

Report of the Search Committee for the 2024 Elections

The Committee received nine (9) nominations for the five (5) positions of Board Directors. The candidate statements and profile photos are provided below.

Aurelio Menendez Garcia



After 33 years at the World Bank in various positions, including the last 14 as Practice Manager, in regions as diverse as Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and East Africa, I retired in October 2022. Since then, I have been honored to co-chair the Transport Thematic Group, striving to keep members connected and informed about developments and strategic issues in the transport sector. I have also co-organized events with other Thematic Groups (TGs).

If selected as director of the Board of Directors, I will dedicate myself to supporting and further enhancing the Society's excellent and wide-ranging initiatives in facilitating communication among members, providing valuable information for retirees, and organizing activities for members' wellbeing. I will also promote partnerships and coordination among TGs, especially on cross-sector issues, and explore additional opportunities for the Society's exchanges and relationship with the World Bank.

Linda R McBride



With over 37 years of experience at the World Bank, culminating in my recent retirement in March 2024, I believe that I can bring a wealth of skills and insights to the organization. Throughout my tenure at the WB, I was recognized for my expertise in information management, technology, project management, client engagement, and team leadership. I am known for my ability to work collaboratively, deliver results, and foster a culture of trust. Outside of work, I enjoy helping people and volunteering my time. I feel strongly about giving back to those less fortunate.

I am particularly drawn to the mission of the 1818 Society and am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to its mission. I am committed to leveraging my communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills to enhance learning opportunities, lifestyle activities, and retiree engagement. I believe that my diverse background, coupled with my passion for fostering community and driving impact, make me a strong candidate. I am eager to collaborate with fellow members to advance the organization's goals and support its mission.

Brenda Mejia



I would bring enthusiasm for the mission of the 1818 Society along with a sincere interest in increasing value to all current and prospective members. As a consistent volunteer throughout my entire adult life, I have extensive experience in a variety of nonprofit organizations.

Most recently, as vice-president of the Fund-Bank Ski Club, I have spearheaded a move to online registrations, greatly improving efficiency and accountability for trip leaders. I also design the marketing materials, coordinate social events, and have led five trips so far.

I have been a board member and volunteer with East Rock Creek Village (ERCV) for six years. ERCV is part of a nationwide movement enabling seniors to age in place. I've helped this group grow from a small band of neighbors with a great idea into a robust, thriving organization of nearly 200 members.

Other board experience includes Outrun the Sun (dedicated to melanoma prevention), where I was a founding member of the Rochester NY chapter. I am also a long-time Red Cross blood donor (over 11 gallons) and blood drive coordinator.

I am honored by this opportunity to serve the Society and will work hard to ensure a bright future for our wonderful organization!

Negar Rafikian



My desire to serve on the 1818 Board of Directors is based on my diverse experiences & commitment to the well-being of people. I have connected & led people from over 180 countries in private (Wall Street) & public (UN, WFP, WBG) sectors.

Presently I serve on the Society Health Insurance Committee, attend & participate in discussions, help solve challenging situations, & am a member of the Governance Thematic Group, Iran Chapter, City Walking Group, & Women's Lunch Group.

Most recently, I served as the Chair of the Board of AHRMIO (Association for HR Management in IOs), & earlier served as the United Way Chairperson, Manager of NY Blood Drive, WBG Community Outreach Coordinator, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp instructor, & Strategy Coach @ PSU Altoona Enactus. I am a life member of the Society, WFP Alumni, & PS Alumni Association.

My 35+ years professional journey focused around engaging with executives & delivering people-oriented organizational & cultural solutions to create collaborative & positive ecosystems. My passion was to design innovative approaches & resilient policies with a focus on FCV, crisis management, inclusive fellowship programs, strategic planning, workforce architecture, leadership effectiveness, adaptive challenges & patterns within larger systems, & large-scale change transformations.

Sanjivi Rajasingham



I worked at the Bank for over 30 years, in several areas – Investments, Cofinancing and Guarantees, IDA Replenishments, and in infrastructure in LAC and Africa. My final position was Sector Manager Transport, Africa Region. After retirement I worked for several years as the Director of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility based in Sydney, Australia, on the Pacific Island Countries.

After returning to the DMV area, where I now live with my wife and dog, I found the 1818 Society to be a valuable resource. I participate in the Society's Hiking Club activities, am a member of the Yoga Club, and also enjoy the social opportunities that the Society's activities and events provide. I served for the past four years as a Society's representative on the Banks Pension Finance Committee which oversees our pensions and medical benefits plans. I have been a longtime member of the Transport thematic group.

I am very impressed by governance of the Society and its leadership, and their diligence in ensuring that the Society moves forward in a dynamic way, considering the needs of members both recent and more senior. I would like to contribute to this effort, as a Director on the 1818 Society's Board.

Joyce Rompas



I am writing to express my interest in continuing to serve as a member of the Board. I am eager to contribute my skills, experience, and time to support the Society, particularly in building a well-connected and vibrant Administrative Professional Group Plus (APGP). It was an honor to lead the formation of APGP alongside Graciela Luna and our executive team, and I am committed to furthering its mission and impact.

I was elected as a Board member in 2022 for a two-year term. During my tenure, I have dedicated myself to serving effectively, which gave me the opportunity to learn about important matters such as pensions, health insurance, and other issues affecting our members. It has also enabled me to share inquiries, concerns, and inputs from members with the Board. This two-way communication has been invaluable in addressing the needs and interests of our community. If re-elected, I plan to continue playing this crucial role.

I retired from the World Bank in 2015 after a 30-year career in the Bank, which included a special assignment as the Head of the WBG Administrative Client Service Network (ACSN) that sharpened my abilities in leadership, management, strategic planning, etc.

Angelica Silvero



I have proudly served the 1818 Society Board for the past two years and am eager to continue proving my contributions to our members. During my tenure, I have actively participated in various initiatives and working groups, including the Community Connections Campaigns of 2022 and 2023, which both achieved record-breaking fundraising results. Additionally, along with another Board member, I played a key role in the Annual Meeting of 2023, where I designed and led a compelling session on Artificial Intelligence. I also collaborated with the “Meet and Greet” event in 2023 for new members and volunteers. Most recently, I designed the new 1818 Society logo and revamped the presentation used in retirement seminars.

Originally from Brazil and having worked over 30 years in communications and corporate relations, I am committed to introducing fresh communication strategies, products, and perspectives.

My goal is to foster greater inclusivity, provide necessary services to, and enhance the enjoyment of activities for all members.

Lynne Sherburne-Benz



I have been a member of the 1818 Society since I retired one year ago from the Bank. I had the privilege of a very diverse career at the Bank, retiring as Regional Director of Human Development for South Asia after four years of intense work during COVID. Before that, I was Practice Director for Social Protection and Jobs in the Global Practices working across all Regions. Institutional positions included Advisor to the Managing Director Graeme Wheeler, as well as Senior Regional Advisor to Makhtar Diop in Africa. I also served as Sector/Practice Manager in Africa covering Human Development and then Social Protection, after being Practice Manager for Social Protection in the Anchor.

I am greatly impressed by the exciting network of retirees in the 1818 Society, which is a fantastic catalyst for developing community, both socially and intellectually. If elected to the Board, I will put my results-oriented energies to building on current initiatives and listening to the membership about new ways you would like to see the group evolve in support of your needs. Using my strong recent ties within the institution, I would also work to safeguard our interests with the institution.

Katia Tabash



I am honored to seek your votes for a second term for the 1818 Board of Directors. Over the past two years, I have dedicated myself to serving our community and fostering connections among retirees. As a current Board member, I bring valuable experience and insights that have strengthened our decision-making processes.

During my tenure, my involvement in the Health Insurance Committee has equipped me with insights into our policies and healthcare advocacy. I led the design and organization of the “Meet and Greet” for new retirees which helped strengthen our member engagement and underscored my dedication to enhancing our community’s social fabric. I spearheaded the conceptualization and organization of the Society’s inaugural Board Retreat which aimed to foster deeper strategic alignment and collaboration among Board members. This experience highlights my ability to innovate and drive collaborative efforts towards achieving organizational objectives effectively. I co-introduced the idea of hosting an Artificial Intelligence session during the 2023 Annual Meetings.

Throughout my 34 years at the Bank, I have sought positions to serve others, including as a Staff Association delegate (6 years) and the Appeals Committee member (5 years).

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I hope to earn your support.