

----- FAQs -----

What is a Neighborhood Association (NA)?

A Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association of homeowners, renters, apartment dwellers, and representatives from businesses, churches and schools who work together to improve and maintain the quality of life in their neighborhood. Membership is optional and open to all within the association's boundary. The association determines its boundaries. Dues may be required to secure some benefits of membership. NAs have no legal authority to enact or enforce maintenance or design requirements beyond those established by city ordinance. To ensure a democratic process, the organization has bylaws that provide for at least one general membership meeting each year and require the annual election of officers. Association 'position statements' are reached through consensus.

What is a Home Owner's Association (HOA)?

Unlike a neighborhood association, a HOA is a formal legal entity created at the time of development of the subdivision to maintain common areas and enforce private deed restrictions and covenants. Membership is usually mandatory for all property owners within the boundaries of the association and typically required to pay established maintenance and carrying fees. HOAs have the legal authority to enact and enforce maintenance and design standards above and beyond those required by City ordinance. Homeowners associations are corporations with formal bylaws and a governing board. Often, homeowners associations hire a property management company to handle maintenance and enforcement issues.

Is the Nor Este Neighborhood Association's (NENA) recognized by the city of Albuquerque?

Yes. NENA is registered with and acknowledged by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) as a "Recognized Neighborhood Association" under Albuquerque's [Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance](#) (NARO). NENA is incorporated in the state of New Mexico as a very small non-profit and its operations are compliant with the requirements of IRS 501c3.

Is my property/business within the NENA boundary?

See the [boundary map](#).

Why is the NENA boundary area so large?

NENA was established in 1989 and its boundary at that time was pretty much the same as today's Nor Este Nextdoor Neighborhood boundary. Over the ensuing years, NENA has grown as residences of new subdivisions have requested inclusion.

What are the NENA's Sectors on the Association Boundary Maps?

To address a concern the board of directors and membership had with fair representation over such a large and diverse area, the NENA Bylaws sectored the area and identified a member elected sector VP position for each. The sector VP must be a resident within the sector he/she represents. The sectoring needs to be updated which is a priority for the 2018 board of directors.

Can I organize a new Neighborhood Association within the NENA Boundary?

Yes but NENA would have to first divest itself of the area of interest first and would only do so if the split up was in the best interest of its membership, in particular the households that would be in the boundary of the new association. NENA recognizes its area is more than a little oversized so if you have a proposal, by all means, bring it to the board for a look.

Can I be a member of NENA if already a member of my HOA?

Yes. As can be seen from the description of NAs and HOAs above, the primary focus, scope, and legal authority of the two types of organizations are different. The NARO recognizes both and finds no inherent conflict with residences in a HOA also being represented by a NA. For the most effective advocacy on community wide issues it is best if the HOAs and NA work together to present a unified position.

What are the requirements for being a member of NENA?

To be a member, one has to be an adult dues paying resident (owner or renter), non-resident owner of property, or owner of a business within the Association's bounded area. For a more formal description please see the NENA Bylaws posted on the Association's web page.

What are the benefits for being a NENA member?

The primary benefit a member has is voting privileges. The NENA board does its best to fairly represent all within its boundary whether a member or not but to be most effective at this it depends upon a democrat process for the election of officers and committee chairs and for special issues that need to be brought before the membership. Only members have voting privileges. For a more formal description please see the NENA Bylaws.

Why is QSP (Quail Spring) “excluded” from the NENA boundary?

QSP is another recognized Neighborhood Association. The 2017 update of the NENA boundary map corrected an omission of the households South of QSP but ONC would accept this correction only if QSP remained apart from NENA.

Do I have to be a NENA member to be on the NENA email list?

No. Subscriptions are open and require no approval.

Does the NENA email list protect my identity?

Yes. NENA is using custom email software to assure email addresses are not shared. In addition, it does not support chats between the members. The list is used solely by the board of directors to keep the membership and other interested parties informed.

Do I have to be a NENA member before I can attend meetings?

No. Member and prospective members are always welcome at any meeting. There are two types of meetings, board meetings and general membership meetings, each type is held three times a year. The board can and does conduct board business at both types of meeting but issues requiring membership approval are only scheduled at membership meetings and only then if meeting purpose is announced to the membership beforehand. Generally, guest speakers, if any, will only be scheduled for membership meetings.