

**REPORT OF THE ENCORE LEARNING  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
CANDIDATES 2021-2022**

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.

**President, Two Year Term Ending 2022 – Thomas C. Adams (incumbent)** Tom spent over 40 years in the U.S. Government, with most of it at the State Department managing foreign assistance. He currently consults on foreign affairs and is engaged in teaching and training. He has taught courses at Encore Learning, as well as training at both the Foreign Service Institute and the USAID Training Center. He has also served as a class aide and Board Member of Encore Learning. During his career, he held two positions in the Senior Executive Service, as the Special Coordinator for Haiti responsible for U.S. efforts to rebuild that country after the devastating January 2010 earthquake, and earlier as Coordinator of Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, responsible for U.S. assistance to the 29 countries that emerged from communism after the end of the Cold War. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1972 with a B.A. in History.

**Vice President, Two Year Term Ending 2022–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. In 2011 she was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee that proposed the name change from the former Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute to today's Encore Learning. Mildred has a B.A. in History from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently a volunteer instructor in Arlington's Community Outreach Program, teaching citizenship classes to aspiring American citizens.

**Vice President, Two Year Term Ending 2023–Steven Shapiro (incumbent)** Steve is a retiree from Fairfax County Public Schools, where he taught math and served as the department co-chair at Falls Church High School. He also served in a variety of education leadership roles. Prior to his teaching career, he spent 25 years in management positions with several leading technology companies, including SAIC, Bell Atlantic and GTE. In 2020, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP). He is a graduate of Tufts University and MIT's Sloan School of Management. Steve has served as an instructor for Encore Learning, was a member of the Special Events Committee, is the coordinator of the Tech Hobbyists Club, participates in five Encore Learning clubs, and has served as a class aide several times. He was elected Volunteer Committee Chair in 2017.

**Treasurer, Two Year Term Ending 2023–L. Karen Darner (nominee)** Karen Darner served as a speech/language and hearing pathologist in the Arlington Public Schools from 1971-2008, taking two years off to serve in the Peace Corps. Throughout her career, Karen has been devoted to civic activism. She served 13 years in the Virginia House of Delegates, focusing on education, social justice, transportation, the environment, and Dreamers. She's an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and the Arlington League of Women Voters. Karen has also served as a board member and volunteer for numerous civic and nonprofit groups, such as the Martin Luther King, Jr Community Center and the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN). Karen currently serves on the Virginia Commission on Alzheimer's and Related Disorders, and represents the Speech and Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) on the Virginia Relay Board under the Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In 2009 Karen was the recipient of the Arlington Community Foundation's Spirit of Community Award.

**Secretary, Two Year Term Ending 2023 – Joan Carter (incumbent)** Joan retired from the Department of Justice in 2003 to move to Germany with her husband. While there, she worked as a tour guide with the USO out of Kaiserslautern, leading tours throughout Europe for military families. Returning to the U.S. in 2011, she quickly became a member of Encore Learning, serving as Co-Chair for Encore Learning's 10th anniversary celebration, twice serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee, member of the Membership Committee and the Bridge Club, and as class aide. Her other volunteer activities include working with Animal Welfare League of Arlington and with the activities committee of Fairlington Condo Association, and ushering at several theaters. Joan received her BA from Auburn University, MSW from Barry University, and JD from University of Louisville.

**Academic Programs Committee Co-Chair – Barbara Spangler (incumbent)** Barbara served as a Senior Human Resources Manager at the U.S. Marshals Service. In that capacity, she worked closely with all levels of the organization, including senior executives and presidential appointees. She managed the recruitment and selection program for administrative employees and law enforcement officers. She retired with 30+ years of federal service. She is an undergraduate of Marietta College with a BA in Speech, English and Education. Upon retirement, Barbara joined Encore Learning and served as a class aide for several courses. In 2017 she became an Encore Learning Vice President, and in 2018 began Co-Chairing the Academic Programs Committee. Her community service includes volunteering as a Master Food Volunteer focusing on healthy nutrition and food preparation for kids through senior citizens. She also volunteers with the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

**Academic Programs Committee Co-Chair – Jeanne LaBella (incumbent)** Jeanne retired in 2014 as a senior vice president of the American Public Power Association, where she spent 36 years as a reporter, editor and manager of the organization's journalism and other publishing activities. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism from Syracuse University and American University and, as a journalist, covered national energy policy. She has been a member of Encore Learning's Academic Programs Committee since 2018.

**Class Aides Committee Co-Chair – Eileen Janas (incumbent)** Eileen holds a BA in History and Anthropology from Marquette University and a Master of Librarianship degree from Emory University. Following a 30-year career as a librarian, she has participated in Encore Learning since 2011. Eileen also serves as the Arlington Heights Civic Association representative to the county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

**Class Aides Committee Co-Chair – Gail Massot (incumbent)** Currently re-engaging with painting and crafts, Gail retired from a 30-year career teaching French and heading the language department at Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC. ten years ago. She completed her undergraduate and graduate work in French at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, following which she lived and worked in France as a textile artist. Gail has been a member of Encore Learning for nine years, and has served as a volunteer class aide. She served as Co-Chair of the Class Aides committee for several years and after a brief hiatus was elected Co-Chair again in 2020.

**Community Advisory Council Chair – Christine Milliken (incumbent)** Chris is a retired attorney, serving 15 years as the Executive Director and General Counsel of the National Association of Attorneys General. Prior to that, she was VP and General Counsel to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. She has a BA in Political Science from George Washington University and a law degree from The Catholic University of America. She has served on a number of Boards, most significantly as member and Chair of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (2001-09) and locally as a longtime member and former Chair of the Arlington Community Foundation. She has taken several Encore Learning courses and serves presently on the Encore Learning Community Advisory Council.

**Information Technology Committee Co-Chair – Stephen Spangler (incumbent)** Steve retired from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 2005. He also had worked with the Agency for International Development in Liberia and Vietnam. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama from 1964-1966. Steve was President of the Arlington Soccer Association for five years. He has a BA in Political Science from Miami University (Ohio) and a Master of Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. He has served as chair or Co-Chair of the IT committee since 2009.

**Information Technology Committee Co-Chair – Martin Suydam (incumbent)** Marty has had several careers: military, government civilian, industry executive and as a college and university educator in subject areas of mathematics, computing science, information technology, and management. His first career was as an Army Corps of Engineer officer retiring as a Colonel. In 1983, he was selected as a member of the Senior Executive Service with positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy. After his government career, he was a Vice President and Corporate Officer of the following corporations: General Dynamics, Alcoa, JJMA, BMY (now BAE Systems), Burke Industries, and FOCUS Consulting. He taught at Colorado School of Mines 1970-1974, Washington College 2000-2014, George Mason University 1995-2008, and Marymount University 2014-2017. He has taught the "Writing a Memoir" course for three years and has been an instructor in the "Parks, Streams, and Birds" course. Marty has been a member of the Encore Learning Board since 2017 and serves as the IT committee Co-Chair.

**Membership Committee Co-Chair – Kate Mattos (nominee)** Kate is a senior communications executive with a passion for projects that improve the lives of children, families, and communities. Kate served for 20 years as a senior communications executive for the National Education Association (NEA) advancing legislative, policy, and education reform strategies. Kate also directed crisis communications, including those following school shootings. Kate was NEA's Representative to the Board of the Learning First Alliance, co-chaired the Communications Committee for the Partnership of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, and served as Board advisor to the NEA Health Information Network. Prior to working with the NEA, Kate worked at Hill and Knowlton, NYC-based Osgood, O'Donnell & Walsh, and Ogilvy and Mather, among other companies. Early in her career, Kate was Director of Public Relations at the American Federation of Teachers. She also worked for three members of Congress. Kate is a devotee of life-long learning and believes in taking action and giving back to strengthen our community.

**Membership Committee Co-Chair – Kathy LaPier (incumbent)** Kathy holds an AAS Degree in Fashion Design from FIT and both a BS and MS in education from SUNY at Plattsburgh. Originally from the NY/NJ area, her professional titles included: Manager of Consumer Affairs for the Grand Union Company, Director of Consumer Affairs for Kings Super Markets, and Manager of Global Consumer Affairs for the Colgate-Palmolive Company. Kathy has traveled the world and in 2014 relocated from NYC to Arlington to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. Kathy has worked with the Encore Publications Committee in addition to handling numerous special assignments.

**Publications Committee Co-Chair – Mildred Lawson (incumbent)** Millie is a proud product of the Arlington Public Schools. She earned her BA from George Washington University, MEd from The Citadel, and a Post Masters Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Catholic University. Most of her professional life was spent in the Arlington Public Schools as counselor, school psychologist and Director of Counseling Services, and administrator for special education at Williamsburg Middle School from which she retired in 2011. Millie was first elected Co-Chair of the Publications Committee in 2016.

**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. For several years she has enjoyed taking Encore classes and has served as a proof reader and editor for the Encore Learning course catalog. Ann has served as the Co-Chair of the Publications Committee for the past year.

**Special Events Committee Chair – Kris McLaughlin (incumbent)** Kris retired after a 30+ year career in corporate strategic communications with companies such as General Dynamics, General Electric and IBM. She volunteers for a variety of nonprofit organizations, including WETA and Bowen McCauley Dance. At Encore Learning, since 2014, she serves as Chair of the Special Events Committee.

**Volunteer Committee Chair – Charles Hallahan (incumbent)** A native of Eastern Massachusetts (and lifelong fan of its sports teams), Charlie received a PhD in math from Rutgers University. He taught math at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and American University in Washington before embarking on a 41-year career in the Federal government with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture. Charlie and his wife Claire have travelled extensively, and since he retired in 2016, he has been very active in Encore Learning: co-teaching the Numbers and the News course since the fall 2017 semester, volunteering as a class aide, assisting with the catalog, and participating in several Encore Learning clubs.

Respectfully submitted April 9, 2021 by the Encore Learning Nominating Committee: Marilyn Marton, Chair, and Members Mary Crosby, Richard Juhnke, Ellen Marcus, Ed Rader and Kathleen Sheehan.