

Elieen Thrower Ballot Question Responses

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

My qualification for the position of Region III Representative is based on my experience in the organization. I am a long-time member of ACNM and have been an active volunteer in multiple roles. I served as the Georgia Affiliate President and led the local program committee for the 2018 Annual Meeting. I went on to be a member of the national program committee and served as chair for the 2022 and 2023 Annual Meeting program committees. I have been a member of the History and Archives Committee since 2016 and have served as chair for the past year. I am currently a member of the Nominating Committee.

I am passionate about ACNM and its value to us as midwives, the people we serve, and the profession. I have practiced clinically in Georgia for 30-plus years, and I am excited about the opportunity to support all the Affiliates and midwives in Region III.

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

ACNM's Strategic Goal of service recovery and member experience resonates with my philosophy. Our organization underpins the profession, supporting midwifery education, practice, and policy. It can be easy to lose sight of ACNM's value to members, and I am committed to spotlighting this value. I want to contribute to ACNM's Region III members having a positive, supportive, and meaningful experience with the organization.

Ballot Question 3: Visit the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) [HERE](#). What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging?

DEIB and anti-racism work are part of my core values. My DEIB journey has been one of discovery and reflection. The midwifery profession has been on a similar journey, and I am committed to working to support ACNM members in Region III as they continue this journey. We must unite in mutual support, respect, and understanding to achieve our goal of midwives for all people.

Ballot Question 4: What is your vision for innovation and improvement within ACNM?

ACNM is what we, as members, make it. My vision is a shared belief in the value of our profession and ACNM. Midwifery's potential to improve outcomes and change our healthcare system must start with midwives coming together to support each other, our work, and the people we care for. I dream of every midwife in Region III and the nation being members of ACNM and caring for one another. As John Lennon said, "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." I believe we can make bold changes. Midwives are brave and do daring things every day. Let's midwife our professional organization together!

Ballot Question 5: What are two improvements that ACNM should prioritize and how would you help address them in your role?

Financial sustainability and increasing membership are my priorities for ACNM. If elected, I will work to achieve exceptional financial stewardship across the organization. We must have a clear understanding of the budget and create transparency around income and expenditures. This will require work by the Board of Directors to right-size our efforts and expectations to align with budgetary realities. I am committed to assisting this process in any way possible. I will work to support Region III Affiliates and members, encouraging midwives in the region to be members.