

Candidate's Statement
Betty F. Malks

I am honored to accept the nomination for Vice President of INPEA. I have attached my CV which outlines my 36 year career as a practitioner in the field of aging and elder abuse.

As a member of INPEA, I have committed myself wholeheartedly to the implementation of our organization's vision, mission, and goals. I have been the US Representative and now am serving as the North American Representative. Recent accomplishments include convening INPEA's Annual Meeting at the GSA (Gerontological Society of America) conference for several years. I have chaired strategic planning sessions conducted at the last two Annual Meetings. I have been an active member on the WEAAD planning committee since its inception four years ago. I have made presentations at several WEAAD events and successfully implemented tasks the planning committee requested of me.

I have worked diligently on fundraising, membership expansion, marketing, media relations, and outreach and education throughout the US and North America. In addition, I created curriculum infusion and expansion of elder abuse tracks in several statewide, national, and international conferences.

If elected, I promise to focus on building a stronger and more professional INPEA. This focus will include efforts to improve transparency and accountability in the organization. In the survey members completed in preparation for our strategic sessions comments included "INPEA remains a great idea; we just need to develop it further. If the organization is to survive and develop in the way it should, it needs to have a proper infrastructure, rules of engagement..." Another comment was "Transparency is key. INPEA must stop being a closed brotherhood that whines about never having anybody new interested in joining." Others discussed the importance of clear communication to all. A comment was "Everyone should be heard instead of a select few." Yet another comment: "Communication can be improved and made regular among the Board by sharing activity reports, news items, comments and adopting a more participatory and democratic approach." "I liked this process of seeking responses."

I believe all of your experiences and opinions are valuable, need to be heard, and are an investment in INPEA's future and the prevention of elder abuse worldwide. The example of conducting a survey and publishing the results are invaluable tools in our work together.

In keeping with that premise, INPEA needs to have open and equitable processes and I will work tirelessly to achieve that goal. In the survey several members commented on the need for role clarification. One comment stated in the discussion of the roles of the Executive committee, "It is not clear what these roles are. I am really not sure and these roles need to be clarified." Another said, "Need to be identified, clarified, and written clearly, needs to be evaluation of roles; if people are not fulfilling their role, then there

should be a change; people now are doing whatever they like whether or not it fits in with the job description.” In asking what needs to be changed, members stated, “The group tends to be disorganized; to not be clear as it could be about how decisions are made and what is expected of its members.” Another said, “There must be more direction from the entire organization. It seems that there are only a few players at the top who are in the know.” There needs to be “a change in attitude, ... a need for infrastructure... there is no accountability.”

At the last strategic planning session in Ottawa many suggested that there is a need for INPEA to focus on “values, principles, structure, target dates, short, medium, and long term goals.” In upholding these values, I will support the newly elected President and other Executive members in every way possible.

I believe it is important to listen to all of the members’ input about this organization and then take action. I promise to focus on building a stronger, more professional organization with inclusion of all , transparency, fiscal and organizational accountability through clear, open communication, trust building, and open equitable processes.

In my position as Director of the Department of Aging and Adult Services of Santa Clara County, California – best known as Silicon Valley – I used my organizational and administrative skills to lead a multi-faceted agency of 300 employees. I retired recently. I would now like to use these skills and my experience for the benefit of INPEA.

We have shared ideals and commitment and together we can make a difference!