



AMERICAN
EVALUATION
ASSOCIATION

AEA Board Candidates

Board President-Elect Candidates

Kathryn A. Sielbeck-Mathes

Corrie Whitmore

KATHRYN A. SIELBECK-MATHES

CANDIDATE FOR AEA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ballot Statement



VISION FOR AEA: To support, educate and encourage a diverse, engaged community of evaluators in individually and collectively advancing AEA's principles and values in order to improve conditions for humankind and the planet.

Profile-at-a glance

Board Position Candidacy:
President-Elect

Title: Chief Evaluation Officer

Affiliation:
Measurement Matters,
Personalized Evaluation &
Consulting Services, LLC

Discipline: Program Planning
& Evaluation, Social Science,
Behavioral Health

**Practitioner and/or Academic
Focus:** Program Evaluation,
Systems Change, Evaluation
Use for Social Justice

Geographic Representation:
US, currently Tennessee



Area(s) of Work Application:
Feminist Issues, Health
Disparities, Mental Illness &
Criminal Justice Reform,
Community-Based Complex
Care

AEA Member Since: 1995

I am honored to be on the slate of nominees for AEA President-Elect. With 26 years of active involvement, I bring to you, authenticity, an appreciation for, and an alliance with the American Evaluation Association. I have the **capacity to fully embrace the role of President, to work conscientiously and collaboratively with the Board of Directors and to consistently support the principles and values of AEA.**

EMBRACING THE ROLE OF AEA PRESIDENT

As a new AEA member in 1995, I came to my first conference in Vancouver with a brand new, wide-eyed doctoral student's perspective based solely upon one year of my Program Planning & Evaluation studies at Cornell University. Previously, I served in the US Army Nurse Corps, practiced as a Nurse Practitioner, and was an Associate Professor of Nursing Science. I had never heard about the field of Program Evaluation. Since 1995, AEA has exposed me to concepts, perspectives, techniques, and skills that have helped to pique my curiosity, expand my awareness, and strengthen my competence, confidence, and values as an evaluator.

Over the years, I have observed that the best AEA Presidents were true champions for the field of Program Evaluation, bringing their scholarship, enthusiasm, relationships, social networks, and leadership skills to their role. Their commitment to AEA inspired, challenged, and motivated me to think more critically, understand more deeply and connect more directly with a community of professionals that I have subsequently learned from, collaborated with, and with whom I have made many wonderful and lasting memories. I aspire to follow in the footsteps of these charismatic and inspirational presidents, expanding upon their leadership attributes to ensure that present-day social, environmental, and political challenges and opportunities are given appropriate consideration when strategically planning for the future of the association.

Embracing the role of AEA President to me includes a commitment to working with the Board in maintaining an association that is membership-centric, fiscally healthy, forward thinking, innovative, action oriented and socially aware. I am committed to creating a culture in which there is full and equitable participation of evaluators from all social identity groups, a culture that is democratic and participatory, respectful of human diversity and inclusive and affirming of human agency and capacity for working collaboratively with others to solve complex problems and create change.

WORKING CONSCIENCIOUSLY & COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE AEA BOARD

Working conscientiously & collaboratively with the Board as President of AEA means working side-by-side in creating and maintaining the culture described

AEA Positions Held: Feminist
Issues in Evaluation TIG:
Chair
Co-Chair
Program Chair
Co-Program Chair
Newsletter Editor

AEA Volunteer- Silent Auction,
Meet the Authors, Proposal
Reviews, Discussant, New
Directions for Evaluation
author

above, recognizing that this culture does not happen organically. It takes organizational resources, financial stability, buy-in, and a willingness to evolve, listen intently, and accept constructive criticism. As AEA's President I commit to working with the Board to identify strategies that help members, existing and new to feel respected, inspired, challenged, and motivated to make AEA their home. Ensuring that AEA continues to be the association of choice for evaluators is an objective I will work tirelessly to maintain. I will maintain an openness and the ability to listen to and learn from the sage advice of members of the AEA Board. I will work with the Board to ensure that AEA continues to uniquely support member's scholarship and practice, offer a platform for sharing perspectives, knowledge, and experiences, and provide opportunities to network with and receive mentorship from the most influential leaders, thinkers, change agents and innovators in the field. I will bring my knowledge, awareness, leadership skills, governance experience, compassion, and empathy to the role.

SUPPORTING THE VALUES OF AEA

I will embrace the role of AEA President in all the ways that I have outlined above with added effort to ensure that *every member* has the opportunity to experience the culture of the Association as I have. I commit to hearing directly from the membership, valuing diverse voices, and remaining open to and using feedback so that the values of AEA are upheld for all members. I commit to remaining humble, approachable, collaborative, and flexible. I believe that in order to uphold the values of AEA, to ensure excellence in evaluation practice, utilization of evaluation findings, and inclusion and diversity in the evaluation community, it is critically important that AEA proactively seeks to engage its members in ways that are relevant, so that a welcoming and affirming culture is nurtured and advanced among a diverse membership today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Candidate Name: Corrie Whitmore
Board Position Candidacy: President
Title: Assistant Professor of Health Sciences
Affiliation: University of Alaska Anchorage
Discipline: Public Health and Evaluation
Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: Practitioner *and* Academic Focus
Geographic Representation: Alaska, Pacific Northwest, West Coast
Area(s) of Work Application: Teaching Evaluation, Health Services Evaluation, Assessment of Academic Programs
AEA Member Since: 2011
AEA Positions Held: Board Member at Large (2015-2017)

I'm Corrie Whitmore. I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina people in Anchorage, Alaska, where I am an assistant professor of Health Sciences at the University of Alaska Anchorage, a teacher of evaluation, and a practicing evaluator. I am running for President of the American Evaluation Association because I strongly believe in the importance of the evaluation community and feel called to support AEA and its members during this unique moment in history, when our traditional strategies for connecting have been disrupted by current events.

Like many of us in AEA, my path to evaluation was not linear.

In 2010, I began a Population Health Analyst job at Southcentral Foundation, a tribally-owned and operated health organization. My role quickly pivoted to focus on evaluating grant-funded health programs. I grew into being an internal evaluator by meeting the moment and putting my skills to use partnering with program staff to craft evaluations that were useful in describing a program's activities and supporting data driven decision-making, while meeting the needs of all stakeholders - not just funders.

AEA-sponsored workshops and conferences provided important professional development opportunities, as I transitioned from thinking of myself as a researcher to identifying as an evaluator. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to connect with other evaluators that AEA offered.

I wanted that professional community for others Alaskans too. In 2011, I founded the Alaska Evaluation Network (AKEN) with a group of like-minded colleagues eager to build community and strengthen evaluation capacity within Alaska. I was the founding President (and Board Chair) for AKEN's first three years. AKEN is Alaska's AEA Local Affiliate and the only evaluation-focused professional group in Alaska.

In 2015, I took a faculty position at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where I teach program evaluation, health policy, and public health courses to future clinical healthcare providers and health educators. I also work as an external evaluator, conducting program evaluations for Nurse Family Partnership home visiting, residential substance abuse treatment, CDC-funded

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention, and suicide prevention programs, among others. Evaluation work makes up 50% of my workload, reflecting my academic / practitioner balance.

From 2015 to 2017, I served as an AEA Board Member at Large. During my term I stayed focused on AEA's mission and vision by supporting organizational choices, programming, and spending that fostered "an inclusive, diverse, and international community of practice positioned as a respected source of information for and about the field of evaluation."

My experiences organizing AKEN and serving on the AEA Board provided me with a strong appreciation for the support and practical help evaluators can offer one another and skills that translate well to our current moment. AKEN aspired to be a statewide organization, so our earliest meetings (in 2011!) involved mastering the technology needed to bring evaluators around the state together. A decade practicing community-building and running meetings across distance has offered me excellent preparation for my work during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Depending on where you sit, Alaska may seem far away, but we are a microcosm of the larger world, with small, remote, Indigenous villages and more urban communities. Anchorage - where I live - has one of the most diverse school districts in the United States, educating students who speak 110 different languages in their homes. Alaskan evaluators have been challenged to deliver quality evaluation and engage communities in the work across distances with limited technology, both before and during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The last two years have illuminated challenges in relying on technology to do our work equitably and highlighted the opportunity to do business in a new way. If elected President, I will bring to this position my ideas for how to take the lessons of the pandemic and strengthen evaluation and build capacity in ways that meet the needs of all communities.

I look forward to supporting AEA's work to more fully embody our organization's mission and vision through new initiatives and the ongoing efforts of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Working Group, who is charged with helping AEA become a more equitable association in all our functions, and the Professionalization and Competencies Working Group, which strives to help AEA incorporate the evaluator competencies into all our programs. This work - along with the other routine operations of the organization - is vital and I look forward to discovering how it will shape our organization and contribute to the field of evaluation going forward.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for this important role.

Board Member-at-Large Candidates

Tom Archibald

Mansoor Kazi

Monica Ruiz Casares Yebenes

Katherine Tibbetts

Lori Wingate

Susan Wolfe

Candidate Name: Thomas Archibald

Board Position Candidacy: Member-at-Large

Title: Associate Professor

Affiliation: Virginia Tech

Discipline: Education

Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: Program evaluation theory and practice (e.g., evaluation capacity building and evaluative thinking, culturally responsive evaluation, and the politics of knowledge in evaluation); Research-practice integration and knowledge translation; Participatory and collaborative non-formal education, research, and community development

Geographic Representation: Southeast United States (based in Virginia) and Senegal

Area(s) of Work Application: Evaluation capacity building in community-based, nonprofit organizations in diverse contexts; Research on evaluation; Participatory community and economic development (e.g., Cooperative Extension); Positive youth development; Higher education capacity building for agricultural education, training, research, and outreach

AEA Member Since: 2008

AEA Positions Held:

- Conference Program Co-Chair, 2022
- Presidential Strand Proposal Selection Team member, 2021
- Conference Program Co-Chair, 2019
- Conference Program Committee member, 2018
- Program Co-Chair, Organizational Learning and Evaluation Capacity Building (OL-ECB) TIG, 2015 – 2018 (ad hoc leadership team member, 2018 – present)
- Professional Development Working Group member, 2016 – present
- Local Affiliate Collaborative member, 2016 – present
- Executive Director Job Specifications Committee member, 2017
- Editorial Board Member, *New Directions for Evaluation*, 2017 – present
- Editorial Board Member, *American Journal of Evaluation*, 2018 – present

Nominee Statement:

It's an honor to be among the candidates for AEA Board Member-at-Large. AEA has been my intellectual and professional home since my first conference in Denver in 2008. In the 13 years since, I found in AEA countless mentors, guides, and friends to help me learn and grow as an evaluator, scholar, and (most importantly) as a whole person. AEA represents a vast and constantly-available network of peers, an impressive platform of professional development opportunities, a voice for evaluation at the policy-making table, and a touchstone for our shared professional identity as evaluators.

Who I am. In describing my identity, I think of relationships, categories and positions, geography and history, and some espoused values. I am a husband to Nelly, a father to three girls; I'm a son and brother. I am a straight, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied, White male with English as my first language—the unearned privilege conferred by my positionality benefits me daily and informs my desire to promote equity and justice. I have a PhD in Education from Cornell. I am an Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director, and Director of a USAID project in Senegal. I live in Blacksburg, VA; I acknowledge the Tutelo/Monacan people, the traditional custodians of the land on which I work and live. I aspire (yet often fail) to manifest values of justice, equity, anti-racism, humility, respect, creativity, perseverance, attention to detail, and above all, love. I try to be a critically reflective practitioner.

What my work is about. I'm passionate about helping people tap into their proclivity for evaluative thinking, to unleash the power of inquiry to foster a ubiquitous culture of evaluation for a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. I do this as a practitioner of evaluation capacity building (ECB). Since 2008, I have facilitated countless ECB workshops in diverse organizational and geographic contexts, including in over ten African countries. I also teach and advise graduate students, mentor and network with young and emerging evaluators (YEEs), and offer professional development to evaluators via AEA and other Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs). I have facilitated 18 AEA professional development workshops, hosted OL-ECB TIG webinars reaching 890 participants, mentored YEEs and given a keynote for EvalYouth, and twice mentored YEEs with the Senegalese Evaluation Association. I also research and write on evaluative thinking and related themes, with 29 peer-reviewed journal articles and two edited *New Directions* volumes; I've given keynotes at evaluation conferences in Denmark, South Africa, and elsewhere. All of this is an effort to spread the word about evaluation and to play a part, however small, in promoting better evaluation. This also animates my desire to serve AEA.

How I propose to contribute to AEA via the Board. AEA faces interlocking challenges. Considering the pernicious effects of racism, white supremacy, colonialism, patriarchy, and unbridled capitalism, the climate crisis, plus misinformation and a brazen disregard for evidence and reason, we must continue to center the work of the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group, ensure financial sustainability balanced with equitable access, refine policy governance, and prepare for the next 35 years. Five approaches would guide my work on the Board:

- **Engage** – Care for the people who are here, elevate member voices, meet their needs and reflect their hopes and dreams, ensuring this association belongs to and is steered by all of us.
- **Transform** – Push the boundaries of the field, the profession, the discipline, our methods, our theories, and our assumptions to help us transform evaluation to better evaluate transformation.
- **Cultivate** – Support the capacity of YEEs and of non-evaluators alike to spark the next generation and unleash the power of evaluative inquiry for social change.
- **Relate** – Connect to adjacent (growing) fields like impact measurement and data science to foster mutual understanding and meaningful partnerships to better realize evaluation's contributions.
- **Unite** – Strengthen our linkages with evaluator groups around the world, such as VOPEs, the Local Affiliate Collaborative, and more.

I'm well-equipped to address these themes. In addition to my leadership in AEA, I have served on the Board of the Eastern Evaluation Research Society (an AEA affiliate) since 2014, and as Associate Editor of *Evaluation and Program Planning* and Editorial Board Member of the *African Evaluation Journal*. I gained leadership experience directing two large USAID-funded projects in Senegal: one on higher education capacity building (\$28 million), and another on positive youth development (\$4 million). I hope you agree that my background and passion would make me an asset to the AEA Board; I welcome the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Statement: Candidate for AEA BOARD 2021

Candidate Name: Mansoor A. F. Kazi, PhD

Board Position Candidacy: AEA Member-at-Large

Title: Dr

Affiliation: 1) President, Realist Evaluation Inc.; 2) Director Program Evaluation Center, Fredonia State University of New York

Discipline: Evaluation in Human Services, Education & Social Work

Practitioner and/or Academic Focus: Realist Evaluation & all paradigms utilizing big data from management information systems to investigate what works and for whom

Geographic Representation: New York State and England

Area(s) of Work Application: Lead Evaluator for SAMHSA grants in Chautauqua and Rockland Counties (NY State); Lead Evaluator for the City of Manchester (England) and consultant for Finland's Health and Social Welfare (THL)

AEA Member Since: 1995

AEA Positions Held: Founder and co-chair of Social Work TIG (2001 – 2007; 2011-2014; 2016-2022). I have also served as TIG co-chair for Human Services Evaluation TIG (2014 – 2017; 2018-2021) and as AEA ambassador and discussant.

Email: kazim@fredonia.edu

Alternative Email: mafkazi@icloud.com

Phone: 716-417-0419

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Asian (Pakistan)

Nominee Statement: AEA is the leading evaluation organization in the world, and other countries and continents have benefited enormously from the AEA as a shining example and a beacon for progress. I would work within AEA and abroad to help develop this standing of the AEA, and to contribute to the founding of a truly international evaluation body for the world within which AEA will play an important role. I also believe that the AEA should develop its strategy to recruit more actively from the allied professions within USA. At this time of world pandemic and economic crisis when severe pressures are being placed on human services all over the world, the AEA can play an important role in helping countries to make informed decisions based on real time data analysis of what works and in what contexts to develop effective human services.

I have been a loyal and active member of AEA for over 26 years having presented in every conference, and I have been an active promoter of the AEA both in Europe and in the USA. As the founder of several 'Evaluation for Practice' international conferences in both the United Kingdom and Finland, and as an active member within the European Evaluation Society, I have successfully recruited many colleagues from United Kingdom, Finland and Sweden to join and attend the AEA's conferences. As a SSWR Research Fellow, I have helped to recruit AEA members from the Society for Social Work and Research, every year. I have also recruited for AEA every year in Europe, particularly by distributing thousands of copies of TIG newsletters in European Evaluation Society, European Social Work Research Association and International Association for Critical Realism conferences.

I received the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services' Administration (SAMHSA)'s Gold Award for Outstanding Local Evaluation in July 2010. My books include 'Realist Evaluation in Practice' (2003, Sage) and 'International Perspectives on Evidence-based Practice in Social Work' (with Bruce Thyer, 2004, Venture Press). This realist evaluation approach has been used extensively in the evaluation of the SAMHSA System of Care Grant in Chautauqua County (\$9 million, 2008-2015; \$4 million, 2015-2019) and in Rockland County's Bridges

SAMHSA Offender Re-entry Program, \$1,663,610; 2018-2022). I also use the same approach in the city of Manchester (UK). I have extensive experience of evaluation, including joint evaluations of the United Kingdom government's Children's Fund projects (\$8 millions) in Lancashire and Rochdale, evaluation of children's services at Moray Council in Scotland, and Rhondda Cynon Taf in Wales. My publications include *Single-Case Evaluation by Social Workers* (Ashgate, 1998), *The Working of Social Work* (Jessica Kingsley, 1998, with Juliet Cheetham), *Realist Evaluation in Practice* (Sage, 2003) and *International Perspectives on Evidence-based Practice in Social Work* (Venture Press, 2004, with Bruce Thyer). I have served as an evaluation consultant with the Finnish research organization STAKES (now THL) and Helsinki Social Services in Finland. I have 30 years of experience in evaluation, and in developing strategies for investigating what interventions work and in what circumstances utilizing 100% of the data in the agencies' management information systems.

The AEA can make a bigger contribution in providing evaluation resources and promoting evaluation, and I will do my best to help AEA to enhance evaluation all over the world. The integration of evaluation and environment is important for each country, helping to develop a diverse society free from discrimination. Timely use of the data is critical in targeting and developing human services and American Evaluation Association has been a world leader in working towards a just society.

Candidate Name	Mónica Ruiz-Casares
Board Position Candidacy	Board Member-at-Large
Title	Associate Professor & Evaluator
Affiliation	McGill University & <i>Institut Universitaire SHERPA</i>
Discipline	Social & Transcultural Psychiatry/Human Services
Practitioner and/or Academic Focus	Child & Youth Wellbeing & Protection
Geographic Representation	Based in Eastern Canada; work in several low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) across all continents.
Area(s) of Work Application	Global mental health; migrants & refugees; orphans, unaccompanied, & separated children; children's rights; mixed methods; research ethics
AEA Member Since	1996
AEA Positions Held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Member, Guiding Principles Working Group (2019-today) – Chair & Co-Chair, Youth Focused Evaluation Topical Interest Group (TIG) (2015-2018) – Program Chair & Co-Chair, YFE TIG (2013-2015; 2018-2019) – Member, 2017 AEA Conference Presidential Advisory Group – Webmaster, International & Cross-Cultural Evaluation TIG (2010-2011) – Co-Lead/Liaison (YFE TIG), AEA-SenEval Partnership (2020-today) – Program Reviewer (2006-today)

I am truly honored to be a candidate for the AEA Board. Over the last 25 years, AEA has offered me a professional home—a space to learn and teach, serve and lead, support and (re)connect with colleagues from diverse backgrounds, firmly committed to practicing and using high-quality evaluation for the betterment of society. Deep gratitude and respect for AEA members and end goals fuel my desire to serve on the Board and contribute to AEA's success.

I joined AEA in 1996. I was fortunate to be introduced to the field of evaluation at The George Washington University by Kathryn Newcomer and Ray C. Rist, a gift that could only be topped years later with excellent teachers and colleagues at Cornell University, where I obtained a MSc in Program Planning and Evaluation and a PhD in Human Services Studies/Policy Analysis & Management. This training provided me with a solid foundation in theories, values, and methods in evaluation; and drew me to reflect on issues of power, inequity, culture, relational ethics, and the role of evaluation in advancing transformative social change. These issues are still central to my academic work and as a Staff Evaluator in a public Institute mandated to facilitate access to health and social services for migrant, refugee, and racialized groups in Quebec.

I have held evaluation positions in government, not-for-profit organizations, philanthropy, and academia in the US, Canada, and several LMIC. I have published and presented extensively and have received numerous awards from the National Science Foundation, the Canadian Tri-Council, and other agencies in recognition of my work. I am particularly grateful for the opportunities I have had to influence national and regional child-centred policies and programs through evaluation. As a Board member, I will be able to draw on my leadership experience with Boards of professional, philanthropic, and not-for-

profit organizations. I will contribute to expanding and strengthening AEA role and presence internationally as well as diversifying AEA's membership and connecting with international members.

For the last fifteen years, I have combined my membership in the Canadian Evaluation Society with active involvement with AEA. I have held several leadership positions, particularly as Chair, Co-Chair, and Program Chair in the Youth-Focused Evaluation (YFE) TIG, where I co-developed a partnership with the Association Sénégalaise d'Évaluation (SenEval). I share the passion and commitment of other TIG leaders and AEA colleagues to redistribute power to young people and other traditionally marginalized groups in evaluation. I continue to mentor Young and Emerging Evaluators, including through EvalYouth. My vision is to work with the Board to advocate for combatting epistemic injustices, inequitable structures, and other barriers to achieving true inclusion and diversity in our field, and to increase multicultural and international understandings of evaluation theory, practice, & methods.

Promoting high-quality evaluation practice and use for the common good, a core goal for our association, could never be more relevant. At times when scientific evidence is questioned, polarization is on the rise, and we face complex issues that require global solutions (e.g., climate change and migration), we need leaders who are wired to work collaboratively across sectors/disciplines, think creatively, genuinely listen, and have a positive attitude that looks at these complex challenges as opportunities to learn, grow, and transform our field. I look forward to putting these traits and values to service as a member of the Board and with respect for transparency and open communication with AEA members. Because high-quality evaluation is ethical and context-responsive evaluation, I will work with the Board to advocate for high ethical standards and reflective practice globally.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board and steer the association into the future.

BALLOT STATEMENT

Name: Katherine A. Tibbetts

Board Position Candidacy: Member-at-Large

Title: Executive Director of Research, Evaluation & Strategy

Affiliation: Lili'uokalani Trust

Discipline: Evaluation and Assessment (PhD in Educational Psychology)

Focus: Practitioner focus (full-time) and lecturer at the graduate level in evaluation and related content (part-time)

Geography: US, Hawai'i

Areas of Work: Evaluation and research in support of social justice and equity and in evaluation capacity building, primarily within the domains of education, social services, and planning.

AEA Member Since: 1998

AEA Positions Held:

- Cofounder of the Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation TIG and service to the TIG in various officer roles for that group
- Member and then chair of the former AEA Board Diversity Committee
- Co-author of the AEA Statement on the Importance of Cultural Competence in Evaluation
- Charter member of the Hawai'i-Pacific Evaluation Association, an AEA affiliate, and active in the affiliate in formal leadership roles for that group
- AEA representative to the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
- Member of the 2017-2018 Guiding Principles task force
- Current secretary for the Multi-Ethnic Issues in Evaluation TIG

NOMINEE STATEMENT:

Aloha, I am Kathy Tibbetts and I have been an active AEA member for 23 years. AEA has been an important professional home for me, contributing to my professional growth. I am running for the position of member-at-large on the AEA Board because I want to be part of continuing to develop AEA as welcoming and supportive professional home for other evaluators and believe my skills and experiences will be valuable on the Board.

AEA, like many other institutions, is at a transition point. In this moment we have an opportunity and an imperative to explore the breadth of what evaluation is and can be. As an organization, I want to see us

come together to advance our understanding of what it looks like to live into our Guiding Principles and to use our toolkits and power as evaluators to advance social equity and justice. I believe it is the responsibility of AEA and our Board to continuously engage in self-reflection about our professional values and how they are expressed in our decisions and actions as we seek to understand and support diversity among evaluators, practice areas, and those whom evaluation serves.

I bring a range of experiences and skills to help AEA and the Board continue on a pathway to become the organization that our profession and our stakeholders need today and into the future. In addition to my prior service to AEA and my lifelong engagement with and commitment to social justice and equity, as an internal evaluator I have worked closely with executive teams and boards to support data-informed decision making and strategic and tactical planning. I have also served as a member of non-profit boards in my community and participated in board training consistent with AEA's policy-based model. These experiences have provided me with deep immersion in the appropriate roles of a board member and in non-profit governance and have helped me develop a strong sense of fiduciary responsibility to use the resources entrusted to us wisely.

The recitation above provides a glimpse of some of the things I have done. When I look at candidate profiles in elections, I find myself trying to read between the lines to discern who the candidate is as a person. Because I have spent my adult life living in Hawai'i and serving the cause of social justice for Native Hawaiians, it is easiest for me to express the values that guide me in 'olelo Hawai'i (the Hawaiian language). The first concept I want to talk about is expressed in the preposition for a gathering of people. The word, kākō'o, is a gathering of two or more people and refers not only to the individuals but also to the collective energy of the group. When I was asked to assist in the formation of the Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation TIG, I agreed out of respect and affection for those who were asking. It was not until we began to gather as a group that I fully appreciated the value of having a space that was a professional home to us. It is my hope and aspiration that all AEA members are able to connect with the Association in the same way.

Another concept I would like to share comes from a widely respected definition of Aloha, authored by our revered elder Aunty Pilahi Paki. In this definition, the last "A" in Aloha is described as representing the value of Ahonui, translated as "patience, waiting for the ripe moment—to persevere." This sounds very passive. However, a deeper understanding of Ahonui reveals that it is indeed active—working quietly and with focused determination to create the "right moment" for change. I believe that this is a "right moment" for AEA. I would greatly like the opportunity to use my experiences to help guide our Association as we continue on our journey to deepen our understanding of and support for the full range of our stakeholders (all those whom we serve).

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my candidacy.

Name: Lori A. Wingate
Board Position
Candidacy: Member-at-Large
Title: Executive Director
Affiliation: The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University
Discipline: Interdisciplinary Evaluation

Practitioner and/or

Academic Focus: As the executive director of a university-based evaluation center, my work includes evaluation education, research, and practice. Much of my work has focused on translating evaluation theory and principles into practical guidance for practitioners.

Geographic

Representation: Michigan/Midwest

Work Areas: My evaluation practice and education activities tend to take place in the contexts of STEM education, higher education, and public health.

AEA Member

Since: 2000

AEA and Affiliate

Service: *American Journal of Evaluation* book review section editor (2004-11) and manuscript reviewer (2005-present); AEA conference proposal reviewer for various TIGs (2005-present) and pre-conference workshops (2017); AEA Summer Institute instructor (2014-17), AEA Coffee Break webinar presenter (2015); keynote presenter at the Michigan Association for Evaluation conference, Ohio Program Evaluators Group, and AEA Summer Institute (2016); AEA Summer Institute planning committee member (2017). I also provided input on the AEA Evaluator Competencies and Guiding Principles through formal processes organized by AEA. Additionally, The Evaluation Center has hosted visits by sitting AEA presidents annually since 2009.

Statement:

POSITIONALITY: I am a white, heterosexual, cisgender, non-religious, politically liberal woman of European descent. I am married and have two teenage children and one dog. I grew up in the cornfields of rural West-Central Illinois, where my father was a farmer and my mother a speech therapist in the public schools. I received my bachelor's degree in sociology from Truman State University (Kirksville, MO), master's in sociology from Loyola University Chicago, and Ph.D. in interdisciplinary evaluation from Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI), where I have worked for 25 years.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: *I am a committed and active evaluation professional.* I have been working continuously in evaluation since I got my first full-time job in 1993. I have deep knowledge of evaluation theory, as well as the Program Evaluation Standards, AEA Guiding Principles, and AEA Evaluator Competencies. I have developed and delivered more than 75 workshops and webinars to build capacity among both evaluators and non-evaluators. I have overseen the WMU Evaluation Checklist Project since 1999. I led EvaluATE, the evaluation resource hub for the National Science Foundation's Advanced

Technological Education (ATE) program from 2010 to 2020. I am committed to promoting the evaluation profession and AEA as its flagship professional association.

In addition to being an evaluation educator, practitioner, and scholar, I am an experienced manager, administrator, and steward of organizational resources. The Western Michigan University Evaluation Center, where I am executive director, is a non-academic unit that reports to the vice president for research and innovation. Leadership in this context requires a mix of academic knowledge, administrative and financial management skills, and service orientation. The knowledge, skills, and experiences that have served me well in my professional roles will also be an asset to the AEA board.

I am committed to doing my part to advance the evaluation profession while promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion and elevating underrepresented voices and perspectives. Three endeavors exemplify my commitment in this area. (1) As EvaluATE's director, I recruited a research partner with expertise in culturally responsive evaluation and equity issues to investigate how ATE projects and their evaluators are addressing and measuring diversity, equity, and inclusion. This study will contribute to the evidence base about concrete ways to put these values into practice in STEM education evaluation, the barriers evaluators may face in doing so, and how to overcome those barriers. (2) As a new coauthor of the evaluation textbook *Program Evaluation: Alternative Approaches and Practical Guidelines*, I increased attention to issues of cultural competence, cultural responsiveness, diversity, equity, inclusion, and privilege in the book's forthcoming fifth edition. Perhaps more importantly, it highlights the work and points to useful resources by diverse evaluation scholars and practitioners. (3) I am working on a new book with WMU colleagues that will further elevate the voices and perspectives of rising evaluation scholars with diverse backgrounds. *Core Concepts in Evaluation: Classic Readings and Contemporary Commentary* will feature a unique combination of classic writings by some of the field's most influential figures (primarily white, male, and North American) and contemporary essays by emerging scholars.

WHY I WANT TO SERVE: I joined AEA and attended my first AEA conference in 2000. I attended with a few colleagues but mostly felt lost and lonely in a crowd of unfamiliar faces and names. Now, my favorite thing about attending AEA conferences is catching up with old friends and colleagues and strengthening my connection with the AEA community. AEA has become my professional home.

For several years, I have wanted to give back to AEA by serving on the AEA board. I delayed pursuing this career goal due to other competing priorities such as raising children, establishing myself professionally, and most recently, leading the revision of the *Program Evaluation* textbook. I can now commit the time and energy necessary to be an asset to the AEA board. I thank Valerie Caracelli for encouraging me to run. I am a passionate advocate for evaluation, and I am excited about this opportunity to serve the organization and community that has played a vital role in influencing my professional growth.

If elected to the board, I will take time to listen and learn about the concerns and priorities of other board members and the general AEA membership as we work together to meet AEA's Ends Goals. My personal priorities include (1) enhancing service to AEA members, (2) promoting and professionalizing the field, and (3) ensuring the sustainable growth of the organization.

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Candidate Name:	Susan M. Wolfe
Board Position Candidacy:	Member-at-Large
Title:	CEO / Community Consultant
Affiliation:	Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC
Discipline:	Community and Developmental Psychology
Focus:	Practitioner
Geographic Representation:	Texas / Southwest
Area of Work Application:	Primarily community-based and national programs, coalitions and collaboratives, and needs assessments; health and educational equity.
AEA Member Since:	2007
AEA Positions Held:	Co-chair Community Psychology TIG, Co-Chair Nonprofits and Foundations TIG, Program Co-Chair Community Psychology and Independent Consulting TIGs, Texas Evaluation Network Board Member, Member of AEA TIG Council, TIG Scan Member, AEA Summer Institute Planning Committee.

I am honored to be a candidate for AEA Board of Directors. I joined AEA in 2007, and since then I've watched the organization grow and evolve. The past two years have created many challenges such as anti-racism and social justice movements and COVID-19, that have had an impact on AEA and other professional associations, leading to declining membership and revenues. As a result, three important issues that AEA will be confronting in the foreseeable future are:

1. Recruiting, engaging, and retaining members and providing them with a professional home that supports their learning and growth as evaluators
2. Increasing revenue and cost containment
3. Continuing to work toward becoming a more welcoming and inclusive organization for all members through DEIA, anti-racism, and decolonizing initiatives while transforming the evaluation field to incorporate these values and methods.

I would welcome an opportunity to collaborate with the current and future AEA board members to continue to build a strong and inclusive association. This work will require strategy, collaboration, and having to make difficult decisions. My qualifications and experience for this work are described below.

AEA Experience and Service. I have served AEA in a variety of roles. As founder and co-chair of the Community Psychology (CP) TIG I played a key role by collaborating with the other TIG leaders to initiate the leadership council. As co-chair of the Nonprofits and Foundations TIG I collaborated with my co-chair to initiate a leadership council to engage more members and prepare them to take on TIG leadership roles. I also served as program co-chair for the Independent Consulting and CP TIGs. I have also served on the AEA Summer Institute Planning Committee, serving on the TIG Leadership Council and TIG Scan, and a founding board member for the Texas Evaluation Network local affiliate.

Other Leadership. In addition to AEA leadership, I have held leadership roles in other organizations. I served as Program Chair for Division 27 programming for the American Psychological Association (APA) Convention and served in many leadership positions for the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA), including serving in elected positions on the Executive Committee.

Fiscal Management. I have been a successful business owner since 2009 where I manage all my own fiscal planning, accounting, and tax preparation. I've had undergraduate and graduate level accounting courses and have a good understanding of financial statements and terminology. Additionally, as a former SCRA officer and executive committee member, I have specific experience working with nonprofit, professional, membership organizations.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism, and Decoloniality. Much of my evaluation work is related to health and educational equity. I have done this work for many years which required me to do deep dives into my own positionality and biases as a white, cisgender woman, and to actively embrace an anti-racism stance. I serve as a Health Equity Ambassador for APA since 2014 and served as a member of the Cultural Humility Advisory Team for the Network of the National Library of Medicine.

Experience in the Evaluation Profession. I have been an evaluator for over 35 years across settings and topic areas. I have experienced many changes in the approaches, methods, and how we view our role. As the profession has evolved, so has my practice so that I remain current in my knowledge of the AEA competencies and guidelines. I have contributed to the body of knowledge within the profession through peer reviewed publications, co-editing an NDE edition on evaluating community collaboratives, 18 AEA 365 blogs, and published book chapters. I regularly share my experience with new evaluators and consultants to support their growth in this profession.

In summary, I would like to bring all my experience, knowledge, and passion for evaluation to serve on the AEA Board. In this role I would commit my energy and time to work with the Board members, TIGs, and general membership to support AEA as it continues to grow and evolve as an organization.