

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alliance Francaise de Philadelphia Announces Board Leadership Transition

Philadelphia, PA

November 5, 2025

The Alliance Française de Philadelphie, an organization that engages the greater Philadelphia community in the study and exploration of French language and Francophone cultures, is pleased to announce that the Board has elected a new executive committee of officers of the Board for the 2025-2026 term, consisting of:

Sheree Petrone, President. Sheree is an accomplished executive in the energy industry and a student at the Alliance. Sheree has served on the Board since 2022, most recently as Treasurer.

Kirk Kozero, Vice President. Kirk is a marketing and advertising executive with a distinguished career working for several Fortune 100 companies. He is the founder and owner of Modus-Kozero Consulting, a firm providing marketing expertise to leading organizations across the financial services, investment, pharmaceutical, and non-profit arts and education sectors.

Alice Elmer, Treasurer. Alice is a civil defense litigation attorney in private practice who values the opportunity to advocate on behalf of clients in situations of critical need. A dedicated Francophile and engaged community member, Alice has served on the Board since 2024.

Michelle Erickson, Secretary. Michelle is an experienced and well-rounded educator and administrator with a Masters in Art History and Visual Culture, who serves as the Director of Education and Student Life at the Rock School for Dance Education and as an Adjunct Professor of Art History at Widener University. Michelle is also a student of French and has served on the Board since 2021 and as the Secretary since 2024.

In connection with the new leadership announcements, the Alliance Française de Philadelphie is honored to recognize with tremendous gratitude the presidency of **Beth Diffley**, who served as Board member since 2016 and as President since 2021. Beth's leadership has been key to the growth of the organization these past few years.

Amanda Barber, a Board member since 2020, stepped down as Vice President, but looks forward to remaining on the Board. Her contribution as Vice President has been highly valuable.

The Alliance is also happy to announce the election of **Dr. Sophie Degât**, a lecturer of French, administrator and student advisor at the University of Pennsylvania, to the Board. Sophie brings a nuanced understanding of cross-cultural dialogue and the role of language in building bridges between communities, experience in leading linguistic and cultural immersion programs, and a deep commitment to the mission of the Alliance.

Philippe Poirier, Executive Director of the Alliance Française, stated: "It is our great pleasure to welcome Dr. Degât and the new executive committee of the Board. The newly elected member and officers are mission-driven leaders and devoted Francophiles who are committed to collaborating with people from a wide-range of perspectives. We are confident that their experience and expertise will allow them to make meaningful contributions in their roles. We look forward to working with them all and want to show our sincere appreciation to the officers who stepped down."

###