

## **NLI Board Election (NLI District 4) - Votes must be received by 5/10/21**

### **Here is how to vote for this election:**

[Save the Date! — 86th Annual Meeting on May 12th – NLI: Northern Lights, Inc.](#)

NLI District Map: [District Map – NLI: Northern Lights, Inc.](#)

**Candidates: Thomas Fletcher & Dave Pemerton**

### **Candidate: Thomas Fletcher**

**(This was supposed to come out in the Sandpoint Reader on the 6th, but Thomas has been canceled)**

Age: 67

Birthplace: Houston, TX

Residence: Careywood, ID

Years in Bonner County: Purchased property in 2013. Moved permanently in 2016

Govt service: none

Profession: MD, retired board certified cardiovascular and interventional radiologist  
FACR, Fellow of the American College of Radiology

Education: BA in Mathematics and Philosophy, Vanderbilt University

MD, University of Texas Southwestern

Fellowship and Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Hospital

Family: married with children and grandchildren

1. Why run for the NLI board? In one word--Transparency.

Four years ago the NLI proposed and passed two bylaws that I felt sent the wrong message. At that time, I decided to run for the NLI board. One bylaw had to do with how the board members were to be compensated. Prior to the new rule the board members were offered health care insurance as compensation. Afterwards, the board members were to be compensated in cash. Cloaked in the wording of the bylaws change was the dollar amount of the compensation package for the board members. Even today the compensation package for the board members is shrouded in secrecy. When I requested from the NLI data on the compensation package, I was asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement. Why? What are they hiding? When I requested a copy of the IRS Form 990, they again asked me to sign a non-disclosure agreement which, by the way, is illegal. (The Form 990 is mandated by federal law to be publicly available.) Why the non-disclosure? What are they hiding? The other bylaw change altered the mechanics on how future bylaw changes could occur. The new rule requires ten times more signatures to propose a change. The new rule places greater distance between the membership and the governing board. Why the distance? Isn't the NLI a cooperative?

The NLI employees support the re-election of my opponent. The NLI management supports the re-election of my opponent. The NLI board president supports the re-election of my opponent. Why the urgency to keep a fresh face off the board? With Thomas Fletcher, you will get transparency.

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By the way, money is not the reason I'm running for the board. I pledge to contribute 100% of my salary to local charities.

### **2. What abilities do you have that set you apart?**

It has been emphasised by my opponent and Steve Elgar, the NLI board president and marine biologist, that I have no experience in running a utility company. True statement. On the other hand, I would argue that board members should bring to an organization different perspectives. Even a marine biologist can contribute. How much experience do any of the board members have in radiation biology? How many of them can claim to have training or experience in the hazards of electromagnetic radiation on human tissue? As a board certified radiologist, I received formal training in biophysics and during my professional career I served as the radiation safety officer for a major hospital network in central Texas. It might serve the interests of the NLI members to have someone on the board who can understand and apply the scientific literature on the biohazards of non-ionizing radiation, the energy that emanates from power lines and smart meters into the human body.

### **3. Is the electrical infrastructure adequate to support all the growth this region has experienced in the past few years?**

Absolutely not. We must invest in infrastructure.

Just this last week in Careywood and surrounding areas, we experienced yet another electrical outage due to an infrastructure failure. My opponent has run a campaign on the proposition of maintaining the status quo. To quote his flyer, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". The people of Texas back in January of this year believed that their electrical grid wasn't broken. One month later they changed their minds after millions were without power and hundreds froze to death. The Texas electrical system is run by a board much like the NLI board. The president of the Texas utility board is a person with loads of experience designing and running an electrical grid. She had developed an alternative energy utility system in the state of Michigan and was drafted by the Texas board to build for Texas a similar Green New Deal utility grid. \$66 billion dollars later, what did the people of Texas get? During the arctic vortex freeze of February 2021, the solar panel contribution to the grid fell to zero and the windmill contribution fell to 4%. Evidently, clever political slogans and gobs of money do not necessarily make for a reliable energy system. The grid failure in Texas was a failure of leadership. The age of our infrastructure and the growth of our region mandates investment in the infrastructure. I have been accused of suffering from an anti-science attitude, a climate denier who does not want to invest in the future of energy. Wrong. I believe we must invest intelligently, not ideologically.

Article in Bonner Bee: [The best candidate for NLI is Thomas Fletcher | Bonner County Daily Bee](#)

## **Dave Pemberton- Incumbent**

[Home | Dave Pemberton NLI \(dpembertonnli.com\)](#)

[Pemberton always put NLI members, employees first | Bonner County Daily Bee](#)