Ballot Questionnaire: Jessica Anderson, Region 6 Representative

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

I am seeking re-election for the Region VI Board Representative position. I have truly enjoyed the last 3 years on the board. It was a huge learning curve and I honestly feel like I am just getting started in this role. I still have a lot that I want to accomplish! First, I believe in our profession and organization. We have so much to accomplish and we need stewards and volunteers to focus on areas of opportunity to make midwifery mainstream. I am honored to meet so many amazing people doing fantastic work in our profession and organization. In addition, I have a variety of expertise including business, practice expansion, quality, leadership, affiliate development and affiliate leadership that is an asset to the board. I am a team player and enjoying working with a passionate, diverse group of individuals. Lastly, I believe in giving back to our profession and organization and that ACNM is the vehicle that will help us move our profession forward!

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

The third domain, National Advancement of Midwifery and Women’s Health most aligns with my personal philosophy and professional goals. This domain speaks to expansion of midwifery for ALL individuals. We are in a unique position to move our profession forward. Midwifery is the answer to many of the challenges we currently face in maternity care including maternal mortality, maternal morbidity, workforce, and access to care. We have a great opportunity to address the challenges. The time is now! My professional interest and passion revolve around midwifery expansion, midwifery access, quality of care, and awareness of profession. I have dedicated my career to this work. My new professional motto is that “I am midwifing midwives.”

Ballot Question 3: What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity and inclusion?

First, we must recognize and be transparent that we have a problem as an organization and profession. We have not done this fully yet! We must make a specific commitment to increase diversity throughout our entire ACNM volunteer structure and midwifery profession. This needs to be a mandated TOP priority for all midwifery leaders with a goal to foster and support diversity and inclusion within all arms of our organization and profession. The first activity to move us forward is to mandate diversity and inclusion training for all volunteer members. We must first acknowledge our problem and educate our volunteer structure! Secondly, we need to ensure that our volunteer structure is diverse and inclusive. We need to have each member beliefs and perspective represented at every table within our organization! We cannot and will not move forward as a profession and organization if voices are missing!

Ballot Question 4: What innovation or improvement would you bring to ACNM?

My unique innovation or improvement revolves around improving our regional affiliate connections, communication, and partnerships. Our region affiliates have so much to share and learn from each other. I have supported and implemented several activities like a regular affiliate leadership meeting and regional continuing education webinar within Region VI. It has been empowering to see midwifery connections blossom across our region affiliates. I would like to continue addressing regional collaboration through other creative endeavors like affiliate teams or interest groups. Strengthening our membership collaboration is key to moving our organization and profession forward!