



## **Prospective MOFGA Board Director Information**

### **MISSION**

The [Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association](#) is a broad-based community that educates about and advocates for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities.

### **ABOUT**

- Founded in 1971, MOFGA is a national leader in supporting and advocating for organic agriculture. It is the oldest and largest state organic organization in the country. Read more about MOFGA's [history](#).
- MOFGA is a membership organization with over 13,000 members and over 40 staff. Read more about [membership](#).
- The Board currently has 15 members. Terms are three years with a maximum of three consecutive terms. Read more about the [Board of Directors](#).
- MOFGA has over \$9 million in assets with an annual budget around \$4.5 million.
- MOFGA's [Impact Plan 2020-2030](#) has these priorities:
  - Building Common Ground.
  - Supporting Organic Gardeners, Homesteaders, and Eaters.
  - Promoting the Environmental and Health Benefits of Organic and Sustainable Practices.
  - Growing and Supporting Organic Farming and Production.

### **BOARD SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS**

- Fulfill the fiduciary duty to MOFGA — Directors act in the best interest of MOFGA.
- Term is three years with a max of three terms before a required three-years off.
- Be a MOFGA [member](#) in good standing.
- Make MOFGA a philanthropic priority and make commitments, including volunteering and annual gifts, meaningful to that Board Director.
- Join at least one board committee and consider joining one program committee.
- Attend and volunteer at the annual [Common Ground Country Fair](#).
- Attend all Board meetings, in person or remotely — approximately six each year.
- Treat fellow Board Directors with dignity and respect.
- Read the full Board Director job description.
- Approximate time commitment: 5-10 hours/month.

### **PROGRAMS**

- [Buy Organic!](#): promotes buying of organic products.
- [Farmer Programs](#): MOFGA provides many programs for organic farmers.
- [MOFGA Certification Service, LLC](#) (MCS): wholly owned subsidiary that provides organic certification.
- [Community Education](#): MOFGA holds classes, workshops and demonstrations related to organic gardening, homesteading, and sustainable living year round.

- [Low-Impact Forestry](#): educating about, practicing, and advocating for ecologically based and economically sound forest practices.
- [Maine Heritage Orchard](#): ten-acre preservation orchard on the MOFGA grounds.
- [Public Policy Program](#): works on issues concerning organic agriculture, the environment, and more, advocating at the state and federal levels.

## **SKILLS & PRIORITIES**

MOFGA is seeking prospective Board Directors with one or more of the following:

- Cares about organic farming, gardening, and food.
- Fundraising background or interest.
- Experience working with finances.
- Non-profit, community organizing or human resources experience.
- Scientific background, or connection to a research institution, such as a university.
- Experience with rural areas, particularly western or northern Maine.
- Farmer or farm-related connection.
- Experience working with diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **BOARD DIRECTOR NOMINATION STEPS**

- April to July
  - Attend an orientation session for those interested in joining the Board.
  - Select candidates will:
    - Meet with a Board Director (Board liaison) to learn about MOFGA and Board service and to ask and answer questions.
    - Interview with a Board Director.
- August to October
  - Select nominees will:
    - Meet with the Executive Director, staff, and Board Directors, as needed.
    - Attend a Program Committee meeting and meet MOFGA members.
    - Attend Common Ground Country Fair in September at MOFGA's campus.
    - Audit a Board meeting.
    - Attend a digital meeting where MOFGA members can ask questions.
  - Around September, the Nominating Committee selects nominees for the slate of incoming Board Directors for the following year.
  - In September or October, the Governance Committee votes to approve the candidate slate.
  - In October, the Board votes to approve the candidates slate.
- December to January
  - The MOFGA membership votes on the candidates slate digitally starting in December, with voting concluding at the Annual Meeting in January.