

Nominations for 2026 Board of Directors

The election for new Directors will begin soon and nominations for individuals to serve a three-year term on the TNI Board of Directors are now being accepted. TNI members may self-nominate or nominate another individual. There are up to 6 open positions for 2026.

TNI is governed by an elected Board, including five officers. Directors are responsible for decisions regarding TNI's goals, objectives, and allocation of resources. By law, Directors are obligated to 1) act only in the best interests of TNI and to avoid conflicts of interest; 2) act honestly, in good faith, and on an informed basis when making decisions; and 3) pursue the objectives of TNI's mission. TNI holds in high regard Directors who accept these obligations to serve as stewards of the organization.

Having a strong Board of Directors is vital to the strength and future of our organization. Our Board is balanced and has representatives from all recognized stakeholder groups.

TNI's Board culture is characterized by full and open participation by all Directors. We believe that this approach maximizes group energy to address major issues facing our profession and organization. We rely upon diverse perspectives to reach well-informed decisions that further our mission. Our Board exercises strategic leadership through its focus on policy, direction, and strategy.

Qualifications for Directors

The Nominating Committee seeks candidates for the TNI Board of Directors who demonstrate strong leadership, commitment, and contributions to the field of environmental laboratory accreditation. We need candidates who have a broad knowledge and awareness of issues facing TNI and are willing to uphold TNI's mission, goals, priorities, and Code of Ethical Conduct.

Directors must demonstrate a commitment to TNI's priority to be a highly functioning organization that is continually enriched by its commitment to balance and inclusion and must possess strong interpersonal skills with the ability to objectively consider various perspectives to guide major policy decisions.

In addition, Directors need to be able to make the necessary commitment of time and other resources to serve effectively as a Director and to serve as an effective ambassador for TNI and its principles.

Finally, a Director must be a current member of TNI.

These qualifications are designed to ensure that elected Directors are prepared to fulfill their designated responsibilities, including

- exercising fiduciary responsibilities and stewardship regarding TNI's goals, policies, and allocation of resources.
- contributing to a policy governance model that provides leadership for TNI with a focus on mission; and
- identifying and cultivating future leaders.

Time commitments of Board service

- Directors are elected for a term of three years and are renewable. The Board meets by teleconference monthly and in face-to-face meetings as necessary.
- Directors receive detailed agenda materials for study prior to each meeting. From time-to-time Directors may also volunteer or be asked to serve on committees that may conduct business by email, conference call, or additional meetings.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, please complete the [TNI Board Nomination Form](#).

- ***Special Note regarding Federal officials:*** Federal laws prohibit individuals that work for the Federal government from serving on a Board of a non-profit organization in a fiduciary capacity.

This law has been interpreted differently by various Federal agencies, but for the sake of consistency, TNI has decided that any Federal official that wishes to serve on the TNI Board can only do so in an Ex-Officio role. Currently, there are no Ex-Officio Directors representing any of our Federal partners on the TNI Board. If you are a Federal official and would like to serve on the TNI Board, please contact Sharon Mertens, the chair of the Nominating Committee, at skmertens@icloud.com.

2026 Election Timeline

- November 10- December 15, 2025 – Nominations accepted
- December 15- 19, 2025 – Nomination Committee will review the nominations and prepare a slate of candidates.
- January 9, 2026 – Voting opens with the announcement of the slate of candidates on the TNI website
- February 10, 2026 – Voting closes
- March 19, 2026 – Newly elected Directors assume office

Finally, all TNI members have the opportunity and responsibility to vote to select the TNI Board of Directors. The process is through our website and is easy and quick. Our membership is not large so each and every member's vote can make a difference.