



Position Statement	Conflict of Interest
Number of Pages	2
Approval Date	September 2018
Past Revision Dates	November 2000, February 2016

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to promote confidence in NENA and to ensure that the name, reputation, and integrity of NENA and its working committees are not compromised. The fundamental principle guiding its implementation is that no elected or appointed representative of NENA should have, or appear to have, any personal interests or affiliations that conflict or compete with the best interests of the Association. Furthermore, no elected or appointed representative of NENA should use their participation in NENA to derive personal gain or benefit.

Apart from any appearance of impropriety, serving personal interests more than insubstantially is unprofessional and inconsistent with NENA’s goals and purposes. An unresolved conflict of interest may erode the credibility of the Association and dissolve confidence in its ability to protect the interests of its members and associates, undermining the Association’s ability to serve its stakeholders effectively.

**DEFINITION**

A conflict of interest occurs when there exists a circumstance in which an elected or appointed representative of NENA, contrary to obligation and absolute duty to act for the benefit of the association, intentionally or unintentionally exploits the relationship for personal benefit, typically pecuniary; or when a situation exists that has the potential to undermine or appear to undermine, the impartiality of a person because of the possibility of a clash between the person's self-interest and those of NENA.

**POLICY**

NENA requires all members of the Board of Directors and appointed Committees to avoid any conflict between their interests and those of the NENA, and to disclose promptly any actual or potential conflicts. All representatives of NENA, regardless of role, have the responsibility to be cognizant of any conflict of interest situations in which they may be involved. Furthermore, any NENA representative who anticipates personal gain by their participation on a NENA committee or NENA Board of Directors shall refrain from all involvement.

Any members of the NENA Board of Directors or its various Committees recognizing a conflict with respect to a vote on a resolution, shall physically / electronically / telephonically remove themselves from all discussion and voting. Such removal shall be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

Any elected or appointed representative of NENA who is concerned that he or she may be involved in a conflict of interest should speak privately to the president or delegated meeting chair prior to participating in any discussion or decision.

Any member of the NENA Board of Directors and appointed Committees who recognizes an ongoing conflict of interest—and preferring not to separate from the source of the conflict, should offer to resign his/her position, submitting a resignation to the NENA Board. The Board shall discuss the resignation and may, if they consider the conflict easily manageable, decline to accept it; or may accept it by written notification within two weeks of its receipt.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Elected and appointed representatives of NENA have an obligation to call to account any individual or group whom they perceive to be in violation of this policy by communicating directly with the individual or group in question and advising the NENA President. Failing to gain satisfaction by discreet inquiry, the complainant is bound to address concerns with the entire NENA Board of Directors. A breach of this policy shall constitute a violation of NENA policy and be subject to discipline according to Article 3.03 of the NENA Bylaws.

### **References:**

Business Dictionary (2017). Conflicted of Interest. Retrieved February 21, 2017 from <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/conflict-of-interest.html>

College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (2017). Conflict of Interest. Retrieved February 24, 2017 from <https://www.crnbc.ca/Standards/PracticeStandards/Pages/conflictinterest.aspx>

Farlex (n.d.). The Free Dictionary. Retrieved February 22, 2017 from <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/conflict+of+interest>

MacDonald, C. (n.d.) Chris MacDonald Ethics Blog. Retrieved February 22, 2017 from <https://chrismacdonald.ca/resources/conflict-of-interest-a-basic-coi-toolkit/>