



# 2024 BOARD CANDIDATE

**Name:** Jeffrey Neill

**CANDIDATE BIO**

**Employer / Former Employer (if retired)** OsborneKlein - Ameriprise Financial

**Type of Business / Organization** Financial Planning

**Are you a member of the Blissfest Music Organization?** Annual Member

**Please add a brief bio of your relevant experience?**

I was born & raised in Petoskey, MI, graduating in 2005 from PHS. My family has lived here for generations, my grandparents owned the Petoskey Cab company back in the 80s & 90s. Music has been a BIG part of my life, I started playing trumpet when I was 12 years old, learning other instruments into my late teens. I have been attending Blissfest for over 10 years, volunteering or playing as a musician for most of them. I have served on many non-profit boards and volunteered for organizations including the following:

- Served as past President of United Way
- Past Treasurer of Sunrise Rotary
- Past Board member of the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra
- Leadership team for STRIVE
- Current Petoskey Chamber Ambassador
- Current Coordinator for Club Bliss
- Congas & World Percussion for Levitator
- Leadership Little Traverse Class of 2017
- YMCA Volunteer
- Mana Food Project Volunteer

**Why are you interested in serving on the Blissfest Board? Please share your motivation and what is it about our work that excites you?**

I am most interested in serving on this board to be able to help Blissfest carry out their mission. My love of music is deep within my soul, and I feel I have a lot of strengths to be able to help this board create positive relationships at the county level, as well as bring my financial expertise to put Blissfest in a position to be here for generations to come. To be a part of something that shapes the culture of our area and share the love of music with the next generations in our communities.

**What do you see as your most valuable contribution to Blissfest?**

Financial expertise, Volunteer/board experience, Community relationships

**What do you see as 1-2 challenges and 1-2 opportunities for us in the next few years?**

- Repairing & creating relationships at the county level
- Creating a sustainable financial ecosystem that continues the work of Blissfest for generations to come
- Sharing more cultural music that is less known to our communities
- Creating new funding opportunities from local businesses/corporate sponsorships/individual donors

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Char-Em United Way, Board President

Blissfest, *Club Bliss Coordinator*, 2016-2023

Sunrise Rotary, *Treasurer*, 2018-2020

Leadership Little Traverse, *Graduate*, 2017

Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, *Board of Directors*, 2018-2021



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**Please provide more details about your nonprofit or board experience such as the organization's size or other roles not listed above. What did you enjoy most about this service, and what was most challenging?**

I find that giving back to the community is part of the fabric that I am made of. I have enjoyed the many challenges that each and every organization has faced as I have served. What I enjoy the most is making an impact on people's lives in a positive way, giving my time to make someone's life experiences better. The most challenging experience I have encountered was leading United Way through the pandemic during an extremely challenging time.

**Select notable Skills and Expertise you will contribute to the Board of Directors, Blissfest Music Organization and Committees you serve.**

Accounting  
Artist / Musician  
Education  
Event Planning  
Fundraising/Development  
Information Technology  
Marketing  
Public Relations  
Public Speaking / Presentation  
Evaluation of Statistics/Reporting  
Social Media  
Strategic Planning

## **Attributes**

Asks tough questions with respect  
Collaborative  
Comfortable Speaking in front of groups  
Enthusiastic  
Good Sense of Humor  
Efficient Time Management  
Optimistic  
Respectful of others opinions  
Responsive  
Strong Work Ethic  
Staying on Task  
Willing and able to lead a discussion

## **Please Choose Committee Interest**

Development  
Festival Operations  
Finance  
Programming & Marketing

## **FUNDRAISING**

**Can you speak to your level of comfort or experience with this expectation?**

I am highly comfortable with this expectation.

## **TIME**

**Do you have any concerns or potential conflicts with this time commitment?**

I do not have a concern with this time commitment.