

Dear friends of Northwest Renal Dietitians,

Northwest Renal Dietitians (NWRD) is now an official, incorporated business in Washington State! We also have approval for 501-C3 status from the Federal Government, which means we qualify as a not-for-profit corporation. We can conduct business in any state of the union, or in Canada.

We have official incorporation papers, new bylaws, and even our own seal! All of this information will be available for your viewing on the NWRD website: www.NWRDOnline.org

Current Board of Directors:

Katy Wilkens, President
Kathy Schiro Harvey, Vice President
Nikki Nygren, Treasurer
Paula Staab, Director
Madelyn Koontz, Director
Renin Oliver, Secretary, Conference Chair

We worked with a Washington attorney and CPA to get our organization compliant with all state and federal laws. Our bylaws now discuss board membership and organizational issues. They do not include previous information about how NWRD runs its annual conference; that information has been incorporated into another document titled, "Conference Guidelines."

We are replacing the term "stipend" with the word "scholarship," as stipend carries a different legal definition. As before, NWRD does not have member dues. You are already a "member" if you currently receive emails from NWRD. If you are not getting NWRD emails, you can simply sign up on our website.

In accordance with non-profit business guidelines, the Board, not the general membership, elects Board members who will serve either a two-year or a three-year term, allowing a staggered approach to experience and service. The Board appoints chairpersons for committees such as Membership, Annual Conference Chairperson, Secretary, or others.

As such, the NWRD Board of Directors would like to invite NWRD members to be nominated to serve on the Board or in Chairperson capacities. We are specifically looking for one member from Canada, Alaska, Idaho or Montana. All Board of Directors meetings will be conducted via conference call, except for the one at the Annual Conference, which is in-person. So, no matter where you live, you can take part!

We are excited about this new direction that NWRD has taken, and hope it will make our group more secure and stable for years to come. Remember, NWRD is run by RDs like yourself, who volunteer their time to create learning and networking opportunities for all of us. In this present day of technology and social media, we value face-to-face time to share ideas and discuss emerging science. NWRD needs a little effort on behalf of all of us so we can succeed in our goal of educating others about renal nutrition! Please consider your part in making this happen.

To be a nominee for a Board or Committee Chairperson position, please email us at NWRDOnline@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you by December 31st.

Hope to see you in March in Seattle at the Annual Conference!

Katy Wilkens, MS, RD
President, NWRD
11/14/2016

