Ballot Questionnaire: Daniel Stec, Region 4 Representative

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

Throughout my time and experiences with ACNM, I have found that connect with others and bringing people together is one of my greatest strengths. When I joined the IN Affiliate, there were very few people active and even fewer who attended the meetings. Since then our meetings have grown tremendously and have a more robust group of volunteers. I believe a lot of this is due to having events like our retreat and other social events where people get a chance to get to know each other on a more personal level and build relationships. I believe I can do a similar thing at the regional level among the affiliate leaders as well as with the members to a certain degree. I have found myself connecting with them already at the annual meetings and want to continue to use my strengths in a new capacity. I love the work that I do with ACNM and want to expand to a wider capacity. Feeling supported at every level is crucial to our success as affiliates and individuals, and I plan to bring a new energy and perspective to the region and the board.

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

In review of the five strategic domains and core commitments, there is not an area with which I do not identify. However, the part that best embodies my personal philosophy would be inclusion and diversity and the support of affiliates. As a young, male midwife, I have some idea of the challenges of not feeling represented and supported in a field that does not look like me while wanting to understand the experience of midwives of color and other underrepresented groups. This is something I strive to do in my personal life and work toward in my professional life within our affiliate and my workplace. One way I do this is by presenting to undergraduate nursing students to show them a different picture of what a midwife looks like as well as educate them on what we do. In this role, I believe my greatest impact could be in support of affiliates, both due to the nature of the position as well as my strengths in this area. It is in my nature to connect with others and fill the gaps in support. I believe that people will perform best when in community and when they feel safe and supported.

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

With what I am currently doing at the undergraduate nursing level in mind, I would like to expand the number of programs that I present to as well partner with a midwife of color in these presentations. I would like to share the presentation with each of the affiliates in the region and encourage them to employ a similar strategy in their area as well. Currently, the IN affiliate does not have a diversity and inclusion committee or representation, so I think learning from affiliates that have done this successfully would help our and other affiliates in the region. I also want to challenge affiliate leaders to encourage mentorship of underrepresented midwives in their membership and create opportunities to take more active role in their affiliates. In this same vein, I plan to encourage inclusion of different types of midwives by hosting a panel of midwives from all different practice settings to share with membership about their experiences. The voice and experience of those different from ourselves is crucial to the work and success of our organization and the field of midwifery.

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

While respecting tradition and history, I thrive on new ideas, innovation, and taking chances. I have demonstrated that at the affiliate level throughout the last few years and believe I can do the same at the regional and national level. As a young, male, and member of the LGBTQ+ community, I am not afraid to share my unique perspective with others and take the lead or support new initiatives. I will bring people to the table that may have not felt connected before and ensure that we listen to the ideas and issues of all, from students to established midwives to those who have retired. ACNM must think and act outside of the box in order to survive and adapt to the rapidly changing healthcare and social environments. I believe I can be part of that journey.