Nominee Statement: Suzanne S Gilbert

# Position: IAPB Regional Chair: North America

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| **Nominee Job Title** | | | | |
|  | | | Senior Director, Research & Strategic Opportunities | |
| **Nominee Organisation** | | | | |
|  | | | Seva Foundation | |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | | | | |
|  | Prevent Blindness | | | |
| **Represented by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Jeff Todd |
| **Seconded by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Kathy Spahn |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | | | | |
|  | | Helen Keller International | | |
| **Seconding Statement** | | | | |
|  | | It is my pleasure to second the nomination of Suzanne Gilbert for IAPB Regional Chair for North America.  Suzanne has consistently demonstrated her dedication to our field and to the people and organizations in it. Many years ago, Suzanne followed me as Chair of the Partnership Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations in Blindness Prevention and Low Vision. She forged a strong collaborative environment and worked hard to have IAPB rework its membership structure to make room for this diverse group representing the array of nations, professions, and skills sets required to get our job done. This was the genesis of Group C membership which has enriched the work of IAPB.  As noted on the Nomination Statement, Suzanne has provided leadership as well as a tremendous amount of hard work to launch multiple IAPB initiatives. Her dedication is evident through her contributions to, and leadership of, numerous IAPB working groups. Beyond this, she has been a strong voice for inclusion, helping to broaden “our tent” at crucial times in our evolution.   Through the North America Region Chair role, Suzanne brings the experience she has gained internationally to forge a stronger alliance among vision-focused organizations closer to home. Her successful efforts of the past five years are an indication of her effectiveness in the term to come, and I wholeheartedly endorse her candidacy. | | |
| **Nominee Statement** | | | | |
|  | Suzanne Gilbert is well known in international public health and eye care sectors as a program planner, researcher, trainer, and policy maker. Her base of operations for over 40 years is the Seva Foundation of which she is a co-founder. Yet, Suzanne has repeatedly turned her attention to the need to build a global eye care community. She has played multiple roles internationally with IAPB and its associated structures over the years. Since 2016 she has added to these efforts her role as IAPB North America Regional Chair. During this period, she has coordinated efforts of long-time colleagues in the region to expand the visibility and reach of IAPB membership.   Suzanne enjoys learning from the other IAPB regional chairs so as to strengthen communications and action within North America. These include efforts along with VISION 2020 USA and with the Canadian Association of Public Health and Global Ophthalmology for World Sight Day functions, World Report on Vision launches, and other activities.   With Suzanne’s prompt design and coordination inputs, IAPB has staged multiple webinars on topics of importance within the region and beyond. These include several sessions related to equity and access to care as part of an annual series on Glaucoma and advocacy efforts and webinar regarding special needs of people who are aging.  Within Seva, Suzanne has built many longterm collaborations including the Global Sight Initiative which today engages over 100 partner eye hospitals and NGOs. Her major focus now is strengthening data literacy and research skills among Seva staff and partners as a tool for improving service delivery and training.   In addition to being Trustee of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and Chair of the IAPB North America Region, Suzanne serves as Co-Chair of the IAPB Human Resource in Eye Health Work Group, President of the International Society of Geographic & Epidemiologic Ophthalmology, participant on Expert Panels of the World Health Organization, and member of Global committees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Global Education and Outreach as well as the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. | | | |