

The purpose of this communication is to express my interest in being a member of the AKRI Board. My primary interest is to help guide the group relations field to be responsive to emerging challenges in our communities. There are three main themes guiding my motivation to take up a governance role: love, legacy, and learning. I define love as the joining of the separated to create and promote values necessary for a group's survival. Love is a driving force for the use of power, defined as compelling action through versus over others, and the aims of justice, defined as processes to ensure a group's claim to be. In regards to governance, I see love, power, and justice showing up in calls for inclusion, diversity, and equity. The global pandemic, rise in nationalism, and heightened awareness of oppression in the collective conscious surfaced behaviors bounded by unconscious dynamics yet fully understood. Participating in governance as one to promote an international democratic process defined by inclusion, diversity, and equity seems the timely action to take to position the field of group relations to improve communities. I define legacy as a positive social endeavor that is valued so much it has been handed down through generations. The tradition of group relations is important to me as well as adapting tradition to meet the present moment. Regarding governance, it is important to me that conditions are set to uncover and honor the history of the group relations field, while adapting to new conceptions of those traditions to meet society where it is at this moment in human history. I see this emerging mostly in how we integrate experienced practitioners in the work to mentor younger practitioners, and in how AKRI trains and develops the next generation of leaders in the work. Finally, in order to create and govern conditions to support legacy, learning is my final motivator for being on the board. I define learning as a change in behavior based on a shift in a meaning made or in a value. Clearly, group relations is a great learning technology. Regarding governance making the technology sustainable, accessible, and continuing our own learning of group relations seems timely and appropriate. My motivations for governance are informed by my observations during my participation in the AKRI Community Meetings, and my role on the AKRI Dialogues Committee. Those efforts alone signaled to me a level of healing needed not only in AKRI, but also in our respective communities. It is a task that requires all hands on deck including the affiliates. I am in the process of a professional life transition which will require a lot of time on its own. I hope to transition to a life that embraces group relations more fully, which will make this potential time on the board more personally meaningful to me.