

## **Michael Clark Endorsement of Gabriella Marks**

Hello. I would like to endorse Gabriella Marks who has decided to declare candidacy for the National Board of ASMP. I have known Gabriella for several years here in New Mexico, and have worked with her on several occasions as she is the President of the New Mexico ASMP chapter. She has done an excellent job boosting our chapter and moving it forward and I am sure she can bring her wide array of skills to the National Board and help move ASMP forward as well. Gabriella understands very clearly what professional photographers and content creators are up against in the current industry.

Gabriella has a wide variety of skills and talents including a great sense of design, an eye for talent, and top-notch organizational skills. She takes on big projects and sees them through to the end to make sure they are done well. Of course, she is an excellent photographer in her own right but more importantly she is an excellent person. She has a sixth sense about people. Her awareness of others and ability to navigate tough conversations where sensitivity is needed are rare skills. On top of all that, she is very positive and upbeat person who is responsible, reliable and thoughtful.

I highly recommend her for the National Board and think she would be a great addition to the team.

## **David Halpern Endorsement of Gabriella Marks**

I became acquainted with Gabriella Marks almost a decade ago, before she became a member of the New Mexico Chapter Board. I was an associate editor of our chapter newsletter and would like to think that the article I wrote about Gabriella as an up-and-coming member of our photographic community had something to do with her subsequent ascent to chapter leadership, though after serving with her on our board, it is abundantly clear that she hardly needed a boost from me. Beginning in a role as co-membership chair, Gabriella has had a positive effect on everything she has touched, and when she assumed her present role as chapter chair, she had no difficulty enlisting broad support from our membership. Gabriella has reached out to the larger community and elevated the image of ASMP among educators, the graphic arts community and other organizations to which she has been an articulate spokesperson. While working tirelessly herself, Gabriella is the kind of a leader who appreciates and recognizes the contributions of everyone. Taking nothing away from past chapter leadership, it is fair to say that Gabriella has made the New Mexico chapter stronger, I believe, will provide energy, solid judgement and sound advice to the national organization as it moves forward in years to come.

## **Irene Owsley Endorsement of Gabriella Marks**

I first encountered Gabriella Marks when I visited New Mexico and attended an ASMP local board meeting as a way to get to know the community where I was soon to become a full-time

resident. Even at that brief meeting, I was struck by her competence, her seriousness and dedication to the tasks at hand. Later, as president of the local chapter, she has shown continuing drive, enthusiasm, and willingness to tackle all the issues that confront a chapter – the ever-present need for new board members and volunteers, a fluctuating membership, compelling programming and supporting the efforts of ASMP nationally. A well-informed, accomplished, and hard-working photographer in New Mexico, Gabriella has worked tirelessly on behalf of the photographic community here and in the process has elevated the face of ASMP state-wide. I have no doubt that she would contribute immensely to the work of ASMP nationally in a leadership position.

### **Jamey Stillings Endorsement of Gabriella Marks**

I would like a moment of your time to endorse Gabriella Marks – a great friend, fellow photographer, and wonderfully effective current President of ASMP New Mexico – for a position on the ASMP National Board.

My tenure with ASMP dates back to 1984, when Forest McMullen and I collaborated with professional photographers from Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse to form ASMP Western New York. Over thirty-four years, I have seen both the trials and tribulations of bringing photographers together to inspire, learn from, and support each other. When I moved to Santa Fe in 1998, I was pleased to find a community where support and appreciation are intuitive. Our small ASMP New Mexico chapter, as Gabriella mentions in her Ballot Statement, has worked well together to engender these qualities.

Since Gabriella assumed the presidency of our chapter in 2015, I have been amazed at the positive energy, enthusiasm and cooperation that one individual can bring to an organization. Gabriella quietly and cheerfully encourages the best in others, builds bridges, and shifts our notion of what is possible. Her accomplishments, with the great help of an active Board and engaged volunteers, are well described in her Ballot Statement. Please take the time to read it carefully.

I heartily endorse Gabriella Marks for our ASMP National Board. She will be a great addition to our national leadership with a positive and pragmatic vision of the future.