

ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

DIANE DROBKA

Graham County



For as long as she can remember, Diane Drobka has been interested in history and preservation. This goes back to her youth when her mother helped her to write and publish a book about her community's history. That fascination continues today, living in a 110-year-old house in Pima and collecting postcards showcasing Arizona's history and indigenous people.

On the Mayor's Historic Restoration Committee in Safford, she helped secure grants for preservation of the Odd Fellow's Home, garnering the 2004 Governor's Excellence in Rural Development Award. After serving on the Graham County Historical Society Board for many years as secretary and outreach coordinator, she now assists them with media outreach.

She volunteers for the Gila Watershed Partnership and Arizona Game & Fish Department, and served on the Gila Valley Arts Council Board for 25 years. She is now on the Pima Planning and Zoning Board involved in rezoning and visioning efforts.

An avid birder, Diane is on the Arizona Field Ornithologists Board, organizing their highly successful 2022 statewide conference. She has led outreach for the Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival since its inception in 1993 and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023.

She coordinates volunteers for annual Global Big Day counts and Safford's Christmas Bird Count. She led efforts to create Graham County: A Hidden Treasure for Birders, winning the Governor's Excellence in Rural Development Award in 2005. As a new member of the Graham County Tourism Council, she hopes to promote birding and history through that venue.

Diane graduated from the University of Arizona in 1979 with a degree in Wildlife Ecology, and later earned a degree in Journalism. She combined those skills while working as a public affairs specialist for the Bureau of Land Management in Safford.