



FLAGSTAFF | TEMPE | TUCSON | YUMA

2023 AHS Board Election of Officers
Slate of Candidates

Position	Candidate Name
President	Linda Elliott-Nelson
	No other candidates
Vice President	DeNise Bauer
	No other candidates
Secretary	Deborah Bateman
	No other candidates
Treasurer	No candidates

Written Responses

Candidates were request to provide a brief response of 500 words or less that answered the following:

1. Why do you want to run for this position?
2. What priorities do you want to address during your term?
3. What is your ability and capacity to fulfill the duties of this position?



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President

Linda Elliott-Nelson

I am interested in serving as the President of the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) Board of Directors. As a native Arizonan, I believe strongly in this organization's mission "connecting people through the power of Arizona's history". Knowing our state's roots and past helps us center who we are and how we achieve our goals and objectives. I believe I can make a difference through focusing our efforts in a professional manner to help us work together.

There are important priorities facing Arizona Historical Society in the next year. These include the AHS sunset review, the budget, and fulfilling the AHS mission given challenges of funding, staffing, and changing times. It is key to provide calm oversight in board leadership while listening to input from the Board, the staff, and Arizonans and AHS members who reach out to our organization.

I have over 20 years of leadership as a community college administrator providing oversight with staffing of 300-400 faculty and staff and a yearly budget of over \$18 million. My positions as Vice President and Dean of Instruction necessitated working with budget planning and a diverse reporting structure and creating an environment conducive to everyone working together – both inside and outside the college – to achieve goals. I also served as Board Chair of Arizona Town Hall during 2015-2017. During my tenure, our organization implemented its strategic plan, held statewide town halls on key topics, and adjusted actions as needed given funding situations. I also serve on the AHS Rio Colorado Chapter Board, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Board, and the Yuma Regional Partnership Council – First Things First.

Arizona has a powerful history. Through working together, we can connect our state residents and visitors with our past and go forward into the future successfully.



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Vice President

DeNise Bauer

I, DeNise C. Bauer would like to become the Vice-President on the Board of the Arizona Historical Society. I have served on this Board since 2021 and believe I have the skills, knowledge and abilities to assist the President in leading the Board to reach its goals in mission accomplishment.

Although I have only lived in the State since 2012, I have gathered an enormous amount of knowledge about its history and bureaucratic policies to help define issues and opportunities that are presented to the agency. I strongly believe that the path going forward is to support the effort to include histories of all Arizonans. All of the cultures living here now and in the past have dealt with and continue to face the harsh realities, celebrate successes, and took on the challenges which were sometimes tied into human survival.

I started working with AHS when I joined the Douglas Historical Society (DHS) in 2013. I served and still serve on their Board of Directors as an Officer. My experiences with the group was a fast track to discover a many of the little-known, but important facts on how we ended up where we are today. I have a Masters in Public Administration, with coursework focused on developing and managing nonprofit organizations. It was taught that the reason for forming a non-profit is that there are serious problems or perceptions of such in society that are not being adequately addressed by the government, so more narrowly focused organizations are formed to solve problems or other issues.

I have seen that history is generally appreciated and embraced by Arizona's citizens. In Douglas, the local merchants decided that exploring the city's history is a welcome attraction to area visitors. The DHS is currently working with them to prioritize stories and develop a plan to include the city's history by explaining different types of signage which would include incorporating new technology. I figure that this fantastic plan will come to fruition about the same time internet and other communication services finish their installation. I should mention that I met with many of the local organizations when I arrived and found the Historical Society was a really good organization to work with – they have an active board, best management practices were being followed and they really appreciate my talents for problem solving.

I have seen and experienced the opportunities and challenges working with all-volunteer staffs. Motivations for working often start out at an emotional level then build from there. Volunteers want to do their best in addressing the situation. Like paid employees they have their "motivational buttons" and need to be recognized for their input. During my relatively short time with AHS, I have spoken with other Board members who had problems and I've come to realize that some communication that was needed for better understanding of how government works was missing. I think this can be better addressed during orientation. I also think that it's very appropriate to have representation from all of Arizona's counties.



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I participated in the development of AHS policies, dealing with diversity and inclusion. Having been educated and exposed to a multitude of various cultures, ethnicities, and personalities give me the impetus to continue in helping with society progress towards perfection.

I think that becoming the Vice-President of AHS is a role I will be able to do well.



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Secretary

Deborah Bateman

I see the opportunity to run for Secretary of the Arizona State Board of the Arizona Historical Society as a way to best contribute to the advancement and continued evolution of the Arizona Historical Society. My experience and success as a leader in my industry and community can benefit AHS and Arizona.

The priorities I would like to address and champion during my term are:

- Enhance the unification and engagement of our Board to leverage our diversity, expertise, influence, and impact.
- Create an action plan to increase our Board of Directors' participation and engagement with our communities and State leaders and heighten the awareness of AHS and its statewide impacts and benefits.
- Identify our AHS priorities, needs, and strategies to acquire the appropriate funding for advancing our mission and impact.

I possess the ability, knowledge, experience, capacity, and desire to make a difference for the Arizona Historical Society. Given this opportunity, I will manage my other priorities and commitments to ensure that my time and efforts for the Arizona Historical Society will be meaningful.