

Executive Committee Slate of Candidates



Susan Maine-Descamp
President

Susan is a born and raised Florida woman who has been living in France since 2010. She grew up in Boca Raton, attended the University of Florida where she got her Bachelors and Masters in Tax Accounting, and then lived in Tampa and Jacksonville. Next she spent a year in Geneva before finally settling in the southeast suburbs of Paris, in the town of Villecresnes, where her husband Nicolas grew up. Her children Gabriel (8) and Céleste (5) are attending the same schools as their father. A Florida-licensed CPA and IRS Enrolled Agent, Susan has recently taken the leap of opening her own tax assistance business. Susan has been on the Board of AAWE previously as Professional Networking Chair, VP Events, and most recently, VP Administration. A nature lover, she enjoys plants, gardening, and animals, particularly alligators.

Born in Michigan, Stephanie grew up Greek-American in Dallas-Fort Worth. She served in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica and USAID in Cuba, before working in education in South Korea, the US, and China. Stephanie then shifted her focus to software solution consulting for fintech and telecommunication software companies. She holds an MA in Spanish from Loyola Chicago and MBA from Thunderbird, where she is involved in the Paris Alumni Chapter. Stephanie has been active in Rotary International, BPeace, and the Light and Leadership Initiative. She is currently working on a Certified Financial Planning (CFP) certification with the aim of supporting economic empowerment and financial inclusion initiatives for women. Stephanie is a marathon runner, Ashtanga yoga practitioner, and an occasional watercolorist. She also finds tremendous joy chatting with people about their travel experiences. Stephanie moved to Paris in 2023.



Stephanie Marie Willard
Vice-President Administration

Born and raised in LA, 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 speaks fluent Armenian, English, Italian, and French. She and her husband, Vianney, share a number of hobbies including archery, sheep herding, cooking, and cider-making. Sylvia hopes to contribute her diverse background to the role of VP Programs and looks forward to a second year on the Board.



**Sylvia Hakopian-
Lebouteiller**
**Vice-President
Programs**



Jennifer Hua
Treasurer

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 up his PhD. They have raised four children in France: Sophie (26), Stephanie (25), Christine (23), and Daniel (21). Jennifer enjoys baking, Pilates, piano, clarinet, and word games. Since discovering AAWWE 13 years ago, she has volunteered at the various fairs and enjoys attending cultural outings. After years of avoiding expats, Jennifer now appreciates getting together with other women who have adopted France as their home. She has served as Treasurer since 2020.

Gina is an Ohio native who has lived and worked in France for nearly 20 years. A graduate of Miami University of Ohio (Business) and Northwestern School of Law, she has worked as a corporate attorney, law professor, and for a large American insurance company in Paris. Gina and her husband, Aurelien, have one daughter who will be entering middle school this fall in the Western suburbs. She was most recently on the Executive Board of a nonprofit association which runs several Sections Internationales Anglophones in her area. An avid piano player and art aficionado (she has an art history degree from Paris IV Sorbonne), Gina is excited to become more involved in the vibrant AAWWE community!



**Gina Allomong-
Cottet**
**Recording
Secretary**



Kit Desjacques
Membership

Kit is the incumbent Chair of Membership, serving since 2022. During that time, she and her committee admitted 191 new members for an all-time record high of 643 members. She came to France in 2002 and worked first as an English teacher and later as a lawyer until her retirement four years ago. Kit served on AAWE's Board as Hospitality Chair circa 2009, where she made several close friends. She thinks Membership is an important role because it is our first and best chance to make new members feel welcome, help them find friends, and support their quick integration into AAWE and its activities.

Evelyn is a native New Yorker who made Paris a full-time residence with her husband two years ago. She was a wealth manager for 32 years at Merrill Lynch, working with high net worth individuals and families in Latin America and Europe. Evelyn's personal experiences and life-long passion for volunteering time and skills to improve the quality of life for women were the cornerstones for her transition to a new career. In 2016, combining her love of culinary arts and giving back, she founded Ratatouille & Co as a way to empower immigrant and refugee women through the food trade and set them on a path to self-reliance and economic stability. Evelyn has served on the Boards of several nonprofits in Connecticut and is one of the cofounders of the Paris-based nonprofit, Hila Initiative. Her daughter, Camilla, and grandchildren live in Brooklyn, NY.



Evelyn Isaia
Development



Colleen Shaughnessy-Larsson
Secretary of Communications

Originally from Florida, Colleen's residency in Paris began in 1993, and in 2009, she became a French national. Erik is her 40-year love attachment whom she met at the University of Florida, where she graduated with a journalism and photography degree. Colleen's Paris blog is colleensparis.com; her creative outlet as a content creator and photographer [@colleensparis](https://www.instagram.com/colleensparis). Since 2010, Colleen has been a member of Toastmasters International, an association for skill building in public speaking and leadership. She has been her club's president and was District Director, managing 43 directors working with clubs in four countries. Colleen recently served as District Conference Public Relations Chair, working with a team doubling attendance expectations. Her legacy with Toastmasters will be the Youth Leadership Program. Once she retired from her 20-year flying career in 2014, Colleen joined the AAWE family.

Born in Paris and raised between France and the US east coast, Chloé made her final move back to Paris in the summer of 2020 after completing her MS in Counseling and Psychotherapy at the University of Edinburgh. Chloé has had a private practice for the past four years, working as a therapist for expats. Additionally, she collaborates with various corporate organizations, implementing mental health trainings and strategies, while also undertaking freelance translations on the side. In 2021, she interned with the UN Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate, utilizing her research skills and expertise in trauma and mental health to support the Office's mission. Chloé aims to leverage her knowledge and skills as a mental health professional to foster an even more accepting and inclusive culture within AAWE, where everyone feels accepted, seen, heard, and understood.



Chloé Chandler
Diversity and
Inclusion



Stephanie joined AAWE in 2022 after relocating to France from NYC, where she was a human resources generalist and business operations consultant for over a decade. Stephanie specializes in service business process optimization which includes organizational restructuring, implementing e-systems and processes, recruiting talent, and building teams. Stephanie was born and raised just outside of Cincinnati and holds a Bachelor in Mass Communications from Boston University. Her husband Jérôme is a finance entrepreneur in Paris, and they have a blended family of three boys and a baby on the way! Stephanie currently serves on the Membership Committee and News Team, and previously on the Nominations Committee.

**Stephanie
Wilks**
Nominations

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

Chair: Amy Dutailly. **Members:** Cobi Camberlein, Rosemary Cheylus, Maia Hariton, Tonya Love-Lamorte, Clara Siverson, Stephanie Wilks, Mariamne Everett (alternate who stepped in once Stephanie was nominated), Jasmine Lenoble (board member alternate).