



Executive Council Statement of Candidacy

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Name Terri Warren

Big Red Number 284

1. Please tell us a little about yourself, most importantly why you are interested in serving on the Executive Council.

My husband Hal and I have been members of the club for 14 year now. The friends we love most in the world we met in this club. I'm currently the International Secretary on the Executive Committee and I would like another term of office. This role is interesting, not just for taking minutes of meetings but because the EC helps to shape club policy and character and that's really meaningful for me.

2. What is your passion for the Club?

My passion is to keep moving the club forward into 2023 and continuing to make it relevant to all people; new members just joining, people who have been in the club for many more years than we, single people, married people, everyone. If we aren't relevant, if people can't find something they love about this club, they won't stay. So I guess my passion is to listen to what members want and respond, respecting where all are coming from in their Airstream experience. My passion is for everyone to find at least one wonderful, long lasting friendship in the club.

Another passion is to help newbies find their way - both with information about how to use their trailer through Newbie Rallies but also find their way interpersonally with other members.

3. What has inspired you to commit to a two (2) year term on the Executive Council?

What inspires me is my current work on the EC. It is exciting to see the club grow and become flexible and nimble as the needs of our members change. I love working with the current members and our fabulous paid staff at headquarters. How fortunate we are to have them working on our behalf. The new EC will have an increased number of members and I love that because it gives us diverse voices, new ideas, more creativity. It won't be without its challenges, however, as even now, its hard for everyone's voice to heard in our two hour monthly meetings! But we'll figure it out. We always seem to be able to get it all in.

4. What areas of expertise would you bring to the Executive Council, and ultimately our membership? (E.g. Strategic Planning, Financial Management, Marketing, Leadership, etc.)

I'm a nurse practitioner and also have a master's degree in counseling. In my professional career, I ran and owned a private sexual health clinic in Portland, OR for 35 years. The medicine part was pretty easy and fascinating. The more challenging part was running the business (thank goodness for a good lawyer, accountant and CPA) but especially working with employees. Individuals bring different needs and styles and I found it most challenging to meet those needs and still run an effective business. It felt like I was always looking for a middle ground, a space where everybody gave away some but also got some of what they wanted. I don't think this club is any different. Instead of working with employees, we're working with volunteers and paid staff and finding that middle ground where people can feel satisfied is what I see as my main strength. With some members being with us for 40 years

and many for one year only, there are going to be very different perspectives on this club. If we are to be one, we must find that precious and sometimes elusive middle ground so all can feel heard and satisfied, to some degree.

5. If you have served, or are serving on one or more professional, recreational, city/county/state, charitable or other volunteer board(s), how would you bring those experiences to the members of the Executive Council and how do you envision positioning the Club for continued and sustainable growth?

I've served as Oregon Airstream Club VP's (1st and 2nd), president and rally coordinator. Next I served as Region 10 President (my favorite role of all as I got to visit all seven of our local clubs every year for installations), International Membership Chair and now International Secretary. In addition, I've served on an Oregon Symphony Board, worked for years as a Meals on Wheels volunteer, and served as a volunteer with my county health department during the peak of COVID, putting in hundreds of hours both as a board member and as an active medical volunteer, running and participating in COVID vaccine clinics.

6. What accomplishments related to a project, board, business life, or other activity achieved a positive change?

In the Oregon club, we went from hosting about 15 rallies a year to, in my last year, hosting 37 rallies. And what a fun and challenging task that was.

With the county health department, I personally vaccinated more than 2500 people and I hope this resulted in positive health outcomes for those folks.

Running a private sexual health clinic (vs. a public county clinic as in most locations) allowed individuals who didn't want to go to a public clinic and also didn't feel comfortable seeing their primary care provider for sexual health issues, an opportunity to be seen in a safe, personal, private location. My team of health care providers had a specialty in sexual health and provided a higher level of care than was possible in other settings. In addition, I served as the principal or sub investigator on more than 120 clinical trials of vaccines, medicines and diagnostics. I was the first nurse practitioner that the FDA allowed to serve as the principal investigator on clinical trials (vs an MD) because of my extensive publications in my area of expertise.

I hope all these contributions created positive change.

7. Where would you go to learn more about an alternative perspective presented to you, and from whom would you gather the information?

Great question. Its all about listening, rather than talking. As we dealt with the proposed change to the EC, I listened to those with another opinion and that was hard because emotions ran so hot on this issue. These perspectives came from local club members at rallies, looking at and responding to social media posts, talking with those who had another opinion than mine on the phone and responding to emails for those seeking information or sharing a different perspective. I would gather information from club and region leaders but also members not in leadership positions. I would also look outside of our club to see how things are being done in other camping or volunteer organizations.

8. What strategies have you used to build consensus with those who held differing viewpoints?

I'm a big fan of using Survey Monkey to check out what others are thinking. To build consensus, we need to first find out what if any differences we have. When I was rally coordinator of the Oregon club, I sent out surveys regularly to our members, asking what they wanted from this club - more rallies, fewer rallies, big or small, far away or closer, really active or less so. From those responses, I tried once again to find middle ground when members presented differing views of what sort of activities they wanted - always looking for compromises and opportunities that were pleasing in some way to all. This was also true when visiting local clubs in our region when I was Region president. Some wanted lots of structure, others far less. At one club, I was expected to wear a red jacket, skirt and heels for the installation of officers. At others, everyone was in jeans, t-shirts and had a happy hour

libation in hand as we did the installation (those were my favorite ones). Those local clubs had already built their consensus, internally, and found what made them comfortable.

9. Describe how you would create and ensure an inclusive environment.

The first way is to ensure that we follow the club's statement: "To be ever mindful of what we say or print with respect to its effect on others of our diverse membership so as to avoid disharmony and ill feelings among club members of differing ethnicities, religious beliefs or orientation and to dedicate ourselves to the work of cementing together the members of WBCCI in bonds of good fellowship and mutual understanding."

If one has contact with a new member, go out of your way to welcome and mentor them. We've had gay and lesbian couples who, at the first rally they attended, wondered greatly if they would be welcome. (Of course they should be and were) We've had single members, wondering if everyone would be coupled up and they would be all alone. (They were welcomed with open arms) We've had members with small children, wondering if they would fit in. (They totally did.) So be inclusive starting at the local level. That's where I would start and expand it to the region and then to the big club. Anything else just wouldn't be OK.

10. What do you feel is the single greatest opportunity for our Club? How would you work with the International Board of Trustees to expand the opportunity?

The greatest opportunity, in my mind, is to have structure enough in the club to run it efficiently but enough looseness that no one feels so restricted they feel they don't fit in. Can you believe the board members used to be expected to wear ball gowns and gloves to International meetings? We've come so far, let's continue to open our rules and our structure enough to hold onto our important heritage but make a space for everyone under the bigger tent of the club. We want to meet the expectations of members who recently have joined so they want to stay but also keep our longer term members happy enough with any change that they still feel there is a place for them in the club. It's a delicate balance but one I believe we can achieve for our membership.

11. What do you see as the single greatest challenge for the Club? What steps would you take to course correct the challenge?

The greatest challenge that I see is the same as the greatest opportunity. We must make room for varying perspectives on what people want from this club.

Another challenge I see is having more International events. I would love to see two International Rallies per year or even more. Make them regional, perhaps. We're growing our membership quickly so why not make more opportunities for gathering in large groups? The demand for caravans is significant - how do we help people become caravan leaders and how do we help them want to be caravan leaders?

We have a new National Events Chair - can we, as members, come up with one NER per state? Surely there are enough events or important celebrations to make one for each state. How do we help Kate Coast accomplish that?

And the last challenge is membership retention. Why do people quit being members of the club (other than aging out)? How do we respond to those reasons?

12. Have you served two (2) years on the International Board of Trustees as a Region President or Executive Council member?

Yes

Our members may wish to learn more about you, or ask some additional questions regarding your candidacy. Please indicate your preferred method of contact and include hours of availability & time zone:

Email

E-mail

twestover@mac.com

Phone Number

(503) 701-2798

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Please review the following statements and check the corresponding boxes to reflect your acceptance.

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Upload a high-resolution picture of yourself, a minimum of 300 dpi. It is recommended that the photo you submit should be front-facing, well-lit, and clearly show what you look like. It is also suggested to wear appropriate attire in the photo.



Watch candidate video