

Nominations and Biographies for 2021 AGM

The proposed CALL Board of Directors for 2021-22 is as follows:

*President	Leslie Dort
*Vice President	Linda Flanagan
Past President	Lorraine Smith
Treasurer	Cathy Martin
Secretary	Mary Vernon
Communications	Gail Kingwell
*Information & Technology	Shauna Romanzin
*Governance	Andy Peters
Membership	Meryl Arnott
Volunteer	Melody Lane
Programs	Barbara Decker Pierce
*Operations	Carroll Jaques
*Special Programming	Adrienne Kertzer

*Being elected this year

BIOGRAPHIES:

LESLIE DORT, 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 and CALL activities are a natural fit. 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 other interesting opportunities.

I also volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Calgary Reads and have served on other non-profit boards of directors. I am looking for opportunities to support this organization which I have come to value greatly over a relatively short time.

LINDA FLANAGAN, Vice President

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!

LORRAINE SMITH, Past 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.

CATHY MARTIN, Treasurer

Cathy is entering into the second year of her tenure as CALL treasurer, having also served as assistant treasurer/bookkeeper from February to August 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, bridge and 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.

MARY VERNON, Secretary

Mary considers herself as having been an entrepreneur for a good portion of her working life which also included numerous aspects of sales and marketing. Her last ventures were both as an importer from South/Southeast Asia and the owner of a ladies apparel and accessories store. Earlier aspects included running a professional sales training business where she was also a trainer and speaker. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree and also spent about 10 years working as litigation paralegal specializing in insurance litigation.

She has served on numerous Boards throughout her career and has been very active in a major women's organization for over 50 years where she has held all executive positions both at the chapter and city wide levels as well as serving on countless committees creating both small and major functions. She is currently the Parliamentarian and mentor to the Executive for that organization. She was 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 her bucket list. Her latest pursuits include being a 10 year volunteer with PALS (the Pet Access League) with her little dog – they also both volunteer once a week at a local Hospice.

She says that CALL has been a wonderful addition to her life and even more so during the past 20 or so months where it has filled many voids left as a result of the various pandemic and lockdowns. She has thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Board for the past 3 years and is looking forward to all the interesting challenges that the next year will bring since service and giving back are high priorities in her life.

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 working with the newsletter team to produce the CALL newsletters.

SHAUNA ROMANZIN, Chair, Information and Technology Committee

I spent 35 years working in various Information Technology development & management roles in the Calgary oilpatch. A highlight was a chance to work together with my husband Aldo on an 18 month IT Project in Orange County, California with teams from around the world. When we retired I went looking online to find learning activities in Calgary and stumbled across the CALL website. I joined a number of interest groups, and during a Tuesday Morning Walk with Mary Lou I happened to mention our previous careers. Before I knew it we were part of the CALL webteam, and 5 years later I still enjoying the camaraderie of the team and the opportunity to learn new technologies. I love reading, photography and camping, and hope to get back to travel soon.

ANDY PETERS, Chair, Governance

In 2018 I retired from professional life after 40 years in corporate insurance and risk management and risk transfer. My focus was on Construction, IT, Directors and Officers Liability, Contract Liability. Beyond the challenges of building my business, my greatest professional satisfaction was in continuous learning, teaching and mentoring. I feel that anyone who experiences this satisfaction in their professional or personal lives can appreciate the CALL organization as a supporter and facilitator of learning and community, most especially in our later years. It is my belief that enrichment in life happens when you open yourself to curiosity and self awareness through learning from everyone's experiences and skills.

I am enjoying the opportunities made available through CALL and appreciate the time and effort of our dedicated volunteers. I look forward to helping in any way that I can.

MERYL ARNOTT, Chair, Membership

I had the privilege of growing up in UK, Canada and Australia. I settled in Canada when the Calgary Board of Education offered me a teaching assignment first in junior high and then in high school. I especially enjoyed the years when my students were new arrivals from Vietnam. I have travelled internationally but my favourite trips have been getting to know Canada's green pastures. Since 2017 CALL has been the 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 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 is a retired university professor having been the Director of the School of Social Work at King's University College Western University. Being new to Calgary, she looked for ways to get involved in her new community. CALL was an obvious choice since she highly values lifelong learning. Barbara has always enjoyed working with non-profit Boards serving on the Program Committee of London's lifelong learning organization SLR (Society for Learning in Retirement). Being an avid hiker and walker, 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.

ADRIENNE KERTZER, Chair, Special Programming

Adrienne Kertzer spent 39 years as an English professor at the University of Calgary. During the last 25 years of her career, she took on a range of administrative roles at the local, national, and international level. Retiring in 2015, she began volunteering a few years later: first as a tour guide at the new Central Library and subsequently as a volunteer for other Calgary Public Library programs. Joining CALL in 2019, in June 2020, restless after three months of lockdown—and no volunteering—she responded to CALL's need for volunteers and became Coordinator, Current Issues. The past fifteen months have introduced her (albeit virtually) to others who share her lifelong passion for learning, and she looks forward to what she will learn and whom she will meet in her new role as Chair, Special Programming. A multitasker at heart, when she is not volunteering, she reads, watches films, gardens and walks.