



NRA election recommendations

Those of you, who have been aware of *SASI* or *NCFGA*, for more than a year or two, know that we provide our individual, corporate and club members with recommendations, each year, concerning those who, in our opinion, are the best choices for the NRA's Board of Directors (BoD).

This year's choices are presenting the voting membership with a unique scenario. Most of you are aware of the forced and voluntary senior staff and BoD resignations, plus the accusations levied, by credible people. It's been suggested that many of the currently sitting, long term officers and BoD members have *not* been doing their jobs, properly, including previous BoD members, who served for extended periods. We're not taking sides, in those issues but are aware of the potential ramifications and possible need for a thorough house cleaning.

When you review this year's recommendations, you will note that we could not recommend a full slate or even come close. Some of those, who we endorsed, in prior years, did not make this year's cut. With the exception of one person, *we could not and did not* endorse any person, who has been an NRA BoD member, for any more than 1 term.

This year, as in each of the years of the last twenty+ years, we have the distinct pleasure of advising you that the recommendation list was *jointly compiled*, by the *Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Inc. (SASI)* and *Nassau County Fish & Game Association, Inc. (NCFGA)*, as well as the fact that both organizations concur, on *all* recommendations. Our criteria are stringent, especially so, this year, because we believe you should have *only* the best qualified people on the NRA board.

Our choices are made from among those candidates, whom we feel best represent the *interests of the membership* of NRA, not necessarily those who are picked by the NRA's Nominating Committee or those who the NRA's officers might like to see on the NRA's board.

While NRA's revenues are down, NRA is, still, a major corporation, becoming more complex, every year. Dues income produces almost \$250,000,000, *each year*. Add to that, the income of the NRA Foundation, the NRA Endowment, NRA-ILA, product sales, investment income and NRA's broadcasting network, plus other, "miscellaneous" items and you have a corporation, the annual budget and assets of which almost double that. That's bigger than many of the "name brand" corporations and larger than most firearms manufacturers.

The purposes of a Board of Directors are twofold: 1) *to make policy*, for the corporation, which is, *then, implemented*, by the officers and other staff of that corporation and 2) oversee the activities of the officers and senior staff. Directors *must be able to* evaluate, influence and understand the short-term and long-term, financial, national and international ramifications of the multi-million dollar decisions, which they are expected to routinely make. Those directors must, therefore, possess appropriate academic and/or experience qualifications.

Being a “nice person,” “a local activist” or a “qualified and dedicated shooter” do not, in and of themselves, make one qualified, to manage a major business operation.

In NRA’s case, all directors are unpaid (except for reimbursement of expenses), while all officers and other employees are paid. NRA senior staff and officers are, typically, paid six figure (\$100,000+ +) salaries, per year. They are paid, to be officers and staff, *full time*. To allow any of them to, also, become directors, could involved considerable conflict of interest. Consequently, for that reason *and that reason only*, we have never endorsed a sitting NRA officer or other NRA staff member, for the NRA’s board.

NRA’s needs, especially this year, are for qualified, detail-oriented, executive, legal, financial, public relations and/or political talent. Consequently, only candidates, with academic *and/or* practical, successful experience, in business management, finance, law, influence gathering *and/or* with significant, national recognition or political prestige, should be considered. Those candidates, with professional or educational criteria, such as MBAs, LLBs/JDs, CPAs, ChFCs, etc. *and/or* qualifying experience, *i.e.*: *successfully* managing substantial business entities, at the executive levels, are what NRA now needs most, for the business management side of the operations. Next, are those with national political recognition and national respect, who know how to get things completed, in the political and/or public relations arenas.

It’s a tough set of criteria, for making choices and, sometimes, it requires that folks, who we may like, personally, *don’t* get our recommendation, *solely* for their lack of the *best* and *most appropriate* educational or experience credentials.

NRA is, *no longer*, just a competitive shooting organization, with nothing to manage, except match schedules and match rules. Today, almost every program or decision NRA’s BoD members implement involves millions of dollars. We need people, who properly understand the most effective and most efficient ways of doing that. The NRA’s BoD has, because of smart voting, gained a little, in *most* years. That pattern needs to continue and to be *strongly* encouraged, *long term*.

This year, there is a full slate of 25 three-year vacancies, plus a single one-year vacancy, which one-year vacancy will be filled at the annual meeting. There are only 28 persons running, for those 25 three-year BoD seats and single 1 year seat and, unlike in years past, *none of them* is there as a result of members’ petitions. Unfortunately, all but two of those 28 will get “elected,” *regardless of how and for whom you vote*. The only way to express your disdain, for the current, paltry selection, is to vote only for those you know were not part of the problems currently facing the NRA. You are not required to vote for the maximum of 25 candidates and, in those years, as in this year, when we cannot recommend a full slate, we *strongly* suggest that you *not* vote for all you can. In many of the past years, we didn’t have a sufficient number of candidates we could recommend. This year, we found *only FIVE (5)* candidates, to whom we have assigned our recommendation, all of whom are listed, below. Of those 5, only one is a sitting BoD member, which says much, about the NRA’s current and past management members. *SASF*’s and *NCFGA*’s joint recommendations, *in alphabetical order*, are:

Bach, Scott L.,
Bradway, Donald J.,
Chapman, James,

Lightfoot, Carrie and
Tomes, Jim