Nominee Profiles

BOARD DIRECTOR & OFFICER ELECTIONS

Seven individual profiles.
One consistent view of leadership, experience, and service.

Member Elections

Voting members elect Board Directors.

Officer Elections

The Board of Directors elects all Officers, including the Board Chair and Accountability Chair.

Open Secure Document Viewer

Profiles follow in alphabetical order by first name. Letters and the election announcement are separate documents.

View The Linked Profile Index

Profile Index

Select a name to open its page. Select a gold monogram to open its secure profile viewer.

CS — Carlos Smith
VP, Outreach & Community Partnerships
Board Officer election
03

JF — James Ferguson
Board Director
Profile Update Pending · Member election
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ME — Maggiy Emery
Board Director / Treasurer
Members: Director · Board: Treasurer
05

RM — Raeanne Makinen-Brown
Secretary
Board Officer election
06

RS — Dr. Raj Sethuraju
Accountability Chair
Profile Update Pending · Board Officer election
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VH — Vada Haxton
Board Director
Profile Update Pending · Member election
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YB — Yolanda Butler
Board Chair / President
Board elects Board Chair and President
09

Members elect Directors. The Board elects all Officers, including both Chairs. Voting remains closed.

CS

View Profile

Carlos Smith

Restorative Practice & Community Leadership

Offices Sought: VP, Outreach & Community Partnerships

Restorative practitioner and peer recovery specialist supporting justice-impacted individuals through accountability-centered programs and community partnerships. Brings circle facilitation, strengths-based planning, crisis support, participant assessment, and practical follow-through.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Circle Facilitation

Structured restorative circles and group sessions supporting accountability, communication, teamwork, and personal development.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Action Planning

Participant-progress assessments, feedback analysis, and coordination of session materials, space, and resources.

NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE

One Board

Get Free Minnesota Board service, bringing community partnership and participant-accountability experience.

Leadership Experience

Facilitation & Engagement. Leads restorative circles and develops activities that build communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Participant Accountability. Guides action plans, tracks progress, and applies participant feedback to program improvements.

Community Collaboration. Coordinates stakeholder resources; supports recovery groups, recovery mentorship, and crisis response.

Practice Areas

Peer recovery support, circle facilitation, community partnerships, and participant accountability.

Nonprofit Leadership & Service

Community service with Circle of Peace, Red Road Recovery, The Salvation Army, and GMCC, including healing circles, recovery support, outreach, and meal service.

Education & Professional Credentials

Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS), Minnesota Certification Board; Restorative Practitioner Training; A.S., Liberal Arts, Inver Hills Community College.

GFMN relationship: Employee. Justice-impacted leadership: Directly Justice-Impacted; organizer-confirmed September 26, 2026.

JF

View Profile

James Ferguson

Profile Update Pending

Offices Sought: Board Director

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Profile Update Pending

The candidate’s consent and profile update are still pending.

Office & Selection Process

Board Director
Member election

Nomination Status

Nominee Consent And Profile Pending

Next Profile Update

Candidate introduction
Relevant experience
Community and Board service
Education and training

The candidate’s information will be added after submission and review.

This page is a placeholder profile. Consent and review statuses are shown above.

ME

View Profile

Maggiy Emery

Nonprofit Executive

Offices Sought: Board Director / Treasurer

Activist for equality and shared liberation, with more than ten years of nonprofit and political experience in strategy, leadership, fundraising, development, and communications. Her work spans violence prevention, prison reform, animal welfare, immigration, food justice, sustainability, healthcare access, and local arts.

CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING

$4 Million+

Created and managed the Dan Feehan for Congress fundraising program, raising more than $4 million in the 2018 election cycle.

ANNUAL GRANT PORTFOLIO

$150,000+

Maintained an annual grant portfolio exceeding $150,000 at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.

NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE

Four Boards

Sharing Our Roots, Caritas, Healthcare for All Minnesota, and Greener Pastures.

Leadership Experience

Financial & Fundraising Leadership. Campaign fundraising, donor stewardship, grant portfolios, and funding plans.

Organizational Leadership. Directed nonprofit strategy, staff, programs, and budgets across charitable, advocacy, and political-action branches.

Resource Development. Led individual and corporate giving, campaigns, appeals, and major fundraising events.

Data & Team Stewardship. Managed donor databases and supervised finance assistants and interns.

Community Service

Minneapolis Rotary Club member, local nonprofit volunteer, and foster caregiver to more than 70 dogs, cats, and kittens.

Nonprofit Leadership & Service

Executive Director of Protect Minnesota; Board Secretary for Sharing Our Roots; Board Development Committee leadership with Caritas and Healthcare for All Minnesota; general Board member for Greener Pastures.

Education & Professional Credentials

B.A., Political Science and Theatre; English minor, University of Minnesota Duluth. Skills include donor databases, digital communications, presentations, and website tools.

Selected Professional Experience

Protect Minnesota; Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota; Dan Feehan for Congress. Additional campaign finance, nonprofit development, and program coordination roles.

GFMN relationship: Unpaid; not a paid employee or contractor. Justice-impacted leadership: Not provided in the submitted Board profile.

RM

View Profile

Raeanne Makinen-Brown

Paralegal & Community Leader

Offices Sought: Secretary

Paralegal and direct-service professional with experience in Board governance, collective bargaining, disability advocacy, and community organizing. Brings legal research, records administration, hearing preparation, deadline management, and member representation.

LEGAL & RECORDS SUPPORT

Case Management

High-volume caseloads, physical and electronic files, filing deadlines, hearing preparation, and materials for attorney review.

GOVERNANCE & REPRESENTATION

Board & Bargaining

Strategic planning, member-priority gathering, and review of collective-bargaining contract language.

NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE

One Board

Get Free Minnesota / IWOC Board service, with governance, policy development, and member representation.

Leadership Experience

Records & Analysis. Organizes evidence and case files, researches benefit issues, and prepares hearing materials and briefs for attorney review.

Governance & Policy. Contributes to strategic planning, policy development, and Board decision-making.

Member Communication. Gathers priorities, reviews proposed contract language, and educates members about bargaining progress.

Practice Areas

Records administration, legal support, disability advocacy, Board governance, and worker voice.

Nonprofit Leadership & Service

Get Free Minnesota / IWOC Board service, community organizing with End Slavery in Minnesota, and disability advocacy through Partners in Policy Making. Labor service includes bargaining-unit participation, homecare activism, and political leadership with SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa.

Education & Professional Credentials

B.S., Paralegal Studies, and Legal Secretary Diploma, Minnesota School of Business. Partners in Policy Making, Class 41. The résumé lists notary, electronic-notary, and remote-notary credentials.

GFMN relationship: Unpaid; not a paid employee or contractor. Justice-impacted leadership: Directly Justice-Impacted; organizer-confirmed September 26, 2026.

RS

View Profile

Dr. Raj Sethuraju

Profile Update Pending

Offices Sought: Accountability Chair

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Profile Update Pending

The Accountability Chair nomination is noted in earlier records. Acceptance and the candidate’s profile update are awaiting confirmation.

Office & Selection Process

Accountability Chair
Board Officer election

Nomination Status

Acceptance Not Yet Confirmed

Next Profile Update

Candidate introduction
Relevant experience
Community and Board service
Education and training

The candidate’s information will be added after submission and review.

This page is a placeholder profile. Consent and review statuses are shown above.

VH

View Profile

Vada Haxton

Profile Update Pending

Offices Sought: Board Director

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Profile Update Pending

Acceptance was recorded on October 9, 2026. The candidate’s profile is waiting to be updated and reviewed.

Office & Selection Process

Board Director
Member election

Nomination Status

Acceptance Recorded; Profile Pending

Next Profile Update

Candidate introduction
Relevant experience
Community and Board service
Education and training

The candidate’s information will be added after submission and review.

This page is a placeholder profile. Consent and review statuses are shown above.

YB

View Profile

Yolanda Butler

Tech Executive | Global Cybersecurity Officer

Offices Sought: Board Chair / President

Tech executive with 28+ years of experience in global technology leadership, cybersecurity, governance, risk, and compliance. Brings ethical AI leadership and training, program and budget management, commercial negotiation, customer relationship management, and nonprofit Board service.

PROGRAMS & PROJECT BUDGETS

$9M+

Managed enterprise technology programs and project budgets, including financial planning, resource allocation, vendor oversight, and delivery controls.

COMMERCIAL PROPOSAL PORTFOLIO

$82.3 Million

Proposal-review portfolio supported through departmental bid governance and executive reporting. Proposal value; not an operating budget.

NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE

Three Boards

Current Get Free Minnesota Board service; prior Board service with PMI Minnesota and BDPA Twin Cities.

Leadership Experience

Technology Strategy, Cybersecurity & GRC. Global programs, enterprise risk, data protection, audit, and remediation practices.

Ethical AI Leadership & Training. Responsible AI governance, AI security, privacy-conscious practices, and professional development.

Financial & Commercial Leadership. Program budgets, forecasting, pricing, contract negotiations, and customer relationships.

Organizational Leadership. Operational continuity, workforce planning, coaching, professional training, and enterprise transformation.

Military Service

Illinois Army National Guard & U.S. Army

Nonprofit Leadership & Service

Current Board and committee service with Get Free Minnesota and the Hope Act Committee; prior PMI Minnesota and BDPA Twin Cities Board service. Equality Florida sponsoring donor and volunteer canvasser; Dr. P. Phillips YMCA donor member.

Education & Professional Credentials

M.S. and B.S.; Executive Certificate in Business Law for Leaders, Northwestern Kellogg; PMP, Certified ScrumMaster, ITIL Foundations, and Microsoft Certified Professional.

Selected Enterprise Experience

Client engagements: Apple, Google, Boeing, ExxonMobil, P&G, GM, and Lockheed Martin. Enterprise projects: Disney, Hawker Beechcraft, Coca-Cola, Best Buy, Medtronic, Thomson Reuters / Westlaw, and 3M.

GFMN relationship: Unpaid; not a paid employee or contractor. Justice-impacted leadership: Directly Justice-Impacted; self-identified by Yolanda Butler.