



THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

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Message From The President

PAUL FITZGERALD, PSY.D., LCPC, CEAP

**YOUR INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN
TOMORROW'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE
#NIEAPA2021**

We invite you to join us at the Northern Illinois Employee Assistance Professionals Association's 42nd Annual Conference, "The Future is Now." Our Chapter's Conference Committee and planning team have done a masterful job of planning an all-online program to meet the challenges of a quality conference in a world impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have heard from our past attendees that the NIEAPA Annual Conference has been valuable for both their professional development and the opportunity to network and build professional relationships. Many of us have become more familiar with online professional development in the past year, and I believe that we are presenting a Conference with many solid educational offerings. Building and improving the networking value of our Conference in the online format has been more of a challenge, but we believe that our planning team has built an outstanding set of tools for professional connection, which allows our members to highlight their services and resources for our employee assistance community.

We are excited to host this virtual conference this year. Please join us as we bring leaders together - The Future Is Now!

**JUNE 8 & JUNE 9, 2021
7:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

[Learn More](#) - [View Schedule](#) - [Register](#)



Register Today!

BRINGING LEADERS TOGETHER

42ND VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE FUTURE IS NOW

#NIEAPA2021

JUNE 8 & JUNE 9, 2021
 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

Early Bird Pricing EXTENDED through the Conference!

The countdown is on! **The Future is Now** is **TOMORROW!** Expect to explore, discuss, network and collaborate with the best professionals in EAP from the Northern Illinois region and surrounding border states. We've got some great sessions, discussions, speakers, and networking opportunities all lined up for you. The event is going to be incredible, and we can't wait to see you there!



The pandemic has wreaked havoc on the EA and mental health profession. Tough times are the best time to participate in high-quality professional development and networking with peers to best manage the current crisis. **THE FUTURE IS NOW** provides you a chance to connect with over a hundred amazing thinkers and EA professionals. With so many educational options to choose from, #NIEAPA2021 is one of the most affordable!

Come get energized by speakers, gain transformational knowledge and build strong relationships with your colleagues! **THE FUTURE IS NOW** conference has been designed and planned by leading EA professionals who understand the information you desire, the relationships you are looking to cultivate, and the challenges you are facing in today's environment.

As an ATTENDEE, you'll have the ability to create your break out session schedule and view two Keynote sessions and a Recovery Speaker over the two day event. There will also be opportunities for to network with you colleagues, visit sponsor exhibits, enter raffles, attend roundtable-networking breakouts and download your CE certificates after the conference is over!

[Learn More](#) - [View Schedule](#) - [Register](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS

Platinum Sponsors





Did you miss April's Chapter Meeting?

Catch up on valuable NIEAPA updates and learn why the autism spectrum diagnosis has become more common in the last 20 years.

This program examined current theories of autism, particularly as this relates to genetics and the late identification of the condition in adults. Recent research suggests that the spectrum of autism is quite broad and that these traits are more common than was previously believed. Many adults not previously diagnosed may be on the spectrum.

Browse our recordings of past chapter meeting webinars and discover additional topics which may interest you.

[View Recording](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

NIEAPA's Chapter Meeting • April 16, 2021

NEURODIVERSITY: Late Identification of Autism and its Implications for the Workplace And for Practice with Adults

Presented by: **Chet Taranowski**

EAPA Institute & EXPO,
Hilton Americas Houston,
with Virtual Offerings



Save the Dates!

- Friday, September 24 - Sunday, September 26 (Main Institute Weekend)
- EAPA EXPO Open Dates: September 23-25
- Pre-Institute Training Courses: September 22-23
- DOT/SAP Post-Institute Special Training: September 27-28

Attendee Registration will open mid-June.

[Learn More](#)

NIEAPA

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE
PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

join us

Save your spot today!

UPCOMING DIVERSITY CONVERSATIONS

(members only)

JUNE 15, 2021 • NOON



Being Called Out for Your Words: Accountability or Punishment?

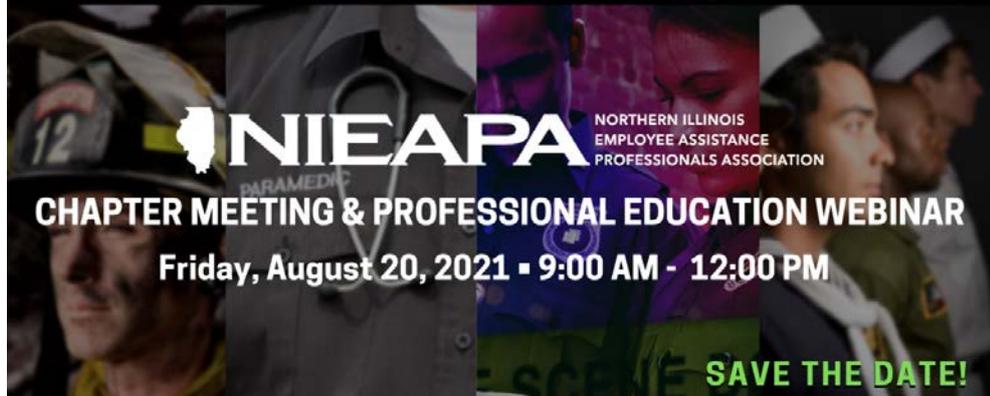
Why is it so difficult to talk about issues related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion? Why does it feel like walking on egg shells? Why our good intentions seem to lead to frustration and arguments? All these and many other questions will be asked and answers will be sought together in our June 15th session of the NIEAPA Diversity Conversations facilitated by Tatyana Fertelmeyster and Emily Henry.

NIEAPA Members Encouraging and Leading Conversations About Diversity

[REGISTER](#)

If you have questions or need additional information please contact: NIEAPA@corpevent.com

VICARIOUS TRAUMA IN RESPONDERS AND THERAPISTS



This presentation will address some of the critical elements related to vicarious trauma first responders and therapists may experience during periods of extended emergency situations, such as the impact of prolonged quarantine conditions and how these differ from other critical incident stress exposure.

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES:

- The participant will recognize indications of prolonged critical incident related under the current quarantine situations.
- The participant will recognize how subtle adaptations to prolonged stress conditions may impact the individual, and that the resilience factors generally available are impacted.
- The participant will be able to identify strategies to help mitigate and manage further stress in the unknown time frame.
- The participant will understand that responders have different direct and indirect exposures to critical stress, and understand the similarities of ongoing functioning demands have many layers of impact that must be addressed constantly in order to continue functioning.

SPEAKER:

Kathryn Juzwin, PsyD
ProActive Behavioral Health

Registration opening soon! Stay tuned!



SHARE WHAT YOU ARE MOST EXCITED TO ENJOY OR DO NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN VACCINATED FOR COVID19

Thanks to our members for sharing!

TRAVEL!
KAYLAA MCGINNIS

**In-person family reunion
(in Arizona)..**
Pamela Gomez Scott

SPA DAY!!
ANONYMOUS

HUG!
EMILY HENRY

TRAVEL!
ANONYMOUS

Visit in person and at restaurants
with vaccinated friends.
Anonymous

*Connecting with others!
Looking forward to going to concerts
again when it is safe to do so!*
Shannon Smith

I plan on taking a vacation!
Anonymous

I am looking forward to traveling again!
Marilyn DeStefanork

Gardening!
Jennifer Farrell

Go shopping at a real store and
maybe vacation.
Chester J Taranowski

**Travel
internationally!**
ANONYMOUS

TRAVEL!
LAURA ADAMS

No vaccine; just travelled to Disney with my
16 year old son (already had COVID with no
symptoms) and visited my vaccinated
parents in Florida!
ANONYMOUS

Since the pandemic, we have added two additional
grandsons, one of which resides in Seattle with his
parents. Now that we are fully vaccinated, we are
making arrangements to visit them this summer. This will
be the first time we will be able to see him and fuss
over him since his arrival!
Scott Cullen-Benson

**Visit Grandchildren,
hug people!**
ANNE SCHMIDT

**Optimistic, but still living within precautions. Eating out
more, if the restaurant is safety-oriented per the virus.**
Charla Waxman

Committee Updates

NIEAPA PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE (NPSC)

CONTACT: SCOTT JANSON

Mission Statement

"The NIEAPA Professionals' Support Committee provides an interdisciplinary forum for purposeful collaboration and development of resources and assistance specific to the wellbeing of high accountability professionals in safety sensitive positions."

I am grateful and humbled to be Chairperson of the NIEAPA Professionals Support Committee (NPSC) which provides an Interdisciplinary forum for purposeful collaboration, development of resources and assistance specific to the wellbeing of high accountability professionals in safety sensitive positions. We as a committee define the word professional as: Individuals who are in high accountability positions who must follow a prescribed protocol related to their profession in order to return to their licensed or government sanctioned responsibilities. This could include professionals such as law enforcement, firefighters, and union personnel to name a few.

I invite you to join us for a collaborative and dynamic discussion at our next meeting which is generally the 3rd Monday of each month from 10:30am-11:30am. You can find the meeting link on the NIEAPA website under Calendar of Events or simply send me an email: sejanson@gatewayfoundation.org to be added to our committee list for additional information.

The need to understand multiple professions' nuances and the associated unique concerns that may act as barriers to professionals being restored to health and often times their jobs is a general focus in our discussions. Our goal is to continue identifying and alleviating barriers to these professionals getting the kind of help they need and in some cases to assist licensed professionals with the various issues they face in identifying and obtaining appropriate health-related and licensure/legal resources.

We invite all NIEAPA members to join the NIEAPA Professionals Support Committee in its endeavors, whether as a committee member or inputting concerns or questions you might have regarding these specific populations so we can continue to inform, educate, and hopefully inspire. WE are all inclusive and never exclusive, so please consider joining us to share your ideas/ thoughts because they can make a difference in the great work we are all doing to help someone in need.

Updates

The NIEAPA Professionals Support Committee met on April 26th for a productive discussion, and if you were unable to attend, I hope you will consider joining us for our next meeting.

As a result of our discussions on April 26th related to Peer Support Programs and Scott Cullen Benson's efforts, our May 24th meeting featured a Special Guest from American Airlines Peer Support Program, Project Wingman.

Captain Charlie Curreri, Senior manager for Project Wingman, provided our committee with a presentation detailing Project Wingman along with Q& A for our committee members. Scott Cullen Benson spoke very highly to the sophistication of this program and its ability for EAP and Union members to collaborate for the best outcome for the individuals seeking help. It was a great learning opportunity to understand better the inner workings of a peer support program that operates to help high accountability professionals in a safety-sensitive role.





Committee Updates

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

CONTACT: [EMILY HENRY](#)

The NIEAPA Diversity Committee strives to keep the NIEAPA membership focused on diversity and inclusion issues.

One of our initiatives has been providing monthly message on the NIEAPA listserv to inform, educate, and hopefully inspire. A more recent development is the NIEAPA Diversity Conversations Forum. The NIEAPA Diversity Conversations forum also intends to inspire, educate, and promote an exchange of ideas rather than providing formal education with CEUs. **All NIEAPA members** are invited to engage with us in lively discussions during these lunchtime hour-long conversations. We have already conducted two successful conversations in late 2020. Our next conversation plans to focus on White Privilege from a personal perspective – a date will soon be announced.

ONE LAST NOTE: If you want to help increase multicultural membership and active participation in the NIEAPA organization and board, as well as meeting the leadership challenges of our multicultural community, please join the NIEAPA Diversity Committee and participate in these efforts. Please contact [Emily Henry](#) if you are interested or would like additional information!



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CONTACT: [TERRY CENDEJAS](#)

The Membership Committee is responsible for collaborating with committees, membership, Board, and staff liaisons on key strategies, challenges, and needs to

provide insight on membership recruitment, engagement, and retention. We meet 2-4 times per year.

We are hard at work building out a new Member-Only site that will house a forum, members only resources etc. As well, we are looking for member testimonials! We will feature these testimonials on the website, in newsletter, social media, etc. [Enter your testimonial here NOW!](#)

We are looking for new members to join a great team! We are excited to find the next group of members who can continue bringing good ideas to the group. If interested, please reach out to Terry directly.



Join Us at an Upcoming Committee Meeting

NIEAPA PEER SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2021
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Contact: [Paul Fitzgerald](#)
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

NIEAPA Professionals Support Committee Meeting

Mon, June 21, 2021
10:30am – 11:30am

Contact: [Scott Janson](#)
Members only.
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



Stay in Touch • Join A Committee



NIEAPA committees are always accepting new committee volunteers who are enthusiastic about getting involved and eager to make a difference. Join a committee to share your experiences and expertise, connect with fellow members and collaborate with your peers on programs and initiatives to advance our profession - all while developing skills that will benefit you both personally and professionally. If you are interested, please contact the committee chair or nieapa@corpevent.com.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

CONTACT: KIM BRANCH
NIEAPA@CORPEVENT.COM

We are looking for someone who enjoys communicating what NIEAPA and our industry is doing by helping us post events, articles, and interesting tidbits to our digital outlets.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

CONTACT: EMILY HENRY
EMILY.HENRY@OPTUM.COM

Conference Committee is in full swing planning our 42nd Virtual Conference on June 8th & 9th. Please be on the lookout for more details to come in the next month!

CREDENTIALLING COMMITTEE

CONTACT: TOM DELEGATTO
TDELEGATTO@RECOVERYWORKSIN.COM

The members of the Credentialing Committee are responsible for applying for all CEUs and PDHs for the chapter presentations and the conference. Records of all training events and attendees must be kept for auditing purposes for a minimum of six years.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

CONTACT: PAUL FITZGERALD
PAUL@FITZGERALDCOUNSELING.COM

The NIEAPA Ethics Committee was formed to provide a resource for sharing knowledge and fostering discussion about the ethical practice of Employee Assistance. Members are invited to contact the Chair to initiate a discussion/consultation with the Committee around ethical questions.

EAP PEER SUPPORT & CONSULTATION FORUM

CONTACT: PAUL FITZGERALDV- PAUL@FITZGERALDCOUNSELING.COM

The NIEAPA Peer Support & Consultation Forum provides a discussion format for EAPs engaged in providing clinical services directly to clients. Discussions revolve around issues affecting their work and clients. These meetings are primarily for those who are looking for peer support and ethical (not legal) consultation on peculiar situations that arise in our line of work. In the recent past, people have joined the meeting who are involved more on the provider side which has been a welcomed addition to the conversations. The group is gathering member input right now on the structure and timing of these meetings, so please reach out! Once there's been some interest expressed, Paul will put out a message to get a meeting scheduled.

LABOR COMMITTEE

CONTACT: CHARLEY GALASSINI
SUPERBOWL1996@SBCGLOBAL.NET

The Labor Committee shall be composed of those members of trade/industrial union/management joint programs who are involved in the actual provision or administration of member's assistance services with special emphasis on chemical abuse or dependency issues and mental health issues.

STUDENT AND NEW PROFESSIONALS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CONTACT: PRISCILLA MURPHY-KANG
KANGP@METROFAMILY.ORG

The committee works with graduate schools in EA-related clinical fields as well as reach out to newly practicing professionals to provide information about the EA field. The committee's goal is to help students and new professionals develop an interest in Employee Assistance as a career path. We are looking for committee members to help reach out to schools on NIEAPA's behalf to identify a new process for student outreach.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

CONTACT: LIZ CROWE
ELIZABETH.CROWE@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG OR **LAURA ADAMS**
LADAMS@HAZELDENBETTYFORD.ORG

The Program Committee selects Chapter Meeting speakers based on submissions through the NIEAPA website. They also coordinate the logistics for the location and food hosts for the NIEAPA Chapter Meetings. They meet several times a year to discuss the speaker submissions and work together to schedule speakers and coordinate materials needed from speakers in advance.





**NORTHERN ILLINOIS
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE
PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**

NEWEST TRENDING ARTICLES (In Case You Missed It)

Companies battle worker burnout to meet diversity pledges

Benefits Pro



Black workers report higher rates of burnout and depression, creating a new issue for employers trying to improve their workforce diversity. Significantly increasing the numbers of Black, Latino and other under-represented workers means not just bringing in new people, but keeping the ones you have. For employers, that's going to mean addressing burnout in a way they never have before.

[Read More](#)



Return-to-workplace worries are affecting employee mental health

Human Resources Executive

The pandemic isn't over and the prospect of returning to work is stressful, says one expert. Employees' mental health is worsening as the return to the workplace looms, according to new research, with rates of stress, anxiety, depressed mood and PTSD risk on the rise once again.

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 anxiety syndrome: A pandemic phenomenon?

Medical News Today



As lockdowns and restrictions ease in various locations, some people find it extremely challenging to reacclimate to "normal" life. As the pandemic recedes, some consider this phenomenon as the next emerging mental health crisis. Over a year has passed since SARS-CoV-2 began to spread across the world. Its appearance, which first caused mild concern, soon turned into serious worry.

[Read More](#)

The state of mental health in the workplace

Property Casualty 360



The insurance industry and employers are approaching mental health in new ways to support improved access to care and break down stigma.

Discussions around the impact of mental health and well-being in the workplace are frequent "Out Front Ideas with Kimberly and Mark" topics. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we are offering our thoughts on the current state of mental health in the workplace.

Even before the pandemic, benefits managers were evolving employee benefits to equip employees and plan members better with mental health resources. However, as the work-from-home assignments continued and social isolation set in, employers became even more aware of the impact of mental health and well-being on productivity.

[Read More](#)

One in nine adults struggled with mental health during pandemic, researchers find

Medical Xpress



One in nine adults consistently had very poor or deteriorating mental health during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic according to new research. Those living in the most deprived neighborhoods along with ethnic minority groups were the most affected.

[Read More](#)



CELEBRATING MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY

Thank you for being an essential part of NIEAPA's success. Congratulations on your member anniversary!

30+ YEARS

- John Thomas - 31 years
- Stella Mae Nicholson - 32 years
- Chet Taranowski - 33 years
- Steven Haught - 38 years

25 - 29 YEARS

- William Heffernan - 27 years
- Carol Cardy-Cueno - 27 years

15 - 24 YEARS

- Carole Hoffman - 17 years
- Rick Kronberg - 17 years
- Charley Galassini - 22 years
- Kathleen Blaszkiewicz - 23 years
- Natalie DuBois - 23 years
- Nancy Vaccaro - 23 years



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Gretchen Refro | Trish Flaherty |
| Kelli Lillard | Joyce Ann McGinn |
| Lauri DeGiacomo | Krista Woods |
| Melinda Dworkin | |

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Interested in learning more about your benefits as a member of NIEAPA or becoming a member? Learn more about the value of a NIEAPA membership!

[Connect with a NIEAPA Ambassador](#)

[Join/Renew EAPA & NIEAPA Membership](#)



1 - 4 YEARS

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lori Kehoe - 1 year | Jodee Elliot - 3 years |
| Christine Porter - 1 year | Emily Henry - 3 years |
| Emily Smith - 1 year | Leslie Pruyne - 3 years |
| Shannon Stowasser - 1 year | Aaron Stevens - 3 years |
| Jennifer Wegener - 1 year | Allison Thomas - 3 years |
| Danielle Carleton - 2 years | Rosanna Velat - 3 years |
| Cher Geiger - 2 years | Denise Casey - 4 years |
| Scott Janson - 2 years | Rebecca Litz - 4 years |
| Agnes Mantzas - 2 years | Tandra Rutledge - 4 years |
| James Manock - 2 years | Stacie Westhouse-Milam - 4 years |
| Kaylaa McGinnis - 2 years | |
| Pamela Gomez Scott - 2 years | |
| Shannon Smith - 2 years | |
| Kimberly Williams - 2 years | |

10 - 14 YEARS

- Shari Nivash - 10 years
- Gloria Bloodsaw - 11 years
- David Pawlowski - 11 years
- Priscilla Kang - 14 years
- Robert Flynn - 14 years
- John Pompe - 14 years
- Jeffrey Roth - 14 years

5 - 9 YEARS

- Teresa Cendejas - 5 years
- Phillip Kosanovich - 5 years
- Vickie Lewis - 5 years
- Patrick Ames - 7 years
- Anthony Pacione - 7 years
- Donald Price - 7 years
- Lawrence Hedblom - 8 years
- Partick Kennelly - 9 years



NAVIGATING YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much are NIEAPA Dues? NIEAPA dues are \$40 in addition to the cost of the EAPA dues.

When I join EAPA, will I be enrolled in my local chapter automatically? Yes. You are automatically assigned to a chapter based on your location. You are welcome to choose additional chapters as well.

Can I join NIEAPA directly? All EAPA local chapters are part of the international association. You must join EAPA first and then your chapter

What's the length of my membership? Memberships are for 12 months and takes effect the month that full payment is received.

Don't see your question? Contact us at nieapa@corpevent.com.

Your EAPA membership is an investment in your own professional growth, and an important building block in strengthening the employee assistance profession.

When a member joins EAPA, he or she joins both the international organization and a local chapter. Thus, a member pays annual dues to both the International Headquarters and NIEAPA.

The Employee Assistance Professionals Association. Northern Illinois Chapter, invites you to become a member and enjoy the many benefits you will receive:

- Attend free bi-monthly Chapter meetings, which include educational programs of interest
- Obtain CEUs and PDHs for Social Workers, Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Human Resource Professionals, and CEAPs
- Access to the NIEAPA member only listserv
- Receive quarterly Chapter Newsletters
- *Coming soon! Member-only section on the website!*
- Obtain discounts for the local and international conferences
- Stay abreast of new developments and trends in the profession
- Participate in outstanding networking opportunities
- Have access to all resources available through the International Employee Assistance Professional Association (EAPA)
- Receive Journal of Employee Assistance, the EAPA quarterly publication

[See a more detailed list](#) of current EAPA Membership Benefits!

Are you listed in the Resource Directory?

NIEAPA Resource Directory

The Resource Directory is a central source of professional services that fall under the EAP umbrella. This directory is available to all and is a great tool we encourage you to use and share with your colleagues. FREE for members.

[Edit
Company
Listing](#)

[Add New
Company
Listing](#)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

President

Paul Fitzgerald, PsyD, LCPC, CEAP
Fitzgerald Counseling
paul@fitzgeraldcounseling.com

Vice President

Open Position

Accepting Applications

If interested, please email NIEAPA@corpevent.com
to set up an exploratory call!

Directors

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Treasurer

Linda Lewaniak, LCSW, CAADC
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Secretary - NEW 10/20

Katie Andersen
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Chicago Fire Department
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Scott Janson
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Michael Tinken, MS, CADC, CEAP
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Michael.Tinken@nm.org

Charla Waxman
Lake Behavioral Hospital
cwaxman@lakebehavioralhospital.com

Ex-officio

Charley Galassini, LCPC, CSADC,
CEAP, LAP-C
BEW Local 701
superbowl1996@sbcglobal.net

Questions?

Please reach out to any of the board members to learn more about NIEAPA. You may also contact the NIEAPA Association Management office NIEAPA@Corpevent.com 312-756-7756

Thank You!

To all our Board of Directors for their dedication to the industry and to NIEAPA!

Welcome!

This could be you! Please consider being a part of the NIEAPA Board of Directors. We are actively recruiting and accepting applications.

INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE NIEAPA BOARD?

Being a part of the NIEAPA Board of Directors is an **extremely rewarding experience!** This experience helps individuals boost their public profile, provide experiential opportunities, increases networking opportunities and gives you a chance to make a difference for an organization and industry you love! If you have the slightest interest in a role with our Board, we want to hear from you. Please fill out the form below and we will be in touch to schedule an exploratory conversation with you!

[Board of Directors Interest Form](#)

If you have questions or need additional information please contact: NIEAPA@corpevent.com
Thank you for your interest! We look forward to speaking with you.