

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

I have been involved with ACNM for the past 20 years. I have helped lead change in our state affiliate through multiple projects and initiatives including the creation of student scholarships, the Committee for Equity and Justice, and the popular regional interprofessional conference, Optimal Outcomes in Perinatal, Sexual, and Reproductive Health. I have also served at the national level in several roles including chairing the Membership and Marketing Committee, as an ad-hoc ACNM Annual Meeting Planning Committee member where I served as an abstract reviewer for the Racism and Health Disparities Track, Chair of the Division of Membership and Publications, and as Region V Representative to the Board of Directors. I am committed to supporting the volunteers and affiliates in Region V as well as the committees with whom I am a liaison. I am passionate about supporting and mentoring midwife leaders, advocating for student midwives, and continuing to move ACNM toward becoming an anti-racist organization. I am interested in serving, again, as Region V Representative because although we have faced significant financial challenges in the past year and a half, our Board worked very hard to work through them and see a way forward for the organization. I hope to continue to work with Dr. Munroe and the board to continue this forward-momentum.

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

Members and membership are the core of ACNM. Volunteer members drive the work we do at ACNM, dedicating their time, expertise, and passion to advance our shared mission. Additionally, membership dues are one of the primary sources of revenue, enabling us to sustain and expand our vital initiatives. It is through the collective commitment and support of our members that ACNM thrives, making a lasting impact on the profession of midwifery and the communities we serve. Membership, however, has suffered throughout the pandemic and with our recent financial and technological struggles. As a member organization, we must re-commit to membership recruitment, retention, and engagement striving towards the goal of achieving 100% membership participation in ACNM. As Dr. Michelle Munroe, our CEO states: "We are stronger together."

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

DEIB is a central commitment of our organization and should be embedded in our organizational culture. In recent years, we have made progress toward this. The development and implementation of the Racial Equity Toolkit, the creation of a Racism and Health Disparities track for the annual meeting, the anti-racism webinar series, and a number of other initiatives are all steps in the right direction. To further embed this core commitment, divisions, committees, state affiliates, and other groups within ACNM should include this as an agenda item and dedicate time at each meeting to discuss diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. This may look different for each group, however, the dedicated time places DEIB as central to the work of each. In addition, we must align this core commitment with the people and communities that we serve. To do this we must engage and partner with the people we serve and collaborate with, support, and amplify organizations that are leading the way. We must also engage

partners and large donors to create a national educational pathways project to bring awareness to the midwifery profession for Black and Indigenous students in elementary and high school and to fund education for Black and Indigenous midwives.

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

With recent financial strains, streamlining of the national office, and re-assessment of our processes, I think it is important to re-envision the roles of the board members and volunteer leaders, particularly the role of the Region Representatives and the Division Chairs (Volunteer Leadership Council). Currently, there is redundancy in liaison work with committees and task forces. I believe that in the current environment, it is important to continue to streamline processes, improve communication channels, and re-dedicate the role of the Region Rep to collaboration with and strengthening our Affiliates.

Ballot Question 5: What are two improvements that ACNM should prioritize and how would you help address them in your role?

Enhancing Member Engagement: ACNM should prioritize initiatives aimed at increasing member engagement to ensure that all members feel connected, involved, and valued. In my role, I would advocate for the development of personalized communication strategies, utilizing various channels to reach members effectively. Implementing regular surveys and feedback mechanisms would help assess member needs and preferences, allowing us to tailor our programs and initiatives accordingly. Additionally, continuing to organize virtual and in-person networking and educational opportunities to foster a sense of community and participation among members.

ACNM should prioritize the integration and improvement of technology to enhance communication, collaboration, and educational resources for its members. In my leadership role, I would advocate for technological support and improvements to ensure that our membership platforms are running smoothly and effectively. Collaborating with tech experts and seeking member feedback would ensure that the technological enhancements align with the diverse needs of the membership and contribute to a more accessible and functional ACNM.