

Linda McDaniel, CNM, DNP
Candidate for Region 3 Representative

After reading the position description, do you still agree that you are interested in running?

Yes, I am enthusiastically interested in running for the ACNM Region 3 Representative position. I am honored to run for this position in efforts to support current members and increase new membership within the organization.

What makes you interested in this position? What qualifies you for this position?

I am interested in becoming the Region 3 Representative to connect with my peers and foster a community where individuals within their state and the region can join. My interest in expanding my involvement in the organization started when I became a midwife. I began my career as the lone midwife at a hospital; and never had an established midwifery network where I could deepen my understanding of the midwifery art, lean and support others, and grow professionally. In my experience, my exposure to diverse clinical practices that have allowed me to develop a comprehensive view of midwifery care.

In that time, I have also found the value of being a member of ACNM has enlarged my social network and brought awareness of the many benefits and opportunities for professional development, collaboration, and advocacy. In this role, I would be a zealous advocate and liaison for all midwives. I feel I am qualified for this position because of not only of my varied experience but for the passion of the profession and the organization to allow me to grow and feel confident in serving my fellow members.

Undertaking an elected position is a huge time commitment. Do you see any responsibilities that you might not be able to carry out?

After reviewing the duties, I'm indebted to the organization and the profession and dedicate in investing the time to give back to promote and support the community. I do not foresee any barriers that would prevent me from carrying out my responsibilities. If faced with challenges, I will seek assistance from my colleagues for possible solutions to fulfill the need.

What ACNM Strategic plan commitments best embody your personal philosophy?

My vision of being the Region 3 Representative is to increase not only awareness but a level of unity and cohesiveness of members within the state and regions which falls in line with ACNM Strategic plan #1: Supporting Our Members. I am aware most states only have one chapter located in either the capital or most significant city in their state. Although this can reach a large group of individuals, this design does not allow for current and potential members to play an active role and have a "voice" bringing awareness to concerns that plague their communities

that may be different from the communities located in the larger cities. I want to pilot engagement strategies in Region 3 where these strategies replicated in other regions that encourage participation from everyone in our community.

In changing purpose to impact, what tools or skills do you have to promote success?

Midwives are very passionate people and dynamic leaders when banded together they can be effectual change agents. The power of collaboration, patience, and persistence are vital attributes in transforming our purpose into impact. I have extensive experience working with groups to developing protocols, implementing initiatives, organizing events, and advocating for change. I worked with multiple stakeholders at the university in researching, developing, and executing a tobacco-free campus initiative. As the co-chair, chair, and many other leadership roles, I understand the complexities in developing and implementing initiatives that require identifying pivotal individuals along with passionate supporters to make a change. These experiences emphasized that being a great listener is instrumental in understanding the issues and hearing others concerns.

What ideas do you have for spreading innovation and improvement?

Creating a midwifery network in their communities will require innovation of engagement. This engagement strategy may include collecting data for geographic areas within a state to understand the needs of my region and be the best advocate I can be. Additionally, this data will provide insight into the possibility of establishing additional chapters or groups that make up an active midwifery network where we can deepen our understanding of the midwifery art, lean and support others, and grow professionally. Dissemination and access to information is key to increasing awareness of the organization benefits, opportunities, and resources. As their region representative, I will assist in improving current chapter structures and initiatives in membership recruiting and retention. These are crucial elements in supporting the members along with enlarging and supporting the ACNM membership community.