

Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners 2018-2019 Board Nominees

Karen Sharp: Nominee, President

Karen consults in strategy, governance, risk and regulation and is an experienced board member. She brings a background in economics, strategy and corporate finance, as well as performance metrics. She has more than 35 years of experience with energy systems and markets, developing policy and strategy, and implementing innovative risk-based solutions to infrastructure.

Karen has worked with depth in regulation, on all sides of the table; designed and implemented a regulatory body; advanced the funding for post-retirement clean-up costs; advised on complex toll decisions and appeared as a policy and expert witness for consumers and for regulated businesses. This will be her first term on the CALL Board; however she has volunteered and worked on the membership satisfaction survey this past year.

Barbara Murray: Nominee, Past President

Barbara is a retired lawyer with 35 years of experience in the commercial Real Estate industry. She worked for The Cadillac Fairview Corporation for seventeen years and retired from that company in 2014 as Vice President Legal, Western Region.

Barbara has previously served on numerous not for profit Boards, including Vertigo Theatre, The Rotary Club of Calgary and Bethany Care Society. She is currently on the Wood's Homes Society Board. Barbara has served on the cSPACE Committee and as a Member-at-Large on the CALL Board in 2015-16 and chair of Governance Committee in 2016-17.

Bob McInnis: Nominee, Vice President

Bob McInnis is a grandfather of eleven, all living in and around Calgary. He has worked in the public service, academia, and the public benefit sector. He currently is the Navigator for a co-working startup - Work Nicer and the Engagement Director for Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Southern Alberta.

He enjoys trail running, hiking, snowshoeing, and cycling. He reads voraciously (170 books in 2017) and writes daily. His big work in 2017 was a series on Uncertainty and why we need more inconvenience, more discomfort, and more uncertainty if we are going to contribute to finding solutions to the pressing issues facing our world. This will be his first year on the Board.

Rita McGillivray: Nominee, Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee

I spent my entire working career of 35 years in Calgary's energy industry, working as a manager in a variety of roles primarily with Nova Gas Transmission, TransCanada Pipelines, Enerflex and Enmax.

I have a professional accounting designation and a graduate degree in Business Administration, but I have been fully retired for ten years. During my career I raised three children and have many years of volunteer experience. I have served for more than ten years on a variety of non-profit boards as either treasurer or president, including Volunteer Calgary (now Propellus), and Servants Anonymous (now Reset Society).

Since retiring I have become very dedicated to studying music theory and learning to playing the flute, including being a member of two chamber groups at Mount Royal Conservatory. I am a novice bridge enthusiast, Spanish language learner, and my husband Rolf and I enjoy travelling around the world hiking and long distance motorcycle touring. We enjoy our grandchildren living nearby in Calgary and we are not snowbirds because we love to ski. This will be my first year on the Board.

Lazlo Jamniczky: Nominee, Secretary

Laszlo Jamniczky was born in Europe and raised in Brazil. He came to Canada in 1967 and completed his studies at the University of Calgary being part of the first engineering graduating class in 1969. He completed a M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, also from the U of C, and joined Montreal Engineering in Montreal. Laszlo worked in Quebec, Alberta, Iran, Peru and later in life, as a self-employed consultant in several Latin American countries, the USA and Bosnia.

Laszlo is married to Pat and they have two adult daughters. He is on the Board of Examiners of APEGGA and has been on the Board of the Rocky Mountain Ramblers and the Apeiron Society for the Practice of Philosophy. Laszlo retired in 2012 and enjoys hiking, cycling, skiing, reading and gardening.

Laszlo is very concerned about climate change and the lack of action in Canada and elsewhere with this global issue. This will be his first year on the Board.

Diana Bloom: Nominee, Chair, Program Committee

Diana has been a devoted lifelong learner since before she heard the term. She originally graduated from the University of Calgary and Queen's University with a BA(Hons.) and Masters degree in Sociology.

She has worked in the voluntary sector (United Way, Multiple Sclerosis Society) but the majority of her career was spent in research, planning and management with the Calgary Police Service. During her career Diana earned a certificate in Management Development from U. of C. and successfully completed the “Leading for Excellence” program for senior managers at the City of Calgary.

While working, Diana took numerous recreational courses in art including painting, drawing, interior design and photography. Since her retirement Diana has completed a Bachelor of Fine Art (with Distinction) degree from the Alberta College of Art. Diana’s first volunteer role with CALL was in assisting to develop the current Strategic Plan. Presently, she is a member of the CALL Sketch Club group and the Lead Coordinator for the Creative Arts Interest Groups. This is her first year on the Board.

Mary Vernon: Nominee, Chair, Records Management Committee

I am fairly newly retired again for the second time with my last 10 year venture being a women’s clothing and accessory wholesale and retail business operating under the name of Kobieta World Designs.

Prior to that, from an employment point of view, I was involved in the sales and marketing of a professional sales training business where I was also a trainer and motivational speaker. There have been numerous other ventures along the way so overall I would suggest that I have been an entrepreneur for a very good portion of my working life.

I have also served on numerous Boards as well as having been active in a major women’s organization for almost 50 years where I have served at all levels of the Executives at both the chapter and city wide levels as well as on countless committees organizing both small and major functions.

I am an avid traveller having travelled all over the world for many years which also included living in Pakistan for a year. Future travel is also high on my bucket list. My latest pursuits include being a 7 year volunteer with PALS (the Pet Access League) with my little dog Lucy. She and I also volunteer once a week at a local Hospice.

I am now also looking at creating a whole new variety of interests to take me through the next steps of my life and retirement and trusting CALL to continue to be a wonderful source in doing just that. I am looking forward to also serving on the Board of CALL as service and giving back are all high priorities in my life.

Robert Scott: Nominee, Chair, Venue Committee

Robert is a retired architect. He has a master's degree in Architecture from the U of C and taught in the Architectural Technologies Program at SAIT Polytechnic for 17 years. Prior to that his practice included commercial, institutional as well as residential architecture. He was also the past chair of the Land Use and Planning Committee for the Killarney Glengarry community association.

After joining CALL 3 years ago he has participated in a number of interest groups as well as the helping with planning the move to cSPACE. At the moment he is also trying to learn how to play the Bagpipes. Robert joined the CALL Board in 2016.

Ron Foyer: Nominee, Chair, Information and Technology Committee

Ron has been an enthusiastic member of CALL for about 5 years. He has participated in book and happy aging groups as well as attending short-term education programs on geology. He is currently a co Facilitator of the Current Affairs Discussion group and a member of the Theatre group. He has been retired for 11 years from a career mainly based on the use of Information technology (IT). He is proud to be able to help CALL grow and be successful since he thinks it is a truly wonderful organization. Ron served as the Chair of the Information and Technology Committee 2016-2018. This will be Ron's second year on the CALL Board.

Maryvonne Farrand: Nominee, Chair, Operations Committee

Maryvonne taught for the Red Deer Public School Division for 21 years in their French Immersion program, where she served as a teacher, a consultant and a vice-principal. Since retiring, she worked on a couple of boards in Red Deer until 2012 when she moved to Calgary, and joined CALL. She has served as Chair of CALL's Social Committee 2014-2017 where she has continued to learn, expanding her skills. Maryvonne has served one year as co-chair of the Program Committee, 2017-2018, and has started to assume the responsibilities of lead of the Operations Committee which has been formed to support the work of the Program Committee. This will be her fifth year on the CALL Board.

Melvin Pasternak: Nominee, Chair, Governance Committee

Melvin holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin and an MBA from the University of Calgary. Between 1978 and 2005 he taught at Mount Royal College (now University) developing and delivering courses in Business Communications, Management, Business Cases and The Stock Market as well as Poetry and The Novel and Short Story. During these years Melvin was an active volunteer on the College's Professional Development

Committee and led P.D. films discussions. He also actively volunteered in the College and Business School as well as at the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. While at the college, he also delivered business-writing workshops to many of Calgary's leading oil companies. He and his wife Carla continue to lead these workshops. At CALL, Melvin and Carla lead Unlocking The New Films, Cultural Flash Happenings and have developed a course in the Indian mystical philosophy of Advaita Vedanta. Melvin served as Member-at-Large on the CALL Board 2016-2017. This will be his first term as the Chair of the Governance Committee.

Pattie Oxendale: Nominee, Chair, Social Committee

Pattie retired from CBC in 2008 and was invited by Don Smith to CALL, a few years later. She has been an active volunteer with many organizations since retirement. Pattie attended an early CALL Gala, learned we needed volunteers, especially a person who would make coffee and serve on the Social Committee. Thus began her term on the Social Committee assisting at all the CALL Café's and special events. Pattie is also an active member of the Needlecraft group, joined Genealogy, Digital Photography, Scrabble and Word Freaks, which she facilitates at cSPACE

Marika Kohut: Nominee, Chair, Membership and Volunteer Committee

Marika started her career in banking in Montreal in the early 70's as a Loans Officer. She was one of the first women hired to that position with the Royal Bank. After going through the Accelerated Management Training Program Marika became Senior Loans Officer, Personal Lending, Mortgages and Small Commercial Loans in Montreal. Later, after a move to Ontario, Marika was vice president of an Olympic Qualified Gymnastics club. She was also involved with the Red Cross, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Lions Club. Marika was named Woman of the Year Award in Oakville in 1986 for her volunteering.

In 1990 a work-related transfer took the family to Kelowna where Marika fulfilled a life dream of opening a bookstore and a seasonally operated 6000 sq. ft facility of discounted books. Later in Abbotsford, she volunteered with the Abbotsford Hospice Society and was subsequently hired as Volunteer Coordinator. She also facilitated a Caregiver Support Group with the BC Cancer Agency. A move to Victoria in 2000 brought contract employment with Business Victoria as part of a team giving workshops on Entrepreneurship for EI recipients. In 2005 she joined the Canadian Cancer Society as Support Coordinator where she was responsible for the volunteer needs for 8 Regional units from Port Hardy to Victoria. Marika retired at the end of 2009. This will be Marika's second term on the CALL Board.