

Executive Committee Slate of Candidates



Beth Austin
President

A New Englander, Beth first came to Paris as a young teen. She returned in 1981 with a degree from the University of Connecticut, a phone number, and an offer of free lodging from a friend of a friend. That offer was from husband Denis. Their children Matthew (36), Jennifer (34), and Chloe (26) arrived later. Beth enjoyed a long professional career as Financial Controller in multinational companies. Baked Goods Stand head since the early '90s and active in the Bazaar/Winter Festival, creator of Working Women's Happy Hour in 1990 for 11 years, BBX Sisterhood group conceptual, Beth has also spent many years on the Board as Treasurer, Nominations Chair, VP Administration, Membership Mentoring, and President. Her goals as President for this 4th year are to have a "normal" year in our new "office/home" while continuing to grow AAWE membership by spreading the love so that all feel welcome.

Susan is a Florida native who has been living in France since 2010. She is married to Nicolas with two children, Gabriel (7) and Céleste (4). She has previously been on the Board of AAWE in the Professional Networking and VP-Events positions. Susan is a tax accountant specializing in US/France individual taxation, which should provide useful skills as the VP-Administration. She considers herself somewhat of a nerd, as she enjoys science fiction, fantasy, and superhero media, as well as having an obsession with plants.



Susan Maine-Descamp
Vice President
Administration



Sylvia Hakopian-Lebouteiller
Vice President
Programs

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Sylvia has been quite the traveler, spending time across various US states and European countries while pursuing her work and studies. She moved to Paris in 2014 and is currently the Italian curriculum program coordinator for Open Mundo, an online language school. Sylvia holds a PhD in Italian studies from Cornell and a BA in English from UCLA. She is multilingual and speaks fluent Armenian, English, Italian, and French. She and her husband, Vianney, share a number of hobbies and activities together including archery, sheep herding, cooking, and cider-making. Sylvia hopes to contribute her diverse background and experiences to the role of VP Programs and looks forward to the working with AAWE as a Board member.

Born and raised in Houston, Jennifer graduated from Rice with a BA in Applied Mathematics and worked ten years as an actuary at American General Life Insurance. She spent a year as an *au pair* in France, before meeting her husband Pascal in Texas, where he was finishing his PhD. They have raised four children: Sophie (25), Stephanie (24), Christine (22), and Daniel (20). Jennifer enjoys baking, making jam, putzing around in the garden, playing piano, and choir. At AAWE, Jennifer has helped at education fairs and Winter Festival and enjoys attending Les Historiennes and cultural outings. After years of avoiding expats, she now appreciates knowing other American women who have adopted France as their home.



Jennifer Hua
Treasurer



Anna Eklund-Cheong
Recording Secretary

Anna has lived in Croissy-sur-Seine since July 2000. Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, she holds a BA in International Relations, Political Science, and Speech/Communications from the University of Minnesota. She has worked in libraries, and in customer service, marketing, and editing. After three years of living in Stamford, Connecticut, Anna, Dan, and their sons, Eric and Andrew, moved to France. Anna threw herself into full-time volunteer work at the American School of Paris, and then with AWG for several years, four of them on the Board. She has led tours on "Benjamin Franklin's Paris" and haiku-writing workshops for numerous groups. Active in the AAWE Writing Group, she is also a widely-published haiku poet. She lives part of each year in the US.

Kit moved to France in 2002 and joined AAWE after deciding that it was the group that was the best fit for her. She served on its Board as Hospitality Chair circa 2009, where she made several close friends. In the interim years, Kit worked full-time and had limited AAWE involvement, apart from the holiday Bazaar and the Plant Exchange. Having just retired, she would like to become more active. She thinks Membership is an important role because it is our first, best chance to make new members feel welcome and help them integrate quickly into AAWE and its activities.



Kit Desjacques
Membership



**Pauline
Lemasson
Development**

Born and raised on Guam, Pauline has worked in the non-profit sector for nearly 20 years. She is currently a freelance writer and moderator, contributing on culture, history, and current affairs to INSPIRELLE and Untapped Paris. Pauline was the Executive Director of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles and Strategic Partnerships Manager at the American Library in Paris, where she organized programs with AAWWE on bilingualism, education, and parenting. Most recently, she has moderated talks with AAWWE's Empowered Women Series on the importance of women's voices in all domains. Pauline holds a PhD in Social Sciences and Comparative Education from UCLA.

Jane joined AAWWE in 2004 to find a welcoming American safe haven for her family. She has volunteered at children's and educational activities; she especially enjoys BBX and the writing group. Jane has an art gallery/community center in Paris 18th that uses art to address environmental themes and differences in all forms, and encourages granting access to high-level culture to all, without discrimination across generations. She is an engaged citizen and initiator of outreach projects and community building. To be engaged, one must feel accepted, valued, and included. It takes dedication to create a culture where all forms of diversity are seen as a real value for AAWWE and are necessary for its growth and sustainability.



**Jane
MacDonald
Diversity &
Inclusion**



**Amy Dutailly
Nominations**

Amy is from Albuquerque and graduated from the University of Denver. She met her husband, Thomas, in 2007 during her semester abroad at the University of Exeter. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Alice. Amy has worked as a bilingual assistant in an international law firm for the past seven years. She has held leadership positions at USA Girl Scouts Overseas and Democrats Abroad and has served on the AAWWE Board and on various committees. Amy loves her group of AAWWE friends and the opportunity to share American culture and traditions with her daughter, who was a Covid baby and has had limited contact with her US side of the family. She looks forward to getting to know more members, as she takes on the role of Nominations Chair.

AAWE wishes to thank the Nominations Committee for their work putting together the new Board slate!

Chair: Sharon Moore. **Members:** Janine Brimbal, Pam Combastet, Sarah Gramer, Jennifer Hua, Tonya Love-Lamorte, Jasmine Lenoble.

Alternates: Rosemary Cheylus and Jill Bates Jacquot