

Barbara's Answers to questions:

Why are you interested in this position?

I am choosing to run again for Region president because I believe I still have something to contribute to the PNA as a regional leader. Since I've been president and with the help of others, we have streamlined several of our processes and policies, have brought increased rigour to our financial management and reporting, and increased our membership. But there is much more work to be done, and I'd like to continue what I've started.

What strengths and experiences do you bring to the position?

I have been an active member of the PNA since 2018 at the Chapter, Regional, and National levels and am well versed in its history and how it works. I have been instrumental in crafting new policies and procedures, have brought in new ideas and ways of working, and have provided leadership not only to the Region but also, as a member of the National Board of Directors. I am a skilled facilitator, negotiator, and problem-solver – all demonstrated at various times in my work on both the regional and national boards.

As a former leader in the CMG and its parent unions, I created a union education program that put more than 1000 members through conflict resolution, leadership, and collective bargaining training. I have continued some of that work as a partner in Syzygy Learning & Facilitation Ltd. These skills assist me in my PNA work.

Ontario is the second largest region in the PNA and it's important that our members' interests are well represented.

How do you propose growing the membership of the PNA?

There is currently a very active national membership committee working hard on growing our membership and its efforts can be seen in having now passed the 6000-member threshold. Within Ontario, my job as president is to support and encourage those efforts by making sure Ontario has effective representatives on that committee and contributing ideas where possible. I believe also there are additional efforts that will help potential members see the PNA as an organization worth belonging to, such as our advocacy work and our soon-to-come updated communications, both efforts I am currently leading.

What do you see as other challenges facing the PNA?

One of the biggest challenges we face internally, beyond increasing our membership and engaging the members we have, is succession planning. I recognize that at this stage in our lives, we all have priorities that don't automatically include getting involved in the running of the PNA. But we are entirely dependent on our volunteers, and we need to find ways of inviting our members in, exposing them to how the organization works, and encouraging them to help when a vacancy occurs.

Externally, the PNA has an opportunity to forge a new, more productive relationship with the CBC. The PNA is in a position to speak out on the preservation of the CBC in ways that the CBC can't

always do. It's in our interest as retirees to make our voices heard on the public stage when the CBC is under threat.

How would you go about dealing with them?

Succession planning: I have asked everyone on the Ontario board to develop a detailed list of tasks they currently perform in their PNA roles and to identify any task that could be done by someone else. I have already done that for my own role and realized there were small things I have been doing that could easily be done by another volunteer, so I am actively inviting others to help. This organization depends on its volunteers. When we encourage others to get involved, whether it's organizing an event, writing an article for a newsletter, posting to social media, or running for office, it sets the stage for new leaders to step up when the time comes.

CBC advocacy: I intend to continue the work of the national advocacy committee this fall, focusing on strategies to hold the government to account for its election promises about the CBC. It's too soon to say exactly what those strategies will be, but preservation of the CBC will be our priority.