**Alliance Française de Minneapolis-St. Paul**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Members**

**and official ballot**

**Meeting Date/Time:** Tuesday**,** June 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time

**Place**: In-person at the Joly Center for International Understanding (227 Colfax Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN) and online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81549120530?pwd=Z1N0THg4Mjh2RFlSSyt0dXB2ZkdkZz09>

Meeting ID: 815 4912 0530

Passcode: AFMSP

**Items of Business**: To elect the following seven persons as “**Class II Directors,**” each to serve for a term of three years expiring at the 2026 Annual Meeting of Members: Esen Akin, Philip Barnes, Simin Hickman, Carolee Lindsey, Roger Seaver, Caroline Sell, and Bryn Vaaler.

**Item 1 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**Biographies of Nominees for Class II Director**

**Esen Akin** began learning French in middle school at the American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, Turkey, and continued to study French through his university years. He uses his French language skills for personal travel in many countries including France, Belgium, Lebanon, and Morocco, and also professionally while working for Cargill in Turkey, where he used French on business trips to Francophone countries in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Esen and his family relocated to the Twin Cities from Istanbul, Turkey in 2021 and he currently works for Cargill as a Commercial Manager for North America based out of the Wayzata, MN headquarters. He is a chemical engineer with Master's and executive MBA degrees. He is married with a 4-year-old daughter who is starting to learn French, as well. Esen has experiences with community volunteering and fundraising through sports events and organizations at his company. He enjoys music (piano and jazz), cycling, skiing, cooking, and is a certified sailor winning awards as the captain of a sailing team in the Mediterranean Sea.

**Philip Barnes** grew up in France and after completing his Bac S at the Lycée International Honoré de Balzac in Paris, France, he came to the United States to continue his education. Shortly after moving to Minneapolis for graduate studies in 2001, he became a member and active volunteer at the Alliance Franҫaise, first for Bastille Day, then as volunteer coordinator and finally as a board member. Philip has an MBA from University of St Thomas and works for Old National Bank as a Chief Information Officer for Wealth Management. In his free time, Philip enjoys trying new recipes (French and otherwise), making sourdough bread, skiing, biking, and traveling with his wife and two children. His two children ages 16 and 8 are both dual citizens of France and the United States. They keep their French language alive by speaking French with their dad, watching French movies, taking kids' classes at the Alliance Franҫaise, and traveling frequently to Provence in the South of France to see their grandparents.

**Simin Hickman** is a retired information technology director at the University of Minnesota, where she worked for 32 years. She received her undergraduate degree in musicology from Tehran University in Iran, and began her graduate education in Ethnomusicology at the University of Amsterdam. While there, she also attended Amsterdam Conservatory, studying with the first harpist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Simin continued her graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. While teaching Persian for Berlitz, she worked at Control Data and then Sperry Univac, where she began working in the field of information technology. Simin has been involved with many non-profit organizations as a board member and volunteer, including serving as Vice President of the Minneapolis and Tours Sister City organization before this became a committee of the AFMSP. After previously serving on the AFMSP Board from 2016–2021 and being active in many AFMSP committees, Simin is looking forward to serving the organization again.

**Carolee Lindsey** is a Certified Public Accountant with Mahoney | CPAs and Advisors. She has served the AFMSP Board of Directors as CFO/Treasurer for the past several years. She also has previous public accounting experience with two international public accounting firms and is the former CFO of Base Camp Promotions, LLC, a small expedition and education company supporting the Antarctic Expedition of Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen. She has served on several other non-profit Boards in the Twin Cities. Carolee grew up in a military family and had the brief opportunity to live in France and England as a young child. She has resided in the Twin Cities for over 30 years and enjoys the area golf courses and parks as well as her reading and investment groups.

**Roger Seaver** was born in Michigan, USA and grew up on a working farm/cattle operation. He is a lawyer and practiced bankruptcy law in the Twin Cities before transitioning to Thomson Reuters where he currently manages partnerships for Thomson Reuters’ largest law practice management solution as part of the Global Strategic Alliances program. Over his time at Thomson Reuters, he lived and worked in Australia and New Zealand, fueling his passion for international partnerships and cultural learning. Roger has previous board experience, serving for two terms on the Board of Directors for Children's Hospital Association. A longtime volunteer at the AFMSP since 2016, he is now excited to join the AFMSP Board to contribute more actively to an organization that aligns with his values of global education and diversity. Roger has experience organizing large events and his skillset includes business growth and developing strong partnerships.

**Caroline Sell** has been studying French since high school, leading her to spend nearly three years living in France for study and work in Paris and Lyon. To continue to cultivate her love of French language and culture, she began volunteering for the Alliance Française while living in Washington, DC, and started volunteering with the AFMSP when she relocated to the Twin Cities in 2017. Caroline is fluent in French and has worked as a health clinic interpreter for patients from the Democratic Republic of Congo and as an English teaching Assistant for French middle and high schoolers. After earning her law degree and Masters of Public Health from the University of Minnesota, she now works in healthcare compliance for HealthPartners. Caroline lives in the South Metro area of the Twin Cities with her partner, his two children, and Meeko, their mini Bernedoodle puppy. She enjoys travel (visiting 23 countries across 5 continents), the performing arts, and staying active.

**Bryn Vaaler** – Before retiring in 2020, Bryn was a long-time partner in the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP, where he also served as Chief Marketing and Professional Development Officer. Bryn is grateful to the Alliance Franҫaise de Minneapolis-St. Paul for reconnecting him with French literature and for providing a wonderful community dedicated to French language and culture. Bryn’s love of French dates back to college. He majored in French at the University of Minnesota and studied for a summer at the Sorbonne and a year at the University of Besanҫon (now University of Franche-Comté). He previously served on the AFMSP board from 2016 to 2022 and chaired the board from 2017 to 2021. As board chair, Bryn was part of the leadership team that guided AFMSP in the acquisition of its new home, the Joly Family Center for International Understanding, in the sale of AFMSP’s former home in the North Loop and in the multi-million-dollar capital campaign to pay for construction work and to pay off the Joly Center acquisition financing. Bryn also serves as a board member of the Fédération des Alliances Franҫaises USA, the non-profit, national AF organization that represents and provides educational and cultural resources to its membership, which consists of nearly all the 100+ independent AF chapters in the United States, including AFMSP.

**VOTING PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE**

Please either **vote online** or **return this Ballot either in person or by mail**, to the Alliance Française, 227 Colfax Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55405 or email your ballot to [membership@afmsp.org](mailto:membership@afmsp.org). Please note that if you vote online, you do not need to return this Ballot – duplicate votes (whether in person, online or using this paper Ballot) will only be counted once.

***Each member over 18 is entitled to vote*, including all adults who are part of families with family memberships. Your vote is important! It will enable the Alliance to meet its Annual Meeting quorum requirements, particularly with this year’s meeting being held in part virtually.**

**TO BE COUNTED, ALL PAPER BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE MAIL BY JUNE 13, 2023 AT 5 P.M. CDT. Online voting will close at 11:59 p.m. CDT on June 12.** Please contact the Alliance Française office at 612-332-0436 with any questions. **Merci!**

**PLEASE VOTE. Your vote is important! The Board of Directors and staff of the Alliance value your opinion on the proposed Board slate.**

**Official MEMBERS’ Ballot**

Members may vote for the matter proposed below either online, in person or by signing and returning this Official Ballot to the Alliance Française before the Annual Meeting**.** Five (5%) of the total voting membership present either online, in person or by ballot at the Annual Meeting constitutes a quorum for the purposes of electing directors at the Annual Meeting. Please check the boxes for your votes then sign and date at the bottom of this ballot.

Please note that currently serving “Class I Directors” (terms expiring in 2025) – Chris Holden, Allison Lindberg, Romain Lorentz, Mary Schaffner, Isabelle Skoog, Pamela Pappas Stanoch, and Mickael Sunell – and “Class III Directors” (terms expiring in 2024) – Greg Anthony, Vincent Francoual, Corinne Lawrenz, Jeff Lundgren, Sofia Terzik, and Joanna Zawislak – will continue to serve as directors of the Alliance Française and are not being presented for election at this meeting.

Members may vote for, against, or abstain from voting for a nominee, or may vote for a “write-in candidate” of the Member’s choice by inserting his or her name where shown in the Ballot. **No member may vote for fewer than or for more than seven directors for Class II.**

**Item 1. Election of Class II Directors**

**The nominees for “Class II Directors” for terms expiring at the 2026 Annual Meeting are as follows**:

**Esen Akin Philip Barnes Simin Hickman Carolee Lindsey Roger Seaver**

**Caroline Sell Bryn Vaaler**

**Action:** **To elect each nominee named below as a Class II Director for a term expiring at the 2026 Annual Meeting of Members**

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote **FOR** the following nominees for Class II Director:

**For Against  Abstain Write-In Candidate**

Esen Akin \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Philip Barnes \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Simin Hickman \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Carolee Lindsey \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Roger Seaver \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Caroline Sell \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bryn Vaaler \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**: **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_