



AAPL Board Nomination Bios for 2018 - 2019

Officer Positions

President-Elect – Running Unopposed



Sara Miller (Incumbent)
St. Luke's Health System
Boise, Idaho

Sara Miller is a Senior Physician Liaison at St. Luke's Health System, the only Idaho-based, not-for-profit health system. Sara joined St. Luke's in 2012 and previously worked as a physician liaison with Intermountain Medical Imaging. Sara joined the AAPL in 2012 and has served for three years as a Board Member, two years as Program Committee Co-Chair and one year as the Social Media Committee Co-Chair. A graduate of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, Sara now lives in Middleton, Idaho.

Treasurer - Running Unopposed



Amy Lynch (Incumbent)
Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
Sarasota, Florida

Amy Lynch is the Senior Physician Liaison at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System and has been in healthcare physician relations for 18 years, joining SMHCS in 2005. Prior to her hospital experience, she served as an Account Representative for a leading comprehensive outpatient radiology center in Sarasota, Florida. She has been a member of the American Association of Physician Liaisons for almost 13 years and is currently serving on the Board as a Member at Large. She has been an active participant of the AAPL Membership Committee for the past 4 years and acting co-chair of the Membership Committee the past two years. She has served as Treasurer of several local not-for-profit community organizations. She earned her undergraduate degree from Western Carolina University, and her master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University.

Board Members at Large – 4 Open Positions



Trent Hickes
St. Vincent Healthcare
Billings, Montana

Trent Hickes is a Regional Outreach Liaison for St. Vincent Healthcare / SCL Health in Billings, Montana. He represents a hospital with a catchment area of over 90,000 square miles, consisting of some of the most beautiful yet challenging landscape in America. Since launching the hospital's formalized outreach program in 2010, he has helped the department to become a vital contributor to the strategic growth of the organization. His commitment to building strong relationships has resulted in sustained volume growth and long-term referral loyalty. Through his continued work in referral development, primarily in Critical Access Hospitals, he has become a qualified ambassador for liaisons across frontier and rural America.

Trent also partners with his beautiful wife, Calley, in the fight against human trafficking. In addition to local and state task force work and participation in missing child search and rescue operations, they utilize their combined 23 years of healthcare experience to educate, equip, engage and empower frontline medical professionals across the national healthcare system in the fight to end human trafficking.



Matt Hughes
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus, Ohio

Matt Hughes is the Director of Growth & Physician Relations at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He leads the Physician Liaison Team, International Patient Services and Domestic Growth Initiatives. Matt is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BA in Organizational Communication. His background includes medical sales, sales management and sales operations.

"I recently restructured the NCH liaison program—taking a more strategic approach and improving efficiencies. We've positioned the liaisons as influencers at Nationwide Children's, and they are valued both internally and externally. With healthcare continually changing, there will be opportunities for the liaison role to evolve. I'd like to help lead and be part of this discussion with my AAPL peers."



Bonnie Little
UNC REX Healthcare
Raleigh, North Carolina

Bonnie Little has devoted her professional career to the healthcare industry. She currently oversees the Network Development & Physician Relations department at UNC REX Healthcare. She joined UNC REX as a Physician Liaison nine years ago. During this time, UNC REX and the UNC Healthcare System have experienced tremendous growth. Bonnie has been instrumental in developing the UNC REX of Wakefield campus, the REX employed physician groups, UNC Physicians Network and the UNC Health Alliance. She has helped develop UNC REX into a regional transfer center for Wake County and eastern North Carolina, which has grown tenfold in the last two years. Prior to coming to UNC REX, Bonnie was the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Franklin Regional Medical Center.

Bonnie is a graduate of East Carolina University and holds a Master's in Health Administration from Pfeiffer University. She is a graduate of the UNC Healthcare System Advanced Leadership Academy and a member of both the American College of Healthcare Executives and the American Association of Physician Liaisons. Bonnie has served on the Wake Forest Chamber Board of Directors and the Franklin County United Way Board of Directors.



Stephanie Niemi (Incumbent)
Main Line Health System
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Stephanie Niemi has been an engaged member of American Association of Physician Liaisons since 2009.

For the past two years, she has been the Treasurer of AAPL and acting co-chair of the Membership Committee. She brings eight years of experience as a Physician Liaison with a broad understanding of both the community hospital and academic medical center settings. The first six years of her career she was a member of the physician liaison team at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2014, Stephanie joined Main Line Health System, Lankenau Medical Center, a leading teaching and research hospital located in a community setting in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. In her current role, she serves as a Senior Physician Liaison in a highly competitive and saturated market. She is responsible for on-boarding new physicians, referral development and engaging both employed and private affiliated specialists, as well as primary care physicians. She earned her undergraduate degree from Villanova University and a dual master's degree from St. Joseph's University in Health Education and Health Administration.



Stephanie Pinkerton
Arkansas Children's Northwest
Springdale, Arkansas

Working out of the nation's newest children's hospital, Arkansas Children's Northwest, Stephanie Pinkerton is fortunate to represent the Arkansas Children's health system as a Physician Liaison. Living in northwest Arkansas, she covers a nine-county area representing Arkansas Children's health system to community and rural health clinics. With 17 years of related professional healthcare experience, Stephanie can pull from her past roles in hospital administrative support and clinic management to enhance her role as a liaison. During this time, she has been a part of a team to successfully start up the state's first pediatric clinically integrated network, Arkansas Children's Care Network (ACCN). With the formation of ACCN came many opportunities for creating communication and strengthening relationships within her assigned territory. Stephanie's work has also provided experience in referral management system training for coordinators and clinical staff. Since joining AAPL, she has attended the past two conferences and contributed to the Webinar Committee. During Stephanie's personal time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and family.