

The AABC Nominating Committee is pleased to present the ballot for the 2017 election of officers. This year we are electing the Vice President, Director, Alternate Director and one member of the Nominating Committee. Please review the candidates here before casting your ballot online at <http://www.birthcenters.org/page/Voting>.



2017 CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT

The individual elected to this position will serve a three year term. In addition to the duties of a director, the Vice President serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the Education Committee and the Program Committee (plans the Birth Institute)

On the ballot you will select 1 candidate for this position.



JENNIFER STEVENS, MS, CNM

– Boston, Massachusetts. Jennifer Stevens, CNM, MS has been a midwife for over 15 years, participating in over 1200 births. She was the past director of Reading Birth Center in the US, doing births at home, hospital and birth center settings. She has been

honored to work with AABC as chair of marketing, chair of program committee, vice president, and chair of nominating committee. She is currently pursuing her DrPH at Boston University. She is co-founder of GoodBirth Network, networking midwifery-led birth centers together globally, especially in low resource areas, to encourage their growth and high quality with standards. This past summer she interned at WHO in Geneva, working on gender-based violence education, birth center care, WASH, quality of care and midwifery education.

“I have been lucky enough to serve as VP in the past. In that capacity I learned much about who AABC is, how much it cares about birth centers and advocates for them on so many levels. As midwives, we are all so busy, yet I always felt I received more by serving than the work I gave. In returning as VP I would hope to help support AABC through transitions of growth, staying focused on our foundation of woman-centered and quality of care. The US has a lot of challenges ahead, especially in women’s health. The strength of our commitment to each other, women and quality of care makes AABC a strong voice moving forward.” –Jennifer Stevens



ALICE TAYLOR, MPH, CNM, NP

– Gold Beach, Oregon. Alice Taylor began experiencing the rewards and challenges of independent midwifery practice and birth center ownership when she opened the Family Birth and Women's Clinic on the rural Southern Oregon Coast in 1978, immediately after obtaining

her certificate from SUNY Downstate's Midwifery Program. Her plan was to create a full scope practice, with an integrated model of maternity care providing birth services in the birth center, at home and in the hospital. It was a wildly popular practice and birth center, providing care for 80% of the county's childbearing families. She made the difficult decision to close the birth center in 1999 after her

midwife partner moved away, realizing she could not be in several places at once and also be the wife and mother she wanted to be to her supportive, very loving husband and 3 young sons, 7, 9, and 11 at the time. She continued her practice in the same community, providing "home style" midwifery care at the hospital, but she says it wasn't the same. Finally, in 2007, the first of the babies whose births she had attended in the early 1980s, who grew up hearing about wonderful births from her mother and father and other families in her community, and realizing her own dream, joined her as a Frontier student then midwife. Together, in April 2014, they realized their shared dream and established Bright Eyes Midwifery and Wild Rivers Women's Health, LLC in the same lovely house as the original Family Birth and Women's Clinic, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. She has had an enormously rewarding life and career as a midwife in the same rural community for over 40 years, first attending home births as a labor nurse assistant to a family physician, then, as a practicing midwife, watching children grow up and choose midwifery care for their own births, and midwifery for their own career choices.

She has always enjoyed the challenges of the administrative aspects of owning a birth center and the experience of successfully enlightening other stakeholders in Oregon about the many benefits of birth centers and midwifery care, and she finds herself having those conversations more than ever, while serving on the Community Advisory Committee of her Medicaid Coordinated Care Organization or as co-chair of her critical access hospital's perinatal committee.

“It is very exciting that today's payers are becoming interested in hearing that midwife-led birth centers provide the triple aim of health care transformation: safe care with excellent outcomes, highly satisfying care to those who receive it, and cost effective care for those who are paying for it.

AABC is working hard for birth centers, being present at many tables, and informing stakeholders what we have to offer. The Board of Directors are elected to support that work and participate on AABC committees and to support the efforts of our Executive Director.

My experience as a member of the Industry Relations Committee has informed me that AABC is indeed a very smart organization and that all of AABC's various committees are doing important work for members, coordinating their efforts when indicated. It would be an honor to listen to members’ concerns and support and serve our members on the Board of Directors during this exciting time of health care transformation.

I would also like to be part of an effort to encourage more birth centers to become accredited, to assist birth centers as they better establish their own systems of integrated maternity care, and to support birth centers as we begin to negotiate alternative payment models and enhanced services payments that will financially incentivize the work we already do, sustaining and rewarding birth centers well for our hard work and great outcomes, enabling birth centers to grow.” – Alice Taylor

DIRECTOR

Elected directors of the board serve a three-year term, are actively involved in the governance of the association, and participate on AABC committees. This year we will elect one director.

In the ballot you will select 1 candidate for this position.



CORAL SLAVIN, PhD – Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Coral Slavin received her Masters and Doctoral degrees in Health Education from the University of Maryland in 1994. Following graduate school, she worked as Grants Director for both the American Rehabilitation Association and the American College Health Association. During that time, she brought in federal funding for several multi-million dollar grants, and served as director for those projects.

Her family moved to Milwaukee in 1997. Since then she has had a full-time career as a birth professional, first as a childbirth educator and doula, and more recently as an owner and director of a birthing center. Over the years, she has assisted at well over 500 births and educated nearly 2000 families.

The birth center is low volume, seeing roughly 2-4 births a month. In addition to providing a birthing space for families, Well-Rounded Maternity Center offers classes, support groups, a birth network for other professionals, offices for providers and a store. She is proud to provide a vital community resource for Southeastern Wisconsin.

“Associations strive to serve the interests and needs of its members. I believe that an association is most effective when members and staff work together, combining talent and resources to further the goals of the whole. For this reason, I am most interested in serving on the Board of Directors for AABC to represent the small birth centers.

As an owner of an open-staff center in Milwaukee for the past 13 years, I know well the unique issues facing smaller centers. I deal first hand with balancing a passion to provide our community with options for midwifery care with the need to be profitable. I want to be a voice for the birth centers that struggle with the bottom line of running a viable small business. And my experience working in two associations gives me the unique perspective of the challenges facing AABC.” – Coral Slavin

ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

The alternate director is a non-voting position on the board. This individual is elected to a one-year term and encouraged to actively participate in board activities. In the event there is a vacancy in an elected director position (with the exception of officers) the alternate director will fill the position for the remainder of that term.

On the ballot you will select 1 candidate for this position.



ADRIAN FELDHUSEN, NHCM, CPM – Milford, New Hampshire. Adrian is a Certified Professional Midwife and New Hampshire Certified Midwife who lives in Southern New Hampshire with her husband and 3 children. Adrian has been involved with birthing families since 1992 and actively involved in legislation and regulation of midwifery and birth centers since 1994.

She is the founder and owner of The Birth Cottage of Milford, which has served almost 1000 families since 2002. The Birth Cottage is a blended practice of both CPM and CNM midwives, and welcomes other community midwives to use the facility.

Adrian was appointed by the Governor to sit on the NH Midwifery Council, the state's licensing and regulatory board, and was Chair of the Council for 10 years. She has been instrumental in rule writing as well as crafting and lobbying for legislation regarding mandated insurance reimbursement for midwives in the state.

Adrian also served on the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) as a board member for 6 years. She is an adjunct faculty member of Birthwise Midwifery School and her birth center is an active teaching facility which accepts 4 students each year through primarily MEAC accredited programs. She believes in populating the world with competent, compassionate, and knowledgeable future midwives.

In her spare time, she is a firefighter and Advanced EMT, fire instructor and coordinator for her fire department's EMS program. She has served on the board of directors for the local ambulance for 5 years. During winters, Adrian works with the National Ski Patrol with her husband of 25 years.

“Leadership has always been my strength. Midwifery legislation and activism became a part of my career early on when my midwife was prosecuted just after my second baby was born. Since that time, creating a sustainable, safe, accessible, and well-regulated profession has been my passion. Beginning in 1994 with legislation in New York State, I have participated in regulatory work in 6 states to date.

Serving on the AABC Board of Directors and fostering the growth of birth centers will continue this life work. I strongly believe that birth centers must be viewed as sustainable businesses, modeled appropriately for reproducibility and continued development.” – Adrian Feldhusen



MOIRA TANNENBAUM, MSN, CNM, IBCLC, RNC-LRN, LCCE – Ann Arbor, Michigan. Moira Tannenbaum has been a nurse since 1998 and a midwife since 2009. She attended what is now Frontier Nursing University for midwifery school because she knew she wanted to work in birth centers, and she went to nursing school at Wayne State University in Detroit because she knew she wanted to work with women in an urban setting.

She moved to West Virginia from her home in Michigan specifically to work in that state's only birth center (which is accredited and licensed, something never seen in Michigan) and while she was in West Virginia she was “bitten by the legislative bug.” Within AABC, she now serves on the Government Affairs Committee and within ACNM, she serves on the State Government Affairs Committee. The legislative accomplishment she is most proud of is playing a small role in gaining APRN full practice authority in West Virginia.

She has temporarily decreased her clinical practice to focus on legislative and other advocacy work. She considers this a temporary move and she plans to jump back in to more clinical work when more states have good midwifery, nursing and birth center laws.

She has two children, both young adults. She had a hospital birth with a nurse-midwife attending for her first pregnancy, and a home birth with a midwife who subsequently gained her CPM credential for her second. Her daughter is a

kindergarten teacher in Chicago and her son works at a tech startup, also in Chicago. Her husband is a chiropractor.

"I was very happy when the Nominating Committee approached me to run for the position of Alternate Director. Our organization has gone through significant challenges of late and has survived due to the hard work of many.

I have been an AABC member for 11 years and serve on three AABC committees; I feel ready now to serve on the board. I have been a midwife in four birth centers in two really different states, and I feel I have used this experience to help draw nonmember birth centers into AABC, as well as to give perspective to the committees on which I serve.

I hope that by serving on the board, I would also help to draw more birth center staff – midwives and others – into AABC and help birth center owners understand the perspective of staff (prospective and actual). I will continue the important work of increasing diversity within our birth center community." – Moira Tannenbaum

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The only elected committee, it is also one of the most important. The three-person nominating committee sets the slate of candidates who will be elected to lead the organization. This year we will elect two members to the nominating committee.

On the ballot you will select 1 candidate for this position.



MARY KAY AYERS, DNP, CNM – Elwood, Illinois. Mary Kay Ayers believes birth centers will revolutionize birth care. She believes in women, birth, and midwives. She believes all women should have safe, respectful choices for their births. She started her midwifery career as an apprentice in home birth, then practicing as an

unlicensed midwife while working to become a nurse-midwife. Eventually, she earned a Doctorate degree exploring birth center care for low-income women. She ran a home birth practice for many years, and then moved into working in community group midwifery practices, mostly based out of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), providing hospital-based delivery services. Since 2014, she has been working in the first birth center to open in Illinois.

Birth centers provide beautiful, safe "home births" with great outcomes. While she is personally interested in a birth center model that partners with a FQHC, she supports the development of all types of birth centers. She has been a member of AABC (NACC) since 1993, and has attended 9 of the last 10 annual meetings. In the past 10 years, as part of her research, and enthusiastic interest in all things birth center, she has visited many birth centers across the country and Mexico, observing a variety of models of care that serve the unique needs in their communities. She has heard the challenges that they face; financial, staffing, integration into the larger health care system.

Her other interests include reading, running (generally not at the same time), alternative and complimentary medicine, family, friends, travelling, good food, red wine, and hanging with her G-babies.

"I want to encourage AABC 's growth as an organization and to meet the challenges it faces. AABC is a dynamic organization with a creative and talented membership dedicated to serving women and families. I believe I can do this by helping to identify and encourage the talent within the organization to lead. I believe birth centers are approaching a tipping point of expansion with the potential to serve a larger, more diverse, community of women and their

families. The challenge facing AABC is how to preserve the model while encouraging growth in the industry to serve more women." –Mary Kay Ayers



JUDY BUTLER, DNP, CNM – Tucson, Arizona. Dr Judith Butler is an Assistant Professor at Frontier Nursing University and staff midwife at El Rio's freestanding birth center in Tucson, AZ. She received her BS with a minor in Spanish from Boston College, MSN in Midwifery from SUNY Stony Brook, and DNP from Frontier Nursing

University where she specialized in Centering Pregnancy and Quality Improvement. Her career spans 19 years of full scope midwifery with full prescriptive, admitting and discharge privileges. The last 9 years have been at Tucson's only freestanding birth center where she began her passion for Centering Pregnancy. She teaches in the DNP program at Frontier Nursing University and continued her focus on quality improvement as the current faculty advisor for the school's first Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Chapter. Using the IHI model she mentors DNP students in their Quality Improvement project planning, implementation, and dissemination. She is currently working on two Centering Pregnancy studies as well as one on postpartum urinary incontinence.

"Attending the ICM conference in Toronto was amazing, inspiring, depressing (the US political scene v. Canadian), but then inspiring all over again and I highly encourage you to go if at all possible - this was a first for me after almost 20 years as a midwife. And how does this relate to my desire to serve? It confirms for me yet again that I am not done, that my work is not done, and that we cannot give up politically. Politics is not easy for me - working hard is my modus operandi. Therefore I would like to "serve" in a larger context as well as individually with each woman. I don't think my strength is to be the face of midwifery or birth centers but I do feel I have good interpersonal skills. I can continue meeting other midwives in my travels (both literally and virtually) and become an active participant in not only encouraging those I meet to become involved but also in vetting those who could be the face of midwives and birth centers. I look forward to finding the place in AABC where I can contribute the most. Thank you for your consideration." – Judy Butler

AABC: 2017