

Notice To Members: NABS Director's Election 2026

Per the NABS By-Laws, NABS holds an annual election for our Board members. Our election runs from June 15 through August 15, 2026 and ballots can be submitted during that time.

Who can vote? Members in good standing as of May 15, 2026 shall be eligible to vote in the Annual Election (NABS By-Laws, Article XVIII. 4).

How to Vote? Please locate the two self-addressed (not franked) postcards inserted in your Summer (this issue) copy of *Bluebird*. For an individual membership, you are entitled to one vote, so only one ballot should be mailed in. For a "family" membership, two votes are allowed, so both ballots would be mailed in. **Note: To be counted as eligible, ballots must be signed, dated and postmarked on or before August 15, 2026.**

The Director nominations closed on May 15th when the following slate was submitted by the NABS Nominating Committee and was then approved by the NABS Board of Directors. To comply with NABS By-Laws, the slate is posted on the NABS website (by June 15th) and is also printed in the summer issue of *Bluebird* (this issue).

Short biographies of the candidates for the NABS Board of Directors, class of 2029, are featured below:

Mike DeBruhl is an Air Force veteran and a retired Business/Human Resources executive and business consultant. His final employment was with a Native Alaska firm in Anchorage, where he traveled throughout the state and gained a fascination and respect for northern and Arctic Wildlife. He and wife Peg moved to Aiken, SC from Reston, VA in 2008 and discovered the beautiful blue-colored birds in their yard. He joined the South Carolina Bluebird Society (SCBS) in 2011 and became a trail monitor. He now manages a neighborhood trail of 50 nestboxes. Mike joined the NABS BOD in 2020. He is a Life member of NABS, currently serves as the 1st Vice President of Affiliate Relations and chairs/serves on several committees.

Kathy Kremnitzer is a retired educator and has been a bluebird landlord for over 35 years. She monitors several different trails in Washington and Frederick Counties in Maryland and is the trail manager for the 92-nestbox trail at Antietam National Battlefield. She is a 3-term past president and Lifetime member of the Maryland Bluebird Society and also serves as their State Coordinator and as a County Coordinator. She has served on the NABS board since 2009, served as secretary from 2011-2023 and has served as president from 2023 until the present. She chairs several committees, including Executive, Hotline, Awards and Website and also serves as an administrator for both the NABS and MBS Facebook pages.

Sky Rector was born and raised in WI and has resided in Atlanta, Georgia for the majority of his adult life. Over the years he has been actively involved in several neighborhood organizations whose purpose was to preserve and protect the community. His favorite pastimes are bridge, golf, gardening and woodworking. His fondness for bluebirds goes back over 20 years. He has built in excess of 200 Peterson nestboxes and monitors a bluebird trail of 20 nestboxes. He is a Life member of NABS and actively seeks new members. He builds nestboxes at cost for those willing to make a donation to NABS.

Jill Adams is a proud Marylander who lives with her husband, two children, three cats and a yard full of native plants. She found NABS when researching to establish a community bluebird trail installation

(which is now up and running thanks to NABS' guidance and support). She is a Maryland Tree Steward and a Weed Warrior. When not staring quizzically at little brown birds or clipping porcelain berry vines around her community, Jill can often be found pedaling around on her e-cargo bike. Jill currently serves as NABS treasurer and chairs the Finance Committee.

Valerie Kenyon Gaffney was born and raised in a small town in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Feeding the birds was a season-long ritual during NYS winters, always bird seed, but often stale bread crusts. It wasn't until she became active with the Virginia Bluebird Society that she realized in addition to the native cardinals and chickadees, her family had also been feeding the predatory English House Sparrow. Fast forward to 2007, when a blizzard hit Woodbridge, VA, where she was now living. The family tradition of feeding birds in winter had continued and, on this day, four of the most beautiful birds she had ever seen appeared at her backyard bird feeder. Bluebirds! And thus, she was hooked! She began monitoring a nestbox trail in Quantico, VA and when a trail in Dumfries opened in 2017, she also took on responsibility for that trail as well. In 2019, Valerie was elected to serve as president of the Virginia Bluebird Society after retiring from a 25-year career at the Washington Post. Valerie served as VBS president for 6 years. She lives with her beloved cat, Eleanor Rigby, and derives enormous pleasure from sharing her "Talkin' the Blues" with everyone from little kids to senior citizens. Wherever she presents, she always includes a plea for folks to plant more native species, to keep your cat indoors and to never, ever allow house sparrows to use a nestbox.

NABS By-Laws can be found on our website at:

<https://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/PDF/NABS%20By-Laws%20Adopted%209-17-19.pdf>