2009 NAMI Texas
Candidate and Conference Info
25 Years of Achievements

Honoring the Past
Forging the Future
Each nominee was asked to answer the following questions; the responses are on the following pages.

**Why do you want to serve on the NAMI Texas Board of Directors?**

**What financial management or fund-raising expertise would you bring to the Board?**

**What is the most pressing public policy issue facing NAMI Texas members today? What course of action do you suggest?**

**What brought you to NAMI and what is most valuable to you about your participation in the NAMI movement?**

**What is the most pressing internal or organizational issue facing NAMI Texas today? What course of action do you suggest?**
2009 Board of Directors Nominees

Region 1 Board Nominee
Dr. David Gibson
NAMI Lubbock

My name is David R. Gibson and I currently hold the position of Region 1 representative on the NAMI Texas Board of Directors. I began my journey with mental illness as a family member of a person with a mental illness. I am the moderator for the NAMI Texas E-groups and oversee its operation. I have recently been trained as a Family-to-Family teacher and have completed my first class. I was president of NAMI Lubbock for seven years and now serve as treasurer.

I have been a member of NAMI Texas for a long enough time to see the high points and the low points of the operation of NAMI Texas. With my time as an affiliate president, I have become aware of the type of activities that NAMI does best as well as those that are better left to other organizations. I feel I have the wisdom and experience to help guide NAMI Texas to better days as the state’s leading voice on mental illness.

Region 3 Board Nominee
Eric Willard
NAMI El Paso

I want to serve on the NAMI Texas Board of Directors because I want NAMI Texas to prosper and grow more influential in advocating for the rights of those with brain disorders. As Region 3 Representative, I can work to ensure that NAMI Texas is a strong and effective advocate. NAMI Texas must grow its membership. Region 3 covers Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties. Forming an affiliate in each county, or at least a multi-county affiliate, is a very realistic goal during the 2009-2012 term. We must grow membership in other areas of the state as well and can do so by utilizing action teams within our affiliates. We call ours the Government Relations committee. It was created in part in response to our local mental health authority’s recent announcement of its inability to continue operating without establishing a waiting list for services. EP MHMR has created a waiting list that drops over 1100 adults and over 300 children from its rolls and places them on a waiting list. NAMI Texas can establish a network of action teams that can generate e-mails, letters, and high volumes of telephone calls, as well as organize rallies as needed, protests when appropriate, and utilize other methods to make our voices heard by the Legislature. Despite our efforts, Texas ranks 49th in funding for people with brain disorders. Though only 16% of those incarcerated in the nation are diagnosed with a brain disorder, over 30% of those incarcerated in Texas jails and prisons have brain disorders. As an advocacy organization, with greatly increased membership and a network of action teams across the State of Texas, we will achieve all our goals in every future legislative session.

Though employed for the past two years with the El Paso County Public Defender’s Office, I was in private practice of law as an attorney for over sixteen years, in New Mexico and in Texas. I have been involved in numerous political campaigns and assisted in grassroots fundraising and organizing efforts. I believe I can help promote grassroots fundraising to assist NAMI Texas to raise unrestricted funds that are vital in this economy. Increased spending on mental health in Texas is the most pressing public policy issue facing NAMI Texas members today. I believe grassroots organizing will raise our miserable 49th ranking in spending on mental health to at least the top 25 within ten years. NAMI Texas is doing an excellent job in increasing the understanding within the general population of brain disorders and correspondingly is decreasing the unfair stigma associated with brain disorders. If we are to complete our mission, we must be able to raise our voices in unison and be heard around the State of Texas in support of the issues that benefit our loved ones.

My brother’s diagnosis of schizophrenia, and my journeys thereafter in seeking to understand his illness, and to protect him and others from neglect, misunderstanding, and abuse brought me to NAMI, where I have learned and grown as an advocate for those with brain disorders. Being able to effectively advocate for those with brain disorders is what is most valuable to me about my participation in the NAMI movement. The most pressing internal or organizational issue facing NAMI Texas today is our need to become self-sustaining financially, and to be able to organize large and visible responses to and in support of matters that NAMI Texas believes must be addressed and corrected in Texas. Grassroots organizing is the course of action I suggest and it can be done by growing membership through the development of action teams that can raise the volume of our outrage and disappointment with the status quo.

Region 7 Board Nominee
Basil Casteleyn, Jr.
NAMI San Antonio

I have an extensive background in financial accounting and audit representation. My concentration during my 16 years in public accounting was almost exclusively with the healthcare industry. Further, most of my management experience has been at the Chief Executive level.

I feel I can add additional skill sets to the board to assist in ensuring NAMI Texas is a premier organization within the national NAMI family. My current position affords me a tremendous amount of insight into the needs of the mental health consumer and his or her immediate family members.

My background is in computer science and accounting. I bring over 19 years of public accounting experience to the board.

My fundraising efforts, although limited, have been extensive over the past few years. I am also serving as the Treasurer for Abundance Ministries, Inc., a ministry that serves over 2000 widows, and some 250 orphans in Nigeria Africa. Mental Health funding at all levels of service for both consumers and immediate family members: Treatment Education, family and consumer Advocacy support and training Housing Transpiration

I would recommend a strategic plan that would include legislative lobbying techniques that would ensure NAMI’s needs are heard, acted upon, and most importantly budgeted and funded.

I was nominated for a position vacated during an active term for Region 7. Upon taking the position as
Basil Casteleyn, Jr. Con’t
Region 7 director, I have learned more than I could imagine about the diversity of needs both for our consumers and family members. This learning process has been ongoing since I started serving. I believe this position will give me the necessary information and additional skills necessary to be a better provider of services in my community. Finally, I will be able to educate people regarding NAMI’s mission and resources.

Andrew David Gibson
NAMI Lubbock

Andy Gibson has an established track record of leadership and experience within NAMI. A former Peer Provider for Lubbock Regional MHMR, he currently serves as the Texas representative to the NAMI National Consumer Council and has been a consumer educator, support facilitator, and public presenter for over seven years.

For years, I have wanted to serve as the Texas representative to NAMI. My financial management experience stems from supervisory roles at Dow Chemical and more than 10 years of accumulated service as treasurer and board member for various professional organizations and non-profits. As to fund raising, I would be pleased to share what I’ve been learning from the very creative, persistent people in NAMI Gulf Coast and what I anticipate learning from the other affiliates in Region 8. For example, consulting with experienced proposal writers and enlisting as many people as possible, especially faith-based and other community leaders, are important early steps in the NAMI Gulf Coast new capital fund project to build a thrift store, consumer activities center, and non-profit office complex.

Region 3 Board Nominee
Andrea Hazlitt
NAMI Gulf Coast

Formerly an Associate Professor of Chemistry and department chair at Seattle Pacific University, Andrea recently retired from the Dow Chemical Company. A member of NAMI Gulf Coast since 2000, Andrea currently serves as local chapter treasurer, a member of the NAMI Gulf Coast Board (Finance, Strategic Planning, and Capital Project teams), secretary of the Westover Cove Board (federally subsidized apartments for people with mental illness), a family co-facilitator of Partnerships training classes for family and consumers, and a member of the Brazos Mental Health Professional’s group. Andrea was appointed in May 2009 to fill an unexpired term on the NAMI Texas Board.

When I retired in March 2009, my first priority after family health was to become a more active volunteer with NAMI. I want to help others as the NAMI family has helped me and my family following my oldest son’s diagnosis with a mental illness ten years ago. Areas in which my interest and talents might best be used include education, family support, strategic planning, and advocacy. I have a strong desire to learn and propagate the “best practices” and innovations of NAMI affiliates, especially in family and community education, fund raising, and advocacy.

My financial management experience stems from supervisory roles at Dow Chemical and more than 10 years of accumulated service as treasurer and board member for various professional organizations and non-profits. As to fund raising, I would be pleased to share what I’ve been learning from the very creative, persistent people in NAMI Gulf Coast and what I anticipate learning from the other affiliates in Region 8. For example, consulting with experienced proposal writers and enlisting as many people as possible, especially faith-based and other community leaders, are important early steps in the NAMI Gulf Coast new capital fund project to build a thrift store, consumer activities center, and non-profit office complex.

It is imperative that Texas have a clear, well-conceived public policy on serving the mental health needs of our citizens. For example the legislature appears to respond haphazardly rather than strategically to requests for bi-annual funding requests. We must enhance our efforts to be persistent and creative in finding advocates within the legislature to reinforce NAMI’s repeated attempts to educate legislators on the lower cost option to treat people with mental illness rather than incarcerate them. Unless NAMI maintains the focus, the large number of competing issues will distract the legislators from the strategic planning and effective implementation of actions to promote mental health that our people desperately need. Providing advocacy training to NAMI affiliates would enable members to become more effective advocates; timely email alerts would focus members’ efforts for maximum impact.

A NAMI Gulf Coast Partnerships class following my oldest son’s hospitalization and diagnosis in 2000 was the beginning. Participation in NAMI has been crucial to my understanding of not only the challenges ahead for my son and our family, but also the significant unmet needs of people affected by mental illness, which unfortunately are largely unrecognized in the community. I am an action-oriented person and found in NAMI Gulf Coast a dedicated group of people who are patiently teaching and mentoring me to become more effective in helping others. I’ve learned that the investment of even seemingly small efforts consistently over time can have significant and lasting impact on individuals and the community.

The most pressing issue facing NAMI Texas is acquiring sources of adequate reliable income to enable implementation of key programs and initiatives to move forward the NAMI Texas mission. A second related important issue is the critical need to build and energize our membership base to better reach out to people affected by mental illness and help educate our communities. I recommend that we apply our personal networking skills to accelerate building the NAMI network of supporters and break the stigma of mental illness by aggressive community education.

At Large Board Nominee
Jody Schulz
NAMI Brazos Valley

I am working very hard to advocate for education of the general public as well as for families and friends of consumers. I realize the tremendous need for additional resources across Texas and having experienced and received services for both my son and myself in Maryland and California, I know Texas can do much better. I believe by being part of the NAMI Texas board, I will have the opportunity to do my part in moving Texas forward for our families and consumers. My dream is to have a NAMI Texas office in Washington County within the next year. My husband and I are owners of a concrete construction company with 20 to 35 employees, which we started in 1986 and incorporated in 1993. Simultaneously, I owned and operated a painting and wallcovering business I started in 1982 and retired from in 2004.

I have served on the boards of the Christ Lutheran Church School, Washington County Victims Task Force, Voices for Children, and CASA for Kids of Austin, Waller and Washington Counties. I currently sit on the Washington County Child Welfare Board. I was active in all fundraising events for each. I was co-organizer of the development of the CASA for Kids and served as co-chair of the steering committee, a member of the first board and am currently active as a Friend of CASA.

I must confess, I am not very familiar with all the public policy issues as I would like. I have been operating on the grassroots, fly by the seat of my pants level and am just now able to begin learning. Overwhelming is one of the words I use when thinking about what I have read so far, but as I visit with members of NAMI who have been involved much longer than I, I am able to understand and learn from their wisdom. The first thing I want to use is working with my local representatives.

I was lost when my son moved back to Texas and was unable to find services we were accustomed to in Maryland and California. I had heard about NAMI in California, but did not become involved at that time. Last year I organized a one day informational and sharing clinic with the help of our local hospital. After having so many attend and hearing that they also were needing services and felt lost, I knew I had to find out more about what NAMI offered.

I joined the Family to Family class in Brazos County and recently received the teacher training for F2F so Washington, Waller and Austin counties will have the opportunity to receive this valuable, beneficial training. I admit I am a “red” and I cannot wait until Peer to Peer and any and all other NAMI resources can be a regular part of our tri-county area.

I am very new to the NAMI Texas organization and really do not have a lot to draw from to make a suggestion at this time. Rest assured though, I will be very vocal and active in helping to move forward the issues I am concerned about as I learn more. Having been involved with Maryland and California’s NAMI and their local, state and county services, I will offer information about the good and bad of what we experienced there as suggestions as to what we could have in Texas.

Consumer Council Nominee
Andrew David Gibson
NAMI Lubbock

Provider for Lubbock Regional MHMR, he currently serves as the Texas representative to the NAMI National Consumer Council and has been a consumer educator, support facilitator, and public presenter for over seven years.

For years, I have wanted to serve as the Texas representative to the National Consumer Council. After being elected to a one year position last October, I assumed the duties of the Council Local and National organizations. Therefore, one should pose the question: Would it be possible to restructure the organization to integrate a culture of teamwork? In this doing so, I tend to believe that it would better define how the National organization benefits each and every State organization, and the State organization is better able to communicate the benefits intrinsically provided to the entire local affiliate structure.
To Be Voted On At Annual Conference

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

Proposed Amendment #1: Implementing the NAMI Texas Consumer Council

ARTICLE V

NAMI National Consumer Council Representative

NAMI Texas Consumer Council

Section 1.

NAMI National Consumer Council Representative

- In each odd-numbered year, a consumer member shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve a two-year term as the NAMI Texas representative to the annual NAMI National Consumer Council meeting. Nominations for this position, along with specific responsibilities of the NAMI National Consumer Council Representative, shall be according to procedures developed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2.

NAMI Texas Consumer Council Representative

- In each even-numbered year, a consumer member shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve a two-year term as the NAMI Texas Consumer Council Representative to the Board of Directors. Nominations for this position, along with specific responsibilities of the NAMI Texas Consumer Council Representative, shall be according to procedures developed by the Board of Directors. This person will also serve as the Texas alternate to the NAMI National Consumer Council.

Section 3.

NAMI Texas Consumer Council

- The Consumer Council Representatives will be responsible for the design and implementation of a NAMI Texas Consumer Council. The responsibility of the council will be to cultivate consumer leaders, encourage participation in NAMI consumer education, support, and advocacy programs and initiatives, and to promote diversity and equal representation of all consumers that reside in Texas. The NAMI Texas Consumer Council will serve as a committee under the Board of Directors.

Article VIII

Section 2. Standing, Special, and Subcommittees

- The Board of Directors shall provide for the creation of an Audit Committee, a Finance/Development Committee, Bylaws/Governance Committee, a Nominating Committee, a State Consumer Council, and other suitable standing committees and special AD Hoc committees as needed. The President shall make all appointments to such committees (with exception to the Consumer Council) subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The President, prior to approval by the Board of Directors, may form study committees. Procedures for all committees (with exception to the Consumer Council) will be developed by the Board of Directors.
Keynote Speaker – Dominic Carter
Dominic Carter, host of NY1’s “Inside City Hall” television news program, New York City's hard-hitting political program, is the Keynote Speaker for the 25th Anniversary NAMI Texas Conference in Houston. Carter will open the two-day conference on October 23rd with his remarkable story of succeeding in life against all odds. His critically-acclaimed autobiography, “No Momma's Boy” chronicles his struggles overcoming his mother's severe mental illness, making his way through school and the tough field of political journalism, and becoming a husband and father.

Gala Dinner
NAMI Texas' 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner will be held on Friday, October 23rd at the Marriott Westchase Hotel. The evening will begin with our Silent Auction starting at 6 p.m., with dinner beginning at 7 p.m. Alligator Handshake, a popular Galveston-area band comprised of psychiatrists, will perform starting at 6:30. Live music and dancing will be available before and after the dinner.

Our featured speaker is Houston Mayor Bill White, who has been a strong advocate for mental illness services for his constituents, including veterans and the homeless. In addition, NAMI Texas will honor our founders with a multi-media presentation on our history. We will also present a special New Freedom Award to President George W. Bush for his contributions in support of mental health and parity.

Tables of eight for this fundraiser are available for $1,000, half-tables will sell for $500 and individual seats will sell for $100. The cost for this event is not included in your conference registration fee, but we hope you will join us for this exciting event.

For information about sponsoring tables or purchasing tickets, please call Kelly Jeschke at (512) 693-2000.

You can register online at www.namitexas.org.
THINGS TO DO IN HOUSTON

ATTRACTIONS CLOSE TO THE HOTEL

San Jacinto Museum
510 Bering Dr
Houston, TX 77057-1457
(713) 974-8836
http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org/

Country Playhouse (theater)
12802 Queensbury Ln, Houston, TX
(713) 467-4497
http://www.countryplayhouse.org/

Zuma Fun (for the kids)
6767 Southwest Fwy
Houston, TX 77074-2101
(713) 981-7888
http://www.parcluncenters.com/rides_shou.aspx

AMC (movies)
2949 Dunvale Rd
Houston, TX 77063-4405
(713) 334-0130
www.amctheatres.com

The Galleria (shopping)
5085 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77056
(713) 622-0663
www.galleriahouston.com

HOUSTON ATTRACTIONS- CLOSER TO DOWNTOWN

The Houston Zoo
1513 N. MacGregor
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 533-6500
www.houstonzoo.org

Downtown Aquarium
410 Bagby St
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 223-3474
http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumhouston/flash_content/index.html

Art Car Museum
140 Heights Blvd
Houston, TX 77007
(713) 861-5526
www.artcarmuseum.com

Minute Maid Park Baseball Field
Hermann Park and Zoo
NASA
Primo Restaurants and nightlife

RESTAURANTS CLOSE TO THE HOTEL

713 Restaurant and Lounge
10001 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 244-0916
www.713restaurant.com

Rioja
11920 Westheimer Rd #J
Houston, TX 77077
(281) 531-5569
www.riojarestaurant.com

Mexico’s Deli
2374 S Dairy Ashford Rd.
Houston, TX 77077
(281) 679-7790

Kasra Persian Grill
9741 Westheimer Rd
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 975-1810

St. Joseph House
Hours are 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday-Friday Social and recreational events occur regularly in the evenings and on weekends. For more information about upcoming events, check our updates section on our website. Telephone: 713 523 5958 Address: 3307 Austin Street, Houston TX 77004 http://www.stjosephhouse.org/about%20st%20joseph%20house.htm

NAMI TEXAS Fall 2009
NAMI TEXAS DEPENDS UPON YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Check choice or fill in your own amount:

- $1,000 or more
- $500
- $250
- $100
- $50
- $25
- $ Other __________

$ __________ In memory of __________________
From __________________

$ __________ In memory of __________________
From __________________

$ __________ In memory of __________________
From __________________

Also, you can go to www.namitexas.org to make a donation and/or to join NAMI Texas

MEMBERSHIPS

- Family/Individual $35
- Professional $75
- Corporate $1,000

Name ______________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
City __________________________ Zip ____________________________
Phone __________________________ Email ________________________

Send your Membership/Contribution to:
NAMI Texas
2800 South IH 35, Suite 140
Austin, TX 78704

To find a NAMI Texas affiliate in your area, call 1-800-633-3760 or visit www.namitexas.org