

NAELA Officers and Directors 2011-2013

In accordance with the Bylaws (Article IV, Section 7) (log on to www.naela.org > Membership > Member Resources > NAELA Bylaws), the NAELA Nominating Committee has selected Officers for 2011-12 and Directors for 2011-13. Please note that with the recently revised Bylaws approved by the membership, these individuals will assume office June 1. You can find their bios and photos by logging on to www.naela.org > About > General Information > NAELA Board of Directors. The following individuals were named Officers:

President	Ed Boyer, Sarasota, FL (by ascension)
President-Elect	Gregory French, Cincinnati, OH
Vice President	Howie Krooks, Boca Raton, FL
Treasurer	Brad Frigon, Englewood, CO
Secretary	Shirley Whitenack, Florham Park, NJ
Past President	Ruth Phelps, Pasadena, CA (by ascension)

The following Directors were offered and accepted a second two-year term:

Hyman Darling, Springfield, MA
Sharon Kovacs Gruer, Great Neck, NY
Franchelle Millender, Columbia, SC
Kristi Vetri, Belleville, IL

The following candidates were offered and accepted a two-year term on the Board:

Michael Amoruso, Rye Brook, NY
Julie Fiedler, San Ramon, CA
Ron Landsman, Rockville, MD

So that everyone can better understand how NAELA members are nominated to serve as a Director or Officer, a brief explanation follows.

To prevent any person or group from unduly influencing the nomination process, the Bylaws require the appointment of a new Nominating Committee each year. The members are appointed by the current NAELA President, but neither the current President nor the incoming President can serve on the Committee.

There are seven slots that must be filled with members of NAELA who meet certain criteria. The Committee is chaired by the Immediate Past President. The other six slots are filled with a member of the previous year's Nominating Committee (to provide some continuity and history), a current Board member who is not a candidate for a new term, a previous Board member, a past president of NAELA, and two at-large members (who are NAELA members who have never been a Board member or Officer of NAELA). In addition, geographic and gender diversity are taken into account in an attempt to have both male and female members from across the country.

The members of this year's Nominating Committee were Steve Silverberg (immediate Past President and chair), Craig Reaves (member of the prior Nominating Committee), Amos Goodall (current Board member), Nancy Gibson (past Board member), Bill Browning (Past President), and Audrey Heidt and Dan Munster (at-large members).

Anyone who has had the privilege to serve on the Nominating Committee will tell you that the Committee works very hard to select the best candidates for the Director and Officer positions. The application forms that each candidate submits, and the statements of goals and vision for NAELA that each Officer candidate submits, are scrutinized and discussed at length in conversations that are strictly confidential. The only NAELA staff person attending the Committee meetings is the Executive Director, and his role is limited to recording the decisions of the Committee and answering questions from Committee members.

Candidates for the Board can be nominated by another NAELA member or self-nominated. In addition to agreeing to serve if nominated and submitting a lengthy application, all candidates are expected to meet the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated commitment to NAELA and the profession of Elder and Special Needs Law
- Strong background in committee and volunteer work on a local and/or national level
- A proven track record of affecting change
- Ability and commitment to dedicate the time to prepare for and attend three in-person board meetings per year and additional conference calls as needed
- A proven team player
- Sound judgment and integrity
- Ability to subordinate special interests
- Exemplary personal conduct

When reviewing the qualifications of Director candidates, the Nominating Committee takes into account the skills, knowledge and expertise of the current Board compared to what the Board will need in the future. Also, the Committee is very careful to try to balance the members of the Board as much as possible with respect to geography, gender, firm size, and area of practice.

Officers are carefully selected from current Board members who have expressed an interest in becoming an officer and who have submitted a written Statement of Intent to the Nominating Committee. This requirement also applies to current Officers who wish to continue. No Officer automatically moves up except the President-Elect (to President) and the President (to Immediate Past President). Any current Officer can resign or be removed by a Nominating Committee, and that has happened in the past.

The Statement of Intent the Officer candidates complete must include the following

information:

- Where they see NAELA going in the next few years
- Identification of needs and interests of NAELA members
- How they would shape the organization
- Leadership style
- Personal strengths they bring to the Executive Committee
- Internal and external role as an officer
- Institutional history

In summary, the nomination process is designed to balance the need to assure that no one person or group can unduly influence the nomination process with the need to make sure that candidates are fully vetted and truly committed to NAELA before given the opportunity to lead NAELA. The Nominating Committee works very hard to choose the most qualified NAELA members who are passionate enough about NAELA that they are willing and able to commit the time and resources to serve as a Board member or Officer.

I would like to comment on the quality of nominees. The Committee felt each nominee possessed many of the criteria stated above. Winnowing the field down proved a daunting task. As chair of the Committee I spoke to every nominee whether selected or not. For those who did not make it this year, I discussed actions they can take in the future. These were extremely productive conversations and clearly showed the nominee's commitment to NAELA.

I thank each of the Committee members for sharing their time and wisdom. If any member has further questions about the NAELA nomination process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stephen J. Silverberg
Chair, NAELA Nominating Committee

