



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Jacksonville

October 30, 2015

To our faithful NAMI Jacksonville membership:

I am looking forward to seeing you at this year's NAMI Jacksonville Annual Meeting on Monday evening, December 7, 2015. We will be meeting at 7:00 PM in the Gymnasium of River Point Behavioral Health, 6300 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, 32216.

In reference to our motto, Moving Forward One Step at a Time, we will celebrate the GREAT STRIDES we have made in 2015.

- We started our new year with a Board of Directors retreat in early January to set goals for 2015 and introduce and integrate our new Board Members elected at the Annual Meeting in late 2014.
- At this time we have increased our membership to 137.
- We invited a state trainer to Jacksonville in January to train new Family Support Facilitators...our previously trained facilitators took the class as a refresher course.
- We have held 3 Family to Family Classes and 6 Peer to Peer Classes this year.
- Our two Connection Recovery Support Groups continue to meet weekly...one in Duval County and one in Clay County.
- We offer 4 Family Support Groups, 3 in Duval County and one in Clay County. Each group meets twice a month.
- We were invited to give our 3 hour presentation to a graduate class of students studying Psychosocial Intervention...one in March and one in July. Professor's comment: "The NAMI Jacksonville presentation is the best experience the students have during my course. (Really did I say that!) but it truly is and they speak of it until the time they leave our program. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of you and your willingness to share your stories and openness. Many students come to the programs convinced they want to work in a physical disability clinic, and after this course and your presentation are begging for an experience in mental health." This presentation includes personal stories from family members and those who live with mental illness, a power point containing general information about mental illness and a segment on suicide prevention. Our 3 hour presentation was also given to the Virginia College of Nursing students in September with excellent evaluations.
- NAMI Jacksonville moved into secure office space, provided to us by River Point Behavioral Health, in their Outpatient Building about mid year 2015 and at the same time we hired our part time Administrative Assistant, Judy Bennett.

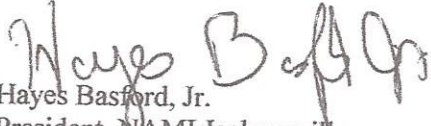
- We sent two members for training to start the NAMI Ending the Silence Program in Jacksonville and groundwork is being laid for taking that program into middle schools and high schools in the Northeast Florida area.
- Our Spring Fundraiser hosted by the Ortega United Methodist Church and under the expert Chairmanship of Peggy Harrell and her army of volunteers raised \$11,000 for us
- We re-designed and re-printed our NAMI Jacksonville brochure which we continue to distribute at health fairs, other community events and, through a committee, distribute to health care providers, physicians offices, churches, etc. throughout the Northeast Florida area.
- Our Helpline team of 6 NAMIJAX members continues to take numerous calls throughout the year from people asking for support, empathetic listening, encouragement, asking for community mental health resources and inquiring about our NAMI classes and programs.
- We continue to have members who are on implementation teams for the recommendations made at the completion of the 2014 JCCI Inquiry *Unlocking the Pieces: Community Mental Health in Northeast Florida*. These sub-committees are keeping the momentum moving for positive change.
- We have had 3 interesting educational meetings with a record attendance of 50 people attending the meeting in September.
- We have had representation at major community Mental Health events during this calendar year.
- We were awarded a \$9,000 grant from Baptist Health designated for expenses in training teachers and facilitators, providing manuals/supplies for education classes and for developing our newest program NAMI Ending the Silence
- And there is more....come on December 7 to hear the annual report.

We urge you to participate in the election of our new board members at this annual meeting so that you can have a voice in the future of our organization. Following the meeting, we will have refreshments and the opportunity to meet and greet other members and guests who are in attendance.

We thank each of our members for dues paid, donations made, volunteer time given and any way in which you contribute toward accomplishing our mission. We truly want to become an increasingly strong, valued and credible organization in voice and action in our community.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our December 7 Annual Meeting!

With best regards,


Hayes Bastford, Jr.
President, NAMI Jacksonville

**Recommended Board members for NAMI Jacksonville –
to serve beginning in December, 2015**

These people were elected for two years at our meeting last year so they do not need to be voted on this year – they will automatically serve another year.

Hayes Basford

Peggy Harrell

John Metcalf

Ming Chang

Proposed Board members

Two Year

Ebony Benjamin – has served one year – being re-nominated

Kent Rutherford – has served one year – being re-nominated

Tara Wildes – Retiring Chief of Corrections JSO

Chandler Coggin – leads support group and Peer to Peer

Tammy Morris – Chief of Corrections – JSO

One Year

Stella Bryskin – currently serves on the board

In order to have a consistent board, according to our by-laws, each year some board members will be elected for one year, and others for two. At the end of their current term, they will have opportunity to be re-elected.

Thanks so much to our current board members. NAMI Jacksonville has accomplished much under their leadership.

Those who will be leaving the board this year are: Peter Presti, Mike Farmand and Inge Neese. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE.