

Nominations and Biographies for 2020 AGM

The proposed CALL Board of Directors for 2020-21 is as follows:

President	Lorraine Smith
Vice President	Leslie Dort
Past President	Ron Foyer
Treasurer	Cathy Martin
Secretary	Mary Vernon
Communications	Gail Kingwell
Information & Technology	Linda Flanagan
Governance	Barbara Murray
Membership	Meryl Arnott
Volunteer	Melody Lane
Programs	Barbara Decker-Pierce
Operations	Carroll Jaques
Fund Development	Diana Bloom
Special Programming	Mary Lou Kerr
Marketing	TBD

BIOGRAPHIES:

LORRAINE SMITH, President

Lorraine was a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education for 39 years. Beginning in physical education and athletics, she then moved to the science department and enjoyed a long stay at Western Canada High School. Upon retiring in June 2017, Lorraine began volunteer endeavors (including at Agape Hospice and the Calgary Children's Cottage) and enrolled in ukulele (at Kerby Center) and a philosophy group with CALL. She is also an avid hiker and walker of her dog. Her other interests include traveling, reading and keenly following many sport activities. Lorraine has previously served on boards in both community and church contexts and looks forward to the challenges of continuing to learn and serve on the board of CALL.

LESLIE DORT, Vice President

Friends introduced me to the extensive interesting opportunities at CALL and I joined promptly after retiring in 2018. My interest in learning had led me to do master's degree late in my career which opened opportunities beyond private practice dentistry to clinical research, journal editor, professional education program developer and non-profit board member. I am grateful to CALL volunteers for programs that engage my mind and introduce me to fascinating people through discussion groups, book clubs, CALL cafes, speaker series and Uke Jams (who knew I could learn to sing on tune-sometimes). I also volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Calgary reads. I am looking for opportunities to support this organization which I have come to value greatly over a relatively short time.

RON FOYER, Past President

Ron Foyer has been a whole hearted member of CALL for about nine years. He has participated in book clubs 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 CALL to the Theatre group.

Ron was the Chair of the Committee responsible for IT and Audio-Visual activities for nearly four years and has been the CALL president for the 2019-2020 year. Much of the year could be call an 'annus horribilis'. However, the wonderful enthusiasm and pride of CALL members has led to an impressive recovery from the early stages of the pandemic.

He has been retired for 14 years from a career mainly based on the use of Information technology (IT).

He has had leadership positions in the non-profit Canadian Information Processing Society and Toastmasters International organizations. He has done much volunteering with the Mustard Seed, Calgary Winter Club and Westwood Minor Hockey.

He is proud to be able to help CALL grow and be successful since he thinks it is a truly special organization.

MARY VERNON, Secretary

I have just completed a 2 year term on the Board with Records Management as my portfolio. As CALL did not have any kind of Records Management program in place, my committee and myself were tasked with the creation of a sustainable Records program that entails the gathering of information from all the various aspects of the CALL organization and storing them within a useable program for both reference and historical purposes. This portfolio going forward will now be housed under the Secretary's purview.

From a previous employment point of view, I have for the most part always been involved in various aspects of sales and marketing type activities. My last ventures were both as an importer from South Asia and the owner of a ladies apparel and accessories store. Earlier aspects included running a professional sales training business where I was also a trainer and motivational speaker but overall I would suggest that I have been an entrepreneur for a 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 establishing both small and major functions. I am currently the Parliamentarian and mentor to the Executive. I have been an avid traveler 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 9 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.

CALL has been a wonderful addition to my life and even more so during the past 6 months or so where it has filled many voids left in my life as a result of the pandemic/earlier lockdown. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Board for the past 2 years and I am looking forward to all the interesting challenges that the next 2 years will bring most especially since service and giving back are high priorities in my life.

CATHY MARTIN, Treasurer

Although a relatively new member of CALL, Cathy has been serving as assistant treasurer/bookkeeper since February 2020. Recently retired from her role as a reservoir characterization geophysicist in the Calgary oilpatch, Cathy has been pursuing her special interests in golf, music and more recently Mahjong! She has served on a number of boards and organizations in the role of treasurer and although she is not formally trained in accounting, she has a strange passion for bookkeeping and gets ultimate satisfaction from a balanced account reconciliation report.

GAIL KINGWELL, Chair, Communications

Gail is a former teacher and administrator with the Calgary Board of Education, university instructor of English as a Second Language teaching and learning, and consultant in educational projects and curriculum development. She has been active in CALL for a number of years, serving on the Board and producing the CALL Newsletter.

LINDA FLANAGAN, Chair, Information and Technology Committee

Linda lived in five provinces from Newfoundland to BC before settling in Calgary where she earned a BA and B.Ed. at the University of Calgary.

Following several years working at the U of C Library, Linda went on to enjoy a fulfilling career in public education as a teacher, district accountability specialist and Principal. Her interest in technology was enhanced by completing a Master's degree in Educational Technology.

Since retiring Linda has been a consultant for the CBE in system improvement and program evaluation, and with Alberta Education as a member of the provincial Attendance Board. She is lucky enough to spend many happy times at the family cabin with her husband, children and four grandchildren, who are always a source of inspiration, energy and fun.

She has loved participating in several CALL groups in areas of ongoing interest, including film, philosophy and literature. Serving on the IT committee has been another wonderful opportunity for learning in an area she loves!

BARBARA MURRAY, Chair, Governance

Barbara is a retired lawyer with 35 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry. She has previously served on a number of not for profit boards including Woods Homes, Bow Valley Calligraphy Guild and Vertigo Theatre. She has been involved with CALL for a number of years, including as a member of the cSpace Committee, then on the Board as a Member at Large, Chair of the Organizational Structures Committee, President and Past President and Chair of the Governance Committee. This will be her sixth year on the Board.

She has been involved in a number of CALL interest groups, events and programs over the years and has always enjoyed learning new things. She and her husband enjoy travel and are looking forward to feeling comfortable getting on a plane again for an overseas trip sometime in 2021.

MERYL ARNOTT, Chair, Membership

I was born in England but moved to Australia with my family in my teens. I earned my education degree in Brisbane, Australia, but my first teaching assignments were in Greenwood, British Columbia and London, England. I was first employed by the Calgary Board of Education in 1970 and stayed until retirement in 2008. When I was granted a sabbatical I chose to take courses and do research in English as a Second Language at UBC. A very smart decision on my part!! The next years were the highlight of my career. My return to Calgary in 1980 was timely as the schools were faced with an influx of students from SE Asia, particularly Vietnam. Retiring from the K to 12 program in 2008 it was time to test the waters of the adult ESL program. A new experience but equally enjoyable. I have travelled internationally but my favourite trips have been getting to know Canada's green pastures. Since 2017 CALL has been a source of new friendships and fabulous learning opportunities. Serving on the Membership Committee has allowed me to have a front row seat observing our tremendous growth. I feel very proud to be part of an organization that can keep going with heads held high in spite of adverse times.

MELODY LANE, Chair, Volunteers

Born and raised in Calgary, I attended nursing school in Edmonton, and while raising three children, I earned a BA and BSN from the U of A. In 1992, with my offspring successfully launched, I moved to Texas where I earned a certificate in Critical Care Nursing. That was followed by a move to Florida and then to Maryland where I earned a Business of Nursing Certificate and MSN from Johns Hopkins University. In 2017, I retired to Gettysburg, PA until returning to Calgary in 2018.

I have been a volunteer for Special Olympics, Mission of Mercy (a mobile medical unit providing health care for the uninsured in MD, PA and VA), and a hospice.

I am an enthusiastic sports spectator, walker/hiker, an avid reader (currently facilitating We Love a Good Mystery book club with CALL) and keenly interested in history.

I am so privileged to be back in Calgary and close to my family and friends. I look forward to being part of CALL for many years to come.

BARBARA DECKER PIERCE, Chair, Programs

Barbara and her husband Blair moved to Calgary from London Ontario last December to be close to their daughter and her family who had moved to Calgary in 2013. Being new to Calgary, they looked for ways to get involved in their new community. CALL was an obvious choice since both highly value lifelong learning. Barbara currently belongs to three CALL Interest Groups and joins her husband who facilitates the Tuesday morning walks

Barbara's first career was in social policy and planning with the Ontario government. She returned to school mid-career graduating in 2000 with an MBA and PhD from the Ivey School of Business at Western. Barbara stayed at Western and joined the faculty of the School of Social Work, becoming its Director in 2007. She retired in 2017. Barbara has always enjoyed working with non-profit Boards recently serving on the Program Committee of London's Lifelong Learning organization SLR (Society for Learning in Retirement). Being an avid hiker, she enjoys the outdoor lifestyle that comes with living in Alberta and when not outside walking she can be found reading and learning new things about the world.

Carrol Jaques, Chair, Operations

Carrol Jaques is a former teacher with a passion for history and politics. She taught high school in Edmonton and then in the Adult Education Program with the Calgary Board of Education. Her interest in the history of Alberta's agricultural and political organizations – particularly the United Farmers of Alberta government (1921 to 1935) – led to a master's thesis on the UFA and then a book on a successor group, Unifarm, published by the University of Calgary Press. Carrol also contributed a chapter on former Alberta Liberal Premier Charles Stewart to the book "Alberta Premiers of the Twentieth Century." Carrol served on the board and then as president of Chinook Country Historical Society.

She is also an avid hiker and served on the Board of Alberta TrailNet. Carrol joined CALL a few years ago but has become more active in the last two years, leading to a decision to get even more involved – hence the decision to join, and then Chair, the Operations Committee.

DIANA BLOOM, Chair, Fund Development

Diana has a background in research and planning spending most of her working life with the Calgary Police Service although her early career was in the voluntary sector with the United Way and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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 degree. Diana's first volunteer role with CALL was to assist in developing the Strategic Plan. She was a Coordinator for the Creative Arts Interest Groups before serving for two years as Program Chair.

MARY LOU KERR, Chair, Special Programming

Mary Lou is a retired teacher who ran one of the Calgary Board of Education's reading clinics for students with literacy challenges and worked as a teacher/librarian. This was followed by many years of rewarding work as a consultant in Special Education. It involved teaming with teachers, parents and agencies to better meet the needs of children with cognitive and physical challenges.

She is enjoying her retirement: exploring new interests, making new friends, time with her granddaughter, traveling and, of course, participating in CALL as a volunteer and taking the most interesting programs. Mary Lou served for 2 years as co-chair of the Program Committee and 2 years as a board member. She also was a coordinator on the Program Committee for a number of years.