

## **Members**

### **Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, Past Chair**

Cecilia is an Economic Development Specialist and Urban Planner, who owns her own small business, AISDevelopment ([www.ais-development.com](http://www.ais-development.com)), designing, planning and managing international development programs in over 50 countries around the world, working toward equitable and sustainable socio-economic change. Presently Cecilia is working on education initiatives with the cities of Bogota and Cali, Colombia; youth crime and violence prevention El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and the Caribbean. She is also advising the Hopi Tribe on economic development and water rights, and recently competed work on decentralization in Kosovo and federalization in Nepal.

This is Cecilia's third year as a member of the BAC, and the first serving as Chair. She has served as an Election Officer in Arlington County, appointed member of the Career Center Working Group, and as a volunteer member of the evaluation committee for IREX's Community Solutions Grant program. Cecilia is a member of the Society for International Development and the American Planning Association. She has lived and owned property in Arlington since 1999, and is married with a daughter in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Wakefield High School. Cecilia holds a Bachelor degree in History from Williams College; a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA); and a Master in Sustainable Urban Planning at George Washington University (2016). She grew up in the Philippines and Panama, and speaks fluent Spanish. Cecilia is an NCAA All-American swimmer.

### **Bob Ramsey, Chair**

Bob works for the Department of Defense, writing and implementing policy and legislation that affects how the Department acquires Intellectual Property and Technical Data. Bob already retired from the Air Force in 2007 after a 27-year career in acquisition and is now getting very anxious to retire from his DoD civilian career. Bob is also managing a nascent winery and vineyard in Nelson County near Wintergreen Resort. Most weekends are consumed with this third career. The winery is named "Caihailian" after his three kids—see below.

Bob is commencing a fourth year on the Budget Advisory Council. He previously served six years (the final two as co-chair) on the Gifted Services Advisory Committee of the Advisory Council on Instruction. He also served for six years on the Executive Committee (as Secretary) for Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. At HFHNV, Bob devised a new formula to modify how properties vest to the homeowner during times of rapidly rising home values.

Education: BS Mechanical Engineering from University of Maryland; MBA from University of West Florida, JD from American University; Master of National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Bob is married to Anne, a Navy contractor working at the Carderock research lab. They have three children who are all stellar products of the APS Spanish Immersion and International Baccalaureate programs. Cailin graduated cum laude (2017) one year early from Christopher Newport University with a BS in marketing. Hailey graduated in 2019 with a BS in neuroscience, magna cum laude from the College of William and Mary. Iain graduated first in his Washington Lee HS class and has just started in the engineering school at the University of Virginia.

### **Melanie Bowen, Vice-Chair**

Melanie Bowen is an entrepreneurial leader focused on innovation in education. She is currently an executive at EAB Global (formerly a vision of The Advisory Board Company), developing innovative technology products and services to support colleges and universities in increasing their graduation rates and better preparing their students for success in life. Until recently, Melanie served on the board Creative Minds International Public Charter School in Washington, DC for over four years, including three years as Chair. Before joining The Advisory Board Company, Melanie was based in New Delhi, India, where she focused on growing and strengthening social businesses, especially in the education space, as an entrepreneur, an advisor, and a board member. Melanie also served on the Board of Governors of the highly-respected American Embassy School in New Delhi. Before moving to India in 2008, Melanie was the General Manager of the consumer health website [RevolutionHealth.com](http://RevolutionHealth.com), anchor property in the Revolution Health Network, launched by Steve Case. Previously, Melanie was an Executive Vice President at Discovery Communications where she worked to launch and grow their education business, rolling out digital education products to over two-thirds of American schools. Melanie's experience spans Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States, and also includes time with McKinsey & Company, the U.S. Department of State, and PriceWaterhouse (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers). Melanie holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College.

### **Christina Diaz-Torres**

### **Chuck (Anthony) Rush**

Chuck is a financial advisor with McAdam Financial in Tysons Corner. Prior to his career change, Chuck served as an infantry officer in the United States Army for 23 years in numerous command and staff positions throughout the United States, Italy, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Chuck holds a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy and will graduate from Georgetown University in May 2019 with a Master of Science in Finance. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two children who attend Discovery Elementary.

### **Heather Jones**

Heather is the Senior Counsel for Financial Disclosure at the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. She completes the ethics and financial review for each non-military executive branch Presidential nominee in a Senate confirmed position. Prior to this position, she was a Senior Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics and was a securities lawyer at WilmerHale for 9 years. Heather served on the Arlington County Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee for four years, as President for Clarendon Child Care Center for three years and had other board positions. She also served as Treasurer and VP of Programming for the Long Branch PTA. Heather has lived in Arlington since 2000 and in Lyon Park since 2005. She has two children, a 2nd and 4th grader, who attend Long Branch Elementary School.

### **Juan Gordon, Sr.**

Juan is married to Aneka and the father to four children. He is a members of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist (MB) Church in Arlington, Virginia. Juan serves as the Branch Chief with the Bureau of Health Administration (BHW), Division of Health Careers and Financial Support, Health Careers Loans and Scholarships. He has over 35 years of Grants, Financial and Auditing experience. He is also a partner in Ten Good Men, LLC of Memphis, Tennessee, a real estate investment group. Formerly, Grants Management Officer in Atlanta, GA, the Audit Resolution Team Leader in Washington, DC. He holds a

## BIOS FOR 2019 - 2020 BAC MEMBERS

Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Alcorn State University, in Alcorn, Mississippi and a Master's in Public Administration from Troy State University, in Troy, Alabama. His passion is for children's success and better communities.

### Jenn Wagener

After taking some time off in 2018, Jenn joined a local start-up, WireWheel, where she is leading the business, financial and people operations for the company. WireWheel is in the data privacy space. For the previous 15+ years, Jenn served in various executive and leadership roles for Hobsons, Inc. Hobsons is an education software company offering college and career readiness solutions to K-12 institutions like Arlington and Fairfax Counties. Jenn's most recent role was Vice President of Operations, where she led key corporate projects, executed M&A transactions and managed the company's internal enterprise software systems. During her tenure at Hobsons, Jenn also managed customer relationships, sales operations, financial forecasting and reporting, and product initiatives. Prior to Hobsons, Jenn worked for a start-up initiative with the US Chamber of Commerce helping small businesses operate more cost-efficiently using online tools and services. Jenn began her career at JP Morgan providing financing for primarily media & telecommunications companies. Jenn is married and has two children, both fourth graders at McKinley Elementary. Jenn is involved in the many activities at McKinley, both those in the classroom and with the PTA. Jenn and her husband both played competitive sports in college, so sports activities keep the Wagener household busy on most nights of the week.

### Lida Anestidou

Dr. Lida Anestidou is Senior Program Officer in the Division on Earth and Life Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. In this role she oversees a portfolio of international projects on scientific integrity, responsible science, and ethics in the Middle East/North Africa and South and Southeast Asia. She also is responsible for policy, ethics and practices regarding the care, use and welfare of laboratory animals. After completing her doctorate in biomedical sciences at the University of Texas Graduate School at Houston, and before coming to Washington, DC, Dr. Anestidou was faculty at Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society. Dr. Anestidou also holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, having studied and worked as a veterinarian both in Greece (her home country) and the Netherlands.

Dr. Anestidou and her husband, Mr. Takis Karantonis, moved to Arlington in 2007. Since then she has served as a member of the Superintendent's Accountability and Evaluation Committee (committee sunsetted), the Parent Advisory Committee of the Arlington Career Center, and is a current member of the Budget Advisory Council. In 2018 Dr. Anestidou was appointed to the Career Center Working Group. Together with Ms. Laura Saul-Edwards Dr. Anestidou is the co-chair of the 2018 Support the School Bond campaign.

### Sheila Leonard

### Lisa Blackwell

### Wei Chien

## **Katherine Christensen**

## **Erik Sullivan**

### **Liaisons**

## **Kevin Dezfulian (ACI)**

## **Josh Folb (AEA)**

### **APS School Board**

## **Monique O’Grady**

### **APS Staff**

## **Leslie Peterson**

Leslie Peterson is the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services for APS. Prior to her appointment Leslie was Budget Director for APS, leading the creation of an online budget balancing tool, the Citizen’s Guide to Budget Documents, and Spanish community budget fora for Arlington’s Spanish-speaking community. She has 20 years of experience as a professional in the field of school finance and business management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Virginia and a Master in Business Administration from George Mason University. She has held several positions in the field of school finance, ranging from manager of procurement to executive director of finance and management. While serving as APS Budget Director, Peterson has received several awards and recognition for her work in the finance and management field that include the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Meritorious Budget Award and Pinnacle of Achievement Award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO).

## **Tameka Lovett-Miller**

Tameka Lovett-Miller is Budget Director for APS.