



Biographies for Candidates standing for Election at UUFD General Meeting, May 22, 2022

Steve Govreau, Candidate for Vice President

Steve and Lisa moved their family to Durango in 1993. They have four adult children who currently live in Colorado, Oregon, and Maryland. After having received his B.A. in History from Rice University, and a long stint with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and having sold his oil and gas mapping business in 1998, Steve retired in 2020. Currently, in addition to helping Lisa with her real estate business, Steve enjoys fly fishing, reading and writing, boating, golf, and other outdoor activities. They found UUFD through friends and would like to see UUFD continue to be a welcoming and safe space for all people and beliefs.

Mark Swanson, Candidate for Treasurer

Mark and Ilona arrived in Durango at the end their Colorado Trail hike from Denver in 2016 and never really left. Prior to that, they lived in Olympia, WA, for 18 years where Mark worked for the Intel Corporation, retiring in 2015. Before that, They lived in Salt Lake City, UT, where Mark earned a PhD in Computer Science at the University of Utah and joined their faculty as a Research Associate Professor. Their first UU congregation was in Olympia, where he served on the Board of Trustees for five years, four of them as Treasurer. At UUFD he has previously served as Treasurer and has been a member of the Finance Committee for five years. In December of 2021, the Board appointed Mark to the recently vacated Treasurer position. His interests include advocating for electric vehicles, bicycling, 500 mile hikes, and singing in the shower.

Ilona Hruska, Candidate for Nominating Committee Member

Ilona grew up in the small town of Rock Springs, Wyoming. She attended the University of Utah where she met her spouse, Mark Swanson, and earned a BA in English. Mark and Ilona have one child, Max (formerly known as Anna) who lives in Portland. Upon retirement in 2016 from administrative work at a middle school for highly capable students in Olympia, Ilona and Mark hiked the Colorado Trail and found Durango to be the perfect place for retirement.

Ilona became a member of the Olympia UU Congregation (OUUC) in 2007. While there, she was active as a greeter, a co-facilitator for a covenant group, a member of the personnel committee, and a co-chair of the auction. At UUFD, she led the Hospitality Team for several years. Currently, she is on UUFD's Basic Needs Team and serves as the liaison to the Durango Food Bank and works to coordinate UUFD volunteers for commodities bagging and home deliveries.