



## **NAN Member At Large 2017 Candidate Statement**

**Chriscelyn M. Tussey, Psy.D., ABPP**

I am honored and excited to be nominated to run for the position of Member at Large (MAL) for the Board of Directors (BOD) in the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN). NAN has been an integral part of my career thus far, and has afforded me opportunities for which I will always be grateful. I firmly believe in its mission, and am confident that I can use my skills and passion for communication, teamwork, and innovation to continue to serve NAN and its membership as a MAL.

I have learned much about the importance of each of these areas through my involvement in professional organizations. I first got involved in organizational and leadership positions during graduate school, and with NAN during my postdoctoral fellowship. I began serving as the student member for the Professional Affairs & Information Committee (PAIC). Afterwards, I joined the Women in Leadership (WIL) committee, and after three years, became the Chair of WIL. The opportunity to serve as Chair of WIL is a highlight in my professional life. I have learned so much about how to listen, and hear, what NAN members want, communicate within the committee, communicate between other committees and the BOD, and harness individual and team efforts and skills to accomplish both pre-existing and new goals.

While serving as the WIL chair, I have also been on the Affiliations Task Force, where we worked together to develop parameters for NAN to consider when establishing affiliations with other professional organizations. I currently serve as the Co-Chair for the Ambassador and Leadership Program Task Force. This new program will provide an invaluable membership benefit for early career professionals who want to gain leadership skills, and the ambassadors will give back to NAN by promoting our organization. Being on the ground floor of the development of this program has been both educational and unbelievably fulfilling. I am eager for its launch. It is a perfect example of what can be accomplished through effective communication, teamwork, and innovation.

NAN is at the helm of our evolving field, and if elected as MAL, I promise to support NAN in each of the aforementioned ways. I will draw upon my prior experiences while looking for new and improved methods to liaise between the membership and leaders of NAN, with the goal of ensuring colleagues' continued eagerness to be part of an organization that listens, and responds to, their input.

### **Dr. Tussey is a member of the following organizations:**

National Academy of Neuropsychology (Member - Professional), American Academy of Forensic Psychology (Member-Professional), Society for Consulting Psychology (Member - Professional), American Psychology-Law Society (Member - Professional), New York State Association of Neuropsychology (Member - Professional), Psychologists in Independent Practice (Member - Professional), American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (Member - Professional), Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (Member - Professional)

**Candidate Positions on the Issues**  
**Chriscelyn M. Tussey, Psy.D., ABPP**

**1. How does your background qualify you for this office?**

As a former director in an academic medical center, a current business owner, and an involved member of multiple professional organizations, I have gained experience in a variety of domains that will be beneficial to the role of MAL. For example, communication is particularly relevant to the MAL role. I have previously served as an invited member of a presidential task force whose mission was to improve communication in a professional organization. In this role, I worked with a team to identify and understand barriers, and brainstorm and implement ways in which to improve communication. I also have experience with getting buy in from stakeholders and serving as a liaison between multiple entities. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to develop and grow programs. Recognizing that all of these endeavors were only possible because of healthy communication, teamwork, and creative thinking, if chosen as a MAL, these factors would be a priority for my tenure.

My ability to lead and facilitate change in these settings has stemmed largely from the aforementioned factors, as well as my willingness to roll up my sleeves and jump wholeheartedly into the work. My work with NAN thus far reflects this willingness, and if elected to the MAL position, I assure you that I will jump in enthusiastically. The MAL role is perfect for me in that it would allow me to work with all committees on a variety of projects which will benefit both the membership and leadership of NAN.

**2. What do you see as the major challenges to neuropsychology in the next 5 years? How do you believe NAN, under your leadership, can be effective in meeting these challenges?**

Neuropsychology, with the help of NAN, has been increasingly elevated as a field. However, given our ever-evolving healthcare landscape, it is time to proactively excel in proving our value. To do this, we need to continue embracing technological advances, being thoughtful and dynamic in our work with referring sources and consumers, and providing evidence that neuropsychology can be a critical component of one's overall healthcare.

NAN has already made significant strides in each of these areas, and as a leader, I would build upon this foundation. As previously mentioned, I believe that communication, teamwork, and innovation are crucial. I would use my position as MAL to obtain and share information from membership and committees to gain contemporary understanding

into what referring clinicians and patients/consumers want and need from us. For instance, I would like to reach out to stakeholders and developers to learn about and disseminate information regarding newer technology, such as virtual reality, which may increase the ecological validity of our assessment.

Related to this, I would also like to continue examining our assessment and report writing processes. Although we often hear about "remaining relevant," I argue that we need to be considered a vital component of patient care. To do this, our work needs to be digestible and practical, and we must be willing to be flexible in our roles. By doing so, and collecting relevant outcome data, we have a better chance of influencing third-party payers and the public to see the value in our service.

**3. How would you promote professional practice?**

Neuropsychology can arguably be useful in nearly any realm of daily life. And thankfully, technology and social media make it easy to promote our practice. At the individual level, I have enjoyed taking every opportunity to promote our practice through providing grand rounds, webinars, conference workshops, and even in forensic testimony. Within NAN, my recent work with WIL as well as the Ambassador and Leadership Program Task Force is evidence of my dedication to promoting both clinical as well as leadership aspects of our practice, the latter of which I feel particularly

passionate about given that such skills are often not taught as part of our training. And, I strongly believe that being a leader, mentor, and sponsor in the field is a way to promote professional practice.

We have a great responsibility to think carefully about what, and how, we will share our science. I firmly believe that in order for society to appreciate the value of our field, they must understand it. The onus is on us to share our knowledge in understandable language, and to ensure that the practical benefits of our field are readily apparent. I think that this is an area in which we need to evolve, and as MAL, I would ensure that we are continuing to make progress on sharing our science in a meaningful way. This position would provide a unique opportunity to capitalize on the knowledge of members and committees alike to ensure dynamic and creative promotion of our work.

#### **4. How do you plan to bridge science and practice?**

NAN has many initiatives that facilitate bridging science and practice, such as HONE In, DistanCE offerings, PIE Pack, and the book series. Despite these invaluable resources, members are at times surprised when I mention that they are available. As MAL, I would work to increase the awareness of these resources, and provide feedback from membership to committees and vice versa, to assist with ongoing development and optimization of these resources.

Also, I strongly believe that it is our responsibility as professionals to, if possible, contribute to, and at the very least regularly review, the literature and seek continuing education. We must impress upon our students the necessity of this as well, and I, like many of us, do this by supervising, teaching, mentoring, and sponsoring trainees and early career professionals. I also encourage students to contribute to science by engaging in research, in particular, translational research. As a field we must recognize that we have much to share, but also much to gain, from these collaborations. In order to continue moving forward in science with peak momentum and benefit to practice, we have to seize these opportunities.