

Wilfried ("Willy") Heinzelmann – motivation for AFS Board candidacy

I am almost 58 years old and live in Winterthur where I was born and where I've always been living. My two daughters, 21 and 24 years old, have already left the nest and are living very close to us and in Chur respectively. I travelled a lot with my parents and my sisters and my brother with tent and caravan in Europe and I always loved to see other countries and their culture. Nevertheless, an exchange year during my schooldays was actually never an issue. So, not really an AFS cv which I could impress you with...

However, after my studies, I went to London for a few weeks as part of a language study and lived there with a landlady and her two children. After my admittance to the bar I lived in Munich for a few months to write my thesis. Two years later the law firm I was working for sent me first to London for a so called Visiting Lawyers Program in a huge city firm and after that to the partner firm in French-speaking Switzerland. Especially the program in London I've enjoyed very much. We have been a group of about twenty young lawyers from all over the world who have been drawn together and educated in the way of doing legal work in a big London firm. The training was continued practically every evening... Many friendships were formed during this time, which - also thanks to regular alumni dinners in London - have been maintained over all the more than 25 years since then. Also my professional activity as a lawyer and manager in the film and TV business had a strong international connection and was always associated with travel and contacts in many different countries. To meet and learn people from other countries and cultures has always been a great pleasure for me and I took it as a beautiful gift.

What is my motivation for getting involved with AFS, to be considered for election to the Board? What excites me about AFS is the promotion of intercultural understanding, especially among young people. The world of tomorrow belongs to the youth of today! And the nowadays world is international, global - and full of conflicts... One approach to avoiding conflicts and find and keep peace is to be tolerant, to be open minded to other views, customs, cultures and practices and to understand and accept them. Is there a better way to learn this than by living in another country, in another culture? That's why I find the idea and work of AFS so inspiring.

After more than 30 years of intensive professional activity, at the end as CEO of a media group, I have retired from operational business. I did this with the aim of giving something back to society from the many privileges I had been granted. Especially to a non-profit organization like AFS supporting young people. And I believe that I can support AFS with my knowledge and experience, even if I did not make use of the AFS offer as a student...



Christian Herter

Motivation for AFS Board Candidacy



PERSONAL PROFILE

- ❖ Age: 37 years old
- ❖ Occupation: relationship manager for corporate clients at Credit Suisse
- ❖ Education: M.A. HSG in Banking & Finance, certified business educationalist
- ❖ AFS exchange year: 2000/2001 in Denver, USA
- ❖ AFS volunteering: SCP, A-teamer, other roles
- ❖ Languages: German, English

ACTIVITIES

- 🏸 Squash
- ♠ Board Games
- 🍷 Jassen
- 📖 Fantasy Books
- 🏈 American Football

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AFS has changed my life to the core 20 years ago when I had the privilege to do an exchange year with AFS in Denver, USA and it keeps affecting me to the day. It seems just like yesterday that I have visited Denver East High School and dined with my host family. As I have been able to keep a close relationship with my host family and best US friend until today, I am thrilled to have the journey going on. But AFS has given me not only a second family, a second home and new lifelong friends, but also a new perspective on the world and last but not least on myself. I am convinced that AFS helps creating a better world. If we all are family and friends, we don't have to fight each other.

As a long standing volunteer, I have experienced the great satisfaction of being part of AFS and spreading its contagious virus and I would love to contribute more as a member of the board. Through my volunteer work as SCP, A-teamer and few other roles I have learned to appreciate and love the Swiss AFS family, especially in these trying times.

I would love to help the board both with my AFS background as well as my financial knowledge. I studied banking and finance and business education at HSG. Since my studies, I started a career as a relationship manager for medium sized companies at Credit Suisse. At my line of work, I am daily confronted with difficult business questions and problems as well as new business ideas and strategies. I accompany my clients over years as strategic partner and advise them on their business strategies. A cooperative collaboration with my clients has been key for helping a lot of my clients in these tough times to keep a cool head and make the right decisions.

In teams both at work and in private I am usually the person you would describe as outgoing, with a positive drive but isn't afraid to tackle difficult questions. Respect, honesty and empathy are the basis I live my relationships with others. I would love to help AFS get through these unsure times by bringing my knowledge, team spirit and positive energy to the board and would be honored to be part of it.