

Buddhist Society of W.A. (Inc.) - Committee Positions 2020

The positions of **Treasurer** and **Vice President** on the BSWA Committee are contested this year. Candidate letters in support of their nominations are detailed in this document.

We hope you will take time to read these letters and may they help you decide who is most worthy of your votes.

POSITION: TREASURER (2 Contesters)

1. **Anthony Hawkins** (Candidate seeking Treasurer Position BSWA Committee 2020)

I am a Chartered Accountant qualified with over 25 years' experience managing and leading Accounting teams.

I have provided leadership, mentoring and training to colleagues and juniors on accounting & taxation advice, training on accounting software & procedures and budget preparation & analysis.

Throughout 25+ years' experience, I have developed strong communication skills with stakeholders at various levels of a business on an ongoing basis. Further, this experience has also ensured a strong working knowledge of Financial and Management reporting, taxation and budgeting.

My current full-time role in public practice is with JBC Corporate as Senior Manager in the compliance division, managing a team of compliance accountants, with weekly management stakeholder meetings.

On a voluntary basis, I am currently the Treasurer at Tuart Hill Swimming Club, attending monthly committee meetings, responsible for the Xero accounting function including bank feeds, payroll for swimming coaches, superannuation, goods and services tax, reconciling member contributions.

I am currently the Assistant Secretary at the BSWA, attending committee meetings, learning, listening and observing the operations of the BSWA.

With my Thai wife, we regularly attend the Sunday Morning Chanting, then Dana offering of food to the monks or nuns, then a shared lunch for all in the Community Hall and during the rains retreat at Bodhinyana Monastery and Dhammasara Monastery.

On special event days including Songkran, I enjoy assisting others at the Community Hall with setting up and packing away tables, chairs, gazebos. I also enjoyed the special project of laying the paving underneath the Patio at the Community Hall.

2. **Natalie Mar** (Candidate seeking Treasurer Position BSWA Committee 2020)

I have been volunteering with the BSWA Treasury team for about eight months helping with the newly installed integrated financial system MYOB Advanced. I have worked very well with all the team members and helping with documenting the financial policies and procedures. If I were the Treasurer, I aim to improve the financial processes and reporting where possible.

The following are some of my background.

Education: Bachelor of Business (Double major in accounting and finance)

Memberships: Member of the Certified Practicing Accountants;
Buddhist Society of WA (2 years and 9 months)

Experience:

- 23 years' experience working in Government from small to medium/large agencies
- Financial Accounting and Management Accounting experience
- Preparation of financial statements and working papers
- Preparation of Corporate Executive Finance Reports
- 23 years' experience in using an integrated finance system including being involved in the implementation and coordination of testing of system upgrades and additions
- Experience in MYOB Advance
- Borrowings, Investment, Asset Revaluation (with assistance of Landgate), AP, AR, Assets, Implementation and training of Purchasing card online acquittals and approvals across the department, cost allocation, internal budgeting, external budgeting including preparation of budget papers for inclusion into the State's annual budget papers, inventory, updating and writing policies relating to finance
- Working with the BSWA Treasury Team since August 2019.

Skills:

- Successful problem-solving skills developed through dealing with internal and external clients, resolving complex, contentious and sensitive issues, often in difficult situations
- Highly developed autonomy using initiative, being both flexible and adaptable to unforeseen events
- Team oriented, able to interact with colleagues to develop, agree and achieve common goals
- Excellent interpersonal skills, relating well with people at all levels
- Dedication to customer service and support demonstrated in a wide variety of roles/situations/applications
- Detail conscious, well organised and able to manage conflicting priorities
- Ability to perform under pressure, consistently meeting deadlines
- Eager to learn with a can-do attitude

Volunteer: Buddhist Society of WA
Buddhist Council of WA

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POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT (3 Contesters)

1. **Linda McGuire** (Candidate seeking Vice President Position BSWA Committee 2020)

Having been involved with the BSWA for over 27 years, I have had the good fortune to draw upon the wealth of Buddhist wisdom that has been offered freely by this society. Throughout my career in both HR and Finance, the teachings have enabled me to maintain a balance in my personal life and wherever possible to bring some level of kindness and compassion into the demanding corporate environment.

Since last year, I have had the privilege to be a member of the steering committee working to establish the BSWA Care Group. The Care Group committee conducted a successful training course in February with over 30 BSWA members completing a course in Listening Skills. I am excited to be involved in the next phase of this project that will see the launch of a Buddhist Care Line, which I believe will be of great benefit to the broader community.

As part of my ongoing commitment to the society, I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee of BSWA in the role of Vice President for 2020-2021.

With Metta,

Linda McGuire

2. **Kseniya Abusaif** (Candidate seeking Vice President Position BSWA Committee 2020)

Personal Statement for B.S.W.A Vice President

My name is Kseniya Abusaif and I'd like to enthusiastically submit my personal statement for a role of Vice President at B.S.W.A. I think this is a great way to become more involved outside of my current job and I am excited at the prospect of being part of this great organization. I'm now at a stage in my personal and professional life that I feel that I can devote my time to serve the B.S.W.A at this level.

I believe my background and experiences make me well-qualified to fill this position. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Civil and Construction Engineering from the National Academy of Municipal Economy in Ukraine in 2006 and then moved to Dubai (UAE) to work as an engineer and project coordinator. After 7 years of professional experience in UAE I moved to Australia and selected to earn my Master's degree in Project Management from Curtin University. During my study I was working full time as a Project Manager. Last year I undertook an examination from Australian Institute of Project Management and obtained an international certification of Certified Practicing Project Manager (CPPM).

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For the past 13 years of professional experience I have also been exposed to an organisational leadership and gained experience in business development, operations management and strategic leadership. This included involvement in managing business process change to achieve maximum results with effective planning, organization and communication skills as well as a solutions-oriented approach to problem-solving.

Apart from my professional life, I am a Buddhist and follow Buddhist practice on daily basis. I set a time to meditate every day and keep my precepts. I practice kindness and compassion throughout the day and believe that giving, taking care of others and serving the community develop the heart and directly reflects Buddhist teachings.

I am personally aware that B.S.W.A has challenges and issues to manage. I offer to roll my sleeves up and provide a thoughtful and careful service wherever is needed. I strive to implement innovative approaches, translate creative ideas into solutions and apply continuous improvement process for organisational operations.

With my professional knowledge and experience, along with my dedication to Buddhist practice, I am prepared to contribute immensely to the success of B.S.W.A as your next Vice President. I promise, if elected, I will serve in this position to the best of my ability and will ensure that all B.S.W.A mission and vision objectives are met.

Sincerely, Kseniya Abusaif

3. **Geetha Mendis** (Candidate seeking Vice President Position BSWA Committee 2020)

- Prior involvement with the BSWA- I have been a member of BSWA for over 30 years. I have served on the Committee as Honorary Secretary (2017) gaining experience in compliance with State and Federal Govt. statutory obligations relevant to BSWA. I have contributed as a volunteer in the Library, at Dhammaloka Reception Desk and conducted the Introduction to Buddhism course for new members for the past 3 years.
- I have served for 12 years on the Committee of Perth Insight Meditation Group Inc and am currently the Chairman.
- My professional background as a doctor in the Health Dept WA and private psychiatric practice for 35 years has given me experience in teamwork, working with people from various cultural & professional backgrounds and skills in small business.
- I have been engaged in Theravadin Buddhism for most of my life and consider Dhamma practice as the most rewarding endeavour in life. It is a privilege to contribute to an organisation which supports others in their interest in the Dhamma.

Sincerely yours,

Geetha Mendis