

Would You Consider Running for a Seat on the PNBA Board of Directors?

Every year, there is turn-over on the PNBA Board of Directors. The process for filling those seats that come open each year is detailed in PNBA's Bylaws. The first consideration is that a candidate needs to represent a voting member of the Association, which includes all employees of current member bookstores, and all current member sales reps who live in the PNBA region. (Traditionally, the Board includes one sales rep member, and eight bookseller members.) Each position on the Board requests a two-year commitment, which may be followed by a second consecutive, two-year re-election. (Most board members serve the full four years.)

The Board solicits interested potential candidates during December each year, and discusses those candidates at their annual Retreat, which is held over a two-day period in late January. At that meeting, the Board decides which candidates they would most prefer to see run for the vacant seats and instructs the executive director to prepare and distribute a ballot to our voting members as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Generally speaking, the Board tries to select candidates who will give the Board the widest possible diversity of membership, for instance, by trying to make sure that the Board includes a good mix of male vs. female members; general-interest vs. specialty store members; members from as wide a geographic distribution as possible; and members from small stores as well as large. In any particular year, attempting to maintain or restore balance may be a factor in the Board's selecting one candidate over another. Because of such changes, a candidate who is not selected one year, may be an ideal selection the next year.

Service on the PNBA Board is unpaid, but all expenses incurred to attend any and all Board meetings each year, including the meeting at the fall show, are fully reimbursed by the PNBA, if the executive director receives a properly completed reimbursement request form (provided by PNBA), including any appropriate original cash register receipts, by the announced deadline. Typically, the Board meets three times each year, once at the January Retreat, once in the spring, and once at the fall show. Any additional meetings will be determined by the Board as a whole and announced in advance.

The Board's primary responsibilities are (1) assuring the financial success of the Association, and (2) determining the general direction and resource commitments for the Association. The primary method for the Board's accomplishing these goals is through annual review of the executive director and that employee's performance. The typical PNBA Board member spends about 50 hours each year on PNBA work.

If you would like to be considered for a position on the PNBA Board, please send an email to the executive director, subject "PNBA Board Candidate," providing a brief history of your book industry work, a brief statement of your interests and the reasons why your service might be valuable to PNBA, and a brief statement of your willingness to commit the time and energy to serve on the Board.