

MEET OUR CANDIDATES!

In addition to being interviewed, all were asked to provide a bio addressing these questions:

- What is your current participation or connection to the Marianist Family?
- What is important to you and how are you currently living the Marianist Charism?
- What experiences have you had that would be helpful in carrying out the responsibilities of this position?
- If elected, what dream would you like to see come true for MLNNA?
- Share a short work history / Education history

CANDIDATES FOR MLNNA CHAIR



Al Prendergast

My Marianist commitment for over 45 years is my life. Marianists are my family, my friends and sometimes they even act like relatives. I have started or have been a member of Marianist Communities in Dayton Ohio, San Antonio Texas, Cleveland and Cincinnati Ohio, Weston Connecticut and Cape May Point New Jersey. I am currently a member of the Visitation Marianist State Community. The Marianist lay and religious in these communities have challenged and supported me in ways I did not expect and in some cases did not want.

I was the leader of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative's Global Economic Justice initiative. Activities as team leader took me to Nicaragua and got me interviewed on local TV promoting better wages for workers in the Free Trade Zone. It was more exciting and dangerous than I wanted it to be.

As a member of the Marianist Visitation State Community, I have taken a vow of stability for over 40 years. The Vow of Stability has kept me focused even in times of crisis like when our house burned down. Marianists reached out to us in ways we did not expect. I also interact with many Family of Mary members both religious and lay in many Marianist institutions, including The Marianist Retreat Center at Cape May.

My dream for MLNNA is that we take this opportunity to implement our vision of spiritual growth, community action and as prophetic witnesses of a welcoming Church. We have a Pope who is favorably inclined toward the Family of Mary. It is important to use our favorable Papal designation to become a model within the Church. The time is right to launch our future vision for MLNNA.

The Chair of the Leadership Team is responsible for building a cohesive and effective team. However, I know that within three years the Chair must develop future leaders to be fully capable of taking MLNNA forward to the next level of influence in both the Family of Mary and the Church and that is one of my goals.

My professional experience includes operations and human resource management in the manufacturing, financial services and communications industries at Champion International Inc., MasterCard International Inc. and Cordiant plc. If you would like to know my career details you can see them on my LinkedIn Page.

<https://www.linkedin.com/>

Mike Wasno



I support Marianist Family gatherings as often as possible at the local, regional, and continental levels to build Community and a Community of Communities. My main ministry is the Cape May Marianist Family Retreat Center, where I staff retreats and serve on the Board of Governors. I am also on the Marianist Sisters Vocation Fund committee and occasionally facilitate Marianist Studies courses for NACMS.

The attitude of being in permanent mission is how I live the Charism in my personal and professional life. I especially reach out to and include the marginalized - the poor, the unemployed, and youth. From that flows the idea that we are stewards of God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure and should do what is important for the common good / community. My wife and I have been married for 27 years and we have 2 adult children

– that's my most important community.

At the Public Justice Center, a social justice non-profit, I served on the Board of Directors, including 4 years as President. I led the creation and execution of a multi-year plan to build organizational capacity. In my parish, I was Pastoral Council President, Christmas Bazaar Chair, and Youth Minister. Professionally, I managed geographically distributed teams and built community through creative techniques.

My dream for the MLNNA is for it to become an "institution" that is built to last. What I read in the strategic plan are the desires for an organization that is vibrant, growing, mission-oriented, and providing meaningful services to its members. The MLNNA will accomplish these desires, by strengthening the organizational structure, processes, and resources described in the plan.

I have over 25 years of business marketing and management experience and I'm currently a partner and COO of a high-tech startup. I received a BS and an MS in Computer Science (and 1/2 an MBA).

CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF AN MLNNA OFFICE

Ken Barrett



I am currently member of the Roots community, a Dayton based Marianist Lay Community founded in 2007.

Important in my life are my family, my faith, being dedicated a dedicated teacher and coach, and growing in faith filled relationships with my friends. I live out the Marianist Charism by maintaining intentional faith based relationships with my friends and colleagues and inviting others to learn and grow in the Love of God. Our family also tries its hardest to engage in Marianist Family events whenever possible.

I have experiences taking servant leader roles in both faith filled and professional groups. I have learned to be adaptable and meet the needs of the community through flexibility, creativity, and producing incremental goals to achieve a larger dream.

A great dream for MLNNA I have is for it be the repository for the lived wisdom of Lay communities and individuals. More than just a static list of resources, I can see MLNNA being a connecting force in the lives of Lay Marianists by using new and accessible technology.

I graduated from the University of Dayton in 2006 with a degree in Mathematics Education and a second major in Religious Studies. I also completed my Masters at UD in Education Leadership. After taking a year in the SM Aspirancy in 2006-2007, I was hired at Centerville High School in Dayton, Ohio. This is my eight year teaching Math and coaching wrestling at CHS.



Kate Beskid

I have considered myself Marianist all my life. Being Marianist and living out all the pillars of our charism is at the core of my being. Between my roles as a Religion teacher at Chaminade College Preparatory for the last eleven years to the last six years in my ministry of the Marianist LIFE program; I have been formed and grown into a lay Marianist who has a sense of leadership, mission, and community. As a lay Marianist, I take inspiration from the words and lives of our founders. Specifically, I am very connected to the role of the Blessed Mother and her YES; I try to accept the possibilities of the world around me and say YES to help those in need. I have participated in a lay community at my school and a virtual community with my LIFE ministry. Lastly, I have started a student ministry team with a co-worker called SHINE (Students Help Inspire New Experiences) that is based on the mission of LIFE, this team helps build community at our school and plans and participates in all the faith events of our institution. I am blessed beyond words to be part of a variety of ministries where I can accept my call as a Marianist and live out the motto “Do Whatever He Tells You”. My vision for the MLNNA is to connect all lay Marianists around the country, connecting communities and individuals through prayer, experience, and conversations. I would like to bridge all the different Marianist entities and help us work together to promote our apostolic call as Marianist missionaries. I would like to update our website information, create a more effective way to share resources and a shift towards formalizing the process and commitment of being a lay Marianist.



Mallory Green

Aloha! My name is Mallory Green, and I am ready and willing to serve you according to the MLNNA Leadership Model! My Marianist commitment began at the University of Dayton through a Lay Formation program in the Office of the Rector. After becoming a member of the Vessel Community and graduating, I followed my Marianist vocation to Hawaii where I currently work as the Director of Campus Ministry at Saint Louis School. For the past five years, I have also been involved in many ways with the Marianist LIFE Pacific program. I am pursuing a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree at Chaminade University. Finally, I am a member of the Basin and Towel Community through Mystical Rose Oratory and am engaged in many different committees, most recently the start-up of a Pacific Marianist Family Council.

These Marianist experiences have taught me the incredible lesson and spirit of collaboration. Sharing in efforts, prayers, and ideas has brought to life Fr. Chaminade’s vision of a collaborative family, showing me the balance and power of well-rounded leadership. Also, the practice of hospitality, sense of community, and call to justice has been tremendously enhanced in light of my understanding of Hawaiian culture and traditions. All in all, these experiences put me in a unique position to learn and hear multiple perspectives, lead and connect people across large distances, share culture and different ways of living out the Charism, and serve the Lay Marianist Family.

Finally, I am an enthusiastic young adult with passion and energy to pour into ongoing faith formation and leadership. If elected, I plan to help increase the commitment and involvement of young adult Lay Marianists, particularly in local communities and in social justice outreach projects. I would also like to help MLNNA become more financially stable and connect to the International Lay Marianists. Mahalo for your time and prayerful discernment!



Marceta Reilly

Being a Marianist is just who I strive to be in the world. When people ask how I was formed in the charism, I tell them mostly it was through osmosis. You see, there are no formal Marianist structures within 100 miles of where I have lived my entire life (always near Topeka, Kansas). My brother, Fr. David Fleming, discovered the Marianist world in a magazine ad somewhere and decided he wanted to join the SMs at the age of 15. I was only 8 at the time. And so I have grown up among Marianist brothers and priests by following my brother around the world.

As an adult, though, I have become much more of a “serious” student! I have taken NACMS classes, attended retreats, read books by Marianist authors, visited Marianist mission projects in India, and am currently a member of three Marianist Lay Communities, being a founding member of each of them. These Marianist Lay Communities have given me deep spiritual sustenance even when the official Church has left me dry.

Chaminade was so wise when he designed this “community” concept. You don’t have to “qualify” to belong. All are welcomed and differences are not only respected but celebrated. You only have to want to become your best self. And it is in this striving together in a discipleship of equals, that we support and help grow each other into fullness with Jesus, using Mary as our model and guide.

So how does all this show up in my life? Well, God gave me a “teacher’s heart.” I love learning and seem to always find ways to share the curious things I learn with others. I spent 34 years in public schools as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Now I am a leadership coach and use those simple, affirming, building-on-strengths Marianist characteristics to help people find their true voice and calling in life. My dream for MLNNA is that the Lay branch will embrace & fully step into the vision that Chaminade had for us from the beginning—to BE the church we yearn to see in the world.