

Meet Carla Anderson

Introduction by Charley Dickey

Carla Anderson is a product of her past – and a very unique ancestral story at that, the monuments of which she longs to protect! She is also defined by a professional role in looking forward and designing and building monuments of a different kind - ones that define how we live aboard the commercial jet of the future. Let's begin with the past!

Carla's forefathers emigrated to the U.S. from Finland in the 1890's, finding their way as homesteaders to Isle Royale, a 50-mile island near the north shore of Lake Superior, making a go of it fishing for trout and herring. The National Park Service has protected that landscape and its natural history for 80 years, but not the island's communal heritage, at least until recently. Its family dwellings and structures that speak to the island's cultural history are in a state of arrested decay. Carla is actively seeking to protect the remnants of Isle Royale human story as President of the Isle Royale Families and Friends Association.



Carla's dad was a refining executive with the Murphy Oil Company, initially in Duluth, Minnesota, then at its headquarters in Louisiana, and then back to Wisconsin, with young Carla and her sister following along. She earned a full ride to the University of Alaska setting, spiking, and digging her way there as a member of the Seawolves Varsity Women's Volleyball team. She was a psych major, though increasingly committed to business classes as her undergraduate tenure unfolded.

With a liberal arts degree in one hand and a bundle of focused energy in the other, she hit the Seattle streets stopping, looking, and listening for the slightest opportunity to gain a foothold. She knocked on the door of a company called Mitsubishi International, having not a clue as to how it earned a corporate living.

The next day, she was working its phone bank as the Seattle office's receptionist, and for the next eight months she dove in like a tiger, absorbing quickly the office's mission – managing the design-build process of twin-aisle aircraft interiors for Boeing and its largest customers. She's now, 30 years later, the general manager of Mitsubishi International's Aircraft Interior Department and deputy manager of its Seattle office.

Carla's business is the sales and production of aircraft interior monuments. Monuments, you ask? Yes, monuments! That's how the industry refers to galleys and lavatories. Boeing knows how to make planes fly, but can't keep up with the latest and greatest in aircraft kitchens and bathrooms. For that, it dials 1-800-CARLA for help. For example, microwaves, rice cookers, and hotel quality touchless control features are changing the game, especially in the premier cabins.

Carla Anderson, the monument protector, and the monument maker, comes to us representing Mitsubishi International's corporate membership, a bonding long in the making. Several of her office colleagues have joined us today for this inaugural moment. Her proposer, Past President Cathy Gibson, and seconder, my fellow birthday-mate Jann Curley, both had a big hand in sealing this happy corporate connection. It's high time for President Cindy and all of us in this room to give it up, and welcome Carla and Mitsubishi International to Seattle 4.