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ST. LOUIS TEACHERS' RECYCLE CENTERS

Board of Directors



Jon Nienas, *President*

Jon Nienas retired from Monsanto after a 33 year career. Today he is dedicated to working with non-profit organizations. He is chairman of the board at Children's Miracle Network St Louis Chapter and a board director at Covenant House Missouri. Jon is involved in councils at the St Louis Archdiocese of the Catholic Church. He is a part of the Kairos Prison Ministry organization and leads committees in his local parish. Jon has lived in St Louis

for over 25 years and he and his wife, Cheryl, have three children.



Jan DeYoung, *Vice President*

Retired DeYoung has a graduate degree in business management, and has been an educator, been in senior management positions in private industry; and, for the past forty-five years, has been an advisor to private sector business ventures on technical, operational, management and marketing issues in an array of industry environments. During that time, he has provided leadership for business, community, and economic development initiatives at the local, regional, and national levels and has facilitated many public/private partnerships providing resources to

business and community leaders. Retired as Director of the BEGIN New Venture Center at St. Patrick Center (a faith-based initiative and innovative community partnership), DeYoung guided the development of BEGIN as the first business incubator in the country to be located in a social services environment with the mission of creating social enterprises sensitive to impacting the lives of the homeless and impoverished by providing skills training and job opportunities. Prior to coming to St. Patrick Center, DeYoung was the Executive Director of the St. Louis Enterprise Centers, a network of four regional business incubators, home to nearly 80 emerging companies, managed by the St. Louis County Economic Council in partnership with the St. Louis Development Corporation. DeYoung has been active in community and economic development and educational initiatives in the St. Louis region for the past 20 years.



Monette DeSimone, *Secretary*

I became affiliated with SLTRC about 10 years ago when I participated in a series of workshops in order to earn a Project Construct Certification. The training I received occurred at the Early Childhood Center on the campus of the St. Charles Community College, which had a POD from which the participating teachers were encouraged to take a big bag of stuff to use in their classroom. The coincidence of the Project

Board of Directors • St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Centers

Construct training and my introduction to the STLTRC resulted in a year long, student led, exploration of everything we could think of that relates to Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling. At the time, I was a lead teacher in a classroom for four year olds at the Downtown Children's Center. We did everything from build a boat out of plastic bottles, that we floated in the Downtown YMCA pool, to amazing 3D art projects using meat trays. When I began working at City Academy, where I currently teach 2nd grade, I used the STLRC to supply many projects with my students which got the attention of the other teachers.

Last school year, the City Academy STEAM Team (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), of which I am a member, decided to include more hands-on projects for our students to "make things". There is a current trend in education to have a "Maker Space" in classrooms and City Academy decided to make one available to every teacher. I suggested we use the SLTRC to supply our "Maker Spaces" and began working more closely with Susan to accomplish this. Because I have had a longstanding interest in the goals of the SLTRC, and wanted to become more involved, I attended my first board meeting last Summer.



Amy L. Yan, *Treasurer*

Amy was born and raised in Belleville IL. Amy moved to St. Louis MO in 2012. She has 3 beautiful kids. She has two sons and a daughter. Amy works at Computype IT Solutions and has been there since 1998. She works as an IT Consultant.

Amy's hobbies are her kids, helping the community, and shopping. She enjoys being a part of all of her kids activities both personal and school related. Amy enjoys helping out the community by community involvement and spreading awareness. Amy loves shopping as it gets her mind off of a lot of things and that's her way of having "me time".

Amy is involved in many organizations within IL and MO. Below is a list of some of the Organizations she belongs to and helps out. Here are some to name a few:

- Metro East Regional Chamber – Board of Directors and Outreach/Marketing Committee
- Collinsville Chamber of Commerce – Ambassador and Tech Tip Presenter
- Southern Illinois Builders Association – Leadership Council and Fundraising Committee
- Lemay Chamber of Commerce – Ambassador (also 2015 Ambassador of the Year), Golf Committee, Membership Committee, Fundraising Committee
- Cubscout Pack 473 – Treasurer
- Feed My People – Model and assists with Donations
- Sister School of Notre Dame – Committee Member for Wine and Chocolate Soiree Fundraiser Drive



Patricia Durkin, Advisor

Human Environmental Sciences Instructor of Early Childhood Development,
Fontbonne University

Founder, Hexagon Approach to Personal Development

Author/Illustrator:

- Can You Find the ABC's in YOU?
- Can You Sketch the ABC's in YOU?



Ashley Walker, Advisor

Ashley Walker is from Waterloo, IL and a graduate of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with education in digital marketing and graphic & website design. She is the Digital Marketing Director at Premier Business Advantage and actively working with SLTRC to enrich their online image.

Her hobbies are everything creative – drawing, painting, DIY crafts, digital art and website design. She believes in the mission of the SLTRC to encourage creative development and respect for one another and the environment through the use of recycled & reusable resources.

She also works with other nonprofits, including Bring Me A Book St Louis & the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge.

Eric Schwarz, Past President

Founder & Executive Director at Refab (Oct 2012 to present)

Eric Schwarz is a facilitator and practitioner of creative re-use with a deep respect for materials and process. Drawing from a diverse background in sustainability, home construction, nonprofit program development, and community arts, Eric bridges the divide between imaginative ideas and their physical and functional implementation. To carry out this work on a larger scale, Eric founded Refab, a deconstruction-based organization committed to retraining community members for careers in green industry, re-fabricating building materials for resale, and promoting the collective and creative re-use of our built environment.

