

Ballot Questionnaire: Bridget Howard, Secretary

Ballot Question 1: What makes you qualified for this position? Why are you interested in this position?

I have been your Board of Directors Secretary for 2.5 years and will continue to work tirelessly to inform you of ACNM activities and developments, and how they affect all members of ACNM. I am dedicated to our continued success to improve ACNM's financial capacity. This will in turn allow volunteer agendas to move forward to increase midwives and midwifery access to care for women and families, and healthy and equitable initiatives within the US and abroad.

Ballot Question 2: Visit ACNM's Strategic Plan [HERE](#). What part of the strategic plan embodies your personal philosophy?

Expanding access to midwifery care

Healthy midwives grow futures of healthy midwives and help healthy families grow. This circular process will increase the numbers of people who have interacted with a midwife and want to be a midwife, which in turn could increase the number of midwifery students seeking midwifery programs; and the number of midwifery faculty-including midwifery faculty of color- and the availability of future access to midwifery care. If we are healthy internally, I hope we will continue to grow a healthy profession to care for and educate the health of our communities.

Ballot Question 3: Visit the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) [HERE](#). What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging?

As ACNM continues to move toward in becoming an anti-racist organization, opportunities to grow on every level can occur. Offering safe spaces for listening, discussing, reflecting and building transparent leadership models where all members have opportunities to be heard and valued is important to me as your board secretary. Encouraging healthy dialogue, digging deep and growing forward. This is the example I want to create for ACNMs future and future midwives.

Ballot Question 4: What is your vision for innovation and improvement within ACNM?

Rebuilding a strong and fiscally sound organization is one of the top priorities. Creating opportunities for all midwives to be members of ACNM and strengthen our midwifery voice collectively will take dedication, transparency and inclusion. Instead of looking in, leaning in reengaging and supporting a strong future. Increasing student membership and new midwife continued membership in the college by creating opportunities for engagement, research, job stability, loan repayment and legislative change. And that all takes healthy finances.