

# Crossroads Group Sierra Club



FALL 2024

## Elections 2025-2026 - Crossroads Group Executive Committee Members

Once again, the time has come to elect our Crossroads leaders to carry us through the next 2 years. Please read the candidate statements on page 2 and use the ballot below to vote for up to 5 candidates. The second column is for use by those with joint memberships. Ballots must be returned by December 1, 2024.

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### Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2024 Official Ballot

	Member	Family Membership
Lee Anzicek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lee Burton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Novrocki	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cathy Broses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brett Swanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please:**

1. **Vote for up to five people (their statements are page 2).**
2. **Cut off this ballot.**
3. **Place the ballot in an envelope.**
4. **Write your membership number (from address label) on the outside of the envelope.**
5. **Mail the ballot to:**  
**Sierra Club Crossroads Group**  
**P.O. Box 306**  
**Brighton MI 48116**

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**Vote for the planet in November....Your Voice Counts!**

**See pages 3 and 4 for information about Sierra Club endorsed candidates**

## Executive Committee Chairs

**Chairperson:** Lee Anzicek  
Lee.Anzicek@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Vice Chairperson:** Lee Burton  
Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Treasurer:** Julie Griess  
cg.treasurer@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Secretary:** Cathy Broses  
cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org

**MI Chapter Group Representative:**  
Lee Anzicek, Brett Swanson  
cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Fundraising/Sponsorships:** Maria Burden  
cg.fundraising@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Media:** Ann Groth  
cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Membership:** Cathy Sayre, Suzen Oliver  
cg.membership@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Newsletter:** cg.pubs@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Outings:** crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Political:** Ginny Maturen, Curt Hamilton  
cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

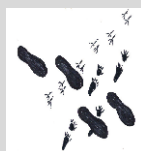
**Programs:** Mary Novrocki, Karen Schmitz  
cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Webmaster:** Laurie Mercure  
cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Conservation:** Brett Swanson, Shirley Jackson  
cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org

VISIT US AT:

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[instagram.com/sierracrossroads](https://www.instagram.com/sierracrossroads)



## Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements

(see ballot on page 1)

### Lee Anzicek

I first joined the Sierra Club following the 2018 mid-term elections. I met a bunch of great folks and within 6 months I had the privilege of co-creating, with Tiffany Stewart, our climate change rally in front of the Brighton Chamber of Commerce.

Since then, I've served on subcommittees and I've served as vice chair. I'm currently serving as chairperson of the group. It is a great privilege to lead such a dynamic group in the Michigan chapter.

### Lee Burton

I have been an environmentalist and outdoor lover for most of my life. Aside from Crossroads, I am active in the Huron River Watershed Council and the Livingston Land Conservancy. Currently I am the vice chair for the Crossroads group and serve on the executive committee. I would like to continue serving in this capacity so I can contribute to a better environment in our area through this organization.

### Mary Novrocki

I am an avid natural habitat gardener, a birdwatcher, and a longtime supporting member of the Sierra Club. I have been a member of Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club since 2009. As a child, I was a passionate protector of everything living. This has guided my actions ever since. I believe that all species and habitats must be protected. I believe that 100% sustainable energy use is an achievable and necessary path to ending the climate change crisis. I believe that our environmental justice policy must guarantee the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens for all living things. Finally, it is my hope that our country, this United States of America, will become unified within itself - and with the world - to stop the Earth's destruction.

### Cathy Broses

Being a nature lover, I became active in the Sierra Club with hikes in late 2021. After becoming involved with the hikes, I began attending meetings in early 2022 and joined the Crossroads group. At the time I joined, there was a need for a secretary to record the group meetings, and I volunteered to do that and I continue to be secretary to this day. Conservation of the environment is important to me. I would like to continue to serve as secretary and on the executive committee to ensure the Sierra Club mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the environment.

### Brett Swanson

I first became an active member of the Sierra Club Crossroads Group in September of 2023. Since then, I have participated in many events and activities including Earth Day, a bus trip to Cincinnati to advocate for the shutdown of Line 5, trips to Lansing for Lobby Day and to lobby against datacenters, and several other issues. I have also enjoyed participating in many Crossroads-sponsored hikes and outdoor activities. I currently serve as co-Chair of the Conservation Committee and chair its sub-committee on Microplastics.

## Get to Know Our Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates Before You Vote

### Crossroads has endorsed 5 candidates running for Livingston/Oakland County Commissioner

Check your Voter Information Card or see [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads/political](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads/political) to find out what district you are in.

Photos below show the candidates receiving their endorsement checks from Crossroads leaders.



**Pamela Bethune, Livingston County, Dist. 3** [www.BethuneforCountyCommissioner.com](http://www.BethuneforCountyCommissioner.com)

Ms. Bethune is well qualified to run for the Livingston County Commission. Her education and work experience explain her environmental commitment: Plant Manager heavy machining; Director of Quality TRW Automotive, and Johnson Controls; Lead auditor for ISO14001, the environmental ISO standard. Also certified for R2 Responsible Recycling auditing.

On a personal level, her lawn is ½ clover; drives an EV; changed from gas stove to induction; added a heat pump running on electric for AC; replaced her outdated furnace with a more efficient propane model; upgraded to an on-demand water heater; and will soon have solar panels.



**Paul Giessner, Livingston County, Dist. 5** [www.elect-paul.com](http://www.elect-paul.com)

Paul has Bachelor and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering. He's active in the Livingston County Democratic Party. He is a member of Ann Arbor for Public Power and Michigan League of Conservation Voters. He works for California's Anza Renewables, a company focusing on clean energy transition ([anzarenewables.com](http://anzarenewables.com)).

Mr. Giessner is highly concerned with PFAS contamination in Livingston County. He supports polluter pay laws and the High-Quality Natural Areas Assessment Report in the County's planning process. He would like to create or expand the county's parks and nature preserves; reduce the number of trash collection services to reduce excess emissions and wear and tear on our roads; increase accountability from recycling vendors; and reform single-use plastic practices.



**Bob Sexton, Liv. County, Dist. 7** [Facebook: Support Bob Sexton for County Commission](https://www.facebook.com/SupportBobSextonforCountyCommission)

Bob Sexton is a retired educator living in Livingston County more than 25 years. He's been President of the Fowlerville Education Association, helping to negotiate the contracts for the district's teachers. He is active in the Livingston County Democratic Party.

Bob believes all voices need to be heard in the decision-making process. He would be a more moderate voice and believes "we need representation for the 2 in 5 county residents who aren't Republican and put an end to extreme political agendas in county politics." He wants to ensure toxic chemical sites are mitigated, ensure a safe clean environment for all, preserve wetlands, swamps, and other environmentally sensitive land, increase recycling and reduce landfill sites, increase designated bike and pedestrian paths, and work for more reliable and mass transit system with connections to regional transits. The most vulnerable populations are exposed to pollution and he sees EVs as one solution. "The radical stances taken by the commission have endangered the population and ignored the well-being of its constituents, i.e. seniors and the impoverished.



**Elizabeth Hauptman, Livingston County, Dist. 8** [www.vote4hauptman.com](http://www.vote4hauptman.com)

Elizabeth has been with Moms Clean Air Force for over 10 years and is on the EGLE PFAS citizen advisory board. She fights for air quality improvement; clean energy transition, water quality/conservation; waste reduction/recycling; better land use and green spaces; environmental justice and works to increase public awareness and community engagement.

Ms. Hauptman offers detailed strategies for: reducing PFAS, receiving federal/state funding, establishing a local environmental task force, utilizing legal avenues to hold polluters accountable and collaboration with research Institutions and non-profits. She proposes comprehensive approaches for Livingston County's waste management plan including: enhanced recycling infrastructure, mandatory recycling and composting laws, and comprehensive education campaigns. She also recommends incentive programs for: Zero-Waste initiatives, partnerships with waste management innovators, hazardous waste disposal, expansion of non-motorized vehicle corridors and EV friendly corridors.



**Kristin Nelson, Oakland County, Dist. 10** [www.VoteKristenNelson.com](http://www.VoteKristenNelson.com)

Ms. Nelson has been a member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners since 2019. She has a Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Special Education. After 15 years in public education she is now a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, working with individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. Since 2019, she has championed many environmental initiatives such as: a resolution acknowledging a climate emergency, house and senate bills holding polluters accountable, a water affordability bill package, a public transportation millage, the statewide EV charging network, eliminating roadblocks preventing residential solar expansion and a regional partnership for broadband equity and water infrastructure. Kristin has created an energy and environment infrastructure plan, established a native plant initiative and an Environmental Sustainability Officer position.

**The National and Michigan Sierra Club have endorsed the following candidates:**

**Jennifer Conlin: Michigan House/State Representative, HD 48** [www.conlinforstaterep.com](http://www.conlinforstaterep.com)

Ms. Conlin pledges to listen to her constituency, find common ground with fellow legislators, and fight to make our district a more equitable, thriving place by working for good paying jobs, improved education, a safe healthy environment, access to high-quality, affordable healthcare, and safeguarding the rights of all people in Michigan.

**Curtis Hertel: Michigan 7th Congressional District** [www.hertelformichigan.com](http://www.hertelformichigan.com)

As the Michigan Director of Legislative Affairs, Curtis has been instrumental in passing bipartisan legislation that cut taxes for seniors and working families, expanded workers’ rights and won new investments in advanced manufacturing that will bring good-paying jobs to our State. He was a key voice in the repeal of the archaic 1931 law that banned abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

**Elissa Slotkin: U.S. Senate:** [www.elissaslotkin.org](http://www.elissaslotkin.org)

Elissa believes that our government works best when we have two healthy parties that debate the big issues facing Americans, but she always stands her ground when basic American and human principles are being challenged. She is committed to defending and expanding Michigan’s middle class, making things in America and bringing supply chains home, keeping our communities, schools and kids safe, protecting affordable healthcare with no precondition exclusions and safeguarding our rights and our democracy.

**See the Michigan Chapter political page ([www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsements2024](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsements2024)) for a full list of candidates endorsed by the Michigan Chapter political committee**

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**Crossroads Group Events**

See our Meetup site <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group/> for more details about these outings and programs (including possible cancellations or changes) and to see details when we schedule future events. Meetup is free to join, and a great way to let us know who is attending each event and to allow us to communicate with our members and for you to communicate with us.

**Fall Color Hike Brighton Recreation Area** – Sunday October 20, 1pm

Location: Bishop Lake trailhead parking lot, Brighton Recreation Area.

Enjoy the fall colors with us on either the Penosha Trail (5 miles) or the Kahchin trail (2 miles).

More fall hikes will be planned soon – check our meetup site for the latest details.

**Plant-Based Eating and the Planet** – Wednesday November 20, 7 pm

Location: Brighton District Library: 100 Library Dr, Brighton

This free program will be presented by Dr. Katie Johnson of VegMichigan. Dr. Johnson’s presentation will be on the connection between our food choices and the health of our planet. She will share delicious plant-based food samples with attendees.

## **It's Fall: Interesting Facts & Concerns About Bird Migration** by Shirley Jackson

Fall is upon us once again, and although many daytime temperatures have been summer-like, nights have been cooler and daylight hours shorter. It may seem odd, but some species of birds began their fall migration in late August and the month of September is when the majority of several bird species travel south.

Bird migration in Michigan is a multi-pronged topic. Why do some species stay year-round, why do some of the same species migrate while others don't, why do some migrate during the day and others fly at night, why do some migrate solo and others in large flocks?

Who stays and who leaves, is based on food availability during winter, but there are exceptions. American Robins rely heavily on worms and insects through the spring and summer, and most leave Michigan for the winter. But some stay behind and change their diet to berries, fruits and seeds during winter, while most insect-eating species keep their diet the same year-round by migrating to warmer climates. (Source: American Bird Conservancy)

Night migration is mostly about the wind, but other factors play a role, too. At night there is no surface heating and therefore less turbulence, and the surface wind tends to resume its normal direction and speed. Songbirds typically prefer light tail winds. (Source: BirdCast) Other factors that play a role are cooler temperatures that prevent overheating, and being out of the eyesight of hawks, cats, and other daytime predators, especially when the birds descend to rest at stop-over areas.

To protect birds during migration, it's imperative to understand multiple factors at play. Scientists have been tracking nocturnal bird migrations for decades, but the radar and sound equipment used today is much better than in past years. Modern weather radars can detect the wing area of the flying, the speed of flight, the frequency of wing beat, the direction, distance and altitude. (Source: Radar ornithology – Wikipedia) This is a huge improvement from the days when the radar couldn't detect the difference between birds, bats, and insects! The latest digital recording equipment can record, analyze and identify the call makers (birds make special calls during migration) even if they are 1,000 feet overhead or more, and they have become so affordable that even hobby birders are buying them. The availability of highly sophisticated data helps scientists find solutions issues such as assessing the impacts of wind turbine projects and designing bird-friendly urban landscapes. J. Alan Clark, a biology professor at Fordham University said, "This is making the invisible visible. We are now able to peek into those dark skies and quantify and clarify nocturnal migration in ways that will make the world safer for birds." (Source: Audubon)

## **WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE MICROPLASTICS CRISIS** by Brett Swanson

When you open your cupboards, stroll down a store aisle, receive an online parcel, or visit a restaurant, you are witnessing a serious threat unfold to our health and the environment. That threat, which is increasingly gaining our attention, is the staggering volume of plastic waste we are generating and our exposure to microplastics.

According to the University of Leeds, humankind currently releases 57 million tons of plastic across the planet annually. That is enough to fill New York City's Central Park with a column of waste as tall as the Empire State Building. Put another way, that is enough to spread a 1-foot-thick layer of plastic waste over all of Livingston, Wayne, and Macomb counties, and more. Imagine that. And that's just this year's contribution; plastic waste has been growing steadily across our planet for decades.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes tells us that more than 11,000 tons of plastic waste ends up in the Great Lakes every year. What's more, this material never really disappears. Instead, it disintegrates into smaller and smaller particles known as microplastics. And it is these microplastics that have become such an increasing threat to the health of ourselves and the planet.

Crossroads has formed a committee to focus specifically on microplastics which seeks to reduce the generation of microplastics through engagement with our members, local citizens, businesses, and organizations. To begin, we are investigating filters for washing machines, reviewing current medical research on the impact of microplastics on human health, learning how they breakdown in the environment, and engaging with the DNR, retailers, and universities.

Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter, partnering with the Michigan Microplastics Coalition, advocates for policies to address microplastics, which include banning microbeads, regulating plastic pellets, developing comprehensive plans for microplastics, and requiring new washing machines to contain synthetic fiber filtering systems. Further, we are pushing to reject recycling as a solution, phase out the most dangerous plastics, update Michigan's Bottle Bill and support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation ([House Bill 5902](#))

To address the threat of microplastics, we all need to:

- Limit our exposure to microplastics by avoiding plastic storage containers, avoiding fast foods, limiting our intake of high fat foods, eating minimally processed foods, using kitchen tools made of wood or stainless steel, and drinking water from glass or steel containers.
- Engage with businesses and other organizations to encourage them to switch to alternatives to plastic packaging.
- Engage with our local officials, state, and national legislators.

The topic of microplastics is not only serious, but also complex. I encourage you to investigate it further. The more you do, the more concerned you will become. And hopefully, the more you will act.



**Sierra Club – Crossroads Group**  
**P.O. Box 306**  
**Brighton, MI 48116**

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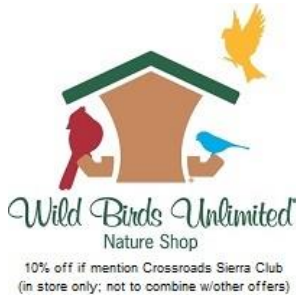
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