

Calling All State Associations to Nominate SPARs by October 1, 2021

The 2020-2021 State Policy Affairs Representative (SPAR) term is rapidly coming to a successful end. **It is safe to say that the NPMA SPAR program has exceeded expectations in its ability to bolster and defend the structural pest management industry.** If it weren't for this program, there would've been countless pesticides banned, more taxes and burdensome regulations eating away at your bottom line, and more Americans vulnerable to dangerous and deadly pests! The SPAR program has manifested itself into a vital element of NPMA's public policy advocacy apparatus.

As we move forward, we are asking each state's board of directors to nominate a SPAR and Vice-SPAR for the next two-year term (2022-2023). As a reminder, there are little restrictions imposed by NPMA as to who serves as the SPAR during each term; it is at the discretion of the state board of directors. SPARs may serve consecutive terms if the state board of directors chooses to nominate them again. **However, NPMA only requires that the SPAR and Vice-SPAR be a member of NPMA.**

As this SPAR term comes to a close, we formally request that you nominate one person to each of the two SPAR positions below for the 2022 – 2023 SPAR term by October 1, 2021. Send names to jplevelich@pestworld.org.

- **1 Nominee Required – State Policy Affairs Representative (SPAR):** To assist state associations with public policy efforts, NPMA is able to develop strategy, meet with legislators and staff, draft and push legislation, host conference calls with stakeholders, launch grassroots campaigns, write legislative testimony, regulatory comments, and legislative and regulatory amendments, work to identify and form coalitions, and assist with interviewing and retaining a state lobbyist (state is responsible for expenses incurred). **The purpose of the SPAR is to better coordinate federal and state advocacy between NPMA and the state associations. The state SPAR is the lead point of contact with NPMA when working on issues.** They are expected to play a role in public policy decision-making, should be knowledgeable of their state's pest management policies, and represent the industry in front of lawmakers, lobbyists, and other stakeholders. Their strategic input, knowledge, and responsiveness is crucial.
- **1 Nominee Required – Vice-SPAR:** It is imperative that NPMA and state associations develop public policy talent for the future. Vice-SPARs will help implement the policy goals of NPMA, the SPAR, and state board. The Vice-SPAR should be ready to take over the role as SPAR, if the SPAR should resign or is unavailable.

If you have any questions, please direct them to jplevelich@pestworld.org.