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AHS Candidate Statements for Board Officers

President

Linda Whitaker

Running for a third term as President of the AHS Board of Directors, while allowed according to bylaws, is neither a casual decision nor one for the faint of heart. It requires focus, time, and commitment - not just by a President but by all Board members - in the face of an uncertain economic recovery, new agency leadership, and significant staff turnover. This Board and the AHS staff deserve all credit for the significant achievements over the past two years: AAM accreditation at all four museum locations, fiscal stability, and the hiring of a new director. In part, this is what it means to be a statewide cultural agency in the 21st Century.

As President, I want to fulfill the goals that inspired me to apply to this Board in the first place.

- Document Board and Agency compliance with the 2013 Sunset Audit findings and recommendations.
- Prepare for the Sunset Audit in 2023
- Fulfill all current Sunset Audit reporting requirements
- Gain legislative approval and AHS support for the next decade

These must be balanced with Board growth and development, strategic planning, and advocacy for the role AHS plays in Arizona's quality of life, cultural identity, and its (unrealized) potential as an economic driver.



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Vice President

Ileen Snoddy

I am running for a second term for the position of Vice President of your Arizona Historical Society Board. My goals will continue to include:

- The engagement with key community stakeholders at the statewide level to promote the Arizona Historical Society
- To forge strong relationships within the education community statewide, especially regarding the advancement of the National History Day Arizona (NHDAZ) programming.
- To provide additional support for a successful SunSet Review task completion.
- To assist in developing benchmarks for the Arizona Historical Society to move forward in a positive community manner.

I am an active member of your state board and look forward to working with the membership AHS staff. Board of Directors to position AHS as a leading statewide institution allowing the Society to focus on the distinct attributes of our communities while finding the common thread that weaves the fabric of Arizona into a place of being and community.



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Treasurer

Jim Snitzer

1. Why do you want to run for this position?

This is an opportunity for me to continue my service to AHS as Treasurer. I feel that AHS weathered a bad (Covid) storm in the past few years and is coming out in good financial shape, thanks to the staff and Board, that were willing to make hard decisions and take the long view. We have preserved the foundation and are now poised to step up our engagement with the world - visitors and virtual visitors.

2. What priorities do you want to address during your term?

I mainly want to focus on three areas:

- Distilling the extremely complex financial information down into reports to the Board that are simple and understandable, truthful and call for action when action is needed.
- Responding immediately to any financial comments on the forthcoming Sunset audit and if corrections are needed, implement them right away.
- Support the Capital Campaign. I see the Capital Campaign as the most important thing we are doing for the future of AHS.

3. Ability and capacity to fulfill the duties of this position.

Ironically, my greatest strength for this job is that I really am not all that good at it! Before I became Treasurer, I never understood the complex monthly statements. Now I struggle to understand them and present them. Once I boil them down to a level where I can understand them, it seems that almost anybody can understand them



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Secretary

Dr. Colleen Byron

With over 25 years of board and commission service, as well as overseeing the highly successful Arizona Board of Regents 2000 sunset audit, I am qualified to engage the duties of the AHS Secretary position. I am keenly aware of the many rules state-sponsored organizations like AHS must follow (for example, the Open Meeting Law) and the best practices for public sector organizations like ours. It would be my honor and privilege to serve in this capacity if elected.