

## **REPORT OF THE ENCORE LEARNING NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES 2026-2027**

The Nominating Committee has reviewed the qualifications, membership and willingness to serve of the following persons for positions as Officers or Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors and recommends their election by the general membership. A brief background description of each candidate is included. The Nominating Committee has received no other nominations from the general membership as provided for in Article 6 - B.2 (b) of Encore Learning's Bylaws. Note that Barry Ginsberg, Vice President, Steven Shapiro, Treasurer, and Joan Carter, Secretary, will continue in their roles, serving the second year of their two-year terms.

**President, Two-Year Term Ending 2028– Marilyn Marton (incumbent)** Marilyn spent her professional career working with labor and employment issues in a number of federal agencies. After practicing law in Chicago for several years, she joined the U.S. Customs Service, just being unionized by a very litigious union -- hence her assignment to represent Customs management in employment matters. After the excitement of picketing at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and the Air Traffic Controllers Strike, she moved to a calmer clientele at the Smithsonian Institution, where she served as Human Resources Director. After leaving the federal service, Marilyn provided consulting services in Human Resource Management to federal and private concerns, and now volunteers with Arlington County's 55+ Program and Encore Learning. She has served as both Chair and Vice Chair of Arlington's Senior Adult Council and has been a Class Aide and chaired Encore Learning's Nominating Committee several times. Marilyn has served as Encore Learning's president since 2023.

**Vice President, Two-Year Term Ending 2028 – Mildred Patterson (incumbent)** A retired Foreign Service Officer, Mildred served in Denmark, Belgium and Turkey (twice). She has been a Managing Editor of the Encore Learning course catalog and served as co-chair of the Publications Committee from 2010 – 2014. She was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee in 2011 that proposed the name change from the former Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute to today's Encore Learning. She has been a Vice President of Encore Learning since 2020, and in 2022 she chaired Encore Learning's 20th anniversary celebration committee. Mildred has a B.A. in History from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Academic Programs Committee Co-Chair – Deborah Spero (incumbent)** After a long career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Deborah retired as Deputy Commissioner and decided to pursue the kinds of opportunities that she never had time for during her 35+ years as a workaholic. She began to travel, a passion that still continues, and jumped into several volunteer activities, many of which allow her to work with young children who need extra help. In the past few years, Deb has supported newly arrived Afghan families as well as continuing to volunteer in a Title I school. In addition to serving as Academic Programs Committee co-chair since 2022, Deb takes as many Encore Learning courses as will fit into her schedule!

**Academic Programs Committee Co-Chair – Susan Bornstein (incumbent)** Susan spent 30+ years with various international non-profits helping people in low-income communities expand economic opportunity and supporting rural development, primarily in Africa, and Latin America and India. She holds Africa-focused degrees from Michigan State University and George Mason University, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal. She has served on Encore Learning's Academic Programs Committee and as a class aide since 2024. Susan mentors at-risk youth in Arlington as well as immigrants/refugees in job seeking skills. She co-leads a women's 50+ Meet-Up group to build community and connection. Susan is passionate about learning; she takes lots of Encore Learning courses, studies food as medicine, and enjoys travel, exploring nature, yoga, art, foraging, and reading.

**Class Aides Committee Co-Chair – John Metzler (incumbent)** John is a native of Washington, D.C. After graduating from Gonzaga College High School, he attended the College of the Holy Cross, graduated with an A.B. Physics in 1969, and then went on to get a graduate degree at MIT in rocket science. After receiving his 1-Y, he decided to leave the academic world to join the CIA, where he had a lot of fun. Opportunity knocked, and he left for more energetic times at ERDA, which morphed into the Department of Energy. His career adventures included working on the international aspects of the Superconducting Super Collider, and then the Large Hadron Collider. (That experience gave him enough chutzpah to give in 2018 a course at Encore Learning on the Large Hadron Collider.) John retired in 2008 from the Federal government with a Distinguished Career Service award. John enjoys -- in addition to his two grandchildren, Encore Learning classes, bridge, bicycling, lap swimming, and golf (sometimes) – nothing more than a really good conversation.

**Class Aides Committee Co-Chair – Michael Stutts (incumbent)** Mike was awarded Professor Emeritus upon retirement from a 33-year career at Eastern Virginia Medical School. In that role, he served as a course instructor, clinical supervisor, and director of training for nationally accredited training programs in clinical psychology as well as Vice-Chair of EVMS Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Mike was also president of the Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists and was appointed by Virginia Governors to three Department of Health Professions' regulatory boards, rising to leadership roles in all. Mike has served as an instructor for two Encore Learning courses and on the Academic Programs Committee.

**Community Advisory Council Chair – David Briggs (incumbent)** After 41 years of practicing real estate law, David retired in 2017 and started participating in Encore Learning’s class offerings. David received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, undertook graduate work at the University of South Florida while serving in the United States Air Force, and received his Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School. He has been a resident of Arlington on and off since his law school days, and he calls the Residences at Lyon Hill Condominium home. Over the years, David has been an active advocate for and supporter of the arts in Arlington County. He has served on the Boards of the Arlington Metropolitan Chorus (now the Arlington Chorale) and Signature Theatre. He was appointed to the first Arlington Commission for the Arts, serving as Chair for 3 years, then to the Virginia Commission for the Arts and now serves as a board member and secretary of Embracing Arlington Arts. His involvement in the Arlington community has not been limited to the arts. He is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Arlington and served on the board of and as general counsel to the Arlington Free Clinic. He was a trustee of the Arlington Community Foundation and facilitated the establishment of the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, the first BID in Arlington. David enjoys spending much of his time at his home in Rehoboth Beach, DE.

**Information Technology Committee Co-Chair – Barbara Fillip** Barbara earned a PhD in international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh, a Project Management Professional certification, and a Permaculture Teacher certificate. She spent two decades supporting individual, team, project and organization-wide learning in two industries: international development and aerospace. She has taught adults in organizational and academic settings, including seven years as an adjunct faculty member at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. She continues to teach courses on generative AI and digital literacy for older adults through Encore Learning and Arlington County’s 55+ program and she recently joined Arlington County’s Digital Equity Initiative. Her current work explores the future of aging, longevity and sustainability, with particular interest in AgeTech and technology that supports lifelong learning and well-being.

**Information Technology Committee Co-Chair – Iolaire McFadden** Iolaire entered early retirement in 2024 after a 25-year career in the commercial real estate data industry with job titles including Director of Data Science and Quantitative Quality Assurance Director. He had the privilege to work in a technical role without formal computer engineering education. He travels with his wife, Susan, as a primary hobby. He and Susan are long-term volunteers at local charity events, theaters, and for AFAC. As time permits, he is now using AI-assisted coding tools 6-8 hours per day to develop web applications to scratch itches that he has, such as Vedfolnir - a tool to help post accessible content to the non-commercial Fediverse. (The Fediverse is the post-Twitter/Facebook social media platforms running on distributed frameworks -- for example, Mastodon.) Prior to a 2017 kidney transplant, he was on dialysis for three years and continued to travel receiving dialysis treatments around the globe. Life is easier now.

**Membership Committee Chair – Lynn Ray (incumbent)** Lynn enjoyed a 20+ year career in strategic marketing, working in the healthcare, pharmaceutical, and financial technology industries. At J&J Biotech, J&J Vision Care, and FIS, she led teams in identify marketing strategies, driving new product development, creating innovative solutions, and identify new ventures. Her career began as a research consultant in the healthcare industry and as an academic scientist studying endocrinology and reproduction. She holds a degree in Biology and an MBA from the University of Delaware. Recently retired from small business ownership, Lynn relocated to Arlington as her husband embarks on a new career with the National Guard Bureau. She enjoys all that Arlington has to offer and is excited to be giving back to the community by volunteering for Encore Learning (including serving on the Membership Committee), AARP, and the Arlington Cemetery Kitchen Garden.

**Publications Committee Co-Chair – Ann Kaupp (incumbent)** Ann retired in 2012 after 34 years with the Smithsonian Institution’s Department of Anthropology in the Museum of Natural History. She headed the Anthropology Outreach Office, which distributed educational materials on a range of anthropological topics. She was managing editor of an anthropology publication for educators and museum and anthropology professionals that culminated in a co-edited publication. She produced a series of videos, organized workshops for teachers and professional meetings, and founded a department newsletter. She is co-chair of the Publications Committee, working with an enthusiastic team of editors.

**Publications Committee Co-Chair – Bill Reilly (incumbent)** Bill has worked on numerous Encore Learning course catalogs as part of the Publications team. As co-chair of the Publications Committee, he aims to ensure the accuracy and readability of course descriptions and enjoys collaborating with other team members. These skills carry over from more than 30 years of experience as a writer and editor of publications covering the coal and natural gas industries. Bill graduated from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. After relocating to Washington, D.C., he earned an MA in American History at the University of Maryland-College Park and concurrent MLS with a focus on electronic publishing. He believes in self-motivated, life-long learning and sees volunteering as an opportunity to get involved in something larger than himself.

**Special Events Committee Chair – Louise Kenny (incumbent)** Louise’s professional career spans two fields. The first, for over 20 years, was in advertising in New York City. She then transitioned into fundraising in New Jersey and then in Alexandria, working for United Way Worldwide. She retired in 2014 and did a bit of fundraising consulting for local non-profits. She is a docent at the Library of Congress and serves on the board of Move2Learn, an Alexandria-based non-profit focusing on getting kids more active in school, even right in the classroom, to help them learn better. She joined Encore Learning on the Special Events Committee prior to the pandemic and has been active ever since, arranging in-person tours and virtual Encore Learning Presents presentations on Mondays.

**Volunteer Committee Chair – Jane Nagy (incumbent)** Jane Nagy was privileged to serve as board chair at Texas Tech University to assist with reviving a dying OLLI group. From 47 members, it grew to 3 campuses with nearly 500 members, while providing exciting courses and events. Preceding this endeavor, while accompanying her husband to 8 postings in Africa, Jane chaired various American and International Spouses associations, as well as English speaking groups in French-speaking Africa, allowing opportunities for friendship building and community serving. Jane’s academic background includes a B.A. in American Studies from Georgetown University and a M.A. in Second Language Acquisition from Texas Tech University.

Respectfully submitted on April 6, 2026 by the Encore Learning Nominating Committee: Richard Juhnke, Chair, and Members Jutta Bauman, Sandra Borden, Ed Rader and Wendy Swanson.