NASCO BOARD POSITION DESCRIPTION

Generally, four board members are elected in the spring each year according to the NASCO election procedures. Twelve of the board members are elected for three-year terms on a staggered basis.

The board also includes an Active Member Representative, elected by the Active Members at the NASCO Institute each year, one director selected by the NASCO Properties Board, one appointed representative from the People of Color Caucus, and two appointed caucus chairs: one chosen by the Diversity Congress at Institute and one chosen by a caucus selected by the Board, based upon the changing needs and composition of the Board of Directors. The Diversity Congress and the People of Color Caucus have staggered two-year terms.

Our board of directors is comprised of NASCO members, NASCO alumni, members of non-NASCO housing and worker cooperatives, and people who are no longer living in cooperatives but are still active in the co-op movement.

Terms are one year for the Active Member Representative, two years for People of Color Caucus chair and Diversity Congress chair, one year for the other caucus appointee, and three years for other board members. In the event that a director does not finish their term, a candidate serving for the remainder of the departing director's term will replace them.

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Planning and Stewardship: Individually and collectively, Directors on the NASCO Board develop with staff and members NASCO's long and mid-range plans. This process includes development, approval and periodic review of NASCO's business plans, budgets, and annual and semi-annual objectives.

Guidance and Oversight: Individually and collectively, NASCO Directors provide continuous evaluation and feedback on NASCO's programs and services. NASCO Directors are responsible for evaluating staff performance, providing feedback on staff proposals for services and program changes, and initiating proposals on NASCO's services, programs and organization.

Program Support and Representation: Directors on NASCO Board from time to time will be requested to supplement NASCO staff in providing services to members and in representing NASCO to members and the broader cooperative communities of Canada and the United States.

Financial Assistance: Directors will seek to contribute their time and energy to projects and activities which will assist NASCO financially.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Directors will attend NASCO Board meetings, which are held at various NASCO member cooperatives, and, if an officer of the Board, NASCO Executive Committee meetings. The term of office of a Director is automatically terminated if this person is absent without leave of the Board for two consecutive Board meetings
- Directors will make every effort to attend the NASCO Institute and the various governance-related functions held at that time. (Most Institute expenses are deferred for directors. Directors pay only food and travel expenses.)
- Directors will keep abreast of NASCO issues and activities by reading and, when appropriate, responding to monthly reports and other Board materials.
- Directors, when possible, will seek to support NASCO programs and service activities by assisting in NASCO's training and representational activities. (In most cases, NASCO will pay for all expenses associated with these activities.) For example, directors may assist in trainings, fundraising, recruitment, visits to Active Member co-ops, representation of NASCO at associating meetings, etc.
- Directors of NASCO will, where appropriate, make themselves available to NASCO members and represent NASCO member opinions and concerns on the NASCO Board.