



Meet Our Board Chair, Sandra Govic

Met our Chair, Sandra Govic, Senior Vice President, Senior Wealth Advisor at Wilmington Trust. With more than three decades of experience in the financial services industry, Sandra works closely with individuals and families on wealth management planning and execution. She is responsible for providing comprehensive wealth management advice to high-net-worth individuals, families, entrepreneurs, and business owners throughout the NY Tri-State region. Sandra works closely with clients and their advisors to develop financial strategies to help clients meet their current needs and plan for their long-term objectives, including investment management, planning, trusts, risk management, private banking, and family office services.

What first drew you to the Center and your interest in getting involved?

Back in 2006 a former colleague of mine introduced me to Mike, Elaine, and Chuck. I had the opportunity to come to the Gala to learn more about the Adler Aphasia Center and meet some of the members, donors, and staff. I thought to myself, I would like to learn more about what they do and who they serve. After coming to visit the Center to see firsthand what we do day in and day out. Meeting with the members and ringing the lunch bell, I thought to myself, wow this is such a wonderful place. A home away from home, a safe and secure environment, a cocoon outside of all the noise.

Living with aphasia is no easy task, and I think the pandemic has taught us that isolation is not good for anyone. Think about getting up one day and your life changes overnight, we help people to rebuild their confidence and self-esteem, so that they can have a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

Why did you decide to be on the board and take on the role of chair?

I wanted to get involved with an organization that helps those who suffer from brain trauma and to honor two beautiful people in my life. Those closest to me know that I lost my father when I was 25 years old to stroke. Then in 2003, I lost my only sibling and sister at age 38, who had a stroke as a result of preclampsia.

I am at a point in my life where I have experienced enough in life to add value and make a difference as Chair. I see such a bright future ahead for the organization in so many ways and with the support of the Alder Family, I hope to lay the groundwork for many years to come and to celebrate the next 20 years with you all!

How do you see the Center evolving in the future?

Our program's monumental success over these past 20 years is directly attributed to the vision of Mike and Elaine Adler, and all the hard work from our staff, volunteers, and caregivers to help members return to an active life. Through partnership with universities around the world we look to their rigorous research so that we can continue to address the needs of our members. The Adler Aphasia Center has always been progressive, we can never be complacent and must look to technology, AI, the needs of our growing members, and continue to develop and challenge ourselves day in and day out to excel in what we do!

What excites you most about the Center and its future?

We have so much to be proud of in this our 20th year of enriching the lives of those with aphasia. The Center's ambitious program for the coming year is underscored by two notable elements: our belief in the right of people with aphasia to have access to effective, life-affirming rehabilitation programming; and our ability to continue to offer these vital programs, thanks to the generous support of our devoted funders.

Over the past year, the Center has been undergoing important changes that will contribute significantly to its capacity to manage continued growth and an expansion of programming, serving more people with aphasia and their families. Some of these plans include moving closer to developing a model of sustainability to support the Center for years to come, a board structure to help play a key role in the Center's ability to move into its third decade of programming, continued investment in reaching those with aphasia statewide, new and inspiring partnerships with valued community organizations to support the rehabilitation of people with aphasia, and finally an exciting aphasia study with the National Institutes of Health which will further underscore how our donors continued support helps us maintain our reputation as the leading research-based aphasia program in the Northeast.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, we'd like to reiterate to our members and their families: we hear your voices; we understand your needs; and we know that the Center's cause is worth our best efforts yet.