

Fortifying Our Future, Together

by **Russ Bodoff**

NHIA President & Chief Executive Officer



It is always a wonderful opportunity to see so many of our NHIA members at the Association's annual conference—and the recently held 2013 NHIA Annual Conference & Exposition this past April in Dallas was no exception! I so value the high energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by all the attendees, as well as the relentless commitment and teamwork by many at the conference to advance the industry. In fact, with so many dedicated home and specialty infusion professionals and companies in attendance, NHIA actively looks to launch and further our many key strategic initiatives at the conference, so as to best address the most critical legislative, regulatory and market opportunities and challenges facing the field. At NHIA 2013, I was frequently asked detailed questions about how NHIA develops its policy positions or initiatives—as well as how NHIA member companies and their staff can become more involved in advancing such efforts. In response to these inquiries, I would like to now take a moment to explain how NHIA policies are developed and administered—and how you can be involved.

To begin, the NHIA staff has the role of administering policy and initiatives, as well as advocating the Association's positions—however, the staff does not set these policies. The NHIA Board of Directors, with input from various industry stakeholders, ultimately establishes all NHIA policy positions and key initiatives. The Board, made up of senior representatives from 12 provider member companies and the Past Board Chair for a total of 13 members, is evenly divided between small, medium and large providers so as to assure an equal representation of the provider types that comprise our home and specialty infusion field. *Each company has an equal vote*—yielding the best approach for ensuring that Association policy positions and strategic initiatives developed represent the broadest consensus of the diverse NHIA member composition. Board members serve a three-year term (with eligibility for re-election for a second term) and each year an election is held where the Board votes on members to replace vacant seats. Nominations typically come from NHIA members who contact the Board or staff to indicate an interest to serve on the Board, as part of a larger company commitment to enhance the field. At times, the Board will conduct outreach to potential company members to safeguard that the proper Board composition balance is maintained.

The NHIA Future of Infusion Advisory Council (FIAC) brings together 10 outstanding NHIA business firm members who have pledged significant leadership, policy and financial support our Association. The FIAC works closely with the NHIA Board, leadership staff and provider members to help NHIA strategically address the most critical issues, opportunities and challenges facing the home and specialty infusion pharmacy community. Via a variety of regular collaborations—including formally meeting with the NHIA Board four times a year, with one such gathering being a multi-day strategic planning retreat each September—the FIAC is a true partner with the Board in crafting NHIA's strategic plan and offering invaluable business insights on the field, from the perspective of industry-savvy manufacturing and service companies (see p. 26 for more on the FIAC).

Additionally, many of the various issues and positions to be considered by the Board arise from one or more of NHIA's diversely focused committees or task groups. Critical to both the development and successful implementation of the Association's many policy positions and initiatives, the vital work of NHIA committees and task groups present numerous, meaningful options for representatives of both provider and business firm member companies alike to engage in topic areas of interest and concern—resulting in professionally rewarding experiences for those involved, while genuinely helping to fortify the future of their own companies and our field. As NHIA moves forward, we will be looking at new committee or task group efforts to address the changing issues and opportunities emerging within the industry—NHIA welcomes and encourages member participation in our many strategic initiatives, as well as suggestions on topical areas where additional work may be needed (visit www.nhia.org/members/strategic-plan to view the current three-year strategic plan and go to www.nhia.org/about/committees.cfm to learn more about NHIA committees, and how you can get involved).

Lastly, in an effort to expand our member engagement and input, this summer NHIA will be launching a member survey to evaluate our services and to help further set the course of future strategic activities. I strongly encourage every member to participate, as it will greatly assist us with ensuring that your Association is providing the highest value and member benefits to you, your team and your company overall.

My personal thanks go out to the participants on the NHIA Board, FIAC, committees and task groups—and finally, to the relentlessly committed NHIA staff team who are the engine that helps to implement and drive the actions that need to be taken. This is your association, so please be involved—and also feel free to reach out to me directly (at 703-838-2678 or Russell.Bodoff@nhia.org) with any ideas you may have on how we can strengthen NHIA and make your membership as meaningful as possible, while advancing our field.

Together, we will fortify the future of our industry!

Regards,

