

GREENWICH UNITED WAY  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report for November 2019 Board Meeting

Numbers

In terms of numbers, we currently have 24 board members. In 2020, we will be losing five (Anne, Frank, Brook, Nisha & Nancy) and gaining the six candidates I am about to present, so our board size will be 25 next year.

Diversity

When the Nominating Committee considers candidates, one of the things that we always keep in mind is the desirability of having a diverse board – in terms of age, gender, race, ethnicity, etc. – in order to not only fully represent our community but also to gain the benefit of many points of view.

That said, we look primarily at individuals' educational, professional and volunteer backgrounds as well as aspects of their connection to the community (such as the section of town they live in and the age of their children and the schools they attend.)

While Board diversity was an area of opportunity in 2019, the Nominating Committee is very enthusiastic about not only the wide range of experience and competencies, but also the diversity that this year's slate will bring to the board.

My experience over the last few years as Nominating Chair is that while the Nominating Committee is always very capable, a full Board effort in recruiting candidates is the real key to our success. You can help us in this process by forwarding to Anne, David or me any ideas you have for potential Board of Directors or Advisory Board members. We'll be starting the nominating process for 2020 shortly after the Annual

Meeting, so it would be great if you could get names to us in the next couple of months.

Counting mid-year Board additions, this is the second year in a row that the Nominating Committee was able to add seven candidates to the Board. I am proud of the work we have done as a group not only to nominate fourteen Board candidates over the last two years, but to set up the committee for success in the coming years by developing a strong list of potential future candidates.

I would like to a moment to recognize the members of the last two Nominating Committees, and thank them for their efforts. In alphabetical order, they are:

**Graci Djuranovic**

**Bill Finger**

**Sergio Forlini** (Golf Co-chair, Mario's brother, community volunteer)

**Anne Franscioni**

**Nicole Kwasniewski**

**Erin McCall**

**Jon Newman** (community volunteer)

**Richard Porter** (former Board member & community volunteer)

**Ted Pryor** (community volunteer)

**Gerrard (Rod) Saggese** (community volunteer)

**Diane Viton**

**Jill Weiner** (former Board Member & community volunteer)

And of course, Anne, David and Jeremy for their support throughout the nominating process.

### Mentor Program

As we have for the last few years, we'll be matching each new board member with a mentor who can provide a personal welcome to the board as well as offer support and advice that supplements the formal

orientation program. If you're interested in servicing as a mentor, please let me know. We also have a handout on the role and responsibilities of board mentors that I can provide to you. That document, along with a copy of the board bio's I am about to announce, will be posted on the portal.

Without further ado, below are the bios of the incoming 2020 Board Members.

**Hagar Chamali** was born and raised in Greenwich. She graduated from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs with a Master of International Affairs, and from Columbia University's Barnard College where she majored in political science. Hagar is the Founder and CEO of Greenwich Media Strategies, LLC. Prior to her current position, Hagar served as Director for Syria and Lebanon at the National Security Council, where she advised on U.S. policy towards Syria and Lebanon. As part of her time working for the U.S. Government, which spanned twelve years, Hagar served as Director of Communications and Spokesperson for the U.S. Mission to the United Nation. Hagar also served a role as Spokesperson for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence at the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Hagar has used her background in international policy for the greater good. At the Oslo Freedom Forum, an annual conference organized by the Human Rights Foundation, she moderated a panel discussion on the role of sanctions in targeting human rights abusers and corrupt actors. Locally, Hagar sits on the Board of Trustees at Greenwich Academy and is a committee member for the Bruce Museum contemporaries. Hagar has volunteered at Sole Sisters for the last three years, having served on the committee for the annual luncheon.

Hagar lives in Greenwich with her husband Julien and their two sons, Alexander (6) and Benjamin (3.5)

**Tim Drinkall** was born in South Bend, IN and currently lives in Old Greenwich with his wife Anna. He received his B.S. in Finance from Indiana University and his MBA in International Business Finance from George Washington University. Tim works for Morgan Stanley Investment Management, where he travels throughout Africa, the Middle East, Asia and other parts of the world as part of his role in managing Frontier Emerging Markets and Emerging Markets Small Cap Funds.

Tim has given back to many non-profits throughout the world, as part of Morgan Stanley's annual June 'Giving Back' charity efforts. His wife, Anna, is on the Board and Executive Committee of Abilis and is a co-founder of S.E.L.F (Special Education Legal Fund), an organization that helps parents navigate the special education system for their children.

Tim and Anna have three sons; Oliver (16), William (14) and Gabriel (11)

**Caitlin (Cait) Kraus-Long** was born in Newburyport, MA. She's a graduate of Fairfield University, and Simmons College in Boston where she received a Masters in Education. Cait has a long history as an educator and an education consultant and currently works as a Learning Specialist at Iona College.

Previously, Cait has served on the Christ Church Nursery School Board, where she has spent time as a secretary and vice-president. She is currently a general member of the board. She's also served as social chair for the Nursery School. Cait has been a Brew Ha Ha committee member and served on the Greenwich United Way's 85<sup>th</sup> Gala Committee. Additionally, Cait has attended various United Way activities throughout the last few years.

Cait and her husband Darren live in Greenwich with their two sons, Marshall (7) and Tyson (5).

**Kirsten Riemer** was born in Hillsborough, California and has lived in Greenwich for the last eleven years. She first traveled east to attend prep school at Phillips Academy before earning a degree from Skidmore College. Kirsten currently works for the D'Amelio Network as Director of Client Services.

Kirsten is very familiar with the Greenwich United Way, through her extensive volunteer efforts over the years. 2020 will mark the second year in a row Kirsten has Co-Chaired Sole Sisters and before that, she was a Sole Sisters committee member. Kirsten was on the 2019 Brew Ha Ha Committee and is also a 2019 volunteer for our Community Investment Process.

In addition to her work with the Greenwich United Way, Kirsten is active at Christ Church. She is currently one of the co-chairs of the Children's Commission where she recently led the search for a new Director of Children's & Family Ministries. Kirsten also serves on the Board of Directors of the Abbott Academy Fund at Phillips Academy, is head class parent at her son's school, and has previously volunteered for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Kirsten and her husband Tim have a seven year old son and a sheepadoodle puppy that according to Kirsten, is a maniac.

**Angela Swift** was born in Sleepy Hollow, NY and graduated from The Catholic University of America where she earned a BA in Accounting. She is currently a realtor at Compass in Greenwich. Prior to her career in residential real-estate, Angela was a Tech Sales Executive at IBM and Parametric Technology.

Angela's philanthropic resume includes time as a Board Member of Kids in Crisis, The American Red Cross and Community Answers. She has Co-

Chaired several local events, including the Greenwich Hospital Great Chefs benefit (5 years) and the Greenwich High School membership Committee (3 years). Angela currently sits on the Board of the Emily Catherine Fedorko Foundation.

Angela and her husband Steve have lived in Greenwich since 1992 and have three children; Brooke (26), Tyler (23) and Courtney (19).

And finally...

**Laurie Tropiano** is a former Greenwich United Way Board member, who initially served in 2011 before moving to China as part of her role as General Manager Global Technology Services, for IBM Greater China Group. Laurie is back in the states and currently works as Managing Director for IBM, CVS Healthcare, where she manages all of the IBM sell to relationship with the Fortune 7 client.

During her first stint with the Greenwich United Way, Laurie was a Toqueville donor and a Sole Sisters Committee volunteer.

Laurie recently reached back out to us to express her desire to return to the Board. Although I'm still waiting on her full bio, both David and Eileen Kim have met with Laurie and are enthusiastic about her potential return to the organization.

When Laurie's full bio comes out I'll make sure to update the portal.

Before discussing Advisory Board, does anyone have any questions or comments on the Board Candidates for 2019? If not, that concludes the Board Slate portion of my report.

Lastly,

## Advisory Board

**For the Advisory Board, we have eight candidates who have committed to serving in 2019. All retiring board members are eligible to join the Advisory Board. So far, three of this year's retirees have confirmed that they'd like to do so.**

**Two previous board members have also agreed to join the AB:**

**Larry Simon-** Larry is a longtime supporter and volunteer and retired Board Member

**Amy Carbone-** Amy is a Retired Board member and Lifetime Sole Sister for her contributions to the Sole Sisters initiative

**We are also pleased to welcome three new Advisory Board candidates:**

**Karin McShane-** Karin is a Sole Sisters Luncheon Committee member for the past three years. She is currently chairing Community Outreach for the Luncheon for the second year.

**Sonal Rinello-** Sonal is a Community Volunteer and Community Investment Process Volunteer

**Susan Weis-** Susan is a Longtime supporter and volunteer and Lifetime Sole Sister for her contributions to the Sole Sisters initiative