

## Biographies of Nominated Officers for the AWA Executive Board 2019/20

### **Priyanka Agarwal- President**

Nationality: Singaporean

Priyanka is very passionate about women empowerment and believes change is the one constant in life. As a trailing spouse for over 20 years, she understands the challenges of balancing family with career aspirations. Overcoming this struggle has taught her to view every move as an opportunity to explore new cultures and find purposeful avenues. Originally from India, she has lived in Japan, Singapore, Venezuela, Chile and now Hong Kong.



Priyanka is a Chartered Accountant and has worked for corporate and non-corporate sectors. She was Director in a US grant organization,

where she set up their Singapore office and ran service learning programs for children. She has been actively involved in Parent Teacher organization as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President over the years. She has also been on the committee of Indian Association in Latin America. Before moving to Hong Kong, Priyanka ran a flexible talent solution company with her founder partner.

Priyanka joined AWA within a month of moving to Hong Kong. She got involved in Charitable Donations and enjoys her time with AWA book club. As a co-chair of AWA WISE, she deeply connected with and saw the impact of AWA's mission of "connect and contribute".

### **Robin Neiterman- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Fundraising**

Nationality: American

Robin moved to Hong Kong in September 2017 from the Northeast of the United States

Robin has a Bachelors degree from Dartmouth College and a Masters in Business Administration from Columbia. She spent her business career working in direct and interactive marketing strategy for AT&T and Cingular.



Robin left the for-profit business world twelve years ago and she's been involved with many not-for-profit organizations ever since. Robin was on the board and became President for CASP, the after school program at her sons' elementary school. She then became involved with a human services agency in greater Boston that serves over 15,000 vulnerable clients a year. She started by chairing the Marketing Committee followed by the Strategic Planning Committee and then she joined the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and ultimately became President of the Board of Directors.

Robin enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, playing tennis, golf, hiking, skiing, and being part of the AWA Dragon Boat team.

### **Gail Sousa- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership**

Nationality: American

Gail was born and raised in New York and has lived her adult life in Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Florida prior to moving to Hong Kong in 2016. She attended Ohio University where she majored in Communications & Business and was a Division 1 field hockey player. For 18 years Gail worked as a Financial Consultant and Trust & Estate Manager for Merrill Lynch, BankBoston and Bank of America.



After leaving corporate America, Gail was instrumental in starting the girls lacrosse and field hockey programs at Kettle Moraine High School in Wisconsin. She coached both programs and continued coaching girls

lacrosse at North Broward Preparatory School in Florida.

Community service dedications have included being treasurer of the East Bay Sailing Foundation, a member of the Kettle Moraine Booster Club, Kettle Moraine Lacrosse Club and treasurer of the Athletic Booster Club at North Broward Prep.

In Hong Kong Gail is enjoying being a co-leader of the AWA Hiking Group, golfing with AWA golf society, playing tennis for the American Club and Field Hockey for Valley RFC.

### **Natasha Bochorishvili- 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Activities**

Nationality: Russian

Natasha was born and raised in Moscow, had a successful career as a professor of English philology at Moscow State University and spent a few years in the US as a visiting university professor. During this time she also served on the Board of Directors of TESOL, International Association of Teachers of English. She later changed her career path from teaching to publishing and for many years worked with a British academic publisher, Cambridge University Press.



Natasha moved to Hong Kong with her husband two years ago, and after she joined AWA her life in Hong Kong has become really interesting: she has been exploring many AWA activities, like hiking, local tours, educational talks, and started organizing some of them – she became a member of the Local Tours Committee and a co-coordinator of the Art Lovers group.

She is also currently organizing with AWA Asia Tours a trip to Georgia – a country her family originated from. Natasha enjoys being part of the AWA community of likeminded women and sharing things that she loves with them.

The highlight of her experience was working on the AWA WISE series committee with an inspiring group of women – other committee member and also speakers - who care about empowering women by enhancing their employability in Hong Kong - a new undertaking that AWA will be hopefully taking further.

### **Alison Doran - Treasurer**

Nationality: British

Alison is English by birth but spent most of her younger years being raised in not only England but also Zimbabwe and South Africa. She graduated from University of Witwatersand with a BComm majoring in Accounting and Law. After working for a few years she realized her interest lay in Management Accounting and completed her postgraduate studies to become a CIMA (Chartered Management Accountant).



In the last 20 years Alison has been donating her financial expertise to Non Profit Organisations especially those in the Arts Industry. This has either involved helping or advising with their financial accounts, budgets and business planning or volunteering on their boards as the Treasurer. Having a background in Ballet, Alison is very passionate about the Arts especially dance so being able to combine her two passions – art and accounting – gives her a huge amount of satisfaction.

During her time in Jakarta Alison was on two boards as Treasurer -The Indonesian Heritage Society for two years and the Australian New Zealand Association for 18 months. She has also enjoyed being treasurer for Ausdance WA, Propel Youth Arts WA, Methodist Ladies College Rowing Association and Methodist Ladies College Community Support Association in the years prior to moving to Hong Kong.

Since moving to Hong Kong Alison has reignited her love for hiking and has been co leading the AWA hiking for the last 24 months. She has also been enjoying playing golf with the AWA Golf ladies.

### **Jessica Cheng- Recording Secretary**

Nationality: American

Jessica was born in Nepal to American parents. Subsequently she lived in Pakistan, Tajikistan and the Philippines. After 15 years spent in Asia during her childhood, she is enjoying being back after returning here as a newlywed in 2015. She considers the state of Maryland to be where she is "from" since that is where she lived last and knows the best.



Jessica holds a Bachelors in Business and a MSc in International Hotel and Tourism Management. She spent three years as US Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal and Mali as well as worked in the hotel and tourism industry and as a US government contractor.

Joining AWA just a couple months after arrival in Hong Kong, she soon found a niche in the WOW Committee and their activities where she has enjoyed crossing paths with fascinating women from a wide range of backgrounds. Besides AWA, she runs a monthly evening book club, volunteers with youth and children through her church and works part-time. She loves showing people around Hong Kong and highlighting the incredible diversity to be found in this marvelous city! Her favorite spot is where she lives, on the beautiful Tolo Harbour in northeast Hong Kong.

### **Elizabeth McNicholas - Charitable Donations Chair**

Nationality: American

Beth moved to Hong Kong from the New York suburbs in 2006 and has been an active AWA member for the past 12 years. As the child of a US Foreign Service Officer, she attended five elementary schools on three different continents so moving was not something that was new to her, but it was the first time overseas with her own family. With two young children, she immediately jumped in head first to volunteering at HKIS, eventually culminating with five years as the parent organization president.



Although she loved her career as a CPA before having children, Beth has no desire to go back to accounting anytime soon. She runs a small home based business that fits into her current life as a mom to two busy teenagers and a passionate community volunteer. In her free time she loves to check out new restaurants with her husband or search for the perfect recipe to try at home.

After five years on the Charitable Donations Committee, experiencing the many worthy and inspiring charities that benefit from the AWA's fundraising efforts, Beth is very excited to join the talented and committed women on the AWA Board as the CDC Chairperson.

### **Augusta Nichols-Even- Education & Scholarship Chair**

Nationality: American

A New England native, Augusta moved to Hong Kong from Boston with her husband for his first expat assignment in 2015. After a decade working in the software technology sector, Augusta earned an MBA from the University of New Hampshire Whittemore Business School. She then helped launch a successful enterprise search technology company, and opened an organic smoothie and juice cafe.



In 2013 Augusta became the Director of Marketing and Partnerships for Green City Growers, a Boston-based urban farming company with prestigious clients that include Whole Foods Market and the Boston Red Sox. As an expatriate, Augusta quickly joined the American Women's Association, paddles for the AWA dragon boat team, and has served as AWA VP of Fundraising.

**Kim Rehmann – Community Service Chair**

Nationality: American

Kim was raised and educated in the beautiful state of Maryland in the United States. She is one of 6 children and her parents always instilled the importance of giving back to your community and helping others. After college, she worked at a law firm in Washington, DC for 17 years as the Director of Finance and Human Resources.



She stopped working when her husband relocated to Atlanta, Georgia in 2001 and began her second career as full time Mom and volunteer. She was a girl scout leader for 4 years and led the girls to earn their bronze and silver awards. She moved back to Maryland in 2003 and was the Secretary for the Parent Advisory Board of her son's school and joined the Education Foundation for her daughter's school where the main goal was to raise money to close the gap between the school budget and funds received from the County. Since playing tennis is one of her passions, she joined the Montgomery County Tennis Association Board to help organize after school programs for children living in low income areas. The board developed tennis programs with four schools serving 200 students. This led Kim to join the Mid Atlantic division of the United States Tennis Association to help communities in several states organize community tennis events and recognize top volunteers in these areas.

Kim and her husband moved to Hong Kong in September 2013 as empty nesters. Joining the AWA was a life saver. It provided an opportunity to meet new friends and take advantage of volunteer activities to help other AWA members and the Hong Kong community. Kim has been active on the Local Tours committee as well as volunteering for many community outreach programs, such as Feeding Hong Kong, Ronald McDonald House, and Sunshine Action, as well as helping students with English at Kei Chung Primary School. She looks forward to expanding her knowledge of volunteer opportunities in Hong Kong and passing these opportunities on to the AWA community.