

President

Gabriel Coronado - When I ran for President in 2019, my goal was to help build a better community for all of the alumni in the JETAA Chicago region. Over the last few years, the leadership has made incredible strides in connecting with new alumni, reconnecting with some of our more established alumni and creating an environment in which all of us can thrive and feel welcome. We as an organization are on the correct path and I want to maintain or forward momentum into 2023.

I want to find new ways to bridge the generational gaps between our alumni, strengthen our partnerships in the local community and work towards long term stability for our chapter.

I hope you will give me the opportunity to do so.

Vice President

Lara Espinoza - The consistent commitment and action I've witnessed the past two years to build a better community that is more accessible for all alumni from the JETAA Chicago leadership is the foundational inspiration for my desire to return and serve our community as JETAA Chicago Vice President (VP).

Since moving to Chicago in 2013, I've served as a leader at the local, national and international levels of the JET alumni community (get to know me more through [My Leadership Values](#)). Over the past two years, I've used my in depth historical knowledge of our Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana chapters to help advise current board members to make informed decisions and have a better understanding of how to support the diversity of our local/regional JET alumni community and beyond. Being elected VP will allow me the opportunity to coach, mentor, and nurture deeper relationships with new, seasoned and aspiring alumni leaders.

As VP I will help JETAA Chicago maintain the momentum of scaling chapter operations in a sustainable way. One of the most important initiatives I spearheaded for our chapter was establishing the [JETAA Chicago Community Conduct & Agreements](#) that set clear behavioral expectations for all JET alumni leaders/members/partners who participate in and with our chapter. I'd like to help the JETAA Chicago leadership iterate and improve this important foundation of respectful and open communication to stabilize our internal and external operations especially as we solidify our succession planning so we all can help create a stronger chapter for the next generation of alumni leaders.

As I am a JET alumni that has many unique identity intersections, I have established trust and relationships with our broader US-Japan, Japanese/Asian American communities and beyond.

This was evidenced in past JETAA Chicago programs I've co-led including the [J-Talks Webinar series](#), also being active with [Japanese American Citizens League](#) (JACL) and [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#). If elected VP, I would become an official bridge that will expand our current and new partnerships in ways that strengthen our bond and expand JETAA Chicago's reach to have a positive impact in our broader communities.

Thank you so much for your consideration and hope to #JETogether as your Vice President of JETAA Chicago.

Joe Palermo - I am running for JETAA Chicago Vice President this March. I served in Gunma Prefecture for two years from 1982 – 1984 as a Mombusho English Fellow (MEF), the precursor to the JET program. I lived in Japan for eight years, working for a Japanese company and joining the Nielsen company as a local hire. I returned to the Chicago area with Nielsen global. After twenty-three years in various senior global roles I accepted a challenge at International Resources, Inc. (IRI) to create a global presence by developing multi-country services and partnerships.

Currently retired from corporate America, I have written a book about my time living in Japan. I am also a regular contributor to Japonica Magazine with articles related to Japanese culture and my personal experiences.

As Vice President, I am committed to supporting my fellow officers in fulfilling the mission of JETAA Chicago. I feel my time visiting and working in Japan over the past thirty years, as well as my global corporate experience will be valuable in this new opportunity. I am prepared to be a strong advisor to the President and can step in to lead meetings, attend events, or lend support to any of the officer roles as necessary. I would also love to get the MEF community plugged into our organization.

Please consider my candidacy for JETAA Chicago's Vice President role. I'm looking forward to the privilege of serving our community.

Secretary

Rurik Tywoniw - It has been a pleasure to work with JETAA Chicago for almost 2 years, and I am happy to have accomplished the outreach and event organization that we did during my time as networking coordinator. However, as the world begins to recover from the global pandemic and I remain outside of the primary urban areas serviced by JETAA Chicago, I realize my abilities might not be best utilized for networking specifically. Despite this, my commitment to JETAA remains, and I wish to continue serving the JET alumni community in a different position: Secretary.

As Secretary, I will be involved in JETAA events, placing focus on board meeting administration and the recording of minutes. I feel my experience in academia has presented me with a skillset suited for managing, producing, and disseminating when needed, records related to JETAA activity. My focus in the coming year will be on documenting JETAA activities and helping facilitate easier archiving of our organization's activity and history. At the same time, I plan to continue organizing the JETAA Language Nights. I hope to work closely with other officers to ensure effective communication both within the board and to JET alumni in general, and I look forward to another year working with this spectacular group!

Jayne Arnold - My name is Jayne Arnold and I was a prefectural JET in Kagoshima City from 2014-2019 and I currently reside in Madison, WI. During my time in Kagoshima, I volunteered as the city block leader and was the Community Outreach Chair for the Kagoshima Prefecture JET community (KAJET). I enjoyed working with the committee to plan events and keep the community engaged.

Since coming back from JET I had the honor of designing the [JETAA International logo](#) and now I want to continue to be an active member of the JET community as the secretary for JETAA Chicago. In this role, I will support JETAA Chicago as the administrative and information management to ensure the organization's sustainability. Additionally, as a bonus, I have a background in art and design so I can utilize this skillset where it is needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If given the opportunity I will do my best to support the JETAA Chicago community.

Philanthropy Coordinator

Sheila Burt - I am hoping to continue to serve as Philanthropy Coordinator for the 2023/24 term. In the past two years I have focused on grant funding and programming, mainly through the Sasakawa USA program. I hope to build upon what I have learned in that experience to focus on ways the JETAA Chicago community can give back to the local community. I hope to organize at least one event related to that theme and to find ways that our community can thrive under the same principles that guide the JET Program: education and cultural exchange.

Marketing Coordinator

Alexis Palmer - I look forward to being given the chance to serve another term as the Marketing Coordinator of JETAA Chicago in 2023-2024. I have served as the Marketing Coordinator since November 2020, and during this time I have strived to increase awareness of the events and resources we offer to our alumni by maximizing our online presence, utilizing both social media and non-social media related platforms to be inclusive of all our members. I am passionate about the work we do here at JETAA Chicago, and I hope to continue to help welcome even more alumni into our wonderful JETAA community, an environment in which all former and future JETs can seek advice, share experiences and reminisce together. I look

forward to continuing to serve with the JETAA Chicago Board and I appreciate your consideration!

Outreach Coordinator

Constance Judd -

Hello - ! My name is Constance Judd and I currently serve as the Outreach Coordinator for JETAA Chicago. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as Outreach Coordinator and prepare Outgoing JETs for their time in Japan, as well as welcoming back Returning JETs to the states. In my role, I have worked closely with the Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana Alumni group to continue expanding the JET community, alongside sharing Japanese culture and giving back to local Japanese organizations, to better strengthen the experience of those who participate in JET. For the upcoming election year, I plan to continue contributing to the JET community, as well as supporting my local board members in their endeavors. Thank you for the opportunity!