

Questions for Candidates for Executive Board

- 1) **Describe your past experiences serving in a volunteer leadership role (in APHA or another organization) in the areas of governance, fundraising, budget management, and policy development.**

I have been an active member of APHA since joining as a student in 2016. I immediately jumped into a leadership role by applying to, and obtaining, the Student Assembly representative role on the Education Board. When that role was over, I applied for two terms on the Education Board. I stepped into the Chair role for the Education Boards Evaluation and Assessment Committee, building it from a one-person committee to one that now has multiple members and goals. I have served the Food and Nutrition (FN) Section by working on the Program Planning Committee as well as serving for several years on the FN Policy Committee. I am also serving on my second term on the Joint Policy Committee, where I am honored to be one of the Co-Chair's this year.

I currently serve on the Executive Board as an Ex-officio member due to my role as Chair of the Education Board (2023). Through this role I have participated in Executive Board meetings, inclusive of serving on the Governance Committee and Committee for Social Responsibility (CSR). Through the Governance Committee I have been able to read the Executive Handbook and contribute working changes to make the Board required functions and operations cohesive for Executive Board Members. I was recently charged in the CSR to complete a second review on a major company who wanted a prospective partnership with APHA that's monetary value would require a CSR evaluation. Working with a fellow board member, I was able to turn around the review in just under two weeks, per the stipulations of the CSR duties.

Outside of APHA board positions, I have raised over \$50,000 for non-profit organizations through my grant writing skills on a pro bono basis, obtaining funding for nonprofits in Maryland, Washington DC, Texas and Nevada. This includes helping organizations update required paperwork like grant narratives, bylaws and budget templates.

Lastly, I was given the unique opportunity to participate in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Advocacy Summit – where we spoke to Pennsylvania Senator senior staff members (Fetterman and Casey) to advocate for support of a Medical Nutrition Therapy bill as well as the Farm Bill. I know that the experience I gained on the APHA Food and Nutrition Policy Committee gave me the skills needed to apply for the AND Advocacy Summit.

- 2) **How do you envision growing and promoting APHA in the next 5 years? From your perspective, what are the key priorities and the emerging issues facing the membership, and how will you address them as a member of the APHA Executive Board?**

An organization that does not make the needs of the professional members its forefront will not succeed. Continued advocacy for our members is a necessary primary priority to continue the growth and promotion of APHA.

Through my experience in working with APHA leadership, staff, volunteers and members, I have been privileged to watch the organization grow. I have been able to watch the organization continue to envision itself through the lens of the membership base. One key thing that APHA does, and does well, is prioritizing the membership base. I have been able to see this in the way the organization has carved out its strategic planning by tapping into the members to accurately determine what issues are important to us. I have seen this in the way that the organization seeks to cater programming like webinars and Learning Institutes to the issues relevant to the current public health workforce. I have seen this in the way that our students are supported and encouraged, as I have been through my journey with APHA as a student representative.

The APHA membership page highlights that “The [APHA] is more than a professional association. We’re a community.” We truly are a community. We are the very embodiment of member supported and member led. Over the next five years, by working with the Executive Board, I hope to continue to spearhead opportunities for our membership base and continue to highlight the vast skills that are brought to the table by all of us who are APHA.

Working with APHA has allowed me to experience many personal and professional growth opportunities that I did not know were available. My experience has taught me leadership qualities and introduced me to a wonderful array of individuals with a wealth of knowledge who have grown into both colleagues and friends. Over the next five years, I hope to continue to uplift and support growth opportunities within APHA through service on the Executive Board. We are in a state of the nation that seems to teeter on a divided platform. To proceed in a strategic manner, APHA must thrive on a united front. Our priority must be to continue growth opportunities for our professionals in public health. I hope to lead with a mission that always asks - how will this benefit our members, and how can we make sure to operate equitably, as one united front.