

KUDOS TO MEMBERS

We plan to highlight both the professional and personal/community accomplishments of our ACC St. Louis members in future newsletters, so we would ask members to send us stories and photos of such accomplishments in the future. Please send information, including a phone number and email to: accstl@qabs.com with the subject line: MEMBER KUDOS.

Our first story in this series highlights ACC St. Louis Board Secretary, Danielle Langeneckert, and her role as President of the Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association (TEGNA) in South St. Louis City.

- How long have you been involved with the Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association?
 - I have been a volunteer for several organizations in the past. Last year, I was approached by TGENA to help lead the Neighborhood Association as President. While I have been active in attending events and fundraisers brought by TGENA in the past, 2022 was my first year on the board.
- What are your responsibilities as the current President?
 - Serve a multi-year term overseeing a non-profit organization and one of St. Louis' 79 historic neighborhood associations.
- Lead a diverse board of 14 directors and manage a \$15K budget overseeing beautification, commercial development, safety, fundraising, social engagement, and charitable giving initiatives benefiting 5,800 residents.
 - Organize 23 meetings annually to provide a venue for city officials and citizens to gather and collaborate on pressing issues.
- Do you feel that your experience as an ACC St. Louis member enhances your contributions to TGENA? If so, how?
 - Absolutely! ACC STL is a very established chapter, and its maturity has really helped me provide more structure to TGENA. My experience on committees and the Executive Board have helped address situations faced by our neighborhood non-profit. TGENA is made up of unpaid volunteers, so any way we can learn to enhance how we deliver value to our neighbors is always beneficial.
- What is your term? (i.e. - annual/biannual)?
 - I will serve one year as President, followed by one year as Immediate Past President
- I see that TGENA's purpose is to inform community engagement projects, community-focused while bolstering neighborhood development and beautification efforts. Please name one (or two) specific projects that you are most proud of in this regard.
 - Community Dialogue: Since starting my term in November, we have hosted two forums already in our monthly General Meetings open to the public. The first brought Mayor Tishaura Jones and several of her leaders in safety and streets for a forum regarding traffic calming and safety, as this has been a priority and focus for our neighbors following two fatal pedestrian/bike incidents. The other brought our newly-redistricted

Ward 7 aldermanic candidates together to discuss hot platform issues prior to the primary vote. In both cases, we solicited questions from our neighbors to foster inclusive and relevant content. Next week, we host our third forum with the newly-hired SLMPD Police Chief Tracy.

- Sustainability: Our beautification committee hosts quarterly street clean-up events, where neighbors and volunteers work to remove trash and socialize together. We also work with the city to support free tree planting, and our Community Garden and Orchard provide sustainable garden plots, an annual plant sale, and community-focused events. We also recently went virtual with our quarterly newsletter, which not only made it more fiscally sustainable but also more environmentally friendly.
- Please feel free to add any additional thoughts!
 - I would highly recommend getting involved in your neighborhood community in a larger way. Many of us now work more (if not mostly) from home, and it brings you closer to where you can impact and really provide support. You don't have to run for office, or even be a President of a Board, even just finding ways to volunteer, show up, or be present will make a difference!