Jean Fox
Candidate for Region I

I have been an Orff teacher for more than 30 years, inspiring kids with music in schools in Colorado, in Switzerland and as a retiree who subs, teaching as much as possible because-let me be honest - I really love the Orff process!

I have been active in my local Rocky Mountain chapter, serving as everything from Librarian, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice and President. I was silly enough to volunteer as Instrument Co-chair for two conferences held in Colorado. I really loved hauling around all those instruments for you all!

CANDIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk?
As music education changes our role as educators of Orff Schulwerk must change with it. But I view Orff Schulwerk as a process and a philosophy that should have no problem advancing with an ever changing world in which we live and must teach. OS will always be the most successful way to teach children and to bring them that joy of making music, whatever the medium becomes. So much of a child's day is now spent before a screen, we become more important than ever to bring the movement and direct interaction with other people and instruments into a child's world.

2. What are your leadership strengths and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?
I feel I am an organized person with abilities in working diplomatically with others, staying abreast of the work to be accomplished and having enough knowledge about the future to be an effective contributor to the AOSA board. I am a great listener, able to wait and hear what others have to say before forming my opinion on a topic. I am not hesitant to then state my opinion even though others may not agree. I am then able to step back and hear feedback and either change my view or stand firm. If compromise or consensus is needed, I am able to comply.

I also feel I can "keep on top of things"; get things done when needed. I will be diligent in keeping my constituents "in the loop" when necessary. Discreet, also, when necessary.

Promoting Orff Schulwerk is a passion for me. Even though retired, I remain active and have a desire to "give back" to the organization that has given me so much joy.

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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 National Board should take mainly an advisory role keeping the wishes of its general membership in mind at all times. But there are times when a board should make those difficult decisions for which our constituents may not understand the necessity. For instance, the question of requiring all to be members of not only their local but also of the national organization. This has been a topic of discussion for some time, I know. Being a member of the Rocky Mountain chapter, one of the largest in the country, is a testament to how well that requirement can work once it becomes an established expectation. But I realize the question of how to establish that expectation is the main topic for discussion. I would welcome the chance to be part of that discussion and eventual decision.

4. What is your vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk in the future?

My vision would be an Orff Schulwerk teacher for every child in our country! We should dream big! I also believe AOSA has an obligation to focus its members on the needs of the future without discarding the important parts of our past. Our vision should be to give our members the tools to be effective teachers of our 21st century children in the way of providing beneficial clinicians at our conferences, useful articles in our publications and supportive grant opportunities for research in new areas. I feel we are doing a great job in these areas already but sustaining that good work and improving upon it should always be our goal.

As librarian for our chapter I have come to realize how important that honoring of what has come before should be to our organization. So many have made us what we are and archiving their work should be something of value to us. Imparting to new members "where we have come from and who helped us get there" is an important part of our journey to be viable in the future.

Thanks very much for allowing me the opportunity to apply for this chance to serve.