



NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING – 2025

Friday, October 17, 2025 – 5:15 PM  
The Portland Regency Hotel  
Portland, ME

**Attendees:** Nancy Solis, Barbara Jobst, Adam Sprouse-Blum, Lindsay Schommer, Alissa Thomas, Thomas Ward, Hayley Paige

**Issues/Concerns Regarding NFTNN Attendance**

- Cost increase since going from a one-day event to a two-day event.
- Many Primary Care providers at smaller institutions do not have CME dollars.
- Hotel block. When NFTNN was a one-day conference, people did not stay at the hotel; therefore, we were not filling the hotel rooms. So having NFTNN be a 1.5-day conference helps fill more rooms, thereby opening more venues.
- Registration has been down since COVID; the most significant drop was last year.
- Many logistical issues this year.
- No UVM Neuromuscular attendees.
- Low APP attendance.
- Maine attendance is historically low.

Potential Solutions:

- Create a survey inquiring what people liked, what they would like to see, etc.
- Lower the registration fee in 2026.
- If lowering the registration fee does not improve NFTNN attendance, consider going back to a one-day conference for NFTNN.
- Give people more opportunities to go back and forth between the NNENS and NFTNN talks.
- Better advertising. Plan to add back postcards next year with a QR code, as this was a key driver of “how’d you hear about us in 2024.

**2026 Conference**

The 2026 Conference will be held in Vermont. The venue is pending.

It would help with planning for the 2026 conference to know where registrants are coming from (e.g., NH, ME, VT), so we can reach out to areas with historically low/no attendance. In the past, Lindsay would receive an aggregated summary of registrants' locations. Since Kate left UVM, we no longer receive this report.

**Plans:**

- Price out several hotels in Vermont: von Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe; The Equinox Resort in Manchester; Killington Grand Resort in Killington, Jay Peak Resort in Jay, and AC North in Burlington.



- Create a survey inquiring what people liked, what they would like to see, etc.
- The length of the talks should be shortened to 35 minutes, with a 5-minute break. Have four specialty-specific talks—see last year's agenda for what has been discussed previously.
- Continue to pay for rooms for faculty (one night + dinner for trainee 15-minute talks and 2 nights + dinner for full length talks)
- We had spaces (and filled with additional interest) for eight 15-minute trainee talks in 2025.
- Keep the resident \$1,000 scholarship for trainee speakers. If they present at NNENS and then present related content at another national or international conference, they get a \$1,000 travel scholarship.

### **2026 NNENS PRESIDENT ELECT**

An announcement will be made tomorrow that Lindsay Schommer will be the next NNENS President.

Potential 2027 NNENS President candidates – needs to be someone from UVM:

- John “Steele” Taylor
- Elle Levit
- Lisa Anne Rasmussen
- Ally Bazarsky
- Chantal Roy-Hewitson

Future NNENS President candidates from DHMC:

- Jared Quast
- Allie Stark
- Nicole Odom
- Brian Fidali

**Meeting ended at 6:00 PM**