Cindy Schmid
Candidate for Region I

I was born in Erie, PA, and graduated from Edinboro University of PA with a BS in Music Education. I have a Master of Music Performance in horn from the University of Wyoming.

I have over 35 years teaching experience teaching Pre K through college in vocal, instrumental and general music.

CANDIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk?
I see a background in Orff Schulwerk as an essential part of quality music education in this country. It is essential that every teacher has a background in some type of pedagogy, and I think Orff is the best for my students. I encourage music majors at my local community college and fellow teachers to get a background in Orff and to participate in our local chapter workshops. The Orff pedagogy helps to ensure quality teaching. As a National Board member I will do everything in my power to promote Orff Schulwerk as an essential part of a quality music education.

2. What are your leadership strengths and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?
I have been a Chapter President and my state’s NAfME Advocacy Chair. As an advocate for music education I worked with four different state arts advocacy groups and succeeded in getting the fine and performing arts added as options to Wyoming’s college scholarship requirements. This scholarship is available to any student who graduates from a high school in this state. Before the addition of the fine and performing arts as a requirement, secondary music classes were losing enrollment due to students taking other classes required for the scholarship. The inclusion of fine and performing arts has helped alleviate this situation for students interested in studying music.

3. What is the role of the National Board of Trustees as it relates to the general membership and how would you fulfill this role?
The role of the National Board of Trustees is to make decisions for the good of the membership. It is also necessary to listen to feedback from the membership and consider what direction(s) the Board should take to meet the needs of the members. That said, there is also a responsibility for the members to comment whenever the Board asks for feedback.
4. What is your vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk in the future?

My vision for AOSA is three-fold. First, I would like to reach out to colleges and universities who do not already do so to encourage the addition of Orff pedagogy in their teacher training. Second, I would like to see members reach out to colleagues to encourage them to attend workshops. I joined my local chapter because I was asked to attend a workshop and recognized the quality of the presenter and materials. Third, there are ways to reach teachers using a variety of venues, including technology. In the Rocky Mountain region, there are small, isolated communities. Perhaps more teachers could be included in workshops through the use of Skype or a similar technology. Granted, it would not be as good as being in the same room as the presenter, but could be a viable option in the case of long distance and/or bad weather. This could also be a way to encourage membership.