

Connecting women, Igniting ideas, Transforming the world

“Our best work is always ahead. Join us in making the possibilities realities.

Join the YaleWomen Council!”

(from the December 2018 enewsletter)

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YaleWomen Council: OVERVIEW 2019-2020

Dear Yale women alums:

Under the [Bylaws](#) of YaleWomen, Inc., the Governance Committee of the YaleWomen Council is responsible for recommending candidates for each new Class of the Council. The committee is beginning the process for terms that will begin July 1, 2019, and we need your input.

Each year, YaleWomen elects one-third of its members to the central governing Council. These new or returning members are elected to serve three-year terms. We invite both eligible sitting Council members whose terms will end June 30, 2019 and other Yale women alums who have an interest in serving on the Council to apply for these eight seats.

You have seen YaleWomen grow from the “big idea” of possibilities that was envisioned when it was founded in 2011 – following the 2010 celebration of the 40th anniversary of the coeducation of Yale College and the 140th anniversary of the coeducation of the Graduate & Professional Schools – to the tangible realities of compelling signature initiatives that connect Yale women alums and amplify their voices to transform the world, including the enewsletters, social media, webinars, chapter events, and conferences and symposia that we produce. As we have grown during these first eight years, the import of YaleWomen’s work has become increasingly significant.

YaleWomen is an all-volunteer organization. When we say “we produce,” we mean **we** produce. **We are hands on in everything we do**, including managing and upgrading our digital communications platform (NationBuilder), writing the stories the enewsletters tell, producing the webinars (Zoom), and hosting global and local events. Equally important, we continually raise the bar on our own expectations of the work we do, whether it is enhancing current initiatives or cutting from whole cloth to produce new ones: our best work is always ahead. This is one of the most remarkable and rewarding aspects of engaging with YaleWomen. And this is especially exciting as we prepare for the [YaleWomen Award for Excellence](#) event on March 7, 2019 in Washington, DC and join in the celebration of [50 Women at Yale 150](#) throughout the 2019-2020 academic year and around the world.

We encourage you to consider joining the YaleWomen Council. Applications are due **Friday, March 15, 2019**. The election will be held by Saturday, June 1, 2019.

Who would be a good nominee? YaleWomen's [Bylaws](#) contain the following guidance: *"The ideal Council member will be an engaged alum, who has demonstrated volunteer commitment to Yale or to a Yale alum organization (including YaleWomen). Nominees for the Council should be able to devote adequate time to Council activities and be willing to make Council service a priority. They should possess good judgment, listening and speaking skills, follow through on work they undertake, be able to work collaboratively, and be willing to serve as ambassadors for YaleWomen."*

Our **mission**, set forth in our [2011 Strategic Plan](#), is: "To create a vibrant, engaged community of alums, drawn together by the common thread of our Yale experiences, that is committed to advancing women's voices and perspectives and to enriching and inspiring one another, Yale, and the world." Our **vision**, which emerged from YaleWomen's inaugural conference in 2013, is: *Connecting women, Igniting ideas, Transforming the world*. The Council is responsible for stewarding and advancing this bold mission and vision.

We take this responsibility seriously. In recognition of the investment we make in leadership training and development for Council members and Chapter Heads, the Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors awarded YaleWomen the Excellence Award for Outstanding SIG Volunteer Engagement and Leadership in November: For the SIG that Best Demonstrates Leadership in Strategic Planning, Volunteer Recruitment, Financial Management and Stewardship. (Take a look at this [tool](#) the Council and Chapter Heads used to get to YaleWomen's *Why?* – our purpose and our beliefs that drive, inform, and shape our work, our *How?* and our *What?*)

Selection of Council members will be in keeping with the criteria enumerated in the [Bylaws](#). These criteria envision active participation by Council members, both in the work of the Council, including the Council's committees, and in one or more ongoing projects. We ask each nominee to commit to a significant level of engagement as we continue to build infrastructure and create compelling programming that engages alums within the four focus areas set forth in our [2011 Strategic Plan](#): *Building community, Promoting lifelong learning opportunities, Contributing to society and Contributing to Yale*. Please see the **Statement of Expectations** for specific information about the ways in which Council members are expected to contribute to YaleWomen's work.

Much of YaleWomen's work is done outside the monthly Council meetings, through our committees. Committees are responsible for the production of newsletters, social media, webinars, chapter events, and conferences and symposia. It is important to emphasize that while Council members are expected to attend monthly Council meetings (by Zoom Conferencing), this is not sufficient. We have ambitious goals for FY 20 and beyond. Their realization requires serious commitment and hands on work. We ask each nominee to be realistic about her ability to make service to YaleWomen a priority. There are opportunities to be a significant contributor to

YaleWomen without serving on the Council and some potential nominees may want to serve in ways that permit them more flexibility.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Governance Committee. You must submit your completed application no later than **Friday, March 15, 2019**. The election will be held by Saturday, June 1, 2019.

With our thanks and best wishes,

YaleWomen Governance Committee

Susan Lennon '85 MPPM, Committee Chair

Beth Axelrod '89 MPPM

Chieko Barry '84 JD

Akosua Barthwell Evans '90 JD

Shannon Foucault '06

Laura Thompson Grondin '85

Jennifer Ebisemiju Madar '88

Ellen Gibson McGinnis '82

Susan Pepin '87

Eve Rice '73

Toby Richard '82

YaleWomen Council: STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS 2019-2020

The volunteers who serve on the YaleWomen Council and work with the Council as non-Council members are an amazing group of women. When we engage and work together by bringing the responsibility of our Yale education to bear, the potential for YaleWomen to produce compelling, mission- and vision-driven programs and create a dynamic community of Yale women alums is huge. Since YaleWomen's founding in 2011, many alums have worked together to develop a variety of ways for us to connect and engage with one another, and to use our voices to transform the world: at conferences and symposia, in webinars and chapters, in the enewsletters, and on social media.

We have equally ambitious goals for FY 20 and beyond. Their realization requires serious commitment and hands on work. We want to make sure candidates for the Council are aware of the expected commitment and are ready to make it. There are many ways to contribute to the work of YaleWomen for alums who are not able to make serving on the Council a priority at this time in their lives. We hope that those who are able to commit significant time will consider a role on the YaleWomen Council.

Structure

The YaleWomen Council is made up of the following roles:

- Member of the Council (24 slots, including 4 Officers and an Immediate past Chair)
- Officer of the Council
 - o Chair
 - o Vice-Chair
 - o Secretary
 - o Treasurer
 - o Immediate Past Chair (filled without election by the retiring Chair)

Much of YaleWomen’s work is done through our committees. The committees for 2018-2019, which may change in 2019-2020, are:

- Governance
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Communications: Infrastructure
- Communications: Digital and Written Content
- Program
- Chapters
- YaleWomen Award for Excellence

Time Commitment Guidelines

Typically, Council members should plan to dedicate resources as outlined below. In general, the Officers attempt to allow Council members flexibility to schedule the work of YaleWomen to respect the work and family obligations each of us has.

- General member of the Council (minimum of 5 hours/week with some weeks exceeding that)
 - o Attendance on monthly 60 to 90 minute Council meeting (Zoom Conferencing)
 - o Active participation on two committees
 - o Chairing a committee (optional, and most relevant to 2nd and 3rd year Council members)
- Officer of the Council (minimum of 10 hours/week with some weeks exceeding 20 hours)
 - o Attendance on monthly 60 to 90 minute Council meetings (Zoom Conferencing)
 - o Attendance on semi-monthly 60 to 90 minute Officer meeting (Zoom Conferencing)
 - o Chairing a committee and/or serving as Officer Liaison for 1-2 committees
 - o Other activities, as necessary to fulfill Officer role and lead the organization

Participation should be both active and regular, at both the Council and committee level.

Types of Participation Expected

Active Participation. We expect active participation in the work of the Council by each Council member and Officer. If you wish to be considered for either role, we ask you to commit to a significant level of engagement as we continue to build infrastructure and create compelling programs that engage alums within the four focus areas set forth in our strategic plan: *Building community, Promoting lifelong learning opportunities, Contributing to society* and *Contributing to Yale*. As stated in our [Bylaws](#): “[N]ominees for the Council should be able to devote adequate time to Council activities and be willing to make Council service a priority. They should possess good judgment, listening, and speaking skills, follow through on work they undertake, be able to work collaboratively and be willing to abide by a consensus. All prospective Council members should be able and willing to serve as ambassadors for YaleWomen.”

Regular Participation. Council meetings are held monthly, for 60 to 90 minutes, by Zoom Conferencing. At present, these meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, at 4:00 pm Eastern. Attendance is necessary, but this is not sufficient. Much of YaleWomen’s work is done outside the monthly Council meetings and within our committees. Committees are responsible for the production of newsletters, social media, webinars, chapter events, and conferences and symposia. Email communication is heavily used. Some weeks may require in excess of 10 hours for Council members, and much more than that for Officers. Officers also hold bi-monthly meetings in addition to the Council meetings, and are expected to chair, liaise, or be extremely active in at least one of the Council committees.

Committee Engagement. Each Council member is expected to be an active member and contributor to two committees or projects. Some Council members may be asked to take on the additional role of chairing a committee or leading a project. Committee chairs are asked to prepare monthly reports of committee activities, sharing achievements, concerns, and questions for discussion during monthly Council meetings. While we recognize that some Council members may contribute significant value that is not necessarily measured by hours spent, we want to be transparent about the potential expected time commitment. If you are ready to commit to a standard three-year term on the YaleWomen Council, we are excited to have you participate in our nomination process. Please complete and submit your application no later than **Friday, March 15, 2019**. The election will be held by Saturday, June 1, 2019.

YaleWomen Council: [APPLICATION 2019-2020](#)

Please complete and submit your application no later than **Friday, March 15, 2019**. The election will be held by Saturday, June 1, 2019.