



Massachusetts ME/CFS & FM ASSOCIATION

EDUCATION, SUPPORT & ADVOCACY SINCE 1985

CONSIDERING BOARD MEMBERSHIP?

Here is What You Need to Know

Qualities

We are looking for individuals interested in building a sustainable governance and management framework for a 35-year old 501(c)3 organization moving from an all-volunteer workforce to a professional workforce. We look for individuals with the following qualities:

- a desire to engage, collaborate, and adapt
- the ability to think both tactically and strategically
- confidence in matters related to their chosen profession
- willingness to devote a minimum of 10 hours per month
- a passion for the mission of the Association

Professional Experience

We seek individuals with professional experience in at least one of the following areas:

- Business ownership
- Non-profit management
- Communications
- Public policy
- Education
- Social services
- Fundraising
- Healthcare delivery
- Legal services
- Community organizing



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Representation

We aspire to a board that is representative of the communities we serve. The board particularly welcomes individuals that identify as:

- chronically ill (with symptoms mild enough to meet board service requirements)
- a caregiver of an individual with chronic illness
- LGBTQIA+
- Spanish speaking
- a member of one of the following communities presently under-represented:
 - Hispanic, Asian, or African American

Vetting Process

Candidates are vetted using the following process:

- A candidate is recommended to the Board or expresses interest directly
- A Board member reaches out to the candidate to explore interest and answer questions
- An interview is held between the candidate and the Executive Committee
- A recommendation is made to the full Board to invite the candidate to the next Board meeting
- The Board votes to recommend the individual to serve on the Board
- Association members vote to accept the entire slate of board members at the next Annual Meeting of the Membership

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

All Board Members are expected to demonstrate the following:

- Commit to work collaboratively with other board members and staff to achieve the organization's goals
- Participate in fundraising activities
- Attend all Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting
- Maintain paid membership at an amount that is significant to them each year
- Serve on working groups between meetings where one's expertise would add value
- Connect with individuals within one's professional and personal networks to promote awareness about the Association and our mission
- Suggest possible nominees to the board
- Abide by conflict of interest and anti-discrimination policies



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- Always strive to represent the Association in a positive light and to promote its mission both privately and in public
- Follow through on all commitments made to the Board, e.g., projects between board meetings
- Commit to act in the best interest of the Association

Benefits of Board Membership

Service on this Board is rewarding. It provides an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in Massachusetts and many in other localities who are suffering from ME/CFS and related illnesses. As a Board member, one meets and works with patients, caregivers, researchers, clinicians, educators, advocates, and government employees whose lives have been directly affected by ME/CFS and FM. The strong commitment Board members have to the organization's mission and belief in the organization's work provides a common bond that transcends differences in backgrounds and viewpoints. As a Board member, one participates in a demanding and rewarding democratic process; respectful, honest, and sometimes difficult discussions are held, resulting in policy and program decisions determined -- by a majority of members -- to be in the best interests of the Association. Board members gain valuable knowledge about the functioning of a complex non-profit corporation, and real-world experience in the execution of fiduciary responsibilities.

Ready to Talk with Us?

We would love to hear from you. Please complete the Expression of Interest form below and a Board member will get back to you promptly!

[Expression of Interest Form](#)