

Introducing the new:

MassNAELA Monday Minute

Please take a moment to read this announcement!

In an effort to improve organizational communication and member engagement the MassNAELA Board of Directors has created the *MassNAELA Monday Minute*. This brief weekly announcement will be released each Monday afternoon and will contain information about the upcoming week, as well as other important announcements.

The format of the *Monday Minute* includes brief summaries and highlights in the first section, followed by a second section containing more detail about events and registration information.

If you would like to submit any ideas or content for the *Monday Minute*, please send your submission to MassNAELA Executive Director, Clarence Richardson at Clarence@MassNAELA.com.

Meetings This Week

(If you are interested in participating in any of the meetings listed below, contact Clarence@MassNAELA.com for the Zoom/meeting information.)

- Tuesday 9/26
 - Mentorship Question of the Month - 10:00AM
 - MassNAELA Probate Court Workgroup - 12:00PM (Join us to hear about our most recent conversations with the courts.)
- Wednesday 9/27
 - Advocacy Committee, Legislative Briefing at the State House (In-person, see details and registration below.) - 1:00-3:00PM
- Monday 10/2
 - MassNAELA Executive Board Meeting - 9:30AM

Workgroup & Committee Announcements

MassNAELA Workgroups and Committees consist of dedicated volunteers that are hard at work year-round. These announcements highlight a few recent developments from some of our Workgroups and Committees and will change from week to week. If you are able to donate an hour of your time, our Workgroups and Committees would love to have your support. In addition, many of our volunteers have appreciated the knowledge and connections they have gained from being more active. Contact Clarence to find out how you can help.

- **Advocacy Committee** - The MassNAELA Advocacy Committee is hosting our first ever legislative briefing at the Massachusetts State House, Rm. 428, on Wednesday Sept. 27, 2023 from 1:00-3:00PM. (See below for details.)
- **Nominating Committee** - The MassNAELA Nominating Committee is accepting applications to serve on the Board of Directors. The deadline to apply is Friday, Sept. 29, 2023. (Further details and application below.)
- **Special Needs Steering Committee** - The MassNAELA Special Needs Steering Committee is hosting its annual UnProgram, in-person, at the Edwards House Meetings & Retreats, 1 Badger Rd, Framingham, MA 01702, on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023 from 9:00AM-4:00PM. (See below for details.)

Other Important Information

Member benefit spotlight - MassHealth Appeal Helpline

The MassNAELA Due Process Workgroup would like to remind everyone about the **MassHealth Appeal Helpline**. To utilize this member benefit you can complete the form linked below, which is also available on the members-only portion of the MassNAELA website, under Resources and Research.

After completing the Application you will be connected with experienced MassNAELA volunteers who are willing to assist members with questions about MassHealth Denials, Fair Hearings, and 30A Appeals. The goal of this Helpline is to gather data about MassHealth practices and help create positive case law.

[Click Here to View and Download The Form](#)

[Click Here to Visit the Resources and Research Page on the MassNAELA Website](#)

If you have any questions contact Clarence for more information.

Further Detail For Topics Above

MassNAELA Legislative Briefing Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, 1:00-3:00PM

Join MassNAELA Members, legislators, and members of the public for our first ever MassNAELA Legislative Briefing! The event will take place on **Wednesday, September 27 from 1:00-3:00pm in Rm. 428 at the State House**. We will have an opportunity to interact with our bill sponsors, share stories, and present to legislative staff about MassHealth Basics.

This event is free and will be in-person only.

[Click Here for the official flyer](#)

[Click Here to let us know if you can make it](#)

MassNAELA Board Member Nominations Open!

(Please respond by Friday Sept. 29 if interested.)

Are you interested in becoming more involved in MassNAELA? Do you have ideas for events, programs, or services that would benefit our Chapter, or the people we serve? Do you want to help guide the future of MassNAELA? If any of these questions spark your interest then you should consider joining the MassNAELA Board of Directors!

If you are interested in joining the board, complete this:

- [Biography Form Word](#) (This version will automatically download to your computer).
- [Biography Form PDF](#) (This version will open in a new webpage and can then be downloaded and completed).

Once completed return it to Clarence@MassNAELA.com. If you know someone that would be a good fit for the board please encourage them to complete this Biography Form, or share their name with the Nominating Committee and we would be happy to offer a direct invitation. **Please note that the deadline for submitting the Biography Form is Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Feel free to contact me with any questions!**

Criteria for Board Members

In determining the slate of nominees for election at the Annual Meeting, the Nominations Committee will consider:

- How long the applicant has been a member of MassNAELA;
- The applicant's contributions to the Chapter through participation on the Board, committees, special projects, advocacy, programs, etc.;
- The applicant's contributions to the field of Elder Law; and
- The applicant's ideas and vision for the future of the Chapter.

For further information about the responsibilities of Board Members, take a look at the [MassNAELA Board Member Agreement](#).

Please note that Board Members are elected to a two year term, which will begin on January 1, 2024 and end on December 31, 2025.

MassNAELA Special Needs UnProgram

Friday, October 20, 2023, 9:00AM-4:00PM
Edwards Meeting House, 1 Badger Rd, Framingham, MA 01702

Have you ever wished you could be part of a live Q+A discussion that spans the range of disability-related topics – housing, special education, care in the community, public benefits, legal drafting and advocacy, special needs practice issues, ethics, etc.? Now is your chance! Come join attorneys and members from organizations, both public and private, involved in the disability community (our "Community Partners") to ask questions, share solutions, discuss hot new topics, and make valuable new connections. The unprogrammed format is a rare chance for attendees to run the show. It has been a long two years since our last in-person UnProgram meeting, and no doubt we all have a lot of new experiences, stories, programs and services to share. The past few years have certainly opened our eyes to some new ways of working and major challenges.

We will spend the morning in breakout sessions to discuss topics generated by attendees. In each breakout session, we will divide into small groups that cohere around topics, such as DDS, DMH, and MRC services, Social Security benefits, mental health, housing and independent living supports, employment, etc. There is an opportunity on the registration form to enter your specific and general questions, and topic ideas. Please send your questions in advance on the registration form, or by emailing Amanda Hsiao (amanda@kimberlykellylaw.com). There will also be opportunities to raise additional questions/topics at the event itself. MassNAELA attorneys and Community Partners may act as facilitators in the small breakout sessions, if needed, but the goal for each session is to put control into the hands of participants to create the discussion they want to have.

After lunch, there will be a screening of the film "Lives Worth Living," an inspirational documentary that explains and celebrates the history of the disability rights movement in the United States. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the producer of the film.

We will close the day with a full group session where all participants come together to share their key takeaways from breakout sessions. This will be a chance to hear key points of discussion from break-out sessions you were not able to attend. It will be a collaborative session, with attorneys and CPs sharing best practices, new ideas, and lingering questions.

Our goal with this program is to help each other find answers to those questions that keep us up at night and to expand our network of community partners and service providers so we know where to find help for our disabled clients and their families. Please join us for this unique opportunity.

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Contact Executive Director, Clarence Richardson at
Clarence@MassNAELA.com or 617-566-5640 with any questions.**

