

ELECTION FOR THE TAND 2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – NOMINEES FOR OFFICE

President Elect-Elect



Brian Jones, MS, RD, LDN, CDM, CFPP
Chattanooga District

Clinical Nutrition Manager – CHI Healthcare/Sodexo Healthcare
Adjunct Instructor – Chattanooga State Community College

Leadership Experience and Skills:

In his current role as Clinical Nutrition Manager, Brian directly manages a mixed staff of 16 hourly and salaried employees while providing oversight for over 50 additional employees. He has led multiple initiatives within the nutrition department including malnutrition diagnosis and reimbursement, wellness menu development, customer service training, development of ADIME electronic documentation and ICU feeding protocols. A particularly significant accomplishment was managing the extension of services to a new patient tower within the Memorial Healthcare System's main campus.

As a result of successful departmental outcomes, Brian has been looked upon in the Memorial Hospital System to lead interdisciplinary projects, sit on/chair councils and speak at internal and external hospital events. Currently Brian chairs the Clinical Operations Council for Memorial Healthcare and is the past chair for the Leadership Coordinating Council. In these roles Brian proved effective in delegating hospital operational responsibilities, directing regular meetings, prioritizing agenda items and overseeing voting.

Position Statement:

Drawing from my experience as a member, I will strive to effectively translate and communicate Academy programs and decisions in a meaningful way. I believe that we can both grow and strengthen our membership by better "plugging in" talented students, interns, RDNs and DTRs to initiatives that invigorate them while utilizing their considerable talents. A long term goal would be to implement a leadership succession program that would engage newer members while identifying future leaders.

Increasing RDN autonomy has been an overreaching goal in my career and I believe we are poised at national level to elevate the role of the nutrition professional. With the recent CMS rule allowing RDNs to independently write some orders, the tide is defiantly turning. We must be ready to position ourselves as THE nutrition expert and I feel that my background in clinical nutrition leadership will serve TAND well when providing guidance on this topic.

If elected, I would be humbled to represent the thousands of dietitians and dietetic technicians-registered in the great state of Tennessee. It excites me to lead the membership of TAND and to personify our values and ethics. Having previously been a part of the executive board, I have already seen the excellent leadership support provided by TAND. I would make it a priority to glean as much information as possible from current board members during my years as President elect-elect and President elect. I will utilize my collaborative leadership style to build relationships that can support my decision making in order to efficiently manage TAND dealings.

CPI Chair-Elect



Becky Mehr, MS, RD, LDN
Nashville District

Outpatient Dietitian - The Renfrew Center of Tennessee

Leadership Experience and Skills:

When serving on the NAND board as president-elect it was my role to plan and execute 4 member meetings. I feel this role helped to fine tune my organizational skills to have a successful meeting. In my current role at Renfrew, I continually provide training and supervision to the treatment team. This has provided me the opportunity to enhance communication skills with other professionals. I also served on the EDCT Forum committee.

Position Statement:

I view education of members and outreach in the community as important to place the Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist as the experts. In serving on the board in the CPI position I would continue to ensure the annual meeting is applicable to the members of TAND and current nutrition trends. In addition to executing the annual meeting, I would like to explore social networking events for the organization.

CPI Chair-Elect



Heidi J. Silver, PhD, RD, LDN
Nashville District

Associate Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University

Leadership Experience and Skills:

- Preceptor, CADE, Dietetic Internship, 2014-
- Secretary, Vanderbilt Women on Track Steering Committee, 2011-12
- Director, Vanderbilt Nutrition and Diet Assessment Center, 2010-present
- Preceptor, NIH NIDDK Summer Student Research Practicum, 2010-present
- President, Dannon Institute, Nutrition Leadership Institute Alumni Association, 2008-09
- Visiting Nurse Association, Geriatric Home Care Practice Board, 2007-2010
- Vice President, Dannon Institute, Nutrition Leadership Institute Alumni Association, 2007-08
- Lead, Nutrition and Cancer Health Care Professionals Advisory Board, 2006-08
- Secretary, Dannon Institute, Nutrition Leadership Institute Alumni Association, 2006-07
- Lead, American Society of Nutrition, Nutrition Program Committee, 2006-07
- Chair, American Society of Nutrition, Aging and Chronic Disease Section, 2005-06
- Vice Chair, American Society of Nutrition, Aging and Chronic Disease Section, 2004-05
- Mentor, Dietitians in Nutrition Support Practice Group, 1999-2001
- Treasurer, Broward County Dietetic Association, 1998-2000
- Chair, School Board of Broward County Nutrition Subcommittee, 1990-92; 1996-99

Position Statement:

Since the beginning of my career as a clinical dietitian, then nutrition support dietitian, and now as nutrition scientist and educator, my overall goal has been to improve the delivery and quality of nutrition care, and to improve the role and value of the RD as a health care professional. Integrating these two objectives, I was instrumental in bringing national attention to the issue of nutrition order writing privileges as a means of improving nutrition care and advancing our role in optimizing care. In the current environment of high competition and widespread access to nutrition information, it is critical that RDs be recognized and valued as experts in nutrition and dietetics information and services. Within this context, I perceive that the most critical issues challenging us here in Tennessee are the epidemic of obesity; and the state laws that impair our ability to practice fully and effectively (especially with CMS/federal regulations now reversed). To impact these, it is imperative that senior RDs actively support, mentoring, network, and collaborate with newer junior members of our field, and with health care providers in academia, research and practice settings. As a member of the TDA board my goal would be to promote and advocate for our role as being integral in the present and future of health care planning, implementation and practice, to enhance communications and interactions among members with regard to professional issues, to raise awareness of new opportunities for us professionally both locally and nationally, and to promote increased presence of Tennessee RDs in state and national nutrition initiatives.

Delegate



Dee Harwell, MS, RD, LDN
Chattanooga District

President – Dynamic Dietetics, Inc.

Leadership Experience and Skills:

- I started Dynamic Dietetics, Inc., a nutrition consulting company, in 2002
- President and Media spokesperson in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Legislative Network Coordinator in Tri Cities area
- TAND Board of Directors
- Participant in the founding of the Weight Management practice group
- Education Chair, Area III for Renal Practice Group Executive Committee
- Winner, Humorous Speech competition for the Chattanooga area
- Secretary, Monday Mumbler's Toast Master's International, Chattanooga, Tennessee

I am appreciative of the recognition of my peers. I have been awarded:

- Best All Around Master of Science clinical nutrition student
- Outstanding Management Preceptor
- Recognized Young Dietitian of Year
- Emerging Dietetics Leader

To further polish my speaking skills, I attended a four day storytelling seminar at the renowned John C Campbell Folk School, in North Carolina. I enjoy helping others; I am presently a preceptor for participants of distant dietetic internships and certified dietary manager programs. I am also a volunteer nutrition instructor for LiveStrong at the YMCA and Habitat for Humanity in Cleveland, Tennessee. I started a transportation ministry for homebound seniors at my church and am Co-Chair of the women's sailing group at my sailing club. I am confident my life experiences have prepared me to provide direction to our members and effectively communicate national and state professional issues.

Position Statement:

I pledge to promote our members as the nutrition expert and communicate Tennessee member needs on national and state professional issues.

Delegate



Michelle L. Lee, PhD, RD, LDN
Tri-Cities District

Assistant Professor & Graduate Coordinator, East Tennessee State University

Leadership Experience and Skills:

I have had several leadership experiences over the years that have prepared me to serve Tennessee as delegate. I am at the point in my career at ETSU that will allow me to serve and fully commit to represent Tennessee in the House of Delegates. I am currently the graduate coordinator and an assistant professor at ETSU. I have served as DI Director at ETSU 2010-2014 and previously at Mississippi State University 2006-2010. I served as TriCities Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (TCAND) President Elect in 2012-2013 and President in 2013-2014. I served TAND as member of Education Pillar in 2012-2013 and Membership Pillar in 2013-2014, and am currently on the Marketing Pillar. I have had several leadership roles in the Northeast Mississippi District (prior to my move to Tennessee) that I feel have prepared me for this time in my career, including President and President Elect and secretary-treasurer. I was a member of the Mississippi Dietetic Association from 1998-2010, serving as member of the MDA Nominating Committee, 2009-2010.

Position Statement:

If elected Delegate, my goal would be to represent all Tennessee RDNs by taking your concerns to the Academy HOD as well as sharing information from the Academy HOD. I will support the TAND President and Board of Directors and the strategic plan for our state. I will provide leadership and direction in the various pillars that ensure the direction of our organization and how it aligns with the Academy's goals. I will be available to support the districts over the next 3 years as we move our association forward. One goal I have, if elected, would be to improve communication between the delegate and the Tennessee RDNs by providing video communications to better inform Tennessee RDNs of the issues affecting our profession. This is an interesting time for our profession and I am a strong advocate for advancing the role and practice of RDNs.

Nominating Committee



Susan Brantley, MS, RD, CNSC, LDN
Knoxville District

Metabolic Support Coordinator, Metabolic Support Services (Pharmacy Department), University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville

Leadership Experience and Skills:

- As a past Tennessee district and state affiliate president and through my experience as chair of a large, active DPG (DNS), I have learned the value of being able to bring talented individuals together and accomplish projects that impact practice. As an instructor at the college level, I have been blessed with students who I can identify as extraordinary future leaders in our profession.
- Recently, along with co-chair, Mary Russell, I co-chaired a workgroup of 14 individuals accomplished the revision of the Standards of Practice/Profession Performance for Nutrition Support Dietitians. Meetings were held monthly by conference call and at conferences. Members were empowered to revise sections of the SOP/SOPPs and present them to the group. Comments were reviewed, revised when needed and finalized to result in a document that is to be published in the Academy's Journal and in ASPEN's Nutrition in Clinical Practice.
- For the past three years, I have served on the Committee for Professional Development. This committee, along with Academy staff, develops the program for FNCE. What a challenge to review and select the many submissions for sessions to be presented at our annual meeting! Participation on this committee truly teaches communication, compromise, objectivity, and organization.
- Serving as chair of the Dietitians in Nutrition Support Practice Group was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my career. The members of this DPG are engaged and dedicated to the care of the complicated, critically ill patient. Through this DPG, members can, and do, develop a huge support system. From my first duties of planning symposiums and presentations at FNCE to working with colleagues on projects that affect practice, this position teaches leadership, organization, result-oriented opportunities, fiscal management, communication, and diplomacy.
- The Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics awarded me the Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Award in 2005. I had served as state president in 2003-2004. I previously served the Knoxville District as president in 1983-84. I was awarded the district Recognized Young Dietitian, Outstanding Dietitian, and Educator of the Year. In addition, I was able to contribute as state legislative chair as well as other appointed positions on the state and district boards.

Position Statement:

As a member of the nominating committee for TAND, I would like to have the opportunity to engage young dietitians in leadership opportunities in their professional organization. Through my involvement at the district, state and national levels, I have discovered many opportunities for advancement of my career. And with the challenges of advancing and changing career goals, I have benefited from new friendships, mentors and colleagues who support and help one another. I would like to make sure that other state dietitians realize that when they volunteer their time to our association and profession, they will benefit in more ways than they could imagine. The resulting experience and the increased opportunities to network with other colleagues will enrich their lives and enhance their experiences in the dietetics profession.

Nominating Committee



Kim Dempsey, MS, RD, LDN

West Tennessee District

Chief Clinical Dietitian, Henry County Medical Center

Leadership Experience and Skills:

I currently serve as the district president for the West Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. I am working with our board to promote increased participation within our district. As Chief Clinical RD in my facility, I am involved with leaders and teams from all disciplines, including those that require a creative vision to solve problems. I have also served in leadership positions in academic and hobby organizations.

Position Statement:

Should I be selected as a member of the nominating committee, I will communicate with leaders from each district to identify members within their organization with skills and interests best suited to advancing the strategic goals of TAND. I will work to help the Membership Pillar meet the goal of diversity, including geographic diversity, of nominees.

Nominating Committee



Lori Upchurch, MS, RD, LDN
Tri-Cities District

Clinical Nutrition Manager (Morrison), Mountain State Health Alliance

Leadership Experience and Skills:

Throughout my career as a clinical dietitian I have had the good fortune to work with people who have provided me with opportunities to develop my leadership skills both in the workplace and in my local dietetic association. I have held leadership positions in the Knoxville and Tri-cities district associations including President, Treasurer, and Public Policy Coordinator. In my current position I provide leadership for 16 registered dietitians in eight healthcare facilities in Tennessee and Virginia. I encourage my staff to become involved in district, state and national areas to support our profession and develop their leadership skills. All of my staff are preceptors for dietetic interns as we feel it is essential to meet the needs of our profession and provide well trained dietitians for the future.

Position Statement:

As a member of the nominating committee I hope to be able to motivate those dietitians who have served locally expand their contribution and support of our profession to the state level.

Nominating Committee



Angie Wallick, MS, RDN, CSR, LDN
Memphis District

Clinical Dietitian, Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Medical Center, Memphis

Leadership Experience and Skills:

I have had multiple opportunities to serve on both the local and state level with the Memphis and Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Both organizations have challenged me to learn and lead in various capacities. Every task that is set has challenged me to utilize different skills that I continue to improve upon. I have learned that it is important to be flexible, set boundaries, always listen and process from the experience to make positive growth happen. My current work environment has also provided me with the opportunity to receive training in the L.E.A.D. program (Leadership, Effectiveness Accountability, and Development).

Position Statement:

If elected to be a part of the 2015-2016 nominating committee, I am committed to acquiring talented, qualified people with diverse backgrounds and locations around the state who are committed to forwarding the goals of TAND.