

2016 Candidate Statements

Renee Lauber

I am interested in continuing to serve on the MNA board. I love this neighborhood and feel privileged to have lived here for over 20 years. In my past two years on the board I have worked to increase the amount of scholarships for students in need; improve communications via an updated website and direct MNA mailings; fund neighborhood special needs grants, and support our annual garage sale and festivals. I am currently delving into MNA's book keeping and working with Cheema to hopefully succeed her as MNA Treasurer.

We have a wonderful neighborhood and I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to contribute what I can as an MNA board member.

Amanda White

From a variety of local businesses to beautiful parks to amazing neighbors, I feel incredibly fortunate to call the near east side of Madison my home for nearly 15 years. With so much change and growth happening in Madison and specifically Marquette, two years ago I decided to run for the MNA Board to work with fellow neighbors in preserving the unique character and quality of our neighborhood. As a Board member, I spear-headed a neighborhood study to better understand the needs of at-risk communities in Marquette. The study results help us create a new program that provides annual grants to non-profit programs that help under-served youth, seniors, and homeless neighbors in the neighborhood and surrounding area. I also served as Secretary and was involved in the Communication and Neighborhood Enhancement Committees. My professional background in fundraising and my past local civic involvement, have helped me effectively consider neighborhood issues. I strive to offer a positive voice and identify common ground among neighbors, businesses and other Board members. Affordable housing, local business, transportation choice, historical preservation, and cultural diversity are all critical to our neighborhood's unique character and vibrancy. If elected, I will continue to promote and support these vital issues.

Anita Krasno

I have lived in the Marquette neighborhood since the late 1980's. There are a lot of things that make this neighborhood special, first and foremost being the people and the sense of community we all enjoy. Over the years I've watched a lot of my neighbors pitch in to keep our community vibrant and strong, in ways both big and small and according to their specific interests. I have enjoyed volunteering at our neighborhood festivals, doing everything from pouring beer, to setting up the race course for the Dandelion Dash, to registering voters at the Willy St. Fair. I've also been active in our neighborhood schools in a variety of capacities, and am proud to have been part of the team that worked to make sure Marquette Elementary remained open and thriving when its future was uncertain. Now that my kids are older I am ready to step up my volunteer game and look for new ways to contribute. I would like to serve on the MNA Board

because I am passionate about working to ensure that our neighborhood continues to be the wonderful, inclusive, eclectic place that it is.

Marlissa Kopenski Condon

Marlisa Kopenski Condon has lived on Clemons Avenue for 12 years and is married with two daughters who attend Marquette Elementary.

She and her husband are active volunteers at all of the neighborhood festivals. Marlisa co-organized the Dandelion Dash for eight years. She and was the publicity coordinator for the inaugural Fete de Marquette festival. She has co-organized the neighborhood children's Halloween parade for the past four years.

Her interest lies in representing the voice of young families and being a steward of all the wonderful tangible and intangible offerings of our neighborhood. She is keen to offer her business skills and familiarity with the urban development process to the MNA board.

She has a background in publishing, brand management, environmental design. She has an MBA from Kellogg at Northwestern. She currently works as the Director of Business Strategy at Design Concepts, a 50-year old product design and innovation firm that, with Marlisa's encouragement, is building a new one on E. Washington Avenue.

Michael Doyle Olsen

I'm a product of this place – I was born on South Few Street in 1989 and, aside from college, have lived my whole life here. My mom still lives in the house I grew up in, my dad is just around the corner, and four of my five siblings are nearby too. Simply put, I've decided to run for the MNA board because I love the neighborhood and feel that if I'm going to continue to live in it I ought to dedicate some of my time to it. As a lifelong resident of the neighborhood who has benefited from all it has to offer, I have a vested interest in working to ensure that the MNA continues to provide a healthy, safe and happy way of life for all its residents. Finally, I'm running because the neighborhood deserves some younger representation which, for a limited time only, I am in a position to offer.

Yours, Michael Doyle Olson

Katherine Davey

Greetings! In the nine years my family has lived in the Marquette Neighborhood, we've been so appreciative of the many ways MNA enhances the quality of life here. From the festivals and other social events that bring people together and build community, to neighborhood improvements like public art and gardens, and the essential role it plays in ensuring that new development is in keeping with community needs, MNA has contributed greatly to the vitality of our neighborhood. Its members have also done a remarkable job of providing a common voice that has been effective in dealing with local government and press through many changes and

challenges in recent years. It's a great group of people who really seem to have a natural talent for these things. I have enjoyed working on the fringes of some of MNA's efforts, serving on the organizing teams of community projects like Eastside Express, Orton Park Festival and the Dandelion Dash. Finding my evening schedule more flexible this year, I thought it would be a good time to offer to play a more substantial role.

My background is in project management, strategic communications, and fundraising. I'm happy to contribute wherever needed, but I think my experience with budgeting and nonprofit financial management might be helpful to the organization, particularly as the current treasurer is stepping down.

Jack Kear

During my time on the board I served as chair of the Arts and Green Spaces Committees. I'd like to run again to continue successes such as completing the Sidewalk Poetry installation on Jenifer St and the mural on the Jenifer St side of the Willy St Coop due to go up by mid-November. In the future, Arts is looking at a new kinetic sculpture near the Yahara. For Green Spaces, I developed a grant dispersal program and provided funds to Blair Street Gardens, WilMar, Willy St Park, and others. I organized a Bike Path Clean Up Day on Aug 18th that went from Blair to the Yahara and included Willy Park. I received a grant for bat houses in 3 local parks. I worked on protecting ash trees and saved 33 from the ax in the Yahara and BB Clarke. In the future, Green Spaces is looking to improve our garden plot at Eastwood and Division. By reelecting me I will continue to work on improving the artistic and green quality of our neighborhood.

Alex Punguil Bravo

My name is Nilvio Alexander Punguil Bravo, originally from Ecuador. I go by Alex, an easier name for those who have some difficulties pronouncing my name. I am writing to express my interest in running for a second year as a MNA board member in the section for art and culture. I have been in the Marquette neighborhood since 2010 and I am planning to stay in the area for more years if my health provides it. I have been working in the community as a small business owner in the carpentry field. I am also a student at UW Madison working on my degree in Rehabilitation Psychology. I would love to use my background in the arts and carpentry long with my knowledge in the field of psychology in ways that work to meet the needs of our community. During my time in Madison, I have helped families in the neighborhood through fundraisers, including art shows and music events. In doing so, I have been connected with many people of different backgrounds that have really shaped who I am now. I would like to keep doing the same things, with the help of others, to continue improving our community and helping it thrive. Eventually I am hoping to collaborate with other neighborhoods in the Madison area in order to connect the larger community of Madison as a whole, making it a better place for everyone to live.

Thank you.