

Quest

JOURNAL OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

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This is a special issue of *Quest* for our triennial election year. The bylaws of the Theosophical Society in America require the Society's members' journal to print statements of candidates for offices and mail them to members by March 1 of the election year. Facsimiles of ballots are also to be reproduced (see back cover) along with the statements.

The election takes place in May. Voting instructions and actual ballots will be sent to members under separate cover. The deadline for returning ballots is May 10, 2023. Results will be announced in the fall issue of *Quest*.

2023 National Election Instructions

Please read the following instructions carefully so as to ensure the validity of your vote.

NATIONAL BYLAW 4, SECTION 8:

Voting Eligibility. In accordance with the Rules of the international Society, only members in good standing for twenty-four consecutive months or more prior to the end of the month in which votes are due shall have the right to vote. Under appropriate circumstances, the National President may waive this restriction in local votes.

NATIONAL BYLAW 6 SECTION 9:

The Election. In the month of May, prior to the expiration of the term of the officers and other directors, an election for these positions shall be held. Each member entitled to vote may vote for only one candidate for National President, one candidate for National Vice-President, and up to two candidates for Director from the district in which the member resides. In voting for District Director only one vote may be cast per candidate. The ballot shall be mailed by April 16 via first class postage to all members entitled to vote. The returned ballot shall be unsigned and sealed in a special envelope with the word "ballot" thereon. This ballot envelope shall be placed in a larger envelope and mailed to the National Secretary. (Following the policy of international elections the voter's signature is required on the voter verification slip rather than the outer envelope.) The voter's signature, printed

name, and address shall be placed upon the outer envelope. No ballot shall be counted which does not reach the office of the National Secretary on or before 6:00 p.m. (Central Time) May 10.

—David Bruce, national secretary

District affiliation is determined by the place of residence as contained in the Society's records at the time the ballots are mailed out. The membership of the Society is divided into three districts for electoral purposes as follows:

Central District

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin

Eastern District

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia

Western District

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Statements by Candidates for Offices

Theosophical Society in America 2023 Election



Douglas Keene

PRESIDENT

I first joined the Theosophical Society in San Antonio in 1980, a few years after college. I had taken a couple of courses in Eastern philosophy and religion that piqued my interest in various spiritual approaches to life. A friend connected me with the TS and I found the philosophy stimulating, inclusive, and hopeful. Over the years, as I became increasingly involved, I realized the essential message of unity and compassion is critical in the world today. I was asked to join the board of

directors, which I did in 2014, and served two terms as Eastern District director. In 2020, I became vice president and have worked closely with Barbara Hebert, the board, and staff on several projects for TSA. I would like to continue this work as president and help contribute to the future of the Society. I feel there is enormous potential for our movement going forward. I would appreciate your vote.



Rozi Ulics

VICE PRESIDENT

Theosophy is the bedrock of my life and the Society, like family. Since joining in 2009, I've become a Life Member and have served as past president and treasurer of the Washington, D.C., Lodge and on the boards of the Mid-South Federation and Theosophical Order of Service.

Because the Society is like family to me, I've enjoyed visiting other groups and Theosophical centers across the country like Olcott, Krotana, Pumpkin Hollow, and even Adyar. There is so much good work being done by good people all over the world. I feel blessed to be part of it.

During my first term on the TSA board of directors as Eastern District representative, I've been especially gratified and impressed by the professional, savvy, heartfelt, and heroic efforts of our National Center staff under very difficult circumstances. The TSA weathered the pandemic and is thriving! I'm proud how future-oriented the TSA is while still staying faithful to our founding spiritual traditions and values. But the world is changing rapidly, and needs our example of that nucleus of the Universal "Familyhood" of Humanity more than ever.

In that spirit, I would be honored and willing to serve as vice president of the TSA.



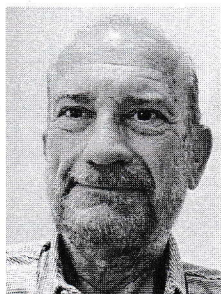
Susanne Hoepfl-Wellenhofer

DIRECTOR, EASTERN DISTRICT

I am seeking election to the TSA board of directors because I would like to be of deeper service to the Theosophical Society. I am a national speaker, have been mentoring prisoners for years, contribute to the Online School and the Theosophical Wiki, and run one of the four monthly National Lodge meetings. I have served in several offices at the DC Lodge. As president from 2019 till 2022, I moved our meetings online, and our lodge

was able to attract a larger audience. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation of the Society's work both locally and nationally.

I believe strongly in the value of spreading the teachings and putting Theosophy in action. If elected, I will continue to do my best to follow the Theosophical path in the boardroom as well and would also like to support local groups all across the United States.

**Steve Schweizer****DIRECTOR, EASTERN DISTRICT**

It has been an honor for me to serve as one of your six directors during these past three years. Working with so many talented individuals has strengthened my desire to continue with our team efforts for the Society's work, both in spreading the Ageless Wisdom and

in offering valuable programming for people interested in spiritual self-transformation. Together, I hope we can strengthen the Society's position in these efforts into the future. Thank you for your support.

**Noy Chounramany****DIRECTOR, CENTRAL DISTRICT**

My name is Noy Chounramany and I am from Canton, Ohio. I joined the TSA in 2015 after being deeply touched by the Three Objects, the First Object in particular. Since joining, I have been active and involved with the Akron Lodge, the Canton Study Center, and the Cleveland Besant Lodge, giving Theosophical talks and facilitating Theosophical programs. The moral, ethical,

philosophical, and spiritual principles of Theosophy are very important to me. I have served a full term as Central District director of the TSA between the years 2020 and 2023 and am seeking reelection to continue supporting the work of the TSA in developing fraternal solidarity and disseminating Ageless Wisdom throughout humanity.

**Linda Dorr****DIRECTOR, CENTRAL DISTRICT**

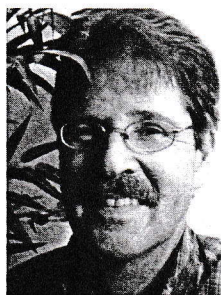
I would be honored to serve on the board of the TSA. I've been a member since 2014, when I found that many Theosophical teachings were familiar because they're universal spiritual principles. I quickly came to love the Society and its members for their tolerance, their diversity, their peaceful hearts, and their commitment to those ideals. I'd like to be better at living up to them.

I'm a member of the Wheaton-Olcott Lodge and have served as president for the past three years. I

volunteer in the library and archives weekly, and for various events as needed.

I would like to serve on the board to help ensure the well-being of the Society. Given current events, I think an understanding of Theosophical principles is critical to the well-being of humanity—perhaps even to our very survival—and I'd like to be part of aiding that understanding.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Andrew Barker****DIRECTOR, WESTERN DISTRICT**

As a fourth-generation Californian and having lived on the West Coast and in Hawaii my entire life, I am well acquainted with the diversity of our unique Western region. I became a member of the Seattle Lodge in the early eighties and am currently its president. I have also been president of the Northwest Federation as well as serving on the Camp Indralaya board.

In terms of a position, I feel we must be steadfast in being as open and welcoming as possible to new enquir-

ers, as warm and caring human beings first, and then as members of an organization known as the Theosophical Society. Young people pay more attention to actions than words, and shy away from dogma and authoritarianism. Empowering them to share their talents in leadership and public presentation early on in their involvement is a great way to encourage engagement and commitment and build a strong future for the TSA.

**Peggy Heubel****DIRECTOR, WESTERN DISTRICT**

I am honored to stand for Western District director of the Theosophical Society in America. There continues to be a great need to work toward extending Theosophy's availability to all who seek a coherent explanation of who we are and of our place in the universe while at the same time providing a personal, livable, life philosophy. There should be no doubt—Theosophy outlines the greatest and most intelligible and comprehensible explanation of the fundamental nature of conscious-

ness, intelligence, and reality and existence. Through the office of Western District director, I hope to continue working not only for Theosophy and for the Theosophical Society, but for you and with you. Together, we can reinforce traditionally established teaching and training methods and develop contemporary approaches that will continue to plant the perennial seeds of Theosophy throughout the modern world and on into the far future.



The Theosophical Society in America
P.O. Box 270
Wheaton, IL 60187-0270

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Sample Ballots, 2023 Election

THE THEOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY
IN AMERICA

BALLOT | 2023 Official Voting Ballot
EASTERN DISTRICT

Mark with an X or ✓. Anything else voids the ballot.

National President

☐ **Douglas Keene** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, Elena Dovalsantos, Barbara Hebert, Maria Parisen, Pablo Sender

National Vice-President

☐ **Rozi Ulics** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, David Bland, Kathryn Gann, Douglas Keene, Pablo Sender

EASTERN District Directors
You may vote for two (2) candidates from your district. Two will be elected from each district.

☐ **Susanne Hoepfl-Wellenhofer** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, Douglas Keene, Rozi Ulics

☐ **Steve Schweizer** | Nominated by: Edward Abdill, Mary Abdill, Walter Terpack

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THE THEOSOPHICAL
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BALLOT | 2023 Official Voting Ballot
CENTRAL DISTRICT

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National President

☐ **Douglas Keene** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, Elena Dovalsantos, Barbara Hebert, Maria Parisen, Pablo Sender

National Vice-President

☐ **Rozi Ulics** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, David Bland, Kathryn Gann, Douglas Keene, Pablo Sender

CENTRAL District Directors
You may vote for two (2) candidates from your district. Two will be elected from each district.

☐ **Noy Chounramany** | Nominated by: Linda McKee, Joanne Richter, Lynn Skoeich

☐ **Linda Dorr** | Nominated by: David Bruce, Christopher Dixon, Barbara Hebert

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THE THEOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY
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BALLOT | 2023 Official Voting Ballot
WESTERN DISTRICT

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National President

☐ **Douglas Keene** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, Elena Dovalsantos, Barbara Hebert, Maria Parisen, Pablo Sender

National Vice-President

☐ **Rozi Ulics** | Nominated by: Betty Bland, David Bland, Kathryn Gann, Douglas Keene, Pablo Sender

WESTERN District Directors
You may vote for two (2) candidates from your district. Two will be elected from each district.

☐ **Andrew Barker** | Nominated by: Susan Brown, Joseph Dillon, Linda Shields

☐ **Peggy Heubel** | Nominated by: Elena Dovalsantos, Maria Parisen, Guru Prasad

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