



April 6, 2023

VIA Email to: GAELO Volunteer Contact List

To be removed from our email list, please contact admin@gaelo.org.

Q1 2023 Membership Newsletter

Hello members!

Wishing everyone a happy Spring. This quarter's newsletter includes information and updates on our 2023 goals, National Decisions Month, the use of the "s" word and more!

As always- we sincerely thank you for your support. We are here for you- please do not hesitate to reach out for more information about our available resources or how you can become more involved with GAELO. Contact info below.

An update on our 2023 goals and accomplishments:

- ✓ **COMPLETED**- After drafting and reviewing, GAELO's official By Laws and Conflict of Interest policies were adopted during our March Board Meeting.
- ✓ **COMPLETED**- The GAELO Board of Directors agreed to file for tax exempt status with the IRS. Our application was submitted earlier this week.
- ✓ **COMPLETED**- We've added a volunteer engagement and development workstream! The workstream will be led by Kevin Tom. If you are looking to get more involved with GAELO, please reach out to Kevin at ktom@gaelo.org.
- **UP NEXT**: Our key focus in Q2 will be to continue to grow GAELO's membership. We hope to seat at least three new board member this year, as well as a permanent

Executive Director. We are also looking to expand membership on our Steering Committee and Task Forces.

- Candidates for leadership positions with GAELO should be passionate advocates for our mission. Preferred experience includes: NPO operations/administration, medical professionals, constitutional professor or attorney, bio-ethicist, hospice or palliative care professional, faith leader, fundraisers, community organizer.
- We are also urgently seeking a content creation / media specialist to assist in formatting/creation of GAELO communications and presentations.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our leadership or learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please contact admin@gaelo.org.

Decisions Day

April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD). National Healthcare Decisions Day exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. NHDD is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

Take this opportunity to talk about End-of-Life options with your doctor and loved ones! Need help starting the conversation? Check out the GAELO resources below:

- [Starting the conversation with a loved one](#)
- [Starting the conversation with your doctor](#)

For more info on NHDD, check out The Conversation Project's website, [here](#).

Medical Aid in Dying vs. Suicide...What's the difference and why does it matter?

"Medical Aid in Dying" and "Suicide" are often used interchangeably by the Associated Press and opponents of Death with Dignity efforts. This can be confusing and misleading, as the two are not equal.

Death with Dignity National website explains as follows: "Suicide, or PAS (Physician assisted suicide), is an inaccurate, inappropriate, and biased phrase which opponents often use to scare people about Death with Dignity laws. Because the person is in the process of dying and seeking the option to hasten an already inevitable and imminent death, the request to hasten a death isn't equated with suicide. The patient's primary objective is not to end an otherwise open-ended span of life, but to find dignity in an already impending exit from this world. They're

participating in an act to shorten the agony of their final hours, not killing themselves; cancer (or another common underlying condition) is killing them.”

When speaking on the topic, please consider using the following terminology:

- Medical aid in dying
- Physician-assisted dying
- Aid in dying

Interested in learning more? [Sign up for the Dignity50 virtual training today!](#) Dignity50 is a 3-part video training series that anyone can take to educate themselves on National Death with Dignity terminology standards, legislative efforts, and oppositional viewpoints

Keep in touch!

Looking for end of life resources? Want to get more involved? Any other questions, comments or concerns? Check out some of the resources below:

- Website: www.gaelo.org
- Email: admin@GAELO.org
- Social: Follow GAELO on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!