

John Morrison
Board Member



John Morrison became a member of the NEMCSA Board of Directors after answering an ad in his local newspaper. He was selected as a private sector member in 2013. "Since NEMCSA is all about helping people, and most of my life has been committed to helping people, I thought it would be a good fit," says John.

What interested Mr. Morrison most about becoming a NEMCSA Board member was joining a group of people from varied backgrounds who shared a common goal of reaching out to our area to make life better for as many people as possible.

John enjoys being an integral part of each board meeting and hearing the various NEMCSA staff members share what they do on a regular basis to help people enhance their daily lives. "Because I am an active board member I have a sense that part of their joy of serving is mine, because I help in some small way to make it possible," John stated.

"No matter how much good you think you are doing if you diminish a fellow human being in any way, what good you think you have done is greatly diminished," John says.

Mr. Morrison serves as chairperson of the membership committee. He is presently working closely with The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) local distribution in Cheboygan County through the local Salvation Army Emergency Food Pantry. Both John and his wife feel "gratified and blessed" to be volunteer Ombudsmen for NEMCSA. He said they are honored "to be able to directly work with Nursing Home residents to solve, usually, very minor concerns and occasionally life changing ones." They chat with well over 100 senior residents a month. John notes that his 12 year old Bichon is also a volunteer and has her own official Ombudsman laminated picture ID. "I am fairly convinced that the residents enjoy her visit as much or more than ours." They visit a total of four nursing homes every month for NEMCSA headquartered in Alpena and four more for Northwest Michigan Community Services Agency headquartered in Traverse City. They were "loaned" to the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan as volunteer Ombudsmen when they were in need of volunteers.

John and his wife recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. "I definitely married up and have been blessed as a result," states John. They have two children, daughter Major Prezza Morrison and son Shaun. They enjoy eight grandchildren and are blessed with three great grandchildren. He and Juanita have been Salvation Army officers/pastors and administrators for forty years, the last seven as retired officers. John still works part time for a Salvation Army unit in Cheboygan County. "I have learned a valuable life lesson that we are never lesser for sharing our lives. The more we share the more we are blessed and enriched. One never loses by giving. It is a win-win situation that enhances my life and the life of each person I am privileged to share with, even in a small way." "Of course as a Salvation Army officer and pastor I am compelled to share that Jesus Christ is at the center, the core of my life. Whatever of value I have accomplished in my life is out of gratitude for what God has done for me. I could never earn or deserve what God has done in my life. My only appropriate response is to express my gratitude in giving service to people daily in His name. That I seek to do the best of my ability with the help of His Spirit."