

# MEMO

**To:** Opportunity Finance Network Members  
**From:** Shane Jett, Governance & Nominating Committee Chair  
**Date:** August 2, 2016  
**Re:** **Call for OFN Board Nominations**

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The Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) Board Elections process is designed to engage the OFN Membership in all phases of the process—nominating candidates, campaigning for Board service, and voting—to ensure that diverse perspectives and voices guide the industry.

The 2016 Board Elections season kicks off today with the official call for nominations, and culminates on October 26, when OFN Members vote at OFN Connect (also known as the Annual Membership Meeting) at the Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA.

From now until October, OFN will communicate with Members about the elections through *Staying Connecting* webinars, emails, E-news, social media, and the [Board Elections Central](#) web page.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**The OFN Governance Committee urges you to look across the Membership and within your organization for staff or Board members who would make strong candidates for the OFN Board.** To ensure that the OFN Board represents the diversity of OFN's Membership, the Board encourages representatives of CDFIs led by people of color, Native CDFIs, and small and emerging CDFIs to consider running.

***The 2016 Board Elections cycle is not only an election for new Board Members, it is an election for the future leadership and direction of OFN and the industry.***

In June, OFN announced a significant transition—after more than 20 years at our helm, Mark Pinsky stepped down as President & CEO to explore new challenges. The current Board is actively engaged in a search for the next leader of OFN and the CDFI industry, and the newly elected Board members will be part of that process.

This is an important election year because of OFN's ongoing CEO search and shifts in the external environment that present new challenges and opportunities for CDFIs.

## 2016 BOARD VACANCIES

Three (3) Board members are completing their first three (3) year term and are eligible to run for a second three (3) year term:



- Lori Chatman, OFN Board Chair  
Enterprise Community Loan Fund
- Dave Glaser, OFN Board Vice Chair  
Montana and Idaho Community Development Corporation
- Inez Long, Chair, OFN Board Equity Committee  
Black Business Investment Fund Florida

In addition, OFN's current Board Treasurer, Julia Nelmark of Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, is completing her second three (3) year term and is not eligible to run for re-election due to OFN's Board Term Limits. The OFN Board has decided to postpone filling Julia's seat until 2017 so that both 2016 and 2017 have three (3) seats open for election.

The OFN Governance & Nominating Committee strives to present at least two (2) more candidates than seats available (i.e., at least five (5) candidates for three (3) seats in 2016), and must report the qualifications of all qualifying candidates to the Membership prior to the vote.

The OFN Board will choose its officers after the 2016 election.

#### **NOMINATION CRITERIA & EXPECTATIONS OF CANDIDATES**

Prospective Board candidates must be on the staff or Board of an OFN Member organization and receive nominations from at least two different OFN Members to qualify automatically as a candidate.

OFN expects Board Members to attend all Board meetings. The Board meets in person four times a year—usually once in Philadelphia; once in Washington, DC; once at a Member's site; and once—briefly—at the Annual Conference. The Board also meets by teleconference for time-sensitive decisions. And Board members participate on at least one—and often two—committees. Each committee meets regularly on a schedule it sets.

OFN seeks a Board with ethnic, racial, and gender diversity that reflects our Members' range of financing types and geographic reach.

See our full [Candidate Profile](#) for more information about what the OFN Board seeks in Board members.

To learn more about duties and responsibilities, contact a Board member or OFN's Interim CEO, Fran Lutz, 215.320.4316 or [flutz@ofn.org](mailto:flutz@ofn.org).

#### **NOMINATIONS PROCESS**

To nominate a candidate, **send an email including the name of the candidate, her or his CDFI, and contact information** to Emily Tunney at [etunney@ofn.org](mailto:etunney@ofn.org) by 5:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, August 25.



Nominees must receive the endorsement of two (2) different OFN Members<sup>1</sup> and indicate a willingness to serve.

If the Membership nominates fewer than five (5) candidates as of August 25, the Governance Committee may recruit additional candidates to fill out the slate.

Please feel free to submit names even if a second Member has not endorsed the nominee. It is possible that another Member will submit a nomination for that candidate, or the nomination will trigger the thinking of the committee.

On August 31, the Governance Committee will notify all candidates, via email, of the final slate, and will inform the Membership of the final slate via email on September 26.

### **PROSPECTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES**

If you are considering running for the Board, join us on [August 9, 2:00–3:00 PM](#) for a *Staying Connected* webinar covering Board roles and responsibilities, the nominations process, campaigning, and what to expect at the Conference and OFN Connect.

Also visit the [Board Elections Central](#) web page now and throughout the Elections cycle for more information on campaigning and what to expect at the Conference and OFN Connect, and contact [Emily Tunney](#) directly with any questions.

### **PROXY VOTING**

For the first time in OFN's history, the OFN Board of Directors has approved the use of proxy voting at the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting. [Seth Julyan](#), Senior Vice President of Membership, will act as official proxy.

Now, every Member will have the opportunity to vote for Directors even if the Member cannot attend the Conference! The Governance Committee and OFN Board are pleased to enact this more inclusive and equitable voting practice in a potentially pivotal election year.

Visit the [Board Elections Central](#) web page for more information.

### **PLEASE JOIN US!**

As you know, OFN is a Membership-supported organization. Board Elections and Board service provide significant opportunities for Members to participate in and affect OFN's governance, policies, and strategic direction. Thank you for your interest and attention. Remember to submit your nominations no later than **August 25 at 5 PM ET to Emily Tunney at [etunney@ofn.org](mailto:etunney@ofn.org)**.

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<sup>1</sup> One of a nominee's two endorsements can come from the candidate's own organization. But, OFN encourages candidates to seek nominations outside her or his organization. Think of it as a way to kick-start to your campaign!

# MEMO

## 2016 Governance and Nominating Committee

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### **Shane Jett, Chair**

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### NON-BOARD MEMBERS

#### **Dione Alexander**

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### STAFF

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