

Date: May 18, 2026

Board Candidate Name: Michael Grande

Interviewee Names: Commissioner Dr Rene Flowers, AAAPP Board Member

Transcribed by Ann Marie Winter, Executive Director

Tell us a little about yourself including what other Board Experiences you have had.

I have worked mostly in financial services for the past 13 years. I worked with Merrill Lynch for 3 years and have been at Raymond James for the past 10 year.

I don't have direct experience serving on any non profit boards but my dad has been associated with AAAPP on the Better Living for Seniors Board and is very community oriented. That has been instilled in me.

If you've had any positive and/or negative Board experiences, please share those with us.

I would like to serve on a Board that allows me to be able to make positive impact with an organization. I want to get involved and make a difference. Empower individuals, ready to put the work in, more of a passion project, roll up your sleeves without the expectation of something in return. I got in the business I am to help people.

This is not negative per se, some boards are all about fundraising and that is not enough for me.

What interests you about our organization to consider serving on the AAAPP Board of Directors?

A few things – my dad has been on the Better Living for Seniors Board; I want to make a difference. We work with a lot of seniors at Raymond James

I want to help and directly tied to the community.

I know the AAAPP has a great reputation and does a lot of good work for seniors. That's important to me.

Board members bring experience, wisdom, strategic thinking and their rolodexes. Can you tell us about yours and help us achieve our goals?

I help seniors live as comfortably as possible; can't save your way into retirement bliss, have to invest, no risk no returns and for many seniors that is not possible.

Our Board meets 10 times per year on the 3rd Monday of the month at 9.30am and meetings usually last 90 minutes. There are committees and members are encouraged to sit on at least one. They meet less frequently and are based on need, other than the Finance Committee which meets 10 times per year on the 1st Thursday of the month. Are you able to make a commitment to attend the monthly Meeting?

I should be able to meet the 10 meetings; I like to set my calendar, and I prioritize something like this on my calendar.

Are you prepared to make the necessary decisions to ensure a successful organization?

I am ready to help make the right calls, deal with the facts and make the most informed decisions; I've had to make tough calls in my own work related to staffing and budgets.

Are you willing to share the AAA story with your world (and vice versa)

We all have spheres of influence. I am happy to help support the cause.

Would you have any conflicts of interest?

I don't know of any conflicts of interest.

Do you have any questions for us?

Michael asked Dr Flowers about her experience on the Board. Dr Flowers talked about the Letter to the Veteran card writing event that we held. She talked about the impact of the cards who were sent to veterans who may not have any support or family and this may be their only interaction with someone. Dr Flowers further discussed the Silver Santas program and how she was able to provide for a senior's basic needs.

Dr Flowers talked about finances and dependent upon that funding that is not consistent, do our best to advocate for additional funding. Important to forge relationships with legislators regardless of political affiliation.