

## Tracy Janda

Class XLIII, Community Relations Manager, CenterPoint Energy

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

For me, the ALF experience confirmed the importance of relationships, which is a large part of my work as a community relations manager for a Fortune 500 company. It reminded me that understanding others' perspectives and building trust are keys to having constructive dialogue. It also reminded me that building relationships takes time. I have gotten to know quite a few ALF Senior Fellows and really appreciate the impact they are making in our community.

2. Why are you interested in serving on the ALF board?

My ALF experience has taught me a lot. I was attracted to board service to help the organization offer the experience to many more individuals in our community.

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

I will be serving on the Senior Fellows committee. I think the ALF class experience is a special catalyst for our development as leaders and facilitators. But our personal growth will extend beyond the class experience itself. I hope that the engagement activities planned by this committee will offer Senior Fellows additional opportunities for growth.

4. Are there any ALF lessons/techniques that you apply in your daily life/professional/community life?

Yes, I particularly enjoyed my class session where we learned about polarity mapping as a framework for conversation between individuals with differing perspectives. I find comfort in the fact that a large cohort of ALF Senior Fellows are involved in our community and can utilize this tool to foster change. However, I have to confess that using it to navigate current political discussions has not gone well for me so far!

5. What value does your American Leadership Forum membership provide to you?

My membership is a reflection of the high regard that I have for the ALF leadership model and the importance of developing our community's leaders.