
PRESS RELEASE

For Release: Immediate

GENERATIONS UNITED WELCOMES NEW BOARD CHAIR AND OFFICERS

(Washington, DC) – Generations United announced the election of three new officers to its Board of Directors: Chair **Matthew Melmed**, executive director of ZERO TO THREE; Vice Chair **Walter Jones**, Region President for Verizon; and Secretary **Marla Viorst**, an independent communications consultant. In addition, **Paul Thornell**, managing director of Federal Government Affairs for Citigroup, returned as treasurer. **Francine Salamone**, vice president of Corporate Affairs at Pfizer Inc., was elected as a new member to the Generations United’s Board.

Matthew Melmed, who succeeds **Larry Minnix** (President & CEO, Leading Age), is only the third chair of Generations United’s Board and the first to come from the children and youth sector.

“Matthew Melmed is the country’s leading advocate for babies and toddlers and has served on Generations United’s Board since 2006,” says Minnix, outgoing chair. “The new vice chair, Walter Jones, brings a great corporate perspective to our vital mission. Matthew and Walter are just what Generations United needs in governance leadership taking us forward.”

“Larry is a tremendous leader, not only in his life but in his sector,” Melmed said. “I’m humbled to follow in his lead and work with this great Board to grow relationships and increase investments in Generations United so we can have an even greater impact.”

Generations United officers and new member bring deep and wide-ranging nonprofit and corporate experience to Generations United’s board:

Matthew Melmed is executive director of ZERO TO THREE, an organization that promotes the health and development of infants and toddlers. He also served as the first elected Chair of the Children’s Leadership Council, a coalition of 55 leading national policy and advocacy organizations working to improve the health, education and well-being of America’s children and youth. Additionally, he serves as a Trustee of the Turrell Fund in New Jersey and is past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Food Research and Action Center, the nation’s leading hunger solutions organization.

Walter Jones is president of Consumer and Mass Business’ New York South/East region for Verizon, where he’s responsible for delivering industry leading products and services to wireline customers in New York. Prior to this position, he served as vice president of the West Area Network for Verizon Wireless. His professional career in telecommunications spans 24 years – including leadership positions in operations, sales, and call center management.

Paul Thornell serves as managing director of Federal Government Affairs for Citigroup. Prior to joining Citigroup, he served as senior vice president of Public Policy and Field Leadership at United Way of America, the nation’s largest charity.

Marla Viorst is an independent communications consultant with 20+ years working with clients on a range of public affairs, policy and consumer issues. She has worked in some of the leading global communications agencies, including Fleishman-Hillard and Hill & Knowlton, at the lobbying firm Wexler & Walker, and on Capitol Hill as a spokesperson for Congresswoman Lois Capps.

Francine Salamone is vice president of Corporate Affairs of Pfizer, one of the world's leading biopharmaceutical companies whose diversified health care and consumer products are commercialized globally. In this role, Dr. Salamone leads public affairs and policy teams to advance critical commercial goals across all business units operating in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and key markets in Europe. Francine began her career at Pfizer in 1990 and held positions of increasing responsibility including roles in Regulatory Affairs, Business Development and Strategic Planning.

About Generations United

For nearly three decades, Generations United has been the catalyst for policies and practices stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged. www.gu.org