Active Board Members are Essential

On November 4, voters across America will choose a new Congress along with governors and state legislators across the country. Just a little over two weeks later, the North American Gamebird Association will choose four new members of the board of directors. Elections are important, and as we have seen nationally, they have consequences both good and bad. This issue of NAGA News contains a ballot for you to fill out and send in by November 20th. I hope that a great majority of NAGA members will participate in choosing our leadership moving forward.

Board members are essential to the future of any non-profit organization, and NAGA is no different. Equally important, however, is that our members and those who aspire to serve on the board understand what is expected of a board member.

To shed some light on the responsibilities of a NAGA board member in this column, let’s begin with the general scope of board responsibilities. *Board members represent the membership. It is their duty to ensure that the concerns of producers and preserves are discussed and considered.*

*Board members are responsible for the financial health of the organization, and have an obligation to know how funds are being spent, and how membership dollars and contributions are progressing each year.*

*Board members chart the course for NAGA. They approve the goals and direction of the organization, and bring new ideas to the forefront.*

*The NAGA board hires and retains the services of professionals to manage the organization including the Executive Director, legal counsel, accountants, editors, graphic designers and more. Specific expectations of an individual board member may seem rather obvious. However, these obligations are critical to helping NAGA grow and become more effective as the trade association that protects the gamebird industry.*

*A NAGA Board member needs to be a contributor to the organization. It’s hard to imagine a person sitting on a board of a trade association that is not financially invested in its success. It would be even harder to convince someone else to give money to something that is not worthy of your own investment.*

*In addition to money, board members must be engaged, regularly attending and participating in board meetings, and also an active contributor on the various committees that make an organization run. NAGA is a small trade association. Active board members are the only path to growth for the organization.*

*Which brings me to this point: Board members should help to grow the organization including the services of professionals to manage the organization including the Executive Director, legal counsel, accountants, editors, graphic designers and more.*

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organization. It is in the best interest of all NAGA members to recruit new members, advertisers and contributors. Members of the board set the tone, by being ambassadors for the organization.

If all of this sounds like a lot of work, you’re absolutely right. It is. But at the same time, it is good business for gamebird producers and preserve operators to build and guide this organization to make it the effective voice that is badly needed for this industry.

As your executive director, I greatly value those members of the board who take the time to work with me as I have gotten up to speed on this organization, and the businesses that it serves. We’ve already made some progress in charting a course forward to improve NAGA. The best is yet to come. ★

Rob Sexton
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trade show in the country and you don’t want to miss it, so take an extra day or two to attend. Please note you must be an NSSF member to attend so you’ll want to join and get your credentials before you go. There are a lot of benefits being a member but the SHOT show itself would be worth the cost of membership. It’s incredible and gives you a whole new understanding of just how big the shooting/hunting industry is.

Other alliances on the farm side are the Midwest Poultry Consortium which continues to get more involved with our industry by working with Kansas State and with providing good interns for our industry. We also have the Animal Ag Alliance as a strong partner. Your executive director Rob Sexton continues to work hard making alliances with conservation partners and allies for a stronger NAGA. Check out these and others posted in this issue of the NAGA News. Show them support as they support us.

I again want to stress it’s not only important to have good allies to continue to protect our industry, but we need to continue to sign up new members. Last month I issued a challenge to our NAGA Board of Directors to sign up 5 new members. I would like to extend that challenge to you. You say, “I couldn’t sign up that many!” Well, even if every member signed up just one we would double our membership. Here are a couple of ways to help.

1.) Put some NAGA membership applications in your delivery truck to hand out.

2.) Take along a few copies of the NAGA News that can help in showing membership benefits and why we need to stick together.

If you need brochures or extra NAGA News magazines, let us know and we will get them out to you. Only through your help does NAGA grow and be there for you. As always, if you have anything you would like covered or if you have something to contribute please let the editor know

at editor@mynaga.org

This issue of the NAGA News highlights the importance of feed and water both on the farm and in the field. Good nutrition and clean water are extremely important in raising game birds but are often overlooked in the field for wildlife, filtration, preventing run off and for your hunting dogs to cool down and drink. I think you will find it useful.

This issue also includes a ballot to elect the NAGA Board of Directors. Please read over the candidates’ information carefully and vote promptly. These folks are going to help lead your association forward. Good leaders make a strong association. ★

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O give me a home,
Where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard A discouraging word,
’Cause what can an antelope say?
———

Wear short sleeves! Support your right to bare arms!
———

Laughing stock: cattle with a sense of humor.
———

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I’m not sure about the universe.
~ Albert Einstein
———

Always remember you’re unique, just like everyone else.
———

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.