

*Chapter Chair Chat, July 2024*

## Happy Summer!

*By Mila Vujovich-LaBarre, Chapter Chair*

What do I personally adore about these precious months of June, July, and August? The list is so long that it probably explains why I still love being a public school teacher!

Tops on my list? The glorious, sunny days, family togetherness, the laughter of children everywhere, people cooking and eating together on the beach and at parks, going on new adventures, sitting in a beach chair under an umbrella with a good read, hiking, fishing, playing cards, reuniting with old friends and making new ones, walking, biking, diving under a wave or into a refreshing pool or lake, biting into the best ripe summer fruits and tasty freshly harvested vegetables, surfing in warmer water, stand up paddle boarding in the early morning, being able to dress in a bathing suit, cover-up, and flip flops and go almost anywhere I need to, listening to music and singing out loud, embarking on and finishing a household project or two, trying new recipes and watching sunrises and sunsets. Yes, I am a summer lover! How about you?

As the Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter, the other activity that truly fills me with joy is volunteering. Yes, even during the sacred summer months! The time spent helping out the Sierra Club makes me feel that I am doing something to express my extreme gratitude for our beautiful world. It also provides me with a sense that I am helping the next generation preserve our natural resources and protect our planet.

Many of our generous Santa Lucia Chapter members have continued to [donate funds](#). Thank you so much! I can assure you that every dollar our Chapter receives is spent wisely to accomplish our defined goals.

If you would like to give your time as a volunteer, I invite you to check out the opportunities for the Santa Lucia Chapter by going to our website and filling out the [Volunteer Interest Form](#). Several committees need more minds and hands to help out!

The standing committees currently are Budget, Communications, Conservation, Fundraising, Environmental and Social Justice, Membership, Elections, Nominating, Outings, Political,

Programs, Climate and Clean Energy, and Zero Waste Task Force. Each committee has a terrific Chair or two and they will embrace new members!

As I mentioned in a recent meeting with our Executive Committee, what I love about our Santa Lucia Chapter is that everyone I have worked with is so inclusive, smart, and thoughtful! There is not that sense of elitism that we have all experienced at some point in our lives either professionally or personally. Our creative members are truly concerned about the environment and care about each other. That is just so refreshing!

I also want to give kudos to Gianna Patchen, our new Santa Lucia Chapter Coordinator. She has indeed risen to the challenge of taking over the position from veteran Director Andrew Christie. Not only is she delving into local environmental issues, but she is also increasing communication with everyone via technology and in-person conversations. In addition, our office on Marsh Street is continuing to be revamped and is now a meeting place for multiple committee members working on projects.

Applause is also due to our Santa Lucia Chapter Vice-Chair Ranel Porter. She has enthusiastically helped to plan upcoming events, enhanced communication with her incredible tech skills, and taken an interest in fundraising, and expanding membership. She is an inspirational powerhouse! I invite you to check out our [Chapter calendar](#) and participate in some of the outings that Ranel has coordinated.

I am looking forward to the rest of my summer vacation and then celebrating on Sunday, August 25, 2024, with you all at the 2nd Annual Sierra Club Picnic by the Ocean at Shamel Park in Cambria. The potluck event will start at 11 am. The venue is beautiful and the dress is casual. [Let us know you're coming to join in the fun!](#)

In closing, I hope you are all staying healthy and experiencing joy in some form every day! Take good care of yourself!



With appreciation and love,

Mila Vujovich-La Barre  
Santa Lucia Chapter Chair