

George Greanias

- **What has been ALF's impact on you? On organizations and people that you work with? On the community?**

For me personally, ALF reinforced a lot of my instinctive approaches to collaborating with others. But what I learned through ALF – first in my year in Class III, and subsequently through my continued affiliation as a Senior Fellow – were skills that sharpened those instinctive approaches and made them more effective. This directly shaped the way I approached my jobs as a Council Member, Controller and leading Metro, reinforcing my faith in collaborative models, and it carries over into the way I approach my consulting work today.

When it comes to the community, I think we still have work to do. Individual Senior Fellows are using what ALF has taught them, but we've not yet harnessed – on a consistent basis -- the collective power that is there. That's no small challenge, but there are a couple ideas that I'm excited about and are being explored in the new strategic plan. One is to create and maintain a leadership talent database capturing the skillsets of leaders across the community. A mayor, say, looking for potential board appointees, or a community organization wanting board members to broaden its impact – could use that database to consider a wider, more diverse list of candidates. Another possibility would be to become the facilitator or convener of choice on difficult community issues. And given the depth of leadership experience among our Senior Fellows, there's no reason they couldn't start sharing our knowledge through a series of leadership courses based on the ALF leadership vision.

- **Why were you interested in serving on the ALF board?**

I wasn't born in Houston, but I love this place and feel very lucky for the opportunities I've had to contribute to the community both in public and private roles. For me, rejoining the ALF Board more than a decade after my last stint represents another opportunity to serve.

- **What committee(s) do you serve on and what are you most excited to work on?**

At the moment I'm on the Nominating and Senior Fellows Committees, and recently I was on the Strategic Planning Committee. The Nominating Committee recommends officers, Board members and committee chairs; it's a great way to help ensure we have truly representative leadership by reaching out to all of our Senior Fellows and involving as representative a cross-section of them as possible. The Senior Fellows Committee offers the chance to explore and implement different programs to keep our members involved long after they complete that first year. The Strategic Planning Committee was a challenging exercise undertaken by some very committed, highly articulate Senior Fellows who conducted a rigorous assessment of the best path forward for ALF.

- **What value does your American Leadership Forum membership provide to you?**

That one's easy: the opportunity to stay connected to the Senior Fellows I've known over the years and to get connected to the Senior Fellows I've never met. As the years go by and one gets older, time and circumstance diminish the world of people we know. Staying active in ALF – participating in its activities, serving on its committees, supporting its work – all of that helps push back against that very natural tendency. It's an important way of staying engaged, of pushing back the boundaries of who and what I know, and of staying an active part of the community that means so much to me.