



Join the New England Federation of Humane Societies Advisory Council and Help Us Keep New England's Humane Network Strong!

Mission

The New England Federation of Humane Societies (NEFHS) is dedicated to creating a more humane world by providing education, training, information, and networking opportunities that support the missions of animal protection organizations in New England.

What does the NEFHS do?

The NEFHS is a non-profit federation of organizations and individuals dedicated to animal welfare and protection. Our major focus is to provide animal professionals in our region with the best possible training and networking opportunities, helping them better help the animals they care for.

Each year, in the spring, the NEFHS holds its signature event: the Annual Conference. Held in varying New England states, the NEFHS conference attracts animal professionals from New England and beyond. The three days of seminars, forums, and industry vendors provides top-notch learning and networking opportunities for animal professionals of all levels of experience.

We also hold periodic regional trainings and "town hall" meetings to engage our community and to provide information on cutting edge best practices. We bring together representatives in animal welfare to build relationships, share concerns, and identify those challenges that we all face in our respective states.

What is the advisory council's role in the NEFHS?

The NEFHS represents New England's humane community with both an all-volunteer 12-member board of directors and an all-volunteer advisory council. Members of the board of directors are elected to staggered 4-year terms. Directors have voting privileges and serve as the governors of the organization. Members of the advisory council are elected by the board of directors to 1-year terms. While advisors do not have voting privileges, they attend meetings, fully engage in discussions, and perform work alongside directors. Having advisors allows us to bring an even wider range of experience to the work of the NEFHS.

We look for a wide-range of experiences and skill sets for our directors and advisors. From executive directors to board presidents to development and fund-raising to marketing to direct animal care to behavior to foster care to veterinary care, full- or part-time employees or volunteers, at a physical shelter, strictly foster care organization, or animal care and control, we seek to reflect the diversity of animal sheltering and welfare in New England in our board and advisory council.

As part of the advisory council, you will be expected to volunteer for several committees which do the work of the NEFHS. You may choose to work on the Communications Committee which is focused on disseminating information internally and externally, enhancing communications, and marketing. Another committee is Outreach, which organizes several educational events throughout the year. Some committees are focused specifically on the conference: Program Committee determines the program schedule, soliciting and reviewing proposals from speakers and then working with speakers to help them have a positive and successful presentation. The Networking Committee organizes the networking events at the conference and always needs creative, fun people to help generate new ideas! You will learn about all the committees and the work they do during your conversations with your mentor prior to the retreat and at the retreat.

What are the benefits of being an advisor?

Not only will you have the chance to contribute to the region's only animal welfare educational conference, as well as other educational events throughout the year, you will also make life-long connections with leaders in animal welfare throughout New England and beyond. Participating as an advisor and potentially later as a board director provides a unique vantage point to view the status and trends of our field. Your knowledge of the field will broaden and deepen – and, we hope, you will have some fun along the way!

What will be expected of me as an advisor?

Advisors are expected to attend a majority of the board meetings held each year, as well as meetings or calls of the committees to which they belong. We also expect advisors to attend and help produce the Annual Conference and other events. In an advisor's first year, it is mandatory that s/he be able to attend the annual planning retreat.

You will need to be sure that your organization or employer will permit you the time away from your regular work to participate in NEFHS activities. Because our directors and advisors come from all over New England, travel is likely to be involved in attending meetings and events. You (or your organization) will also be expected to pay for your lodging, meals, and event registrations for the

conference and retreat and any other events. All directors and advisors will need to register for the conference and pay the registration fees; there is no discount to the Annual Conference or other events. Registration fees and hotel and travel costs for both the conference and retreat average \$1,000-2,000 per year.

What is the process for becoming an advisor?

Advising our organization is one of the most critical roles someone can play for the NEFHS. That's why we recruit a pool of potential candidates for every open seat on the council. The process is simple and is intended to help us get to know each other. First, we ask you to complete an [application form](#) and submit a letter of interest. If, after reviewing your application, we determine that your profile fits the vacant council seat, we will contact you to talk more and provide you with more information about NEFHS. After careful consideration, the nominating committee will make a decision about which applicant best fills the vacant seat. The committee recommends these candidates to the current board for election. If you are elected, we will provide you with orientation materials and any support you need to hit the ground running.

To apply, please complete our [online application](#).

For more information, please contact us at info@newenglandfed.org.