

# BACES DIRECTOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR 2023 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Each candidate for director was asked to submit a 250-word statement expressing their qualifications and the reasons they feel they should be elected. Their statements are below. Statements are listed in alphabetical order.

## Evgeni Veselinov



Dear BACES Members,

I am profoundly honored to accept the nomination for a leadership role at BACES, filled with gratitude and a deep commitment to the future of our Bulgarian community in Los Angeles.

With two decades of diverse experiences and extensive connections within our community, I am eager to leverage this network for the betterment of BACES. My vision is anchored in transparency, constant communication, and the application of my experience to attract new members and ensure financial stability.

To steer our journey, I plan to develop a comprehensive program and budget spanning at least six months to a year, complete with clear timelines and assigned responsibilities. Specific proposals, with meticulous details, will be presented in a timely manner, embodying a positive outlook aligned with both U.S. laws and Bulgarian traditions.

I extend my deepest gratitude for your trust in me. It is with great respect and a sense of duty that I assume this role.

Sincerely,

Evgeni Veselinov

Founder of the 1st Bulgarian School (2009) and newspaper (2003) on the West Coast

Recipient of the 2023 Annual Award from the Bulgarian Memory Foundation.

For more information, please visit:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9e7xvGkMqkbQkhKS3pYUWp1Wk0/view?usp=drivesdk&resourcekey=0-Eyel2xUbrSOqTmhOsFEIHA>

Born on December 23, 1963, in Sofia (residing in the U.S. since 2000)

Education: English AP, International Relations, Journalism

Sports Enthusiast: Soccer, Aikido

Family: Divorced, 3 children, 1 grandchild

Favorites: Children, Bulgaria

Core Values: Time, knowledge, honor, honesty, positivism

Opposed to: Fake, irresponsibility, betrayal.

## John Alajov



My name is John J. Alajov and I am a candidate for Volunteer Board Member of BACES. Married with two grown children, I've lived in LA for 33 years. I am a professional civil engineer. I possess financial, marketing, technical, entrepreneurial, legal, and social service skills. My wife and I have sponsored over 20 Bulgarian families to start new life in LA. I enjoy architecture, guitars, cars, wine, world travels, cooking.

I strongly believe in BACES cause. I worked as BACES BOD Chair and President 2020-2023 and I was an active member 2005-2009; 2020-2023. In the past 3 years I participated in 100 BOD meetings, worked numerous hours with Office of Attorney General, Lawyers, Accountants, Property Management Firm, RE Brokers, Tenants, Vendors, Maintenance, etc. Organized membership Meetings and Events.

Serving on BACES board comes with serious fiduciary, legal, and ethical responsibilities. There should be no conflict of interest, endangerment of its financial future, or engagement in unlawful acts that could put it in legal jeopardy. I will continue accepting the primary BOD duties: "duty of care," "duty of loyalty," and "duty of obedience". I will faithfully represent BACES, advocate its mission; set strategy, goals, and objectives; and oversee programs and activities to carry it out.

We seriously cleaned up the badly tarnished BACES name. We shall regain control over the facility and reopen it to members for celebrations and cultural events.

We shall create legacies that will take the next generation of Bulgarian-Americans to a level we could only imagine.

## Vesselka Kazachka



Recently I was at an event organized by BACES – an evening with the music of folk group Bulgarica. It was a wonderful and free event for our community and guests. My friend Vladimir Strinski invited me to join the board of BACES because of the need for candidates, and my other friend Biliana Petrov was to be another candidate. So I agreed to be nominated, because I thought I could work well with them and the cause was a good one.

I understand BACES was created by the Bulgarian community many years ago to support Bulgarian culture in CA – for Bulgarians and Americans alike. In the past – mid-2000s I went to a Bulgarian film screening at the BACES building, and it was a very nice event. I know there have been many criticisms for the organization and the board, past and recent, but I think the attempts to start a new chapter for this organization with the efforts of many people 3-4 years ago are worth putting more time and energy into it.

Professionally I work in the film industry and cultural events are very important to me. I hope I can be of help in creating a community and an organization where the members' energy and desires are met with events that continue to forward the Bulgarian culture not only to the local Bulgarian community, but California as a whole.

# Vladimir Strinski



Dear BACES Members,

I am honored to contribute to the oldest and, in my opinion, the finest Bulgarian organization in Los Angeles.

I am dedicated to revitalizing our organization by addressing the longstanding issues of internal conflicts and discord. My goal is to foster a spirit of unity and collaboration, working with all members to find common ground and resolve differences.

Financial responsibility is paramount. I am committed to implementing sound financial practices, ensuring our organization is not treated as a mere ATM to be drained. Together, we will safeguard our resources and use them judiciously to further our mission.

Recognizing the need for clear rules and procedures, I am eager to contribute my expertise in management and corporate governance. I will work tirelessly to establish robust frameworks that guide our actions and decisions, setting a solid foundation for our future success.

During my tenure on the previous Board, we achieved remarkable milestones. We spearheaded numerous Bulgarian events, showcasing our vibrant culture and strengthening community ties. Additionally, we demonstrated exceptional stewardship of our organization and its valuable assets, instilling trust and confidence in our fellow Bulgarians.

Let us build on this legacy of achievement, working hand in hand to secure a brighter future for our organization.

Our work and legacy will stand as a testament, providing a solid foundation for our children and future generations of Bulgarians in Los Angeles.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your trust and assume this role with great respect and commitment to service.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Strinski