

NAMI Elections 2022

Undertaking NAMI Board Service

Before embarking on the journey to become a NAMI Director, we want to convey all the obligations inherent with this duty. NAMI Board service is an honor and a privilege. For those who earn the opportunity, NAMI Board service must be a top volunteer priority. Volunteer Board members work to make the organization financially secure, contribute insights into strategic goals, possess the ability to engage in a strategic planning process, and provide oversight into the management of risk. 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.

Questions to Ask Oneself Before Serving on the Board

For many professionals, board service is a new experience which requires thoughtful consideration before committing to an organization. As you consider this opportunity, please contemplate your goals for joining, and your capacity to serve if you do.

1. Do you fully understand the expectations/commitment required for board service?
2. Does [NAMI's mission/purpose](#) align with your personal beliefs?
3. Do you understand [fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience](#)?
4. Do you understand the rationale and workings of the board committees?
5. Are you prepared to fully participate and engage in committee and board meetings?
6. Do you have access to [organizational leadership](#) to learn all you need to properly assess your prospective service?
7. Does the board have an effective onboarding process?

If you want to follow up on any of these questions to help you make an informed decision about NAMI Board Service, please contact namiboard@nami.org.