

Barb Jacobson – election statement, Editor of BIEN News

I have been involved with basic income advocacy and organising for seven years with a number of organisations. I am on the boards of Basic Income UK and Citizen's Basic Income Trust, and was the founding chair 2014-2017 of Unconditional Basic Income Europe. In this capacity I have chaired many meetings around Europe and the UK, spoke at some, and did a great deal of the usually invisible admin work so crucial to setting up and running any organisation. My interest in basic income arose from the problems I saw both as a benefit claimant and as a welfare rights advisor in the UK, but the concept also speaks to my many years organising around women's, housing, health and other community issues since 1982.

I have a BA in Japanese language, history and literature from SOAS. After this degree I worked as a journalist and researcher for several publications both in English and Japanese for six years. After I left journalism I had a variety of paid and unpaid jobs, working in tourism, restaurants, bookshops and museums before finally settling into my welfare rights advisor role for ten years. I also have a grown son.

My experience as both a US and UK national, across Europe, in Japan and other countries has made me a dogged internationalist. I am always looking for what people have in common over what divides us, with an eye on the real power imbalances and a commitment to amplify voices which too often go unheard.

It will be exciting to work on BIEN News at this pivotal moment for the basic income movement and humanity in general. The skills I can bring to this role are copyediting, research, interviewing, volunteer support - and writing. One of my key aims in standing for this role is to rebuild the team at BIEN News so that I don't have to do much of this last myself! With my extensive contacts with basic income academics and activists globally, I hope to ensure that BIEN News provides the latest news about basic income and the movements advocating for its implementation from a wide variety of perspectives.