing and include the name of the person making the nomination and the person seconding the nomination.

- b. Nomination letters via e-mail may be submitted to voting@nami.org if electronically signed or scanned with a real signature.

2. Nominator Questionnaire

- a. Nominators will receive an email with a link to complete the online questionnaire once the nomination letter signed by the nominator and the council member serving as the second to the nomination has been received and the candidate's membership has been confirmed by NAMI. Nominators can access the survey [here](#).
- b. The questionnaire must be completed before a nomination can be considered accepted.

**The deadline for the nominating process to be complete is
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 11:59 pm ET.**

Summary of PLC Board Candidate Responsibilities

1. **Has been formally nominated and seconded by current members of the PLC and the nomination has been submitted to NAMI.** A nomination consists of (a) a letter of nomination signed by both PLC members putting forward the nomination; (b) a Nominator Questionnaire completed by the nominator via Survey Monkey, and (c) verification from NAMI that the candidate is an active NAMI member and current member of the PLC. If these items are not complete and held by NAMI by Tuesday, April 19, 2022, the candidate will not be eligible to stand for election.
2. **Complete the online 2022 Candidate Questionnaire no later than Friday, May 6 at 5:00 pm ET.** Candidates will receive a link to complete this via Survey Monkey once their nomination is complete and accepted. This process provides for:
 - a. confirming willingness to be a candidate and to serve if elected;
 - b. confirming willingness to be the subject of a criminal background check and professional certification/educational verification. *Please see below for more details on this requirement.*
 - c. providing current and accurate contact information to be used during the elections process;
 - d. self-identifying as a person who has or has had mental illness or as a relative thereof, including civil and domestic partners;
 - e. 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, NAMI State Organizations or NAMI Affiliates;
 - f. 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;
 - g. committing to uphold the NAMI Board policy "Fairness in Process"; and,
 - h. responding to the 2022 NAMI Board Candidate Questions that will be used to develop the candidate profile.
 - i. The information provided in the Nominator Questionnaire and the Candidate Questionnaire will become part of the candidate portfolio.
 - ii. In support of NAMI Standards of Excellence, candidates are expected to adhere to [NAMI's Style Guide](#) in responding to the Candidate Questionnaire. Statements may be edited for format and accurate use of NAMI programs and other terms that fall within the NAMI's protected intellectual property. Candidates will be afforded the

opportunity for a final review to ensure that the substance being presented about them is accurate.

3. **Provide an updated, current resume or curriculum vitae (CV)** showing all relevant work and volunteer experience that can also provide information to the Board and the membership in relation to your candidacy.
4. **Provide a high-resolution photograph electronically** (jpeg preferred; no less than 1 MB) suitable for publication in the election mailing and on the web. We will confirm suitability of photos and may seek a replacement if our publications team alerts us that your photo will not reproduce well. We want you to look good!

Electronic submission of all materials is required, including the photograph. Candidates will receive instructions on the submission of materials after they are nominated.

Confidentiality of Information

NAMI will keep confidential the results of the criminal background check. The results will only be made available to staff who oversee the elections and members of the Board of Directors. The candidate may be invited to speak to a board workgroup about information in the background check. The results of the background check will not be presented to the voting membership.

Information contained in the background check **will not disqualify** an individual from being a candidate or a board member. If a candidate with a criminal background is elected to the board, their background may inform their committee appointments. For example, an individual with a history of financial crimes may not be assigned to the Finance Committee. This would be done to protect against a semblance of impropriety and manage risk.

Within 90 days following the NAMI election, information from the criminal background check of candidates will be deleted from NAMI systems and no additional records will be kept. The only exception is that the background check of an individual that is elected to the board will be kept on file.

The information from the professional certification/educational verification will be used to confirm that information on these topics that candidates wish to have presented to the voting membership is true and accurate.

NAMI Fairness in Process Policy

The NAMI Board of Directors has in place a “Fairness in Process” policy that was adopted and included in the NAMI National Board of Directors Operating Policies and Procedures as of December 2017. All nominators and candidates will be asked to sign this policy in their respective questionnaires. The policy is presented [here](#) in its entirety.

Candidate Information Conference Call

Shortly after the close of nominations, once the candidates for the PLC-elected seat are determined, all candidates are expected to join a Candidate Information Conference Call for a review of election policies and procedures. The date and time will be communicated in April.

Candidate Visibility

In addition to the candidate profiles, candidates will have an opportunity to record a 5-minute speech that will be distributed to all members of the PLC.

How can PLC Board Candidates ensure they adhere to the election rules?

- DO review information about the election in general, and all the information about other PLC candidates.
- DO reach out to NAMI staff at voting@nami.org with any and all questions you have.
- DO engage other leaders, members, and thinkers on the council to help select the candidates that best reflect your vision for the future of NAMI.
- DO NOT take to public forums – in person or online – to offer opinions (positive or negative) about individual candidates.
- DO NOT use NAMI listservs to discuss issues and candidates as that is not their purpose. Rather the listservs are a channel to receive information and discuss best practices among leaders across the country.
- DO NOT sit on the sidelines – your opinions and engagement matter to the present and future success of NAMI!

Thank you for joining us in another exciting election season!

Questions? → Voting@nami.org