Valerie Wood, President

Valerie serves as Co-Owner and Co-Winemaker with her husband at Heart Wood Cellars, a boutique winery focusing on crafting bold, complex and elegant red wines from Arizona grapes. She also has over 20 years of experience in commercial real estate including the role of VP of Real Estate and Construction, based out of Tokyo Japan, for Fortune 50 McDonald’s Corporation, where she was recognized as one of the top 1% of all McDonald’s employees. Valerie obtained her Associates of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Viticulture and Enology at Yavapai College and shares her passion for the program while working part time at the college’s Southwest Wine Center on the Verde Valley Campus. Valerie and her husband Daniel sponsor eight Viticulture and Enology Scholarships per year, for ten years in support of students achieving their dreams.

Don Michelman, Immediate Past President

Don has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and a Master’s in Business Administration. He and his wife, Barbara, moved to Prescott in November 2001 from the Phoenix area. Don is retired from being a commercial insurance wholesaler. He has been Chairman and Vice Chairman for two different Habitat for Humanity affiliates, past Chairman of The Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission, past board member for the Prescott Center for the Arts, and is a SCORE volunteer. Don served as President of the YC Foundation board 2017-2019.

Cindy Nyman, First Vice President

A lifetime Arizonan, Cindy moved to Prescott in 2013 after concluding a 40-year career in public education. Her experience began as a secondary English teacher, which led to positions of staff development specialist and high school principal. She concluded her career as a district superintendent. Cindy earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at Northern Arizona University; she completed administrative training and advanced graduate work at Arizona State. She is a field consultant and evaluator with AdvancED, Arizona’s school accreditation agency. In addition, she served on the Board of Directors and as President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Cindy is a 2015 inductee of the Northern Arizona University College of Education Hall of Fame. She and her husband Bill enjoy their retirement in Prescott.
Dr. Mike Rethman, Second Vice President

Mike is a board-certified periodontist, biomedical scientist, and former career Army officer. In the mid-1990's, he was the Director of the U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research. He is also a past-president of the American Academy of Periodontology, a past-chair of the American Dental Association's Council on Scientific Affairs, and former chair of the Columbia Association (Maryland) -- the largest homeowners’ association in the world. Mike maintains faculty appointments at the University of Maryland and Ohio State University. Semi-retired, he remains a consultant to several industrial clients and continues to publish in and review papers for numerous biomedical journals. Over the years, he has served on numerous philanthropic boards. Mike and his spouse Jill have been married 40+ years. In 2014, after nearly two decades in Honolulu, they re-located to Prescott, where they hope to contribute to our community by helping others better themselves.

Bill Sonsin, Treasurer

Bill Sonsin’s career has included Computer Programmer with the U.S. Army; Systems Analyst with Amoco Oil; Project Manager with Norwest Information Services; and Certified Financial Planner with American Express Financial Advisors. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Minnesota. Since retiring, Bill has been active with SCORE, United Way of Yavapai County, and Yavapai Regional Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees.

Jeff Wasowicz, Secretary

Jeff has been working for the Fain Signature Group for over 20 years, and is heavily involved in the community development efforts of the Fain Family. Jeff is also in charge of property management, tenant relations, and outdoor events for the family. He earned a Biology degree and a Teaching Certificate from the University of Colorado at Boulder, which is also where he met his wife Dawn. Dawn and Jeff have two grown daughters and a small menagerie of pets. After graduating from college, Jeff worked as a public school teacher and operated his own landscape company. He earned an MBA Degree from Western International University and moved with his family to Prescott in 1990. In addition to YCF, Jeff is on the Yavapai Exceptional Industries Board, spent many years on the Central Arizona Partnership Board, and is also a Trustee for the Prescott Masonic Lodge.
**Dr. Lisa Rhine, Yavapai College President**

Dr. Lisa Rhine is the 10th president of Yavapai College. She is a former resident of Chesapeake, Virginia where she held the position of Provost and Chief Operating officer at Tidewater Community College. She has worked for Northern Kentucky University, Wittenberg University, University of Dayton, and Sinclair University. Dr. Rhine’s resume includes both academic and student affairs leadership roles. Dr. Rhine has a bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from Wright State University, a master’s degree in special education from the University of Dayton, and a doctorate in educational administration from Capella University.

**Anne Barton**

Anne Barton’s early career was in public education in Virginia as an English Teacher. She then moved into the corporate industry and worked her way up to senior management positions with Xerox, People’s Bank, and Deloitte & Touche. She and her husband John moved to Prescott in 2007 where Anne has contributed to a number of community organizations. Anne is committed to enriching lives as she serves on a number of committees and boards here in Prescott, as well as President and Board of Directors for the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

**Lenora Bateman**

Lenora currently serves as President of Bennett Oil Company, a third generation family owned business that has serviced Arizona’s petroleum needs since 1938. She has enjoyed 21 years in the Petroleum Industry including President of the Arizona Petroleum Marketers Association and Chairman of the Board for Prescott Chamber of Commerce. Lenora attended Brigham Young University where she studied Business Management. Lenora enjoys the Prescott community and the quality relationships that can form through loyal long term business associations. She has four wonderful children and enjoys spending time with family and being outdoors.
Clint Ewell, YC Vice President of Administration and Finance

After successful careers in the heavy manufacturing and high-tech sectors, Clint made a vocational change, becoming an educational administrator. Since then, he has used his leadership, quality and financial skills at a variety of colleges and universities. Clint earned a BA from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA from Northwestern University, and an EdD from the University of New Mexico. Clint is involved with the Prescott Chamber of Commerce and sits on the Board of the Prescott Film Festival.

David Hernandez

David is a 2nd generationPrescottonian who grew up in Bagdad, AZ. He met his wife, Lorri, at ASU where he received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting. They relocated to Prescott in 1997 with their two sons, Joseph and Stephen, both who graduated from Prescott High School. He has worked for Freeport-McMoRan for over 22 years in the accounting/finance field at their Sierrita, AZ and Bagdad, AZ mining operations. He then accepted the position of community development manager at Freeport McMoRan, Bagdad. Both David and Lorri are active in community activities in both Prescott & Bagdad. Currently, David serves on the board of the United Way as treasurer. He also serves on the boards of the Prescott Farmers Market and the Prescott Chamber of Commerce. David and Lorri have enjoyed living in Prescott for the past 21 years where they will retire in 2020. They also love spending time with their family, particularly, their grandsons, Joao and Benjamin, as well as walking/hiking and spending time at their favorite Prescott hangouts.

Cheri Hull

Cheri is originally a lifelong Indiana native who moved to Phoenix from Indianapolis in 2006. Her 30+ years of executive experience within nonprofits on the for-profit side focused on program development, marketing, member relations and leadership/board development. She is currently an independent consultant and enjoys leadership training, public speaking and culture change focused on leadership and communications.

Cheri and her husband moved to the Prescott Valley Pronghorn Ranch community in April 2018. They enjoy the extended bike riding weather, some hiking, friendly people and mild, lovely seasons. She is active in her church and volunteer activities and leads book clubs online.
Rodney Jenkins, Vice President of Community Relations & Student Development

Rodney is an accomplished marketing professional with over 20 years of experience in public relations, media relations, strategic marketing, internal and external communications, community relations, legislative affairs, alumni relations and fundraising. Rodney came to Yavapai College from Pennsylvania, where he served as Vice President of University Relations at Lock Haven University from 2012 to 2017. He completed both his Bachelor’s degree in business management and his Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Myers University in Cleveland, Ohio. Rodney has directed communications and marketing for the DeKalb (GA) County school system, as well as the Georgia Department of Administrative Services. He also served as Director of Corporate Marketing for Cleveland Public Power, and Chief Public Affairs Officer for the City of Cleveland.

Hope Hyland, President, Friends of the Family Enrichment Center

Hope holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Northern Arizona University. She briefly studied at the Hanzehoge School of Business in Groningen, The Netherlands. After graduating, Hope began working with Prevent Child Abuse Arizona (PCA), a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of Arizona’s children. Hope’s main objectives while at PCA were producing high-quality law enforcement focused trainings, coordinating fundraising special events, as well as cultivating and maintaining donor relations. In 2006, Hope decided to obtain her Arizona Real Estate License. Having been raised in Prescott by a Realtor® and a General Contractor, she found Real Estate to be a great career path and practiced for eight years. Hope and her husband Geoff have three children, all of whom attend the Del Webb Family Enrichment Center.

Paul Kirchgraber, Executive Director, YCF

Paul Kirchgraber is the Executive Director for the Yavapai College Foundation. He joined the Foundation in 2010 after serving as the Chief Development Officer for the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter in Phoenix, AZ. Paul has also worked as the national Vice President for Development at the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America and as a Vice President for Development with the ASU Foundation. Before moving to Arizona in 2004 with his wife Melinda, he served as a Vice President with Special Olympics of Southern California and spent eight years as an Executive Director of University Advancement for the University of Southern California during their groundbreaking $2.5 billion fundraising campaign. Paul holds a MSW degree from the University of Louisville and a BSW from SUNY Brockport.
Dr. Patricia McCarver, YC District Governing Board Liaison

Dr. Patricia McCarver has been a District Governing Board member at Yavapai College in Prescott, Arizona, since January 2005. She is also the Faculty Mentor/Regional Coordinator for Western Governors University. She teaches at the university level and mentors faculty members. She holds a Doctorate degree in Transformative Learning and Change from the California Institute of Integral Studies, a Master’s degree in College Student Personnel Administration from Emporia State University in Kansas and a Bachelor's from St. Norbert's College in DePere, Wisconsin. Yavapai College adopted policy governance as their model for guiding the college in 2004, and when Dr. McCarver became a Board member, she was instrumental in supporting and promoting the process.

Deb McCasland, YC District Governing Board Liaison

In August of 1962, Deb Williams McCasland moved to Prescott with her family from Enders, Nebraska. She attended Lincoln, Prescott Junior High, Mile High Middle, and Prescott High Schools. Deb helped her mother collect signatures to get Yavapai Community College established and in January of 1970 she took her first Yavapai College class while still a senior at PHS. After graduating from YC she attended Northern Arizona and obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Southwest Studies and a Master’s in Community College Education with an emphasis in Guidance and Counseling. In 1976 Deb started her 34 year career at Yavapai College as the Student Activities Director. Her most successful achievements were founding and developing the Community Events program and the Performing Arts Charitable Endowment. Deb enjoys traveling, babysitting her three grandchildren, and volunteering. She currently serves as Chair of the YC District Governing Board.

Kirk Koch, President, Friends of the Southwest Wine Center

Kirk retired in 2013 from a 36 year career in watershed management with the Department of Interior. He grew up and completed high school in Omaha, Nebraska on the Missouri River. Soon thereafter, he became a Vietnam veteran. Kirk worked on the Snake River, Rio Grande, and lower Colorado Rivers for the Bureau of Land Management. Throughout his career, he regularly collaborated with all levels of government resource officials, and other resource owners to resolve conflict, and enable sustainable, multiple uses and health of our vast public land watersheds. He and Laura have been married 46 years and have two children in Phoenix. After retirement, they relocated to Clarkdale in 2014 for the culture, climate and closeness to kids.
Jane Russell-Weniecki, Yavapai-Apache Nation

Jane Russell-Weniecki served as Chairwoman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation until 2019. As a lifetime member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, Winiecki dedicated years of service to the Nation’s Economic Development Board, where she contributed years of experience to developing the Nation’s tribal economy. Additionally, Winiecki has served on the Town of Clarkdale Town Council, Verde Valley Regional Economic Development Council, the Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Cliff Castle Casino Board of Directors, Yavapai College Sedona Board of Directors, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation CDFI Board of Directors. As Chairwoman, Winiecki focused on the planning and future development of the Nation’s economy, preservation of the Nation’s cultural identity, water and natural resources.

Robert Schmitt

Robert E. Schmitt is a partner in the Prescott law firm Murphy, Schmitt, Hathaway and Wilson, serving as a trial lawyer in the Prescott Community for over 20 years. Mr. Schmitt received the “Walter E. Craig Distinguished Service Award,” the highest award offered by the Arizona Bar Foundation in 2011. He has served on many boards and committees statewide throughout his career and continues to serve on the Arizona College of Trial Advocacy Faculty and the Arizona State University Law School Foundation Board. Mr. Schmitt received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1968 and his Juris Doctorate in 1973 from Arizona State University. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court, District of Arizona and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Schmitt has been married to his wife, Dianne, for more than 35 years, and is the proud father of five and grandfather of 12 and counting.

Joan Meyers

Joan Meyers has over 40 years dedicated work experience with Kindergarten through College students and staff. Her educational degrees include a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Masters of Arts in School Administration, and Specialist degree in Educational Leadership. She also was an instructor at Ohio State University and University of Toledo. The last twelve years of her career she had her own consultant business providing facilitation to educators across the country. Joan is a Founder of the Southwest Wine Center and coordinator of the volunteers for the auxiliary, Friends of the Southwest Wine Center.
Marnie Uhl

Marnie Uhl is the President/CEO of the Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce having served in that capacity since 2006. Under Marnie’s leadership the Chamber received accreditation through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is one of only four Chambers in Arizona to achieve this designation. Marnie resides in Prescott Valley and holds an Associate of Science degree in Administration of Justice. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Chamber Foundation’s Institute for Organization Management and has received the IOM and ACE professional designations. Her hobbies include theater and has performed both as an actor and worked backstage as a theater tech. She is President of the Prescott Center for the Arts Board, a member of the Prescott Valley Early Bird Lions Club and also serves on several other community organization boards.

Angela Walker-Weber

Angela moved to Prescott ten years ago when she joined Walker & Walker, Attorneys at Law. Her practice is focused on Estate Planning. She has served the community on several charitable boards including United Way, the Salvation Army, Prescott YMCA, and Yavapai County Community Foundation’s Social Services Committee.

Phil Winkelstern

Phil graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Business Administration. He began his career with General Electric Co. in the Financial Training Program. After five years he joined the Ford Motor Co. Finance Staff and held a variety of positions including five years in the UK managing investments and currency transactions for the European affiliates. In 1975 he joined the Commercial Intertech Co. as Sr. Vice President and CFO and ultimately a board member. During this period he held other board seats, among them: Chairman of the Better Business Bureau, Blue Cross of Eastern Ohio, McDonald Steel Co., Western Reserve Hospital Group chairing the Finance and Investment Committees, and the Mahoning Bank of Youngstown, Ohio. Post retirement Phil volunteered at the Smoki Museum and joined Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He currently serves on the YCF Finance Committee.
Katie Wrigley

Katie moved to Prescott in 2005 from the Phoenix area, where she’d enjoyed 30 years in accounting and finance. After failing at retirement, she went back to work for Fann Contracting, Inc. and is currently working on a part-time basis for Fann Contracting and Fann Environmental. Currently, Katie is active in the Prescott branch of the American Association of University Women, where she serves as Treasurer and on several community action committees. Leisure activities include reading, hiking, sewing and cooking. Katie and her husband Bill also enjoy getting away to their second home in Greer, AZ as often as possible.
Frank Fitzgerald  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Pamela Haber  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Perry Massie  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Bill Miller  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2020

Howard Moody  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Jean Phillips  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2010

Karen Rizk  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Oren Thompson  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Chuck Walker  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019

Dr. Richard Wright  
Board Member Emeritus  
Conferred 2019