

**Candidates for At-Large Member of the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee
8 Candidates (Listed in random ballot order)
5 Open Positions**

Lynne Plambeck



As a Club member and activist for over thirty years, I have held many positions at all levels of the Sierra Club, including group and Chapter Conservation Chair, Chapter Treasurer, ExCom member, Regional Delegate and member of the State Executive Committee, giving me a unique perspective on how the Club functions and a vision for new avenues to accomplish the Chapter's goals. I am currently the co-vice chair of the Chapter Political Committee.

I have focused my local activism on saving Los Angeles County's last free-flowing river, the Santa Clara, along with native oaks and fighting urban sprawl, especially the 21,000 unit Newhall Ranch mega development. I have also worked to ensure a healthy and clean water supply for my community. Through my conservation work, I have organized tours of the river, rallies, information booths, and written comment letters, turned out people for hearings, designed brochures and run for office to raise awareness. These activities provide experience that I want to share in my efforts to

enhance the Chapter's visibility and viability. In 2007, I received a National Sierra Club award for my work to protect the Santa Clara River. I was also honored to receive the Chapter's highest Conservation award for my work and a Chapter Service award year in 2012, as well as recognition from other organizations.

My background as former owner of a recycling business for many years, has given me the practical accounting and financial experience needed to make the many fiscal decisions required for this position.

The current political situation has brought an influx of new activists concerned about the environment. We must encourage these new "feet on the ground" and provide the best possible support for these activists that are willing to give their time and money to speak up on behalf of the environment and keep their neighborhoods clean and healthy. I believe our vision must include actions for these new members by supporting a strong conservation ethic and support for our local conservation and political activists. These actions will help retain the new members we need to keep the Club vital and preserve the places that our outings groups and leaders so dearly love to access and enjoy.

As a Chapter ExCom member, my goals will be to retain new activists through highlighting and support of local conservation efforts and actions throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties. I ask for your vote.

Murray Aronson



Greetings to my fellow Sierra Club members. I'm running for a seat on the Angeles Chapter ExComm.

I'm from a built-up area across the river from Manhattan in the Garden State. But I didn't see many gardens. I have a memory of a cardinal on a wintry day. It was magic, like the time I was privileged to be close to a bear looking for berries near Tokopah Falls.

My first time in Yosemite National Park was with the International Community Committee. The falls were full, the views spectacular, and the dogwood beautiful. It was a wonderful time. I later served as treasurer of the ICC.

I'm a Life Member of the Sierra Club and an O-rated leader. I've led day hikes, some car camps, an overnight on Anacapa, and a trip to Wheeler Peak, also walks in Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Pasadena.

Another accomplishment is my part in the creation of Gay and Lesbian Sierrans. This was a challenge, but we were successful. During the time of GLS organization I collected signatures that resulted in the California Parks and Wildlife Act for which the Chapter gave me an Extraordinary Achievement Award. I was also active in the passing of the CA Desert Protection Act. I've also participated in the Political Committee.

Now that I'm retired (after 25 years with the L.A. Housing Authority), I want to play a more active part in the work of the Angeles Chapter. I want to know more, be better informed, and share my knowledge with others. I want to encourage people of all kinds and backgrounds to have the chance of reveling in nature and to live in a cleaner and healthier Southern California.

I have a general background. I'm fairly well-read in environmental history. Thanks to the present administration, the SC and the Angeles Chapter will be busy. I'm most interested in transportation and park issues. Too many cars, too much traffic, not enough mass transit options, and too few parks. We have to do something about that.

Please help me achieve my goal by voting for me as a member of the Angeles Chapter ExComm. I am a friend of John Muir's. Thank you.

Debbie Drezner



It is my pleasure to run as a candidate for at-large member of the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. I am currently serving my second term on the West Los Angeles Group Executive Committee as secretary. The environment has always been my passion and I have been fortunate to have had a long career working on environmental issues in a number of capacities. I have a doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering from UCLA with an emphasis in biology and ecology. I recently retired from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California as a Principal Environmental Specialist where I worked on water policy issues, projects and legislation related to endangered species, wetlands and the California Environmental Quality Act since 1988. Prior to working for Metropolitan, I worked at the RAND Corporation, where I conducted research on the transaction costs of the Superfund Program for the Environmental Protection Agency.

I am also a professional mediator and have a master's degree in Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University School of Law. I am currently a contract mediator with the U.S. Postal Service and the Transportation Security Administration. I have mediated workplace disputes within these agencies for more than 10 years. I have also assisted in facilitating several multi-party environmental mediations. I am currently applying my conflict resolution skills to help facilitate interactions among Sierra Club members. I participated on a conflict resolution committee at the club's national level and am currently serving on the Angeles Chapter's conflict resolution committee.

One of my goals as a member of the executive committee is to strengthen the club by helping to improve interactions among members and staff when needed. For instance, I mediated one long-standing dispute in early 2016 in which I helped club members resolve their conflict. Disputes can make organizational functioning difficult and can even drive away new members. I believe that finding productive ways to communicate while acknowledging our differences reflects our ability to implement club goals for equity, diversity and inclusion.

I love hiking, backpacking and travel and I completed the Wilderness Travel Course in 2015. I believe that these activities can be viewed from a very relational perspective. They are instrumental in drawing new members, bringing together people from all walks of life and providing a means for fundraising. It is a privilege to contribute to the Sierra Club and I look forward to future opportunities to serve.

Yvonne (Martinez) Watson



I grew up in the small Latino neighborhood of Los Nietos about 2 miles from the Santa Fe Springs oilfield. Growing up I endured severe allergies, upper respiratory tract infections and asthma.

I started working with the Sierra Club's Save the Montebello Hills Task Force (SMHTF) in 2009 to fight a proposed housing development in the middle of the Montebello Hills Oilfield.

Based on my personal experience, I knew this housing project couldn't be good for people and the environment but in the course of my research I was shocked to learn that while I was growing up, 75% of the wells in Santa Fe Springs had been leaking toxic, gaseous emissions into the atmosphere.

I officially joined Sierra Club in 2010 and served as Chief Researcher for the SMHTF till January 2017. I'm an active member of the Clean Break Committee (formerly: Fracking, Oil and Gas Committee) and the Chapter's Water Committee.

The SMHTF celebrated a victory in 2011 when the operator of the Montebello Hills Oilfield pleaded guilty to violating state water pollution laws for an oil spill that reached the Rio Hondo River, a spill we exposed to the media.

In 2014, I was honored to be selected as a panel member for the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council's "Town Hall on Oil Production Issues."

As a member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Working Group on Proposed Rule 1148.2 – Notification and Reporting Requirements for Oil and Gas Wells and Chemical Suppliers I provided information that led to the addition of gravel packing as a required, reportable activity.

During the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak I testified at the 2016 SCAQMD Order of Abatement Hearing against SoCalGas to ensure their past misconduct at the Montebello Gas Storage Facility was not forgotten.

I testified at both 2016 U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board Teleconference Reviews of the Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources.

On behalf of the Water Committee, I held Central Basin Municipal Water District accountable for a lack of environmental review on a proposed recycled water pipeline in Montebello (the project was later dropped.) I continue to represent the Club's stance against the California WaterFix (aka: Bay Delta Tunnel Project).

If elected to ExComm I promise to represent the best interests of the entire Chapter and work hard for Environmental Justice communities.

Dennis (Bear) Loya



I am Dennis (Bear) Loya, and am running for the position of member at large, on the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. I ask for your support and vote.

In 2013 I became a Sierra Club member when I signed up to take the Sierra Club's Wilderness Travel Course (WTC). After graduation, I was invited to join the staff as an instructor, and soon after was elected to serve on the WTC management committee as the Orange County Area Representative. This course had a transformational effect on me, I became a Sierra Club leader, and have earned the O rating followed by the "I" rating for the Angeles Chapter. I am working on my "M" rating.

Once I discovered the Sierra Club, I have been elected to serve on the Sierra Club Orange County Executive Committee as Secretary and have recently been appointed as the Membership Chair for Orange County. In this role, I often organize and participate in various events in the Orange County area to help recruit new members to the Sierra Club and WTC. My experience in WTC inspired me to become active in the environmental movement and use my life skills for the benefit of the Club. As a Mexican-American I can serve as a role model to bring the Latin and other underserved communities in the Sierra Club as well as the great outdoors.

One of the many issues the Sierra Club is on the front lines is the issue of climate change, and changing minds of those who are skeptical. I have personally worked on an individual basis and have had great success speaking to those that are skeptical of climate change and finding common ground ultimately turning them around. We are at a critical stage, and quickly running out of time on Climate Change. It is extremely unfortunate that the US has pulled out of the Paris agreement (for no good reason), we need a ground swell of support to turn this around quickly.

I am currently Treasurer of the Costa Mesa High School Theater Boosters, I attend committee meetings, deal with financial and budget issues, and work to help ensure the fiscal viability of the organization, serving the families and students of Costa Mesa High School

I have served from a union shop steward to being PTA President. I have motivated volunteers, worked with nonprofit budgets, chaired events, raised money, increased membership, and continued to represent each organization. Most of all being a husband, and father to five children qualifies me as a great negotiator and management of a budget.

Jason Islas



I'm a journalist and an activist in Santa Monica. I specialize in sustainable urbanism, green transportation, and how local policies can encourage -- or impede -- inclusive and sustainable cities. I fight for local policies that make our city more affordable, environmentally sustainable, and diverse.

I have been on the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's L.A. County Political Committee for more than two years now and I have served as the Committee's secretary since January. I hope to serve on the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee because I want to be a strong voice for environmental action that is vital to assure future inevitable urban growth creates truly good places to live healthily, raise families, and grow communities while preserving the planet and its remaining wilderness, reducing energy use, and stopping sprawl.

I live car-free in Santa Monica where I work for safer streets and investment in public transportation. I am a fierce advocate for creating walkable, bikeable, diverse communities around major transit hubs in our region to help people reduce their dependence on cars. I am passionate about not only strengthening the tools we have to preserve invaluable resources like the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains, and the Santa Monica Bay, but also to improve access to these places by public transportation.

We live in a diverse region with a range of environmental issues that the Sierra Club's leadership is vital to addressing: whether we are preserving our natural environment, protecting our drinking water, holding polluters like Exide accountable for cleaning up their messes, fighting against toxic natural gas spills in people's neighborhoods, or stopping ill-advised highway expansions, the Sierra Club's local role is indispensable and I am enthusiastic to take on a stronger leadership position.

As someone who grew up in a working class Latino family on the relatively affluent Westside, I experienced firsthand the sorts of choices lower income families are forced to make to stay close to their jobs -- my parents relied on biking and public transportation to get to work to save money -- and to keep their children in quality schools. I have seen how families like mine are increasingly rare in communities like Santa Monica, where I grew up, and West Los Angeles.

I understand the intersection between economic justice, environmental justice, and the need for more sustainable urban policies, policies that the Sierra Club has long supported. For more information about my work, visit jasonislas.com.

Joy Cernac



As an eleven-year Westside resident of LA, an Environmental Studies graduate of Oberlin College and decade-long environmental professional, I am running for a seat on the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club's Executive Committee. Currently, I am serving my second term on the West LA Group of the Sierra Club's Management Committee. I have served as a Captain/Co-Captain of our Coastal Clean-up Day site at Baldwin Hills Overlook for three years, pioneered a Water Resource Fair to assist Los Angeles in combatting its previous record drought, advocated for a storm water & urban runoff infiltration basin and for a Styrofoam ban in Culver City, among other activities. Growing up in the forested outskirts of Louisville, Kentucky, I developed my environmental consciousness through exploring the woods, streams, and tending to my grandfather's garden. In college, I studied Tropical Biology abroad in Costa Rica, and I received my B.A. in Environmental Studies and a Minor in

Geology.

In my professional life, I have worked in the fields of greenhouse gas accounting, carbon offsets, biofuels, green building, energy efficiency, environmental justice, habitat conservation, e-waste recycling, and currently in the auditing of environmental management systems. I have been on the Executive Committee at my workplace for the past 3½ years. Being a certified Permaculture Designer, I create solutions to problems by working with nature through observation and imitation of natural systems. I have graduated from the Annenberg Foundation's capacity building and leadership development "Alchemy" program which facilitates non-profit organizational development.

With a naturally deep-seated interest in my community and its environment, I have an ingrained passion for ecosystem and resource conservation issues as well as eco-psychology. I am a 17-year practitioner of yoga, meditation and mindfulness, now for over half of my life. My approach to working with others is "seek first to understand, and then to be understood" in order to facilitate coherence, team-building, and synergy within a group. As I am a "millennial" or, more aptly, a "xennial", I strive to bridge the gap between the Sierra Club's seasoned membership and younger Los Angeles County residents looking for an organization to address their environmental concerns. I take pride in the diverse terrain and makeup of the Los Angeles County community. Together with members of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, I endeavor to connect our residents with the natural world to a much greater extent.

Bettie Pearson



Although I am somewhat new to the Sierra Club, a member for just under four years, I am not new to the Club’s environmental focus, embodied in the motto: explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. This is also my “environmental focus,” combine with retaining and reusing, concepts I practice when feasible, and have for years.

Aside from volunteering and participating in chapter-based activities, my roles in the Sierra Club are through the Crescenta Valley (“CV”) Group. I lead day hikes; I am the alternate to ExCom; I am the representative to the Conservation Committee, and I am the publisher of our monthly newsletter.

I have been the alternate for the CV group for almost three years. It has given me the chance to see first-hand how membership on ExCom works: the parliamentary procedures, major issues that have to be considered, support for environmentally friendly candidates and causes. So that I can step into the role of representative, I attend most of the meetings. As an At Large Representative, I would be broadening my participation, weighing in on issues impacting the club, the culture, the environment.

Conservation Committee issues are folded into the CV management group. An enduring CV conservation project, in conjunction with Glendale’s Parks Department which manages the project, is the planting and watering of trees in the city’s Wilderness Park. Due largely to the 2009 station fire, which scorched some of the trees and plants there, I have been participating with members of the CV group and others in this conservation project. Another group conservation effort was our support in helping to stop Glendale’s plans to expand Scholl Canyon landfill, which resulted in the city agreeing to investigate alternative ways to reduce garbage.

My next role is publishing the monthly newsletter. I assemble stories and pics that summarize events and activities and then advertise and promote upcoming programs, outings, and travel opportunities. I distribute the newsletter as a pdf attachment via email to the CV members.

Community participation include my serving as an official volunteer for Glendale’s Parks and Recreation Department – under the auspices of the Trails and Open Space Foundation. I work with others from the CV group as well as city volunteers in the Verdugo Mountains Experimental Forest planting and watering saplings. As a member of the trail maintenance crew, I trim foliage, and clear and rebuild sections of trails in city parks.

I hold degrees from Grambling University and UCLA. I promote the good works of the Club, and I invite others to join so that we can all have a voice in retaining our open spaces, have clean drinking water, and fill our lungs with clean, pollution-free air.