



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 24, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate

**SUBJECT:** Election of National Association of State Boards of  
Education Board of Directors – 2006

Board members have been notified by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) that ballots for the election of NASBE Board of Directors are due by June 30, 2006.

In accordance with NASBE Bylaws, the President-elect shall be voted upon by the general membership. The election is by a majority vote of member states, with one vote per state. In the case of Area Director, candidates will be elected by a regional majority of member states, one vote per state.

Attached is background information on the candidates for President-elect, and Central Area Director. Please review the information and be prepared to discuss the election at the May 9, 2006, meeting.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT  
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER  
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER  
REGINALD M. TURNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

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# NASBE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

April 3, 2006

RECEIVED  
APR - 7 2006  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Kathleen N. Straus  
7431 Deep Run, #210  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Dear Ms. Straus:

As you know, the election of the 2007 NASBE Board of Directors will be completed through mail balloting. Enclosed with this letter is background information on each of the candidates for President-elect and Area Director, including a resume and statement of interest.

In accordance with our recently amended Bylaws, President-elect shall be voted upon by the general membership. She will be elected by a majority vote of member states, with one vote per state. In the case of Area Director, candidates will be elected by a regional majority of member states — again, one vote per state. **All ballots must be received at the Association Headquarters by close of business on June 30, 2006.**

I urge you to carefully review the information enclosed and to put this issue on your next board meeting agenda. A copy of this letter and the ballot have also been sent to your State Board Executive. *Remember, every state vote is very important.*

If you have any questions on the voting process, please call Marsha McMullin, Director of Special Projects, at 703/684-4000, ext. 116, or you can e-mail her at [marsham@nasbe.org](mailto:marsham@nasbe.org).

Sincerely,

*Diane Fladmo*

Diane Fladmo  
President

cc: State Executive ✓  
Enclosures

P.S. Beginning May 15, the NASBE website will display a list of states that have submitted ballots to headquarters. Only the fact that a state has voted will be shown, but not how it voted.

President  
Diane Fladmo  
Montana

Past President  
Kim Burningham  
Utah

President-Elect  
W. Bradley Bryant  
Georgia

Secretary-Treasurer  
Robert Lazard  
Indiana

Northeastern Area Directors  
Claiborne Smith  
Delaware

Maud Dahme  
New Jersey

Southern Area Directors  
Kathy Taft  
North Carolina

Donbar Brooks  
Maryland

Central Area Directors  
Jennifer Stewart  
Ohio

Keane Willard  
Kansas

Western Area Directors  
Dana Mann-Tavegia  
Wyoming

Randy DeHoff  
Colorado

New Member Representatives  
Karen Farmer-White  
Pennsylvania

Beverly Bobroske  
Connecticut

**BALLOT**  
**Central Area**

Please choose one candidate for each office.

**For President-elect:**

- Dana Mann-Tavegia, Wyoming
- Karabelle Pizzigati, Maryland

**For Central Area Director:**

- Jim Craig, Ohio

**VOTING STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dana Mann-Tavegia**  
Wyoming State Board of Education  
Nominee for NASBE President-elect

**Biography and Statement of Interest**

I am a fourth-generation Wyoming cattle rancher. A product of Wyoming public schools, I started as a first grader in a one-room school house with one teacher for grades 1-8. This path took me to Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania where I followed my interest in sociology and found a passion for art. I later studied civil engineering. In addition to cattle production, I worked for WYDOT for over 18 years. I greatly enjoy reading, skiing, hiking, quilting, jewelry-making, traveling and hosting parties for friends and family. Raising a child is the most rewarding and challenging thing I have ever done, and my family is very important to me. Working with and for kids falls into a solid second place!

I have been active in my community since childhood, first as a Girl Scout, library volunteer, etc. That commitment followed me into adulthood, including service as a county library system trustee, area chamber of commerce government affairs committee, lobbying training, speaking to social studies students about all the ways in which politics impacts their lives and how they can be heard, various political activities such as hosting bi-partisan candidates forums, United Way, Weston County Gymkhana series manager, County Fair building superintendent, 4-H, etc.

Most dear to my heart is my last several years as the volunteer art project director and grant writer for my son's small rural school. We have obtained over 50 fine art prints for our own gallery, and add student work every year. We explore nearly all forms of art, including that from many world cultures. The students have won numerous awards at their local district art show, and were recipients of a Wyoming Historical Society award for their studies of Chief Washakie and artwork in the style of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes. I also directed musicals in May and December of 2005. This winter eight K-5 students learned twelve songs and their lines, which was truly a grand experience for all of us involved. Spending time each and every week in the classroom gives me a unique perspective, especially since I am not an educator by profession, and it makes me a better state board and NASBE board member, and advocate for public education.

I was honored to accept a gubernatorial appointment to the Wyoming State Board of Education in 2003. My association with NASBE, starting with the New Board Members Institute, followed by attendance at the National Conference, participation in the Government Affairs Committee and a NASBE symposium, and election to the NASBE Board of Directors by my western colleagues have greatly enhanced my abilities as a state board member. I am much more aware of the ramifications of various issues, NCLB, IDEA funding, etc., on other states, and have also learned much that I share with my own state board. I have been a strong advocate for public education, lay governance and for NASBE itself as I work with my congressional delegation, legislators and education policy makers around my state and the region.

Public education is the foundation of a free, democratic and successful society. There can be little that is more important to our future as individuals, as families, as communities and as a nation. State board

members around the country recognize the vital role they play and take their work very seriously. NASBE's assistance provides additional resources that are incredibly important.

I am so proud of what NASBE does for state boards, and so grateful for the help they have given me and my state board. Our study groups and GAC do truly outstanding work. NASBE staff should be very proud of the grants they have obtained and the work they do on the myriad issues that we face in education. "The State Education Standard" and our superb study group reports are world class publications, and much sought after by policy makers and others in the education arena. [I know my legislators appreciate them!] I have heard time and time again how much state board members from around this nation appreciate what they learn at our outstanding national conference, and from their participation in symposia, committees and study groups. I know that NASBE's technical assistance, and visits to retreats and meetings in many states have been extremely valuable to so many of our colleagues.

Many issues face us as state board members, curriculum, finance, charter schools, special education, high school reform, the movement to a P-20 model, family involvement, diversity, teacher quality, recruitment and retention, students at risk, attempts to remove lay governance from public education, assessments and growth models and special education to name a few. It is my goal to bring my critical thinking abilities, appreciation and respect for collaborative efforts, my devotion to public education in America, as well as my energy and enthusiasm to the position of president-elect of this fine organization.

NASBE is in some ways an ever-evolving organization as it adapts to meet the needs of its member states, but NASBE continues always to maintain our strong foundation, and the basic tenets of non-partisan service in strengthening state leadership in education policy, promoting excellence and advocating equality in education, and assuring citizen support and involvement in public education.

It is vital to keep this non-profit organization financially healthy, and to obtain constant feedback on what we do, as well as being in the forefront of emerging issues, so that we may continue to serve state boards in the very best way possible.

It has been a real privilege to represent the western states on the NASBE board for the last 15 months, and I cherish the opportunity and experience. I stand ready to represent all the state boards to the best of my ability. The encouragement and support of the Wyoming State Board of Education leaves me humbled. As President-Elect of NASBE I would be supremely honored to join the extraordinarily talented team of Diane Fladmo and Brad Bryant, and the NASBE staff, in leading this superb organization into the future.

It is with a heart grateful for all the friendships I have formed and support I have received that I ask your board to vote for me as your next President-Elect of NASBE.

Warm regards,  
Dana Mann-Tavegia

# Karabelle Pizzigati

## Statement of Interest

I would like to join NASBE's leadership team, as president-elect, to help grow the value of NASBE for members - and beyond. NASBE currently offers valuable learning opportunities for members through study groups, special projects, and networking efforts. NASBE also serves as an important national voice on a wide array of issues that affect our students and the work we do with our state boards on their behalf. I want to strengthen our organizational ability to provide and support quality learning opportunities and explore new approaches to building the national voice, drawn from research and state experience, that NASBE brings to discussions about education policy options.

Our need for continued learning, as state board members, has never been greater. State boards are grappling with varied, and often conflicting, perspectives on how to improve student performance, reduce achievement gaps, meet issues around the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and respond to demographic changes that directly challenge our educational systems.

I have had extensive professional experience and public service in both state and national arenas. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the work of NASBE as president-elect.

# **Karabelle Pizzigati**

## **Biography**

**Karabelle A. L. Pizzigati**, a policy and leadership development consultant on children and family services, is the former director of public policy for the Child Welfare League of America, the national association that links more than 1,100 child-serving agencies. Dr. Pizzigati also has served as the staff director of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. She serves on several boards and advisory panels, including the Parents as Teachers National Center Board of Directors and the National Longitudinal Study of Child and Adolescent Well-Being. Dr. Pizzigati received her doctorate in child development and family studies from Cornell University. She has served as a local PTA president in Montgomery County, where both her children attended public schools. Dr. Pizzigati is serving her second four-year term on the State Board of Education, having been reappointed by the Governor in 2005.

## JAMES (JIM) L. CRAIG, SR.

### STATEMENT OF INTEREST

When I joined Ohio's State Board of Education in early 2002, I became immediately aware of the great value the Board placed on the work of the National Association of State Boards of Education. An assignment to a NASBE committee or study group was highly treasured thing, and attendance at NASBE's Annual Convention was strongly encouraged.

My past experience on NASBE's Study Group on the Changing World of Interscholastic Athletics, and my current experience on the Early Childhood Study Group have made it clear to me why my State Board places such a high priority on NASBE. For one thing, NASBE offers an opportunity to share ideas and information with other State Board members from around the country. Perhaps even more important, our organization has the potential to influence policymaking on a nationwide scale, and thus strengthen both the content and delivery of educational services to millions of students from coast to coast. I believe my prior NASBE experience, as well as my three years as Co-Chair of the Ohio State Board of Education's Achievement Committee, has put me in a solid position to take on new responsibilities within our organization.

For these reasons, I would relish the opportunity - and the honor - to serve as a NASBE Central Area Director.

**Your  
State Board  
of  
Education  
Member**

**JAMES (JIM) L. CRAIG, SR.**  
State Board District 8  
2345 Bevington Street, N.W.  
Canton, Ohio 44709-2219  
(330) 492-5533

James (Jim) L. Craig is the owner of Craig's Photography, providing commercial, industrial, and advertising photographic services. He was elected to five terms on the Plain Local Board of Education (Stark County), serving at different times as president and vice president.

Craig is co-chair of the State Board's Standards Committee and a member of the National Association of State Boards of Education's Early Childhood Study Group. In the past, he has been a member of the Federal Relations Network of the National School Boards Association and a delegate to the Ohio School Boards Association Annual Conference. Craig has been recognized as one of the state's top high school sports officials, having held leadership positions with such organizations as the Eastern Ohio Football Officials Association, Eastern Ohio Swim Officials Association, and the Canton Basketball Officials Association. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Plain Township and chairman of the Stark County Convention and Visitors Bureau Sports Marketing Committee of the Greater Canton Chamber of Commerce. Craig is also a founder of the Referees Educational Fund (REF) Scholarship program, which awards scholarships to the children of Eastern Ohio Basketball and Football Association members.



Craig graduated cum laude from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He and his wife Donna have been married 49 years and are the parents of four children.

Craig was appointed to the State Board's District #8 seat by Governor Bob Taft in March 2002. He represents Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, Mahoning, Stark, and Tuscarawas counties. His current term expires on December 31, 2006.