

2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee of the Board makes the following recommendations for the 2019-2020 Board.

Slate of Nominees to the Board (All terms 2019-2022):

VP Middle: Terry Bridges (Incumbent, nominated for second elected term)

West Rep: John Mehr (Incumbent, nominated to first term after being appointed to fill vacant seat)

Middle Rep: Alexis Hunnicut (Incumbent, Running for a second term)

East Rep: Ron Morton (Incumbent, nominated to first term after being appointed to fill vacant seat)

Secretary: Leslie El-Sayad (Incumbent, nominated to first term after being appointed to fill vacant seat)

Parliamentarian: Richard (Dick) Baxter (Incumbent, nominated to first term after being appointed to fill vacant seat)

About the Candidates:

Terry Bridges: VP Middle

Terry lives in Franklin, TN. He is retired from HCA where he was President of Behavioral Health. He has a Masters in Community/Clinical Psychology. He has served on many nonprofit boards and has extensive experience in policy development, outreach and financial affairs. He wants to use his experience and contacts to help with fundraising and advocacy for persons and families challenged by mental illness. He is the current Middle TN Vice President.

John Mehr: West Representative

Sheriff John R Mehr is no stranger to law enforcement. In August 2014, Sheriff Mehr was elected to serve as the Sheriff of Madison County, Tennessee and was re-elected in 2018. His entire working career has been devoted to this profession with 38 of those years at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Sheriff Mehr graduated from Bells High School, Bells, Tennessee; then received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement from the University of Tennessee Martin and his Master's Degree from the University of Memphis. He is also a 2008 graduate of the Tennessee Government Management Institute. Sheriff Mehr's first job was a Police Officer with the Bells Police Department.

In 1975, Mehr joined the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent for the Criminal Investigation Division and was assigned to the Nashville, Murfreesboro, Jackson, and Dyersburg, Tennessee areas. After 10 years of service as a Special Agent, he was promoted to Special Agent Coordinator of Drug Investigations for the Western Tennessee District of the T.B.I. He served the Bureau in this capacity from 1985 until 1991, and was appointed to Special Agent in Charge for the Western District of Tennessee, Criminal Investigation Division and served from 1991 until his retirement in 2012.

Sheriff Mehr serves on the Freed Hardeman University Mid-South Youth Camp Advisory Board, UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center Board and Madison County E911 Board. He has also been an Adjunct Professor for University of Tennessee at Martin.

Alexis (Lexi) Hunnicutt: Middle Representative

Alexis lives in Nashville with her husband, Andrew Turk who serves on the Board of Directors of NAMI Davidson. She has a BFA in Interior Design and worked extensively in the field. Currently she runs a promotional product company with her husband. She has multiple experiences with other nonprofits and has been involved in marketing and fundraising for them. She is passionate about raising mental health awareness and wants to do all she can to improve the lives of persons with lived experience.

Ron Morton: East Representative Manager of Recovery and Resiliency BlueCare and TennCare Select of Tennessee

Ron Morton has been working in the areas of substance abuse and mental health since 1984, having earned 2 Masters Degrees in Clinical Psychology and achieved candidacy for a Ph.D. at California School of Professional Psychology. He is currently the Manager of Recovery and Resiliency for BlueCare and TennCare Select of Tennessee and provides behavioral health services for the TennCare population. As a part of his work, Ron is heavily involved in advocating for and doing outreach into very rural communities in the mountains of Tennessee. Ron has worked in locked and unlocked facilities providing mental health services and understands very well the need for Mental Health First Aid.

Mr. Morton has been teaching *Mental Health First Aid* since 2009 and, as a result, has been involved in improving mental health in Faith Based organizations, and Veterans' Communities throughout Tennessee.

An advocate for many causes during his career, he currently advocates for the mentally ill in Tennessee and throughout the country. He continues to advocate as past member of the board of directors for the national board for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

A proud member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, he also enjoys Creek and Choctaw lineage. Mr. Morton worked for the San Diego American Indian Health Center for 10 years and was the President of the National Council of Urban Indian Health. During that time Ron advocated across the country and in Washington D.C. for increased funding for urban Indian Health programs. Mr. Morton developed the first Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Native Americans in the urban Center of San Diego as well as the first Native American Mental Health Needs assessment in San Diego County.

Ron is married and has two grown children and four grandchildren. He lives in East Tennessee on a small farm south of Knoxville where he and his wife Cyndy rescue and foster Greyhounds, Great Pyrs; Bassett Hounds; and several litters of unwanted puppies each year. They have 9 dogs of their own including Greyhounds; Bassett Hounds; a Beagle and 2 Great Pyrenees.

Ron is a Veteran of the Vietnam War and served on the fight deck of the USS Ticonderoga in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Haiphong Harbor Blockade

Ron's wife Cyndy is a writer and retired Navy Commander who works from home and has recently passed the Tennessee State Bar. She is well known for her dog rescue work in East Tennessee and has a nonprofit called At Risk Intervention. Cyndy writes fiction, primarily techno thrillers and fantasy books about dogs.

Leslie El-Sayad: Secretary

Leslie has been a member of NAMI TN since 1992 when her son began his journey through schizoaffective disorder. She served in multiple roles of leadership in NAMI Oak Ridge and NAMI TN where she served as State President of the Board from 2014-2017. She was one of the first State Trainers and teachers for Journey of Hope, WHIM, and now Family to Family. She is active in her community to spread the word about recovery for the family and peers. She was appointed Secretary about 1 year ago and desires to continue in that role.

Dick Baxter: Parliamentarian

Has been a member of NAMI for nearly 25 years and has been an officer in Nashville NAMI, Rutherford County NAMI, and was previously President of NAMI TN and is currently Steering Committee Chair of Williamson County NAMI and Parliamentarian of NAMI TN. He is a certified teacher for Family to Family and is a co-teacher in a current on-going class. His volunteering for NAMI is one of his greatest commitments and pleasures.