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New Board of Directors Member Has Personal and Professional Interest In Aging Issues

Professionally, John Lee says, he spends almost all his time thinking about the aging community and the aging population. As senior director, Medicare Part D, for the Walgreen Company, he leads the company's multi-billion dollar Medicare Part D business segment.

A new member of AgeOptions Board of Directors, he also has a long-time personal interest in aging and the concerns of older adults – his grandmother. “We were very close,” he said. “She lived in her house until she was 96 and was the inspiration in many ways for the people in my family.”

From both personal and professional perspectives, John would like to see all older adults be able to maintain their independence and freedom.

“I have a strong desire to support that population and participate in helping individuals have the freedom to remain in their homes and communities,” he said. “I truly believe our goal should be to maintain the independence and freedom of our aging Americans. It makes sense for older people themselves and also for the health care industry as a whole. I feel like the world should be aligning around that.”



John Lee



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John joined the AgeOptions Board of Directors in January. “I give all the credit to (Board member) Dr. Karen Babos,” he said. “She was a strong advocate for the organization and talked to me about it.”

Currently he is a member of the Development Subcommittee and expects to join more Board committees. “I have a lot of experience in the private sector and working with many managed care organizations. My value can be best utilized helping the Board think about working with managed care and the private sector to help AgeOptions thrive.”

John joined Walgreens in 2011, first focusing on important issues facing the company as director, Strategic Operations, and then director, Strategic Operations and Client Implementation, for the Specialty and Infusion business unit. In his current position, he has focused for the last three years on the Medicare segment, which he points out is “one of the most important and fast-growing areas of health care.”

He came to Chicago from Minnesota in 2000 to start a career in management consulting focused on strategy, operations and organizational issues facing Fortune 500 companies. “I’m a consultant by training, which is a lot about working with organizations to solve important issues that face them,” he said. Before joining Walgreens he was manager, Strategy and Business Development, at Fortune Brands, worked as a strategy consultant at McKinsey and Company, and also held positions at NERA Economic Consulting, Syberplex Technology Services and A.T. Kearney, Inc.

He graduated magna cum laude from Carleton College in Minnesota, where he played baseball, and received an MBA from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management.

John and his wife, Lyndsi, an executive at True Value Hardware, aren’t from Chicago but have made it their home. They’re still recovering, he said, from the recent renovation of an old house



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they bought in 2013 and converted back to a single-family residence from a multi-family structure.

Their two children, Ethan, 6 and Izzy, 3, are learning French in preparation for their first international trip. "Our interests are primarily family and travel, including food and wine travel," Lee said. "We love to travel, particularly to new countries. We've been to every continent but Australia and Antarctica. We're lucky to be able to do it and hope to show the world to our children."