

AMWA NEWS

## Officer Candidate Slate for the 2025-2026 Election

Kimberly Korwek, PhD / 2024-2025 AMWA President-Elect

It has been my honor to serve as the AMWA President-Elect and with this role serve as the chair of the nominating committee. This committee is charged by the AMWA Board of Directors (BOD) to evaluate interest forms submitted by members interested in the elected offices of president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. The nominating committee members, who are selected by the president-elect and approved by the BOD for their experience, expertise, and leadership within AMWA, review the qualifications of those seeking to serve in an officer position and collectively provide a slate of candidates to the BOD for consideration.

The 2024-2025 Nominating Committee includes past AMWA presidents and board members as well as members who have served in leadership positions in the medical communication field, all of whom have shown long-standing dedication to AMWA and commitment to ensuring the organization continues to thrive. I sincerely appreciate their service and extend my gratitude to the committee members for their time and dedication to AMWA:

- Brian Bass, MWC
- Lorretta Bohn, ELS
- Gail V. Flores, PhD
- Haifa Kassis, MD
- Cyndy Kryder, MS, MWS
- Leslie Nielstat, ELS
- Michele Sequeria, MS, MBA, MWC
- Susan Krug, MS, CAE (ex officio, nonvoting member)

There were multiple strong applications for the executive committee, and the Nominating Committee's insightful feedback and critical analysis allowed for robust discussion and the presentation of a strong slate of officer candidates to the BOD for consideration. I respectfully present the following candidates who were approved by the AMWA BOD at the June BOD meeting:

- **President-Elect:** Jennifer Minarcik, MS
- **Secretary:** Sarah Dobney, MPH
- **Treasurer:** Julie Phelan, MD, MBA

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Jennifer Minarcik, MS**, an AMWA member since 2011, is in her fifth year of serving on the AMWA BOD and is the current secretary. She previously served as board liaison for the AMWA Annual Conference Committee. From 2021 to 2023, she served on the BOD as chapter advisory council chair. As a member of the Delaware Valley Chapter, she served as the chapter advisory council representative (2019-2020), treasurer (2018-2019), and president-elect, president, and immediate past president (2016-2018). Additionally, she has served as the chair of the Chapter Advisory Council Task Force (2016-2017), a member of the National Communication Committee (2013-2017), an Engage Task Force committee member (2016-2017), and an Annual Conference Committee member (2018). In addition to her service on various committees, Minarcik was an editor-at-large for the *AMWA Journal* from 2014 to 2017 and in 2018, joined the editorial board as the social media section coeditor and became editor in 2019. Minarcik also presented sessions at the 2015 and 2016 Medical Writing & Communication Conferences and was awarded an AMWA fellowship in 2020. She is a freelance biomedical writer specializing in pharmaceutical sales training and promotional medical writing projects.



### SECRETARY

**Sarah Dobney, MPH**, an AMWA member since 2013, has been on the AMWA BOD for 5 years as an at-large director and is currently the board liaison for the Education Committee (Regulatory Writing subgroup) and has served as the BOD liaison for the Value of Medical Writing Group (2022-2023). Before her position as an at-large director, Dobney served as President of the Ohio



Valley Chapter (OVC) and the chapter advisory council delegate to the BOD for the OVC (2016-2018). She has also chaired several committees as Awards Committee Chair (2021-2022), Annual Conference Committee Chair (2020-2021), and Chapter Leader Online Community Chair (2019-2020). In addition to these leadership positions, she has authored articles in the *AMWA Journal* (2021-2023) and was a member of the Nominating Committee in 2018. Dobney is the senior director of medical writing at inSpection Group and an instructor in the Master of Clinical Research program at Ohio State University.

## TREASURER

**Julie Phelan, MD, MBA,** an

AMWA member since 2009, is in her ninth year as treasurer on the BOD and as chair of the Budget & Finance Committee (2016-2025). She served as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee (2015-2016), the Communication Committee (2014-2015), the 2015 Salary Survey Task Force, and the Online Community and Social Media committees (2012-2014). At the chapter level, she was president of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter (2013-2016), serving previously as president-elect (2012-2013). She also served as membership chair for the chapter (2011-2015) and as a chapter delegate to the BOD (2013-2016). She has authored articles for the *AMWA Journal* and is currently AMWA's registered agent. She was awarded an AMWA fellowship in 2017. Phelan is the founder and president of Biomedisys, Inc, a medical communication and strategy consulting boutique in Chicago, Illinois. She has



more than 20 years of medical communication and business strategy experience including working as a biotechnology equity research associate analyst at Robert W. Baird & Co, medical and strategic advisor for an insurance corporation, and medical communication consultant.

## PROCEDURE FOR ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

As required by AMWA's bylaws (Article IV.2e-f), these nominations were announced to the AMWA community by email more than 60 days before the annual business meeting. A nominee who is unopposed for any office is declared automatically elected at the annual business meeting. As stated in the bylaws, additional nominations for president-elect, secretary, or treasurer may be made by any member provided the member meets the criteria set forth by the BOD. The criteria and process are the following

- Member dues must be current, and the member must be in good standing.
- The nomination must be submitted in writing to the secretary of AMWA at least 30 days in advance of the annual business meeting. This year's annual business meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025.
- The nomination must clearly state the qualifications of the candidate and be signed by 50 members in good standing as of the date of the receipt of the nomination.
- The nomination must be accompanied by a letter from the candidate stating that she or he is willing to serve if elected.

Officer nominees who are unopposed for office are declared automatically elected at the AMWA annual business meeting.