

## Nominations to the Consumer Voice Governing Board

### About The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

The Consumer Voice is a non-profit national organization that advocates for quality care on behalf of long-term care consumers across all care settings, including nursing homes, assisted living residences and homecare. Our membership consists primarily of consumers of long-term services and supports, their families, long-term care ombudsmen, individual advocates, citizen advocacy groups and individual contributors. Founded by Elma L. Holder in 1975 as the National Citizen's Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR), The Consumer Voice has almost 40 years' experience advocating for quality care and a history of significant accomplishment.

### Governance

Following a 2010 strategic planning process, NCCNHR reorganized in several ways including broadening its mission from an exclusive focus on nursing homes to quality care in all long-term care settings, changing its name, and establishing a leadership council comprised of long-term care experts from a variety of professions, backgrounds and experiences, including consumers, to advise the organization on long-term care issues and policies. At the same time, the Governing Board was re-established as a smaller body focused on organizational advancement. Revised bylaws established new procedures for electing the board and limiting the number of directors to 12.

### Board Member Duties

The Governing Board is charged with management and conduct of the affairs of the organization, including approval of an annual plan establishing fiscal, operational and other organizational goals. The board's work ensures

- Development of operating policies and guidelines,
- Legal accountability and fiscal oversight,
- Reporting to stakeholders and donors,
- Approving a strategic plan,
- Review/ratification of the organization's program and public policy agenda,
- Evaluating the organization's results, and
- Selection and evaluation of the executive director.

Additionally, Board members are responsible for fund development and fundraising, making a meaningful financial contribution to the organization, representing the organization as assigned and reporting potential conflicts of interest.

*The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (formerly NCCNHR) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization founded in 1975 by Elma L. Holder that advocates for quality care and quality of life for consumers in all long-term care settings.*

### **Selection and Qualifications**

Governing Board members are selected based on how each candidate may add to the capability of the board to help achieve the organization's strategic vision, goals and objectives. Needs and requirements are updated annually. Additionally, each candidate is asked whether they are able to fulfill board duties for a 3-year term and attend four meetings per year, including at least one in-person meeting (other meetings may be accessed by video or teleconference); board members pay for their own travel, though an exception may be made for a board-designated consumer representative. Current paid membership, participation on one or more committees and an annual contribution are minimum requirements. Owners, officers, board members, administrators, and management of long-term care providers are not eligible to serve on the Consumer Voice board.

### **Needs and Priorities**

At this time, the Consumer Voice is dedicated to achieving a sustainable organization with sufficient finances and resources to carry out its expanded focus on quality long-term care across care settings. Consumer Voice is stable in the short-term, but needs further support in achieving new, unrestricted revenue streams. Knowledge about long-term care and contacts in the public, business, and academic sectors that may support program and fundraising interests will be most helpful.

### **Nominations Process**

Nominations to the Consumer Voice governing board is an open process. Anyone may be nominated. Each nominee should provide a CV or resume and a statement addressing their interest in serving on the board, why the individual feels that s/he is qualified and what contributions to the organization and its advancement they feel they can make. All nominees will be reviewed and selected for further evaluation, including an interview and other steps. Elections are held in conjunction with the organization's annual meeting which is conducted during the fourth quarter of each year.

Consumer Voice is committed to open access and equality of opportunity in all of its decisions. Consumer Voice does not discriminate based on race, gender, ability/disability, religion, sexual preference, ethnic origin, residence, or other human factors.

To learn more or to be considered for the Board, please contact either of the following individuals:

1. Lori Walsh, Chair of the Nominating Committee, [walsh@carie.org](mailto:walsh@carie.org), (267) 546-3441
2. Richard Gelula, executive director, [rgelula@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:rgelula@theconsumervoice.org), (202) 332-2275x209

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