



Philosophy and Platform Statements

2021 CANDIDATES

FOR THE OFFICES

OF

Executive President

Stacy L. Smirl, MSM, BSN, RN, COEE, COHN-S

Executive Secretary

Cynthia Hall, RN, MSN, COHN-S/CM

Karen Ninassi, MSN, BSN, RN

Region 4 Director

Dr. Michelle A. Chester, DNP, MSN, BSN, CNOR, RNFA, FNP-BC

Candidate for Executive President

Stacy L. Smirl, MSM, BSN, RN, COEE, COHN-S



What leadership positions have you held with AOHP at the local, chapter, or national level?

National Level:

- Executive Board, Vice President September 2019 to Present
- National – Beyond Getting Started Manual, revision committee 2020
- Executive Board, Secretary September 2015 to September 2019
- National Journal – Editorial Board April 2014 to present
- National Committee – Human Resources September 2012 to 2019

Chapter Level:

Heart of America, Greater Kansas City Chapter

- President September 2012 to 2014
- Vice President September 2009 to 2012
- Bylaws Representative 2009

What has motivated you to seek an AOHP national office?

A little over 5 years ago I was honored by AOHP members by being elected to the national office. I continue to be inspired and motivated by members, including fellow national office colleagues, by the caring, compassion, innovation, resiliency, and passion they demonstrate daily for and with fellow healthcare personnel to maintain, enhance and protect their health and safety while they care for others.

What would your priority goals be if elected?

Although initiatives were not halted entirely, the goals set forth nearly two years ago remain similar, if not the same. I firmly believe, occupational health professionals must continue to adapt and evolve to and with our ever-changing healthcare environment, which must incorporate precepting and mentoring our future occupational health professionals. As stated, a few years ago, “As we continue to evolve our health and safely preventative approaches with the current serious, infectious, communicable disease, COVID-19, I feel one priority goal [includes advancing] our approach to supporting and stressing foundational prevention methods, “the basics,” like adult immunizations and entry into state/national documentation platforms as well as LTBI treatment recommendations and initiatives.”

How would you describe what you consider are the strengths you would bring to an AOHP national Board office?

The strengths I bring to the AOHP members, and its national office includes but is not limited to the passion, resiliency, and active participation to achieve more for our fellow healthcare personnel.

Is there anything else you would like to add that you consider important for voting members to know about you as a candidate?

Thank you for your consideration to represent you as your executive president as well as granting me the opportunity to learn from and with you and valuable partnership!

Candidates for Executive Secretary

Cynthia Hall, RN, MSN, COHN-S/CM **What leadership positions have you held with AOHP at the local, chapter, or national level?**



National AOHP Executive Board - Region 5 Director for 4 years
AOHP GA Chapter Vice President for 3 years
AOHP GA Chapter President for 3 years
AOHP National – Website Coordinator

What has motivated you to seek an AOHP national office?

I strongly believe in the support provided by AOHP and have seen and witnessed the value on the state and national levels. I truly feel that AOHP organization believes and practices its mission to provide information and education to the membership that promotes worker safety. The involvement of AOHP in research and partnerships with regulatory bodies help to keep our practice of Occupational Health/ Employee Health current and progressive.

What would your priority goals be if elected?

- To work with other members of the executive board in setting/achieving goals in order to maintain and promote worker safety, and to support our members.
- To provide AOHP membership with historical & current reports/ minutes – accurately and timely
- To continue to support our mission and vision by supporting AOHP partnership with regulatory agencies and organizations.
- To listen and respond to member concerns and request.
- To be an active member of the executive team when setting goals and tactics to address AOHP initiatives.

How would you describe what you consider are the strengths you would bring to an AOHP national Board office?

- I have held various offices (VP, President, Region 5 Director) for the past 10+ years on state and national levels.
- I have been on the executive team for 4 years as the Region 5 Director.
- I have 40+ years of nursing experience and 30+ years in occupational health.

Is there anything else you would like to add that you consider important for voting members to know about you as a candidate?

I fully believe and support the mission and vision of AOHP and look forward to continuing working with the executive team to provide knowledge and resources to all AOHP membership.

Karen Ninassi, MSN, BSN, RN



What leadership positions have you held with AOHP at the local, chapter, or national level?

I have been NC Chapter Vice President
Committee Member Current/Past:
Technology Committee – initiated new Website design, Research Committee.
Wrote an article for AOHP Journal.
AOHP National Conference Committee (present) – developing a wonderful 2021 agenda.

What has motivated you to seek an AOHP national office?

I have enjoyed the Occupational Health arena since I accepted a job in Teammate Health in 2011. I love the mission that AOHP values, “...provide essential tools that empower members to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of healthcare workers.” As an active member on the Chapter level, I would now like to serve on the Executive level to broaden by scope from the chapter perspective to topics dealing with the entire AOHP association. I believe learning is a gift, so I would welcome the opportunity to continue my personal growth and continue to network with the various outstanding members in the association. I love being a member and enjoy the conferences, the journals, and the wealth of knowledge that the association provides.

What would your priority goals be if elected?

As Executive Secretary, my priority would be to partner with the other Board members to achieve our goals. I would maintain records and provide support for association initiatives and strategic planning, while becoming familiar with my role, job duties and responsibilities. I look forward to becoming a member of the Planning Committee for Continuing Education to assist them as needed. I will maintain the Executive Board Manual, AOHP bylaws and membership brochure. I also look forward to writing the Recruit Our Colleagues, “ROC,” announcement for our Journal and quarterly e-newsletter, as I believe, it is vital to recruit new members into our association and recruit current members to serve in any of the various positions/committees that AOHP has to offer.

How would you describe what you consider are the strengths you would bring to an AOHP national Board office?

I am an active member, dedicated, detail oriented and a servant leader. Another strength is responsibility. I take psychological ownership of what I say I will do. I am committed to stable values, such as honesty and loyalty. I am deliberative. I take very serious care in making decisions or choices to anticipate obstacles. Individualization is one of my strengths. I am

intrigued with the unique qualities of each person and love seeing individuals working together to improve processes and productivity. Ideation - I am fascinated with ideas and find connections between seemingly disparate phenomenon. I am an achiever. I have a great deal of stamina and work hard. I take a great deal of satisfaction by being busy and productive.

Is there anything else you would like to add that you consider important for voting members to know about you as a candidate?

With the responsibilities associated with the VP for the NC Chapter I have set-up many wonderful speakers and CEUs for the attendees and understand that process. I have created many brochures in my current manager role. I am chair of our Clinical Practice Committee and we revise/initiate policies for our department. I have also written an article for the AOPH Journal entitled, "Mites, Oh Know! What You are Itching to Know about Mites." I oversee our Infectious Disease Team and since the inception of Covid have been flexible and adapted to rapid change to make process improvements throughout the course of this pandemic. I had a great mentor who hired me into this field of nursing, Lydia Crutchfield, and she introduced me to AOHP. It has been a great association and I want to contribute to its continued success!

Candidate for Region 4 Director

Dr. Michelle A. Chester, DNP, MSN, BSN, CNOR, RNFA, FNP-BC



What leadership positions have you held with AOHP at the local, chapter, or national level?

New York Chapter Secretary

What has motivated you to seek an AOHP national office?

My motivation for seeking an AOHP national office is to assist in propelling the mission and vision of AOHP on all levels (national and local).

What would your priority goals be if elected?

My priority is to increase membership and increase engagement on all levels.

How would you describe what you consider are the strengths you would bring to an AOHP national Board office?

My experiences in occupational health, working in one of the largest health systems in the US give me the ability to network on a very large scale.

Is there anything else you would like to add that you consider important for voting members to know about you as a candidate?

During the pandemic I was given the opportunity to put my occupational experiences in to full practice, I was able to set up COVID testing and Vaccine sites for over 77,000 employees. I also administered the first COVID vaccine in the USA.