

## NAMI Western Massachusetts Board of Directors



**Bernice Drumheller, President, (*running for Vice-President*)** has been involved with NAMI Western Massachusetts for over 31 years. During that time, she has served in many capacities. Currently, she is the President of NAMI-WM and serves as a Family Support Group facilitator and also volunteers countless hours each month. She was on the Board of Directors of NAMI Massachusetts for 9 years and a Family-to-Family Education teacher for over 15 years. She is on the Friends of the Lighthouse Clubhouse Board of Directors 5 years previously and recently since 2018 and on the Human Rights Committee for Vibra Hospital since 2017. Most of her time has been spent giving countless hours serving an organization she believes in and is dedicated to, promoting mental health and well-being throughout the community. She has earned NAMI's everlasting gratitude and appreciation for her dedicated teaching and unwavering service to families in need.



**Donna Bunn, Vice President and Walkathon Chairperson,** is currently the Vice-President, Walkathon Chairperson and *running for President* of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Mass. She is passionate about helping people with mental health diagnoses. Her son was diagnosed with a mental health condition when he was in his early twenties and is now in his thirties. NAMI-WM helped educate her on how to understand her son's diagnosis and showed her a better way to communicate with him. Donna loves helping others and bringing a sense of hope to their lives. She would like to reach out to the entire Western Mass area that we cover, to let others know how important NAMI-WM is for our community, especially during these difficult times we are having. Donna is instrumental in trying to start a parent of school-aged children support group, a Latino family support group and Latino Family-to-Family class in Western Mass. She would like NAMI-WM members to know she's here for you and will do all she can to help NAMI-WM continue its efforts in helping those who suffer with mental health challenges.



**Donna M. Roundy, Treasurer, (*up for re-election as Treasurer*)** lives in Agawam, with her husband Bob, 2 grown daughters (one a nurse, the other an engineer) and has a BS in Accounting from Westfield State University. She's a Certified Public Accountant, working at Meyers Brothers Kalicka, PC in Holyoke for 30+ years, focusing on audits of not-for-profit organizations and subsidized housing entities, as well as doing financial reporting and tax preparation for closely held businesses. She believes it's important to give back to the community, and she tries to in small ways. Participating on the board of NAMI-WM is rewarding - the organization is a positive force when families and individuals are struggling, the basic premise is helping - and listening. NAMI means a great deal to many people and Donna uses her skills to do the little bit she can.

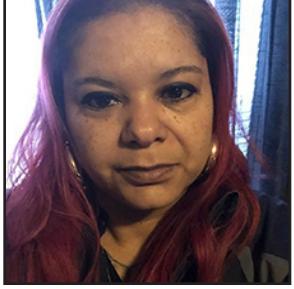


**Natasha Mercado-Santana, Secretary, (*up for re-election as Secretary*)** has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Communication from Western New England University. Natasha got involved with NAMI to learn more about mental health and to help break the stigma surrounding mental illness. As an undergraduate student, she founded her university's chapter of NAMI on Campus and was the club's president for two years before graduating. Natasha has been on the NAMI Western Massachusetts board of directors for the last two years.



**Kenneth Barnett, (*Up for re-election*)** is a MAT/OTP Support Services officer at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department of Massachusetts. He also has an accounting degree and has worked with several corporations throughout New England, specializing in audits and corporate reporting. Kenneth has a powerful voice in his community and uses his positive attitude and tireless energy to encourage others. He does this through activities with the local neighborhood council and via his continuance of a 34-year-old radio program he hosts and produces. Kenneth is working towards NAMI-WM being on his radio program, which airs weekly. A few years ago, he lost a very close relative to mental illness and is determined to spread awareness; realizing churches and families

in the urban communities lack understanding and appreciation of resources available to them. He wants to change that. Kenneth is inspired daily by his two daughters and granddaughter. In his free time, Kenneth likes to cook, travel and spend time with family and friends.



**Luz Cruz**, is a 45-year-old Hispanic/Indian that works through BHN, as a Family Partner and works with families that have mentally/emotionally disabled children. She has been with BHN for 3 years and enjoys what she does. Luz has two children and a one-year-old granddaughter. She's on the board of NAMI-WM because she has a son that has ADHD and ODD and would love to learn a lot more about the resources that are out there that can help her, and everyone else that has children with disabilities.



**Susan DiVenuto**, has been involved with NAMI-WM for over 12 years. She is certified in CPR, a C.N.A./Home Health Aide, and has an Associates in Graphic Arts. She has been on the board for over 9 years and volunteers weekly in the Agawam office. She is a trained NAMI Connection support group facilitator, an In Our Own Voice presenter, a Certified Peer Support Specialist, a Family-to-Family teacher and been in recovery for over 30 years. Sue has been through a lot in her life but believes in accepting your own diagnosis, building positive coping skills and always trying to work on yourself and do these things for yourself. One day at a time. One step at a time. NAMI has helped her, and by sharing things about her mental illness with others, she knows it can help them & help herself. NAMI has given her HOPE!



**Tricia Fitzgerald**, (*Up for re-election*) is proud to be a board member of NAMI-WM. Her goal is to help NAMI in any way that she can reaching more people than ever. She has joined the Walkathon and Nominating Committees. She wants to continue to raise funds so that the people that need NAMI the most have access to this organization. Tricia has utilized the NAMI Connection peer support group in the past to help her feel connected to other people who also live with mental illness. She now facilitates NAMI Connection groups. Her interest in NAMI is both personal and professional as she is also a clinical social worker, therapist and holistic healer.



**Carmen Lee**, moved from the San Francisco Bay Area two years ago and has been a NAMI Board member for over one year. She brings peer advocacy experience, having developed a nationally known speaker's bureau composed of people suffering from mental health diagnoses, delivering over 2600 public presentations in 27 years. They wanted to dispel the myths and stereotypes that greatly hamper ones' own recovery, putting a human face on those who suffer from mental health challenges. She has worked in a respite residential care facility for people just getting out of the psychiatric hospital, giving them hope, and helping them to make their future recovery plans. Carmen suffered significant bouts of severe depression for many years, requiring many hospitalizations, but has achieved a level of recovery for the last 20 years and a desire to "pay back," working with NAMI. She is also a Board member with the Western Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention, a member of the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Planning Council and under the Mass. Dept. of Mental Health, serves on the Hampshire County Citizens Advisory Board.



**Kateri M. Walsh**, (*Up for re-election*) is a published poet, co-founder of a writing group in the city of Springfield, a certified yoga teacher and a member of NAMI Western Mass. Kateri serves as an advocate, is on the board of directors and a fund raiser for NAMI. She is currently participating in a NAMI Peer-to-Peer class. Kateri is passionate about NAMI because she suffers from a mental illness. NAMI enables her to help herself and others like her find support, healing and hope.