

## **June 2020 Board Candidates**

**Gary Goren** is a retired educator. He has worked as a history teacher, a middle and high school principal and as the Director of General Education and Technology at the AMA Educational Service District in Alpena. While there he wrote many successful grants and helped create and run Sprinkler Lake Education Center in Alcona County. He also worked closely with many local agencies including the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Alpena County Library, and the Besser Museum. He also was the Executive Director of Michigan ASCD in Lansing, providing professional development for administrators statewide. He previously served on the Besser Board and its education committee. Gary has been active with the Alpena Civic Theater. He is originally from Birmingham, Michigan and has seven grown children and stepchildren scattered about the country.

**Marie Fielder** received her Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood, in 1992 from Central Michigan University. She is retired from the Alpena, Montmorency, Alcona Educational Service District where she served 27 years as this District's Teacher/Consultant for Special Needs Infants and Toddlers. Marie is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She is a member of the Northeast Michigan League of Women Voters. Marie lives in Alpena with her husband David. Together, they have 5 adult children and 1 grandchild. Marie enjoys gardening, exercising, and spending time with her family.

**Jean Thomas** has been helping clients with their graphic design, advertising, printing, and publishing needs for years and has enjoyed expanding her service offering to real estate agent most recently. A native of Alpena, she moved south for a few years to attend college and search for new challenges and urban adventure but returned to the area after missing the water and surroundings. A graduate from ACC, she attended both Lansing CC and took courses at MSU. Jean enjoys getting involved in/and supporting the community, especially the art community. She served as a member of the board at Art in the Loft for several years. Her hobbies include: many outdoor activities as well as working with stained glass and exploring the areas hidden gems such as Besser Museum. Jean has two grown sons, Spencer of Holland, MI and Chad of Midland, MI.