



March 8, 2010

Press Release: NOPA Welcomes New Members to its Board of Directors & Advisory Council

Dear Portuguese American Community,

The National Organization of Portuguese Americans (NOPA), in compliance of its bylaws, has expanded its Board of Directors and Advisory Council so that our organization is representative of the community we serve. Not only is NOPA committed to maintaining equal representation of women and men on the board, we have a commitment to ensure that the Portuguese American community has proper representation on NOPA's leadership by including seats on the Board of Directors that represent the clubs, nonprofits, corporate, and elected officials.

On behalf of NOPA's Executive Committee, Arcindo Santos (Chair), Jason Moreira (Vice-Chair), Tony Ferreira (Treasurer), and Mary Jo Rodrigues (Secretary), I am proud to welcome the following new board members:

Cidalia Akbar
President & Owner, American Hauling & Paving, Inc.
At-Large Corporate Seat

Ben Alves
President, VA Portuguese Club
At-Large Club Seat

Helena Marques
Executive Director
Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.
At-Large Nonprofit Seat

Jack Martins (R)
Mayor, City of Mineola
At-Large Elected Official Seat

Dina Matos
Former First Lady of New Jersey
Executive Director, CARES Foundation



At-Large Nonprofit Seat

Marc Pacheco (D)
MA State Senator
At-Large Elected Official Seat

Paulo Pinto, MPA
Executive Director, MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
At-Large Nonprofit Seat

Joe Resendes
Vice President, Luso American Life Insurance Society
At-Large Corporate Seat

Mary Sousa
Executive Director, Portuguese Organization for Social Services and Opportunities
At-Large Nonprofit Seat

To add onto NOPA's first Advisory Council members, Jose Morais, Vice-President of the Conselho das Comunidades Portuguesas, and Cremilde Araujo, who serves as NOPA's Embassy Liaison, NOPA is proud to welcome:

George Perry, PhD
Dean, College of Sciences and Professor of Biology
University of Texas at San Antonio

Nuno Pinto
Alternate Executive Director
World Bank Group

John Manuel Dias
Chairman of the Board
Luso American Life Insurance Society

John Baptista
Director and Producer
Radio Voz do Emigrante



NOPA will soon be posting the biographies of all the new members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Council to the website. NOPA will also be posting its revised bylaws and financials for 2009 to meet its commitment of transparency to the Portuguese American community. Please feel free to contact NOPA with any questions about this press release at 703-389-3512 or info@nopa-us.org.

Regards,

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The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans is a national non-profit, tax exempt organization that supports and works with communities and organizations to advocate for and empower Portuguese-Americans. If you feel inspired to join our mission, please send your tax deductible contribution to:

NOPA, Inc.
PO Box 2652
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