

Board of Commissioners Engagement Expectations

NLN CNEA promotes excellence and integrity in nursing education globally through an accreditation process that respects the diversity of program mission, curricula, students, and faculty, emphasizes a culture of continuous quality improvement, and influences the preparation of a caring and skilled nursing workforce.

The success of the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) is built upon the full engagement of the Board of Commissioners, both collectively and individually. As the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners deliberates upon decisions related to the accreditation of the nursing programs that seek CNEA's accreditation services, it will be essential that this work is completed with the mission and core values of the NLN CNEA foremost in the minds of all, with a goal of upholding quality assurance in nursing education.

It is essential that each Commissioner be fully knowledgeable of the mission, core values, and policies and procedures of the NLN CNEA, and work in support of the good of the entire organization. While the NLN CNEA is fully autonomous in all decisions related to accreditation, the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners must understand the relationship of NLN CNEA to the parent organization, the National League for Nursing, and embrace the core values of the NLN, applying them to the accreditation process.

The NLN CNEA has numerous stakeholders, including faculty, deans, and directors of nursing programs of all types, nursing students, practice partners, public consumers, regulatory agencies, and other professional organizations. It is expected that Commissioners will seek to understand stakeholder needs and expectations and advance their interests within the context of upholding quality nursing education.

Further, Commissioners are expected to frequently assess the external environment in which the NLN CNEA operates to maintain its relevance to nursing programs, nursing practice, students, and other stakeholders.

The NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners has established a governance model that defines the role of Commissioners as one of policy setting, monitoring, and implementing all matters related to accreditation services, as opposed to defining daily management policies and practices of the NLN CNEA or involvement in non-accreditation functions related to the division's organizational relationship with the parent organization. Individual Commissioners have the responsibility to function consistently within the parameters of the NLN CNEA governance model and to accurately represent their role to stakeholders and the public, striving to always avoid the appearance of conflict of interest as they engage in the work of the Board of Commissioners. Continuous improvement in the quality of governance requires that Commissioners evaluate the performance of the board as a whole, as well as their performance as individuals. An opportunity to individually participate in an annual evaluation process provides feedback to Commissioners which can be used to improve the productivity and effectiveness of the board as a whole.

It is the responsibility of the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners to ensure that actions taken by the Commissioners are legal. Even when Commissioners act with all due diligence and consideration as they carry out their responsibilities, there is a risk of liability. To that end, the National League for Nursing provides the NLN CNEA Commissioners and officers with liability insurance coverage.

Ambassadorship

As ambassadors of the NLN CNEA and the accreditation services it delivers, Commissioners are expected to:

- Promote the mission of the NLN CNEA.
- Apply the core values of the NLN (caring, integrity, diversity and inclusion, and excellence) to the NLN CNEA accreditation services.
- Act on behalf of the NLN CNEA and its interests, putting aside personal concerns, affiliations, or constituencies.
- Provide leadership in identification, recruitment, and mentorship of new education, practice and public members of the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners and commission committees.

Attendance and Contribution at Meetings

- Commissioners are expected to attend **all** scheduled meetings each year (in person or remotely) and participate actively and thoughtfully in discussions and debates.
- The chair will be notified by the NLN CNEA executive director if members of the board are not able to fulfill their responsibilities and/or have not participated in two consecutive meetings of the board of Commissioners. The chair will follow-up with the board member and will render a decision about the board member's continuation on the Board of Commissioners.
- The NLN CNEA Nominations Committee will consider attendance at board meetings, contribution to board deliberation, and compliance with board policies as criteria for re-nomination.
- Commissioners are expected to serve on at least one standing committee, attend all regular committee meetings (remotely), and actively participate in the proceedings. Commissioners may be asked to serve on additional ad hoc committees. The chair of the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners, in consultation with the executive committee and NLN CNEA executive director, assigns Commissioners to standing and ad hoc committees annually.

Conflicts of Interest

Commissioners are expected to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest and to disclose a real or potential conflict in a timely manner. The Conflict of Interest policy is shared once elected, but can be shared upon request. Based on the definition, nominees are requested to disclose real or potential conflicts to the committee for use in ballot preparation.

As noted in the NLN conflict of interest policy, members of the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners, its committees, advisory councils, task groups, and NLN CNEA staff in decision-making roles are required to disclose annually their personal and professional connections with individuals in actual or potential competition with NLN and NLN CNEA products and services or organizations doing business with the NLN or NLN CNEA; a conflict of interest statement is signed

annually by NLN CNEA Commissioners. Furthermore, each Commissioner is expected to notify the chair and executive director of a perceived or actual conflict of interest occurring throughout the year.

The NLN conflict of interest policy requires that Commissioners may not apply for any individual award, grant, or other competitive program administered by the NLN during their tenure on the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners. In addition, current Commissioners may not serve on any NLN committee or any panel that reviews competitive applications and makes recommendations on them. Finally, individuals currently serving on the board also may not be appointed as project directors for any initiative undertaken by the organization, be offered any contract with the organization, or enter into any other type of relationship whereby they would gain financially from the organization.

NLN CNEA Commissioners may not serve on the boards, committees, task groups or as site evaluators for any other nursing accrediting body while in office. While in office, Commissioners should also refrain from serving as consultants to any nursing program seeking the accreditation services of the NLN CNEA.

Composition of the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners

The NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners is composed of fifteen Commissioners representing nursing education (8 Commissioners), professional consumers (2 Commissioners), nursing practice (3 Commissioners), and public members (2 Commissioners). Five of these Commissioners will hold leadership roles on the Board's Executive Committee as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large.

Terms and Term Limits

The Board of Commissioners' appointment terms are 3 years in length. Terms are staggered to facilitate stability and consistency within the Board. Commissioners may serve for no more than two consecutive terms.