



Inge Koopman-Leyva

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Dear APHE Nominating Committee, Board and APHE Membership,

It is with great honor that I submit my application to serve a second term for the Board of the Association of Professional Humane Educators. During my current 3 year term, I have served as At Large Member, Vice President and currently as APHE Board President. Applying and being elected for a second term would allow me the opportunity to complete my two year Board President commitment.

Being and APHE member for over a decade and now serving on the Board of Directors has provided me immense growing and learning opportunities. These are the same offerings that I want to ensure that other humane educators across the country can access to improve their own professional development and career paths, while also expanding their own organizational humane education efforts. This thus pushing forward the true importance of instilling compassion and empathy for all animals, living beings and the environment while also creating youth advocates and ambassadors who can positively impact the lives of animals and the environment into the future.

As Board President and member I plan to continue to support the board moving forward in improving the APHE website, continue to update and improve membership resources, planning and hosting the 2022 virtual conference, continue to provide networking and online learning opportunities for our membership, expand APHE partnerships and supporting the field of animal welfare and humane education during a most critical and transitional time. None of this can be done alone. I can only attain these strategic plans goals with the incredibly hard working and dedicated team of the APHE board of directors. A team that I admire, and am humbly honored to serve along side.

I became involved in Humane Education by happenstance when relocating from NYC to Tucson, Arizona and needing employment. I soon found that the field created a space for me to honor those topics that I was most passionate about, helping people and my community, caring for animals and the environment and providing equitable programing and services to community members most historically disenfranchised. Then being introduced to APHE and finding and a group of likeminded individuals who faced the same challenges in the field turned my employment into a dedicated career just shy of 20 years.

I look forward to continuing to serve on the APHE board of directors supporting the mission and vision of APHE and collaboratively working towards a more humane, equitable to compassionate existence.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Inge Koopman-Leyva
Director of Education and Community Outreach
Humane Society of Southern Arizona