

Board Member Candidates

The following candidates for the Board of Trustees are all members of the Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living. The Board is composed of 6 to 9 members according to the by-laws. Seven positions came open this year through attrition and expired terms. The current Board of Trustees recommends the following candidates as a slate and recommends a “yes” vote on the group. Thank you for your consideration!



Louis Cimalore is a long-standing leader in both New Mexico and the Science of Mind community. He has been attending Rio Grande Center since 2015 and has been a Religious Scientist since August 2001. He was President and member of the Board of Trustees at High Desert Center for Spiritual Living for 6 years. Cimalore says, “My personal philosophy contains the belief and commitment to make every organization that I’ve ever been part of better than it was before I started... I believe that a win/win agreement is the only personal and/or professional contract worth pursuing.” He has M.A. in Organizational Development and currently supervises staff for SL Start and Associates and has worked for the Mid-Region Council of Governments and NM Human Services Department.



John Dillon has been member of the Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living for over 5 years and has been serving as an appointed member of the Board since last Fall. He is a singer-songwriter, performer and guitar maker. Along with his wife, noted actor Vivian Nesbitt, John launched The Standing “O” Project as a way to support and promote singers/songwriters. Over a decade ago, John and Viv launched *Art of the Song Creativity Radio*. This one-hour, listener-supported weekly radio program is heard on over 150 stations across North America. John has interviewed some of the biggest names in the industry with a focus on the universal truths common to all creative expression.



Valerie Hand has been a member of the Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living since 2013 and has worked in Albuquerque for 23 years as an expert in leadership and process development. She has been responsible for leadership on the Board of Directors for Albuquerque Quality Network for 20 years and continues to develop leadership, along with serving as a lead examiner and judge, for Quality New Mexico. Valerie is the Operations Manager for Marron and Associates, holds an MBA and possesses the natural ability to lead others while building a team.

Board Member Candidates cont.



Nancy Henson has been a member of Science of Mind for over 30 years. She has served on several committees including the Board of Trustees at High Desert Center for Spiritual Living. Nancy worked as a psych nurse from 1972 until her retirement in 2013. She was nominated as “Nurse of the Year” and honed her leadership skills as a Charge Nurse. She also studied extensively with Helen Kubler-Ross. In addition to her professional abilities, she has been, and was just re-certified, to be a docent at the zoo. Nancy states, “I have traveled to all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Europe, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Africa.”



Darlene Hess is a founding member of the Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living. She has been an active member of Science of Mind since the late 90’s and has served in various capacities. Shas has a PHD in Health Education as well as two masters degrees in nursing. She is a certified health and wellness nurse coach who owns her own business and serves as the Associate Director for the Nursing Program at Northern New Mexico College and faculty at University of Phoenix since 1996. Darlene’s motivation to serve on the Board is “to participate with like-minded individuals with a common purpose of fostering individual and collective spiritual development.”



Anne Martinez is a founding member of the Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living. She currently serves as an appointed member of the Board and as the Chair of the Spirit Bound Bookstore Committee. Born in Jamaica and educated as an elementary school teacher, she moved to and lived in Massachusetts for 22 years. Anne moved to Albuquerque in 2006 and became a member of the First Church on San Pedro. Anne writes, “It has been my greatest pleasure and spiritual growth to have become part of this teaching. I always knew there must be science behind healing mentally and spiritually... My most successful demonstration is meeting and marrying my beloved husband Louie Martinez in this community.”



Bernadette Sanchez served in the New Mexico State Senate from 2001-2012. She served as Standing Chair for the Conservation Committee, Vice-Chair of the Corporation and Transportation Committees. She was also a member of the Finance, Education, Judiciary, and Public Affairs Committees. An award-winning member of the community, Bernadette sponsored 71 bills during her tenure in the Senate. Bernadette has also worked as a school counselor for Albuquerque Public Schools and has been attending Rio Grande Center since 2013. ***(Bernadette has not yet completed the Foundations Course and the Board recommends voting for her in an advisory capacity until she completes the course. Once she finishes Foundations, she would be a Board member with full voting privileges.)***