



## **Board of Directors Elections To Be Held At Next Meeting**

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates for the NAMI Northside Board of Directors' next term of office which runs from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2010. The election will be held at our next Educational Meeting, Monday, March 23, 2009. All affiliate memberships in good standing *and* in attendance are eligible to vote. Officer nominations may be permitted from the floor provided the candidate is a member in good standing and has agreed to serve if elected. The candidates presented by the Nominating Committee are:

President: Jerry Bishop

Jerry is retired and married to Jane. He has two children, daughter Rhea and son Brian. He has been a resident of Roswell since 1977 and was the founder and former owner of a wholesale food distribution company. Jerry is an active member of Roswell First Baptist Church. He became involved in NAMI Northside Atlanta in 2004 and has served as President of NAMI Northside for the past two years. Jerry started the NAMI support group in Alpharetta in 2007 and currently serves as support facilitator for this group. He attended the NAMI National Convention in Washington, D.C. in 2006 and has participated in CIT training in Roswell in 2008 & 2009.

Vice President: Patricia Cone

Pat is the proud mother of a son who is a Junior at Emory. She has been associated with mental health issues for many years. In 1997 she began work part-time at NAMI Georgia and worked there for 5 years, ending with full-time work as the Membership Coordinator. She maintained the member database and handled bookkeeping duties. Also while at NAMI Georgia Pat worked with Larry Fricks of the Georgia Department of Human Resources in creating the first Peer Support Training for the state. In 2002 Pat began work at Peachtree Psychiatric Professionals where she has maintained the patient database and has been the Accounts Manager. She also helps with doctors' requests and bookkeeping. Pat has been active in the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance for more than 10 years where she has been the Vice President in charge of programs and has led support groups. She is often asked to speak to the 2nd year medical students at Emory University. Pat has a background in Visual Arts and remains interested in painting and drawing.

Secretary: Donna Wilson

Donna is the owner of an internet-based travel agency and a single mother of a son with schizophrenia. Her background includes corporate and personal experience in coaching, training, business development, advertising, public relations & marketing. Donna is very passionate about promoting positive awareness regarding mental illness and wants to help make a difference in the lives of those with brain disorders by advocating for changes to Federal & state laws so as to provide the necessary resources for better care. She has attended NAMI's Family to Family class and has done volunteer work for The Drake House, a shelter for battered & abused women with children

Treasurer: Gary Teller

Gary joined NAMI Northside in 1996 and has served as Treasurer for two years. He is retired from the International Transportation Industry. Prior to serving as Treasurer, Gary volunteered for several years at the NAMI GA office. He is also a Family to Family teacher who has taught three classes and hopes to teach more. He served as the affiliates interim Newsletter Editor for several months and is the voice on the telephone tree meeting reminders. In 2008 Gary attended the NAMI National Convention in Orlando, FL.

Marketing & Publicity: Eileen Conway

Eileen became involved with NAMI through the Family to Family program and recently became a member of NAMI Northside Atlanta. She works as a Global Product Marketing Manager with IBM's Software Group. Eileen joined IBM in June 2007 as a Product Marketing Manager focusing on network security. Prior to IBM, Eileen worked for General Electric for over 7 years in a variety of marketing, web marketing, brand management and communications roles across various GE businesses. She began her career with GE in a leadership development program after graduating with a B.B.A in marketing from the University of Notre Dame. Eileen graduated from Emory University's Goizueta Business School in May, 2008 with a concentration in marketing.

**The elected board will be installed at the April, 2009 educational meeting.**

## Social Security Benefits and the Impact of Earned Income from Employment on Those Benefits

Now here's a topic many of us have confronted and will continue to confront. On Monday, March 23, 2009 our guest speaker, Sally Atwell, Project Director of the Benefits Navigator Program at the Shepherd Center will speak to us about this most important issue. Time permitting, Sally will also answer questions on related issues such as:

The differences between SSDI & SSI and how do you apply for them?

What are other benefits a person with a mental health disability can apply for?

Rules of SSDI & SSI - what are you allowed to own?

What records must you keep to stay eligible?

Can you get allowances for certain expenses (car, gas?)

How do you get on social security?

How is the amount of the benefit determined?.

**Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Room 255/257, Activities Building, 1548 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody.**

## Condolences

NAMI Northside Atlanta would like to express our condolences to:

Members Eliot and Gerry Taratoot on the death of their daughter.

The family of member Joan Wink on the death of Joan.

Georgia State Senator Renee Unterman on the death of her son. Senator Unterman has been a consistent supporter of NAMI and its efforts to improve mental health care in Georgia

## Upcoming Events

### Mon., March 23<sup>rd</sup>

✍ 7:00 p.m. – Reception/ 7:30 p.m. Education Meeting. *Impact of Earned Income on Social Security Benefits.* Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Room 258.\*

### Tues., April 7<sup>th</sup>

✍ 7:30 p.m. – Alpharetta/Roswell Support Group, Alpharetta First United Methodist Church, Room 355\*\*

### Tues., April 21<sup>st</sup>

✍ 7:30 p.m. – Dunwoody Support Group, Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Room 254\*

### Mon., April 27<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. – Reception/ 7:30 p.m. Education Meeting. *Bi-polar Disorder vs. Schizophrenia, Dr. Vincent Grieco, Ph.D.* Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Room 258.\*

### July 6 - 9

✍ NAMI National Conference, San Francisco Hilton Towers, San Francisco, CA

\* Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Activities Bldg, 1548 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody

\*\* Alpharetta First United Methodist Church, 69 North Main Street, Alpharetta.

## NAMI Northside Atlanta

NAMI Northside Atlanta is an affiliate of NAMI Georgia and NAMI National. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is a non-profit, grassroots support, education and advocacy organization for families and friends of those with mental illness.

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## GA Crisis & Access Line 24/7

1-800-715-4225  
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