



NATIONAL MARINE ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP • STANDARDS • TRAINING • CONFERENCE

NMEA Policy Further Safeguards your Membership Investment

Dear Valued NMEA Member,

During our June 2022 board meeting, volunteer board members unanimously approved this new policy, which is standard within the nonprofit sector and meets Maryland's legal requirements for a 501(c)(6) entity registered in the state. The policy was adopted, on the advice of counsel, to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety by people in positions of influence within NMEA. Going forward, your NMEA Board will be solely comprised of unpaid volunteers who take time out of their professional and personal lives to serve the NMEA's members. Our newly adopted policy will further the trust between our membership and your elected members of the Board of Directors, ensuring that board members are always acting within our members' best interests.

This positive action improves safeguards on the financial operations of your Association and how your membership dues contribute to the success of the NMEA. We want our members to be confident that all business operations, overseen by your elected representatives are extremely transparent, and this initiative will separate independent contractors from positions of influence. The policy follows state and federal laws and guidelines regarding conflict of interest and meets Maryland's legal requirements for a 501(c)(6) entity registered in the state. Our legal counsel recommends that we avoid any perception of a conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety by people in positions of influence.

Here is the overview of this new policy:

- Policy takes effect January 1, 2023.
- Existing NMEA board members, who are currently independent contractors will make their own decision on how to proceed in the future: Remain a volunteer board member for the duration of their elected term and not act as an independent contractor for NMEA

OR

- Accept and sign the NMEA annual standard independent contractor agreement and resign from the Board of Directors.

If a board member chooses to resign from the board, the board seat will become open for an eligible member within that membership category to fill the seat for the remainder of the term. This policy further ensures that your Association is serving the best interest of the entire membership while maintaining its fiduciary duty equally to all members

We are lucky to have excellent trainers as independent contractors and look forward to continuing to learn from them as well as expanding our talented pool of experienced independent contractors. We positively acknowledge that some of our members have talked with these board members who operate as independent contractors, and we love and respect their passion to keep furthering NMEA Education. We hope that they will remain part of the Association in whichever capacity they desire.

Best Regards,
Mark Reedenauer
President and Executive Director,
National Marine Electronics Association