



## An Invitation to Raise Names for New NETWORK Board Members

NETWORK is seeking three Board members to join the NETWORK Lobby and NETWORK Advocates Boards in 2021 and we are inviting all NETWORK members to participate wholeheartedly in a "name-raising" process to help identify potential candidates.

If you know someone, including yourself, who would excel in this role (described below), please complete the name-raising form at [www.networklobby.org/nameraising](http://www.networklobby.org/nameraising) no later than August 31, 2020. Earlier responses are appreciated.

**What Is Name-Raising?** Unlike a traditional nomination process, name-raising is a "Sister-Spirit" method of discerning the gifts and talents of a person who might best match the qualities needed on the NETWORK Boards at a given time. This process involves prayerful discernment on the part of those who are raising the names of potential Board members, the potential Board members, and the Boards themselves.

**About NETWORK:** A national network of social justice advocates – and the organization behind Nuns on the Bus – NETWORK educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation. Founded in 1971 by Catholic sisters in the progressive spirit of Vatican II, NETWORK works to "Mend the Gaps" in income and wealth disparity and works to create a society and economy of inclusion. We value women's leadership, we appreciate people from religious and secular backgrounds, we affirm members of the LGBTQ+ community, and we engage in the ongoing work to become a multicultural anti-racist organization. We are a microcosm of the church as we would like it to be.

**Seeking Racial Diversity:** As we engage in the work of Racial Justice, we seek to have people of color in leadership positions, including on the Boards. While we remain committed to all forms of diversity – race and ethnic heritage; economic background; ministry or occupation; geography; age; LGBTQ+ identity; and affiliation (or not) with a community of women religious – in 2021, **we are actively seeking people of color to join the Boards.**

**Skills/Experience:** NETWORK believes that a well-developed Board will include members with a variety of skills. Who comes to mind when you think of someone with one or more of these gifts:

- A creative and strategic thinker committed to the mission of NETWORK
- Someone with nonprofit Board or Leadership experience
- Expertise in Development/Philanthropy (fundraising strategy, connections, ability to raise money), Finance (business/financial management, budgeting, accounting) and/or Governance

*NETWORK educates, organizes, and lobbies for social and economic transformation. We are rooted in Catholic Social Justice and open to all who share our passion. We value women's leadership, welcome secular and religious backgrounds, affirm LGBTQ+ identities, and engage in ongoing racial justice work.*

- Lived experience of working with communities of color, social movements, low-income communities, and/or congregations of women religious

## Qualifications

- ✓ Must be or become a member of [NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice](#);
- ✓ Must have a serious commitment to [the principles of Catholic Social Justice](#); and
- ✓ Must be able and willing to attend and participate actively in semi-annual Board meetings and monthly committee conference calls. Current committees are: Development, Finance, and Governance & Administration.

Founded by Catholic sisters and rooted in Catholic Social Justice, NETWORK is open to all who share our passion for gospel justice; therefore, **you are not limited to raising only the names of Catholic people.**

## What Is the Time Commitment?

- ✓ Two weekend in-person\* Board meetings per year in Washington, D.C. (In 2021, they are scheduled for April 23-25 and November 12-14.)
- ✓ Monthly committee conference calls with pre-meeting review of materials.
- ✓ Additional assignments from committee work.
- ✓ If one takes on a leadership position, this will also require a greater time commitment.
- ✓ If elected, a new Board member would be asked to serve a three-year term with the option of serving up to three consecutive terms.

*\*In-person meetings will only be held when safe to do so.*

**The Call to NETWORK Members:** We ask you to consider prayerfully persons you know whose gifts could enhance the NETWORK Boards. It is up to you to help form the membership of our Boards and create the future of NETWORK.

*Who do you know with a passion for justice?*

*Do you know of justice-seekers who fit the demographics we seek?*

*Who comes to mind when you think of someone with the qualities listed?*

*Who would have the time to commit to NETWORK's mission?*

In the coming days, please take time to prayerfully consider people whom you believe would be an asset to the NETWORK Boards. Speak to those persons who come to mind and let them know you are raising their names as possible candidates for a position on the Boards. Finally, complete the name-raising form at [www.networklobby.org/nameraising](http://www.networklobby.org/nameraising) no later than August 31, 2020.

Each person whose name is raised will receive a response from us and an invitation to enter into their own process of discernment around membership on the Boards. The Boards themselves will enter into discernment at their November meetings to complete this selection process. New members join the Boards in Spring 2021.

The NETWORK Boards are grateful for the gifts of time and discernment you offer on behalf of this endeavor and are hoping for a robust response from our membership as we seek to fill these positions on our Boards.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [nameraising@networklobby.org](mailto:nameraising@networklobby.org).