

Dr. Jaleen Brunner, DVM
(3rd 3 year term expires January 2027)



Please tell us about yourself?

Hi my name is Jaleen Brunner Flitz. I am a veterinarian at All City Pet Care West where I have worked for almost 20 years. I am originally from Jamestown, ND. I went to Iowa State University for veterinary school. I wanted to be in a bigger city but not too far away from home. Sioux Falls and All City Pet Care fit all of my needs. I am a general practitioner at All City. I see mostly cats and dogs. I am certified in Animal Hospice and Palliative Care. I love geriatric pets. Keeping them comfortable and helping owners as their fur-baby enters end-of-life care is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my veterinary career.

Aside from working full-time, I am married to my husband, Scott Flitz. We have been married for almost 15 years and have 3 children. Emmett is 13 and goes to O'gorman Junior high. He loves football and basketball. Colton is 11 and Marlee is 8. They both go to St. Michael's School. Colton loves football and video games. Marlee is in gymnastics, dance, 4H and Piano.

In my down time, I love to craft or at least find things on Pinterest that I would like to make. I love reading, spending time with family, baking and doing nothing.

This is my 6 year on the board.

Why were you interested in joining the board?

I had never been on a board before and wanted to give back to the community.

I was interested in joining the board because I loved the mission of the Humane Society and wanted to be a part of an organization that was helping animals find forever homes.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefit the board of directors

I feel that my medical background and experience with veterinary health is beneficial. I also know firsthand how compassion fatigue and stress can affect the staff in veterinary medical fields.

Do You have any pets?

Yes too many.

Raida- black lab 12 years old

Peggy Sue-labradoodle 3 years old- I adopted her during covid from the humane society

Jojo- Yorkie- 2 years old- she is missing an eye after thinking she could fight her big lab sister

Sam- 7 year old- black long haired cat

Andy- 6 year old black shorthair cat

Steve (black) and Nancy (orange)- 10 month old kittens

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you?

Not really. I have enjoyed being on the board and am excited for the future of the humane society. I think the board has a lot of diversity and can do some great things in the coming years.

Angela Ellerbroek
(1st 3 year term expires January 2025)

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I am from Pierre, S.D., and graduated from USD. I own etc *for her* magazine, the expo *for her*, the Gonnagetwed Bridal Showcase and ACE Airport Media. My husband, Craig, and I have one 14-year-old son, Nick. Nick is a mascot and has been since he was four years old. You may have seen him as peep for the Sioux Falls Canaries or Tiptoe for the Sioux Falls Stampede. We also travel the country for him to perform with NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL teams. We do attend mascot camps in the summer as well. And when we are not doing this, we enjoy weekends at the lake cabin in Madison or watching Nick play golf for Lincoln High.



Why were you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

We also have three rescued best friends. Charlie, a very sweet 30-pound terrier mix that thinks he is a lap dog and prefers to sleep on my pillow wrapped around my head. Charlie was adopted from the SFAHS. Sir Philip, a mischievous British shorthair kitty that is full of personality and has definite decorating ideas (where décor should be placed, etc.) He was found as a tiny kitten on the mean streets of Luverne, MN. in a blizzard. Expo, an 8 pound sleek black kitty that is definitely the queen and keeps the other two in line. Expo was found as a three-month-old kitten that we think rode to our expo *for her* in the hood of a pickup from Iowa — hiding there to be warm. She is a tough and sweet little cookie.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefits the Board of Directors?

I have been in publishing and advertising (and marketing) for over 26 years. I am able to help with events, publicity, marketing, proofreading — any and all the SFAHS may need.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I have served on the Let Me Be 83 Board of Directors and was President of the Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School PTO for 5 years. It was a brand new school and quite an undertaking. Believe me.

Do you have any pets?

We also have three rescued best friends. Charlie, a very sweet 30-pound terrier mix that thinks he is a lap dog and prefers to sleep on my pillow wrapped around my head. Charlie was adopted from the SFAHS. Sir Philip, a mischievous British shorthair kitty that is full of personality and has definite

Sarah Hanson
(1st 3 year term expires January 2027)



Occupation & Employer: Managing Director of Children, Youth & Families at Volunteers of America, Dakotas

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I have worked in the nonprofit world for over a decade, currently serving as the Managing Director of Children, Youth & Families at Volunteers of America, Dakotas.

I provide strategic guidance and oversight for three program areas, including out-of-school time programming, a summer camp, and a retail donation distribution center serving 200+ nonprofits, schools and churches. I am also an active member of the Sioux Falls' Youth Development Collaborative and the Sioux Falls School District Community Learning Centers Leadership team.

I moved to Sioux Falls in 2008 to attend Augustana University, where I graduated with a degree in English and journalism. In my free time, I can often be found at Family Park with my dog, Mayble.

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I've long been an animal lover, and grew up in a household where rescuing stray cats was a nearly weekly occurrence. I also have a passion for nonprofit work, believing they play a critical role in the well-being and quality of our community. In my short time as a member of the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society's Program Committee, I have been incredibly impressed by the work they do and their commitment to quality improvement, and I'm excited to be a part of this work!

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

In my time at Volunteers of America, Dakotas I've been fortunate to be part of leading a number of initiatives, including launching two new programs in 2022 and doubling the size and impact of our out-of-school time programs. In my time on the Sioux Falls Figure Skating Board, we implemented new financial procedures and marketing efforts that led to us becoming one of the fastest-growing figure skating clubs in the county in 2021.

Through these experiences, I have developed strategic and change management skills and a love for continuous quality improvement that I believe can be a benefit to the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

Sioux Falls Figure Skating Club President July 2020 – June 2021, Past President July 2021 – June 2022

Do you have any pets?

I have a border collie-Catahoula leopard mix named Mayble and a cat named Myrtle. As a herding dog, Mayble believes her purpose in life is to keep Myrtle in line, and as a cat, Myrtle believes her purpose in life is to sleep.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you?

In April 2024, we will be adding a third girl to the family when my husband and I welcome our first child.



Kate Hayes
(1st 3 year term expires January 2026)

Kate Hayes works as a financial advisor with RBC Wealth Management in Sioux Falls. She brings multi-faceted financial expertise and organizational insight to volunteer boards. In addition to her work at RBC Wealth Management, Kate spends her time cooking, reading, and walking with her dog, Gus.



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I'm a Sioux Falls native. Moved for undergrad and bounced around until moving back to Sioux Falls in 2014.

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I love the Humane Society as an organization and I am amazed at the growth the organization has seen over the years. I would like to donate my time to assist in keeping the organization strong in the community as well as providing any expertise I am able to keep the Humane Society moving forward.

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

I have worked on investment statements for non-profits as well as some fundraising endeavors.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I do. I was on the Red Cross of the Dakotas board and am currently on the South Dakota Humanities Council board of directors.

Do you have any pets?

I do! I adopted Gus when he was about 2 (the rescue's best guess) and now he's 16. He is obviously the most handsome dog you can imagine.



Kari Johnson
(1st 3 year term expires January 2027)



Occupation & Employer: Foundation Director - Volunteers of America, Dakotas

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

My name is Kari Johnson, I've been married to my husband, Kent, since 2019 & we have a blended family with 2 daughters, 1 son, 1 dog & 1 cat! I grew up in Garretson, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln obtaining my bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, gaining my professional engineering license in 2008. I worked in the engineering/construction field until 2022, when I finally decided to take the leap & start my 2nd career, in a field I was a bit more passionate about! I am currently the Foundation Director at Volunteers of America, Dakotas! Outside of work, I love traveling, spending time with my family, gardening, golfing, playing volleyball, and animals!

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I have loved my transition into the nonprofit world & the feeling that I get from being directly involved with such impactful work. I LOVE animals. I have a giant soft spot in my heart for most things furry & feathered. I love the idea of being as helpful & involved as I can to help ensure SFAHS is thriving!

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

I have a very analytical background, I love a good spreadsheet. I am also outgoing & eager to help. I feel I can definitely be helpful in the development side of things.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

The Letter Project (Board Member, 2021-current), Trinity Lutheran Church – Tea (Church Council Member, current), South Dakota Engineering Society, Eastern Chapter (Chapter Director, 2020-2021)

Do you have any pets?

Yes! A handsome black lab (Tater) and a moody tuxedo cat (Nacho). There would be several more animals living in our house if my husband had no say. But, here we are.



Mark Lukonen
(1st 3 year term expires January 2025)

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I am 38 years old. My wife, Betsy, and I have been married for almost 9 years. We have two beautiful little girls Margot (3) and Edie (9 months). Betsy has two bachelors degrees (History and Anthropology) and two masters degrees (Classical Archeology & Teaching). She spent a significant amount of time traveling before we met, and challenges/educates me daily about things I have never seen or don't know. She has helped me appreciate the world outside of South Dakota more than she will ever know.

I grew up in Watertown, SD. After graduating high school I moved to Brookings, and attended SDSU where I earned my bachelor's degree in Construction Management.

I started working for Journey Construction (Sioux Falls Construction at that time) in May of 2018 as a project engineer. Since then I have worked into my role as a Senior Project manager and lead our Special Projects Team. Special Project specifically focusses on renovations and small building additions. We are in the shadows of the large projects you see on the news, but we truly have a great team and are starting to make a name for ourselves.



Why were you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

The Humane Society is an integral part of our community. Both my wife and I grew up always having dogs and cats. Also, Betsy's family has been an active support of the Human Society in Watertown, so added time I need for the board is something that was easy to justify to her.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefits the Board of Directors?

Construction Knowledge and Advice. My career has focused on Renovation and reutilization of existing spaces. I also have a wealth of information I can assess through my coworkers for anything associated with new buildings.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

Prior to the Humane Society I was on the board for the Sioux Falls Design Center and served on the Executive Leadership Team for the local Lymphoma and Leukemia Society.

Do you have any pets?

We have a 10 year old German Shorthaired Pointer named Rue. She was our first baby before the girls arrived. She wasn't crazy about Margot when we brought her home, but she has adjusted and loves Edie.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you.

Fishing is my favorite thing to do when I have not working or spending time with my family. Fishing out of my kayak is something you will find me doing almost every weekend when there isn't ice on our lakes.



Wendy McDonnel
(1st 3 year term expires January 2026)



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

My name is Wendy McDonnel and I am the Development Director for Active Generations. I have been in development work for over 20 years. I have two kids. Morgan is 20, is a Junior at Augustana University, and plays soccer for the Augie women's team. My son, William, is 19 and currently is preparing to play junior hockey next year either in the states or Canada. My sidekick is Todd, who we rescued when he was 6 months. He is a bichon shih tzu and he will be five this April. When I am not traveling and supporting my kiddos and their activities, or working, you will find me at Fit Body Boot Camp or enjoying a meal, coffee, or a glass of wine with my friends. I love traveling when I have time, and I love spending time in downtown Sioux Falls.

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

SFAHS is always an organization I have followed and admired, but truly did not have the time or treasure until now when my kids are older. I believe all animals deserve a loving home when there is a proper fit. I also believe SFAHS has a story to tell in this community and I would like to be a part of spreading that story and mission.

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

I have experience in development, management, and leadership. I work well with groups of people to find common ground and solutions.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I have had to work hand in hand with Boards with my different roles in Development. I was a Diplomat with the Chamber of Commerce for 10 years and served as Diplomat Chair in 2004/05.

Do you have any pets?

I have always had pets since I was young...cats and dogs. My current pet is Todd the dog.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know when considering you for election?

I have a vast network in Sioux Falls of all types of people and levels of management. I believe I can be an asset and a storyteller for SFAHS, its missions, and its beloved animals.



Brooke Quinlivan
(2nd 3 year term expires January 2026)



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

Brooke Quinlivan- prosecutor for Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office. My main focus is domestic violence and animal crimes. Married, have a 1 year old daughter named Charlotte. I like to spend my time with my family outside on the bike trails, hiking, and traveling. I have been on the Board since 2019 (I think? Lol)

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I was interested in joining the board after working with the SFAHS on my animal neglect and cruelty cases. I got to know the staff and organization through working cases with them, so when I was asked to join, I jumped at the opportunity.

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

My experience is primarily in animal neglect and abuse casework. In my role, I advise the Humane Officers and help them make legal decisions that advance our cases and set policy on how we handle things going forward.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I have no previous board experience before this.

Do you have any pets?

I have two dogs! Fitz is a lab/weimeraner mix, and Piper is a toy aussie. We love to take our dogs to the breweries downtown!

Jake Schoenbeck
(1st 3 year term expires January 2027)



Occupation & Employer: Senior Internal Auditor, Plains Commerce Bank

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I was raised in Watertown, SD as the youngest of four kids. In 2018, I moved to Minneapolis to attend the University Of Minnesota Carlson School Of Management where I earned a BSB in Finance. After working for US Bank as an internal auditor for a year, I moved back to South Dakota to be closer to family. Today I'm a Senior Internal Auditor for Plains Commerce Bank here in Sioux Falls. In my free time I play a ton of golf, visit breweries, and spend as much time as possible with my 4 month old niece.

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

Growing up, my family always had lots of pets. Dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits, and one duck named Alfred. Because of that, I believed early on that every animal should have the opportunity to be loved. As a board member, I would be thrilled to be able to help make that happen for animals in the Sioux Falls Area.

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

A career in auditing is largely a career based in risk analysis. My day to day revolves around the idea of finding the most efficient solution for the best outcome. I believe that sort of analytical mindsight could be important for the board. Additionally, I've been involved in fundraising and event planning for multiple different causes. For the last four years, I have served as a Co-Sponsorship Chair and the Beer Selection Chair for the annual Taste the Goodness: Beer, Wine and Food Tasting Event that benefits the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

Taste the Goodness: Beer, Wine, and Tasting Event

Do you have any pets?

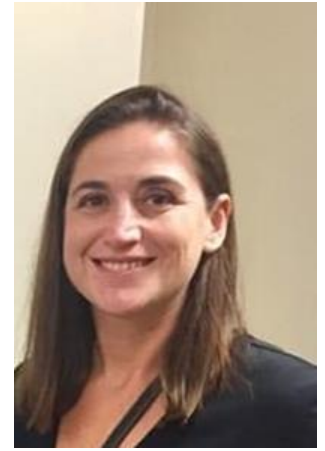
I have a 7 year old lab mix named Torii who adopted in my senior year of college.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you?

If you would every like to meet, I'm always happy to do it over a beer at one of our local breweries!



Kristina Sipma
(1st 3 year term expires January 2025)



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I have lived in Sioux Falls since 2001. I have a degree in Accounting and worked in public accounting for six years at Eide Bailly. I have been working at Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) since 2007. My current title at MRES is Director of Risk. My husband and I have two daughters and two English Springer Spaniels. I still enjoy playing women's league volleyball, golfing and riding my bike on the bike trail. My daughters are involved in volleyball and softball, so our nights usually consist of driving them to activities.

Why were you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I have always been a huge animal lover. My first dog that I had living on my own was from the SFAHS, he was a wonderful dog. I wanted to be involved more with the SFAHS and a former co-worker asked if I would be interested in serving on the board.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefits the Board of Directors?

I have a financial background. I enjoy helping with financial statements and anything number related. I love spreadsheets!

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I have been the treasurer for the Edison Middle School PTO for the last three years. Prior to being on the SFAHS board I did not have any experience being on a non-profit board. I had experience interacting with some non-profit boards during my time as an external auditor.

Do you have any pets?

I have two English Springer Spaniels. They are spoiled inside dogs that love belly rubs and walks. Milo is 5 years old and was our quarantine puppy we adopted when everyone was home, he was a great addition to our family. Max is a year old and reminded us what it is like to have a puppy again, the kids have learned that puppies aren't easy.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you?

By the time I was 14, I had lived in 14 different houses and 7 different states. Neither of my parents were in the military, my dad worked his way up in the railroad industry, so we moved for his jobs. Due to moving around so much, I am on my fifth house in Sioux Falls. I love to travel, which can be tricky sometimes with the kids and their school and activities.



Emily Spellerberg
(1st 3 year term expires January 2026)

Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

Emily Spellerberg--born and raised in South Dakota. I have spent most of my professional career in marketing. At the end of 2021, I took a leap of faith and left my 'corporate gig' and to take a year off and spend more time with my family and travel with my husband. In mid 2022 I started a business consulting firm and now work for myself helping (mostly local) clients improve their business processes and maximize the resources they've invested in.



I am a self-proclaimed 'dog mom.' My husband and I have adopted 4 beagles over the course of 17 years. Our first pair was Abby and Stanley who we adopted from different situations when they were both about 2 years old. Each lived over 14+ years. After their loss, we had planned on taking a break from pet parenting for a while. But that idea lasted about a month before we adopted Annie (approx. 8 years old) from a rescue in Wisconsin. And just a short month or two later we adopted Bee (about 7 years old) from a different rescue in Wisconsin. Both have adjusted really well to each other and their new home aside from Bee who hates South Dakota winters--don't we all!

I like to spend time with my family--most of whom are fortunate to have here in town. My husband and I love to travel! Last year we did a trip every month. Our favorites included Portugal, Amalfi Coast and Washington State. I also enjoy staying active on the bike trail and kayaking in the summer. When we are not on the go, you'll find me curled up with a good book.

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I started my career in the non-profit space doing fundraising events for the American Cancer Society. For the last few years I have considered ways to lend my skills to this sector again--however, the opportunities and my schedule have not aligned. Now that I am self-employed, I have more control of my schedule and would love to give back to an organization my husband and I have supported in various ways over the years.

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

My resume speaks to my experience in leadership and marketing. And I have significant experience in event planning. However, I think my skills in business operations would be most helpful given what I understand to be a time of transition at the Humane Society.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

No.

Do you have any pets?

2 Annie and Bee (both beagle mixes)



Kristy Stevens
(1st 3 year term expires January 2026)



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I'm a proud momma of 3 furbabies (2 of whom came from the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society)! I work in Group Benefits Insurance and actually enjoy public speaking – yes, I'm a little different. I spend a great deal of time working and sometimes traveling for work. However, when not working, I like to spend time with my furbabies – my dog loves going for walks and car rides. I also like to make jewelry and have begun taking on a couple of antique furniture refinishing projects. Cooking and baking are another passion of mine.

Why are you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

Rescue animals are a great love of mine. All of my furbabies are rescues. I believe the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society is a great need and resource to Sioux Falls and the surrounding communities. There is clearly a need for such an organization, and I'm happy to help and be of service in any way that I can.

What skill and experience can you bring to the table that would benefit the Board of Directors?

I have worked in the group benefits insurance field for over 11 years, and worked in the Human Resources field for many years prior to that. Hopefully that can provide some insight and perspective on various topics. In addition to my insurance license, I have the Health Insurance Associate designation. I also have my Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification, and the SHRM-CP (Society for Human Resources Management – Certified Profession) certification as well.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I have not previously served on a non-profit board, but I am eager to learn!

Do you have any pets?

Yes, 3! Moe, is a gray tabby cat who will turn 10 years old this June. Charlie is my COVID-kitty that I adopted from the SFAHS in April of 2020; he will be 4 years old next month. I adopted Scruffy, my Chihuahua/Pomeranian mix, from SFAHS on the Thursday of Memorial Day Weekend last year; he will be 5 years old this May. I also had a Lhasa-Apso/Shih-tzu mix that was a rescue dog – her name was Poppy; I adopted her when she was 9 years old and had her for about 4 ½ years before having to put her down this past October, bless her heart.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know when considering you for election?

I'm just happy to help in any way that I possibly can. I appreciate just being considered! Regardless if I join the board or not, I plan to continue to donate to the SFAHS and participate in activities that the SFAHS sponsors!

Kelli Volk
(3rd 3 year term expires January 2027)



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I grew up in a farm family in a tiny North Dakota town. I earned my journalism degree from a university in Nashville. I got my start in television 10 years ago at a station in North Dakota. Today, I'm an anchor and reporter at KELO-TV.

Why were you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

I'm an animal lover, and I enjoy helping the community.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefits the Board of Directors?

I can help generate support for the humane society through my storytelling and marketing skills.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

No.

Do you have any pets?

I have a rescue cat named Charles.

Melody Westra
(1st 3 year term expires January 2025)



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (personal/work/both)

I'm a Coloradoan by birth and a South Dakotan by choice. I grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, and then moved to Sioux Falls, SD, to go to the University of Sioux Falls (Sioux Falls College at the time.) After graduation, my first job as a bureau reporter at KELO-TV took me to Aberdeen, SD for 2 ½ years. I moved back to Sioux Falls and spent another three years at KELO as reporter and morning show producer. I did a short stint in public relations at Children's Care Hospital and School (now part of Lifescape) before joining Lawrence & Schiller Advertising in 2000. I left 19 ½ years later to join the internal marketing team at First PREMIER Bank. I have one husband and one dog – a golden retriever mix named Sounder. He was our foster and I'm happy to say I am a foster failure.

Why were you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

When I was a senior in high school, we had a gentle giant named Biff. He was a 165-pound St. Bernard that loved all people and all food. Without giving you too much detail, he was murdered by a sheriff's deputy just outside of our backyard fence. While my parents and the humane society officer responding made formal police complaints, justice was not served. This gentleman went on to needlessly kill several other family pets before finally being dismissed. That event ignited my passion for helping animals, especially those sick, abandoned and abused. I met Kori at a Paws to Celebrate event in 2016 and expressed my desire to join the board. Several years later, she contacted me and I joined in 2022.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefits the Board of Directors?

In my Writer/Creative Director position at L&S, I had the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of marketing campaigns (market research, strategy, creative concepting, production and optimization). In addition, I worked on several non-profit and fundraising campaign materials at the agency, so I learned a lot about telling an organization's story and how to find an audience that will listen. My husband and I also volunteered on the events committee for RAGOM (Retrieve a Golden of the Midwest) and helped raise money locally through meet and greets and special events.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I served on the South Dakota State Historical Society Foundation Board of Directors and helped with the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage in 2020. Unfortunately, I had to resign before the end of my three-year term because meetings went from virtual to in-person and I could not always travel to Pierre. I felt it was important to attend the meetings in person to be the type of board member I wanted to be.

Do you have any pets?

We have had three golden retrievers in the past 14 years; two have been rescues. Our current golden is an Aussie mix. We believe he is 10 or 11.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you.

The reporter in me never really died and I am always asking questions, especially "why?" I have an extreme curiosity and a need to gather as much information as possible.



Jennifer Wosje
(2nd 3 year term expires January 2025)



**Please tell us a little bit about yourself
(personal/work/both)**

I am a shareholder at Woods Fuller Shultz & Smith in Sioux Falls. I have been with Woods for 23 years. I practice in personal injury defense, insurance litigation, and worker's compensation. I grew up in Sioux Falls. I am married to Chris and we have three dogs; Jazzy the SFAHS beagle, Stanley the shorthair/lab mix, and Neddie, our new German Wirehair Pointer puppy, 6 months. My hobbies are spending time with our dogs, drinking wine, and training at the gym. (Not necessarily in that order!)

Why were you interested in joining the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society Board of Directors?

When I first came on back in 2008, the make-up of the Board was pretty impressive. A fellow Sioux Falls lawyer approached me about joining the Board. I had previously been on the South Dakota Symphony Board, and with a Minor in Music, I was interested in that but was ready for a change and a different non-profit. I've always had 3 dogs at any given time, so I felt the SFAHS Board would be a good fit.

What skill and experience do you bring to the table that benefits the Board of Directors?

My skill and experience as a practicing litigator can benefit the Board. I don't mind public speaking as a trial lawyer, so can be a good advocate for the Board, I think. I have done work for the shelter over the years, including the dispute over the building addition. My prior experience serving on the Executive Committee could help as well.

Do you have any previous experience with non-profit boards?

I previously served on the South Dakota Symphony Board.

Do you have any pets?

Yes we have 3 dogs, Jazzy, Stanley and Neddie. We adopted Jazzy from the SFAHS in September 2019 – she was 7 and surrendered so that tugged on our hearts, and I had adopted Reeseey from the SFAHS in 2013 and we loved him until we had to say goodbye on June 21, 2022.

Is there anything else you would like the board to know about you.

My favorite piece of art at home states: "I just want to Drink wine, Save animals, and Take naps."