

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

**Please note, this ballot is for viewing only. Voting begins on Monday, June 1st 2020 through Tuesday, July 7th 2020, and will be conducted online only.**

There are seven open seats on the Board of Directors. We have received five applications for those positions. There is no write-in; the remaining open seats will be filled by appointment by the President of the Board following the Annual Meeting. The Amendments to the By-Laws are in two categories. The first adds the President of the Honorary Board to the Board of Directors, as an ex-officio member without voting rights. The remaining Amendments are necessary due to the proposed change to no longer link an Annual Conference to the Annual Meeting. Thank you for your dedication and leadership in our world wide network of Sister Cities International.

### Board of Directors- At-Large

*Please choose up to 5*

Please select up to five (5) candidates. Candidate names marked with an asterisk (\*) have been recommended by the Board Development Committee for election. According to Sister Cities International's bylaws, "The Board Development Committee shall assess the capabilities of the Board of Directors on a yearly basis, *recommend eligible candidates based on this assessment*, be responsible for onboarding of new Directors, and develop and monitor plans for increasing Board accountability and engagement including evaluation of individual Directors as well as the overall Board."

You will find each candidate's Statement of Interest next to their picture. If you would like to learn more about the candidate, please click on the "Biography" link on the right hand side. Here you will also find major skills and assets of the respective candidate.



Michael McQuary \*

My interest in other languages and cultures began when I was five years old and my grandmother took me to Mexico; continued with my college courses in Spanish, Anthropology, European History, and Comparative Governments; and increased as I traveled to multiple countries (Latin America, Europe, India, China, Korea, and Japan); and included volunteering for a year at the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala, India at the invitation of the Dalai Lama's sister, Jetsun Pema,

As President of San Diego International Sister Cities Association, I have successfully worked with our 16 Sister City Societies to develop new programs, coordinate events, facilitate civic and community connections, support fundraising, and expand international relations. Together we are building a collective alliance of 16 separate societies in a unified effort to strengthen and expand our shared mission to increase visibility, effectiveness, efficiency, and viability of each society and the umbrella association for the City of San Diego

As a Board Director, my passion for expanding global connections,

encouraging world language development, developing better cultural understandings, and promoting international peace would be expanded from 16 societies in 15 countries to a worldwide platform of 1,800 partnerships in 138 countries.

Service on the SCI Board provides the opportunity for organizational and personal capacity building.



AM Kinney III \*

I have helped create 2 new sister city relationships with Amman, Jordan and Mysuru, India.

I have worked tirelessly to promote Sister Cities International wherever I go as I live, eat and breathe Sister Cities International.

I have many ideas for promoting the organization and look forward to implementing them.

I joined the SCI Board of Directors in 2017 and again in 2020 to fill an unexpired term by a member who left the SCI Board.

I stand ready to serve.



Sheri Capehart \*

My service on the Sister Cities Board began in the summer of 2018. During these two years, I have served on numerous committees including Finance, Audit, Investment Committee, Board Development and Ex Officio Member of the Executive Committee. Additionally, Sister Cities International and the National League of Cities entered into discussions to align the two organizations in order to provide mutual benefit to their respective members. President Ron Nirenberg and I Co-Chaired this initiative which resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at the Sister Cities meeting last year in San Antonio.

I have benefitted from the diverse group of people who comprise the Board of Directors. Their experiences and knowledge of the wide array of Sister City Programs brings value to the work of the Board and the Mission of Sister Cities International. My contributions to the Board were made from the perspective of a local elected official where all Sister City Programs are sanctioned and sometimes funded. Additionally, as a former National League of Cities (NLC) Board Member and a current NLC Advisory Board Member, I had a unique perspective of how alignment of the two organizations could achieve mutual benefit.

My commitment to the Sister Cities International organization remains strong as I believe the work of the organization is more vital than any time in recent history. The world has changed in many ways, but none more dramatically in my opinion than as a result of the ongoing

pandemic. Relationships both domestic and abroad are essential to maintain good will and trust. I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve on a Board whose mission is well established, proven and relevant.



Mary Blankenship Pointer \*

The mission of Sister Cities to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time is more important now than any other time in history. We must work together to help global health issues, I believe Sister Cities can be a leader.

I would like to serve on the board of Sister Cities International to help make a difference, I would like to continue to connect Sister Cities International with First American Nations in Oklahoma.



Lawrence F. Uebner \*

I believe in and support the mission of Sister Cities international.

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendments #1, on page 2, Article III, Section 2. Composition**

Change: In addition, the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors, but shall not be considered a Director and shall not have voting rights on the Board of Directors.

To: In addition, the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors, **and the Chair of the Honorary Board Alumni**, shall serve as ex-officio **members** of the Board of Directors, but shall not be considered **Directors** and shall not have voting rights on the Board of Directors.

**EXPLANATION:** This ammendment allows the Chair of the Honorary Board Alumni to sit on the Board of Directors as an ex officio member.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendments #2 & 3, on pages 4 and 5, Article IV, Section 2, Chair**

On line 3 after “, Annual” strike “Conference” and insert “or Regional Conferences”

On line 10 after “, Annual” strike “Conference” and insert “or Regional Conferences”

This amendment adds Regional Conferences to references to Annual Conferences.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Yes, I approve the amendments.
- No, I reject the amendments.
- Abstain.

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendment #4, Article IV, Section 5, Secretary**

On line 3 after “, Annual” strike “Conference” and insert “or Regional Conferences”

This amendment adds Regional Conferences to a reference to Annual Conferences.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Yes, I approve the amendment.
- No, I reject the amendment.
- Abstain

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendment #5, on page 8, Article V, Section 7, Development Committee**

On lines 3-4 strike *“The Development Committee shall advise on, and approve, the site selection for the SCI annual conference.”*

This amendment eliminates extraneous references to the Annual Conference.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Yes, I approve the amendment.
- No, I reject the amendment.
- Abstain.

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendments #6, 7,8,9, 10 & 11, on page 10, Article VIII, Section I, Annual Conference**

**Amendment No.s 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 on page 10, Article VIII, Section 1. Annual Conference.**

On line 1 strike *“An Annual Conference shall be held as a gathering of the Corporation, its members and others, with the purpose of promoting the Mission of the Corporation, providing general information about the Corporation to its members, providing programs and workshops to the attendees, developing exchanges and fostering new global relationships, soliciting financial support for the Corporation, and other purposes as may be necessary or appropriate.”*

On line 6, after “Directors” strike “shall” and insert “may”

On line 6, after “location of” strike “the” and insert “any”

On line 6, after “Conference” insert “and for any Regional Conferences, for any year in which any such conference shall be convened”

On line 8, after “agenda for” strike “the” and insert “any”

On line 8, after "Conference" insert "*and any Regional Conferences,*"

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment makes the Annual Conference optional and also recognizes that SCI may from time to time convene regional conferences.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Abstain.
- No, I reject the amendments.
- Yes, I approve the amendments.

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendments # 12 & 13, on page 10, Article VIII, Section 2. Annual Meeting**

On line 1 strike "*An Annual Meeting of the members shall be held during the Annual Conference.*" And insert "*The Board of Directors shall determine the time, date and location of the Annual Meeting. Timely Notice shall be given to the members of the time, date and location.*"

On line 15, strike "*The Board of Directors shall determine the time, date and location of the Annual Meeting. Timely Notice shall be given to the members of the time, date and location.*"

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment eliminates any requirement that an Annual Meeting must be conducted during an Annual Conference.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Yes, I approve the amendments.
- No, I reject the amendments.
- Abstain.

**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendments #14& 15, on page 10, Article VIII, Section 3. Regular Meetings and Special Meetings**

On line 3, after “than” strike “four” and insert “three”

On lines 3-4, strike “One meeting shall be held immediately prior to the Annual Conference.”

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment reduces the required minimum number of regular meetings of the Board of Directors and eliminates any requirement that a regular meeting of the Board of Directors be conducted in advance of any Annual Conference.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Yes, I approve the amendments.
- No, I reject the amendments.
- Abstain.

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**Bylaw Amendment Approval of Amendments #16 & 17, on page 11, Article VIII, Section 6. Voting Procedures.**

On line 8, after “during the” strike “*Annual Conference and*”

On line 20, at the beginning of the line strike “*official start of the Annual Conference, with regard to voting at the*”

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment eliminates extraneous references to the Annual Conference.

Please carefully read the following bylaw amendment, and then cast your vote below. Select one of the responses or chose "abstain" to vote for none of the responses.

- Yes, I approve the amendments.
- No, I reject the amendments.
- Abstain.

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## CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

### Board of Directors- At-Large

Michael McQuary \*

#### **Biography**

Born in Idaho and lived in Washington, Oregon, California, and India. Careers as Railroad Fireman, Home Construction, Manufacturing Quality Control Inspector (Titan Missile, Polaris Missile, Off Shore Oil Rigs, San Francisco BART Tunnel), Teacher and School Administrator, and volunteer in Dharamsala, India

Retired in San Diego. Community Service in La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, Pacific Beach Town Council, Community Organizations, San Diego Unified School Board, and Participant in Social and SCI meetings and summits

#### **Education Experience:**

BA-UC Berkeley: Political Science/History

MA-Fresno State: School Administration

Ed D-USC: Curriculum & Instruction

Teacher (Math/Science) and Administrator (Principal, District Program Manager, County Supervisor)

#### **Sister Cities International Experience:**

President/Chair: San Diego International Sister Cities Association (2 Terms)

SD-Yokohama SC: Member/Honorary Board Member; Delegation to Yokohama

SD-Panama SC: Founding Committee and Charter Member

SD-Tijuana: Member, Organizing Committee-San Diego and Tijuana Sister City Binational Youth Soccer Tournament 2018 and 2019

SD-Yantai SC: Pacific Rim Park Construction Project in Yantai, College Board and Confucius Institute Delegations to China

SD-Jeonju SC: Foundation for Korean Language and Culture Delegation to South Korea

### **Other Organization Experience:**

International Volunteer: Tibetan Children's Village, Dharamsala, India (1 year)

Town Council Director/Secretary: Pacific Beach Town Council (6 Terms)

Community Organizer: Local, County, and State President of multiple organizations (18 years)

School Board Trustee: San Diego Unified School District President (2nd Term)

### **Family:**

3 Children: Dana, UC-Santa Cruz (Graduate-MA); Misha, UC-Santa Barbara (Graduate-MA); Justin, West Point-Captain with military service in Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq

5 Grandchildren: Kindergarten; 3rd Grade; CSU-Monterey Bay (Graduate); CSU-Sonoma (Graduate)

### **Major Skills and Assets**

**Boardmanship:** Sitting on multiple community and civic boards has provided the experience, knowledge, skills, and professionalism needed to develop, implement, assess, and continuously improve policies that guide, structure, support, evaluate, and communicate the mission of the organization.

**Leadership:** Being president of a number of local, statewide, non-profit, and governmental organizations has provided the opportunity to learn and practice the art of motivating a team to communicate effectively, build organizational capacity, and achieve common goals.

### **AM Kinney III \***

Born and raised in the Little Miami River Valley just East of Cincinnati, where my family has lived since 1789 and I still call it home.

I attended the University of Colorado-Boulder where I studied Foreign Affairs

After taking a gap year to travel the world on my own, I returned home to finish my studies at the University of Cincinnati.

After working my way through college, I was asked to join our family's architecture/engineering/construction management business where I learned the operations inside out through the years finally becoming Chairman of Board in 1993 and I am grooming one of my twin daughters to become the next Chairman of Board.

My wonderful family consists of my grown twin daughters and a son from a previous marriage, my new bride, Sandra, of a year and a 8 year old step-daughter who keeps us hopping.

I am enjoying once again the joys of parenting and fortunately I get to see all my children almost daily as my adult children also returned home after attending colleges in Colorado, Massachusetts and South Carolina.

In 1996 Munich Sister City Association asked me to join the association's first business delegation to Munich led by Mayor Roxanne Qualls and I was enchanted.

I have hosted dozens of exchange students and interns from the city of Munich as well as placed interns in many positions in Cincinnati city government and with area businesses.

I have established programs within sister cities relationships and maintained same

I have been President of the Munich Sister City Association of Greater Cincinnati for 3 terms in addition to chairing several committees for many terms and President of the CincinnatiUSA Sister City Association for one term which governs its 9 sister city relationships

A hard working computer literate individual working in both the MS and IOS environments, my networking skills which keep me involved with the international community both here and abroad.

Having considerable Organizational skills, I am an etiquette professional recruited to provide how to properly interact with others of different cultures in the international community.

## **Sheri Capehart \***

It has been my privilege to serve on the Arlington City Council since 2000. My council responsibilities have included serving as Mayor Pro Tempore and Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore, as well as Chair/Member of numerous Council Committees and the liaison for the City with our Sister City, Bad Konigshofen, Germany.

Our Sister City Program with Bad Konigshofen established an every five year reciprocal visit commitment in 2001. As such I have led all of the Arlington delegations to BK (an affectionate term we use) since that time and have witnessed upon each visit the lasting good will and friendship between the two cities and their respective citizens. The phrase BK and Arlington have coined to describe our mutual respect for our partnership is "Friendship Solid As A Rock". Today, that mantra is even more relevant than in previous years due to the restrictions of international travel, but we remain committed to our history of partnership of almost 70 years.

The City of Arlington, Texas has been a member of Sister Cities International for many years and with the recent creation of the Global Leaders Circle, Arlington has also been a consistent member since its inception. Arlington has supported my involvement in Sister Cities through travel, membership and the overall mission of the organization.

As a councilmember I serve as Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, serve on the Economic Development and Municipal Policy Committees. I also Chair the Environmental Task Force which has undertaken the assessment of needs, requirements and visioning for the City of Arlington.

I serve and have served on local boards and commissions ranging from health care, empowering youth, and animal welfare. My service on regional boards includes transportation projects through the Council of Governments, hospital needs and assessments through the Methodist Mansfield Hospital Board, and other involvements such as Tarrant County Mental Health Board, Trinity River Vision Project, etc. At the national level I have been a member of the National League of Cities since

2001, served as the Information Technology Chair, member of the Board of Directors and current member of the Advisory Board.

### **Mary Blankenship Pointer \***

I was appointed to the board of Sister Cities International Oklahoma City in 2015. Two years later, I was elected as President. I am currently serving my third term as president.

Under my leadership we have grown the organization to approximately 200 members, increased savings from \$25,000 to \$84,000. We have become more engaged with our Sister Cities in Taiwan and Tainan, Taipei and Kigali, Rwanda. We were planning a large event with Puebla, Mexico in April before the COVID - 19.

Oklahoma City is a very diverse community and we are teaching the community to embrace the differences.

We signed an agreement with Piura, Peru in January, which gives us eight Sister Cities. A trip was planned May 19th with the Mayor of the City of Oklahoma and a delegation of leaders. The Governor of Peru, Mayor, Lt. Mayor, and various other business leaders were to host us. The trip will be rescheduled when it is safe to travel.

I am a visionary leader and look for new opportunities to engage and recruit the community. I have experience in fundraising, money management, and event planning

### **Lawrence F. Uebner \***

-45 years on Board of Directors of Omaha Sister Cities Association

-SCI Board of Directors - 2013-2019, Treasurer 2016-2019

- Board of Directors - Jennie Edmundson Hospital, Council Bluffs, Iowa

-Board of Directors - Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation

-Board of Directors - Foundation One Bank

I have a wealth of skillset knowledge and experience in the Financial Sector.