

## Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

### CHAPTER

**Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D.** (*Membership Number: 43413679*)

I would like to serve a third term on the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee because I am deeply committed to the conservation of Arizona's resources and wildlife, and the mitigation of environmental issues in Arizona. Vigilance of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Fossil Creek, and Oak Flat must continue, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with the protection of the Grand Canyon and its related resources and the potential for destruction and toxic waste inside our national treasure. The monitoring of state, federal and corporate activities are crucial to the protection of our natural resources and biodiversity.

My continuance on the Grand Canyon Sierra Club Executive Committee will advance the coalition building I have created over my previous terms between our community and multiple local and national environmental communities outside of Sierra Club. I will continue to advocate for environmental projects and issues important in Arizona alongside these groups, and lobby at state and federal levels for our identified goals. I work closely with youth climate activists, am fully Spanish-English bilingual and possess an open mind.

**Cyndi Tuell** (*Membership Number: 4433780*)

As an attorney and conservation advocate with more than ten years of experience working to protect public lands in Arizona, I think I would be a valuable addition to the Grand Canyon Chapter's Executive Committee. I currently work as the Arizona and New Mexico Director at Western Watersheds Project, serve on the Board of Directors for Wilderness Watch, and have served as an appointed member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee representing bicycle riders in Pima County since 2019. I have been an active volunteer for the Rincon Group, at times serving on the Group's Executive Committee, and have volunteered with the Sierra Club Borderlands Group for over a decade. I have a broad understanding of the conservation issues facing Arizona – from public lands conservation to building climate change resilient communities. I am keenly interested in, and active in, furthering the Sierra Club's work to address issues of environmental justice, equity, and building a more inclusive organization. My son and I live near downtown Tucson where we enjoy gardening, bike riding, and being active members of our community.

**Jim Vaaler** (*Membership Number: 11880851*)

I will uphold principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in our Chapter as well as within the Palo Verde Group. The Jemez Principles need to guide and inform our decision making process in our daily lives. I am currently involved with the 30 X 30 land initiative. This means we will endeavor to conserve at least 30 % of America's lands and oceans by 2030. This also means it will be necessary to sell duplicatable and peer reviewed science to politicians who in many cases do not wish to be bothered by the science of climate change. I do believe we have our work cut out for us.

### SAGUARO GROUP

**Rhonda Frost** (*Membership Number: 44467377*)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 12 years (2009). After relocating to Arizona, I became a member of the Saguaro Group in 2018. I would like to nominate myself to become a candidate to serve on the Saguaro Group Chapter executive committee as a voting member as well serve as member for the Social Outreach Board Position.

**Sally Howland** (*Membership Number: 47783566*)

I am Sally Howland and I am applying for Excomm. I have lived in Anthem, AZ for nine years. During the past nine years I have been active with the Saguaro Group of the Sierra Club as the secretary, meeting planner and hike organizer. I have also in the past been a regular water tester for the Water Sentinels on the Verde River.

**Chressie Jo Sylvester** (*Membership number 45899045*)

I have been a Sierra Club member for 12 years. I am a retired special ed teacher. I have spent one summer as a National Park Ranger which was a lot of fun. I've been co-leading canoe outings and other outings with my group for seven years. I have greatly missed the in person activities of the Sierra Club this past year and a half. Looking forward to doing more. Serving the community and promoting the welfare of the environment is my goal and one I want to continue.

**Jim Wilkey** (*Membership number 43313248*)

My membership covers more than 15 years and in that time I've participated in some 30+ river canoe and raft trips, usually as an assistant Leader. I've also been a group rep and attended Chapter ExComm meetings. In the past, I participated in two Sierra Club National backpacks as an assistant Leader.

### FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ GROUP

**Sarah King** (*Membership Number: 28404590*)

I would like to submit my request to be considered for a position on the Sierra Club Executive Board for the Northern Arizona Group for the coming year. I have served in the capacity of communications coordinator for the past year, helping to write and edit communiques from the group, and interfacing with other environmental-advocacy organizations with special emphasis on faith-based organizations. I think this is important work, especially in this time of climate uncertainty when all groups who support action on climate mitigation, support for renewable energy sources and protections for our land, air and water need to be organizing together to achieve the goal of a sustainable future and justice for all.

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### YAVAPAI GROUP

**Tom Slaback** (*Membership Number: 12611684*)

I am nearing 47 years as a Club member, volunteering in Group, Chapter, and Water Sentinel leadership. The flow in the upper Verde River continues to decrease even without Prescott pumping the Big Chino. I support Biden's proposal to protect 30% of our land and water by 2030 and have many local area and waterways suggestions. We helped kill the Big Chino pump storage project. Counteracting climate change is of utmost importance and we must prevent the PNF from removing the forest to create graze for cattle and releasing massive amounts of stored carbon from the large trees carbon sink. We helped save 274 acres of the Granite Dells iconic Point Of Rocks as public open space and insured that the road will be built as a grade separated crossing of the Peavine Trail. I ask for your vote so that I can continue to speak for our environment, against negative climate changing projects, for land and water protection and clean water and air, and to protect our right to fair and free elections.

**Steve Cook** (*Membership Number: 47820542*)

My intermittent membership in the Sierra Club dates to my UCLA student days in the early 1970s. I have been a continual Sierra Club member since 2015, and have attended most Yavapai Group ExComm meetings since January, 2017. In February 1978, financially supported by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (through the Ozark Headwaters Group -- Arkansas Sierra Club chapter), Tom McKinney and I flew to Washington DC and successfully lobbied the USFS and EPA to stop aerial spraying of herbicides in national forests, part of a continuing battle over national forest management. My interest in this topic continues today. My other interests are in air and water quality, public lands, climate change and in trails. If elected, I will focus my long-time environmental activist efforts to help the Sierra Club with battles related to issues in Yavapai County and Arizona.

**Jenny Cobb** (*Membership Number: 47163310*)

I've served on the Yavapai Group Executive Committee for the past six years and am currently the secretary and Outings Chair. I serve as Outings Chair for the Grand Canyon Chapter. For several years, I've been a Water Sentinel monitoring waterflow on the Upper Verde River every month. I am deeply involved in myriad environmental and conservation issues, including grazing, mining, landscape restoration, wildlife corridors, recovery of Mexican Gray Wolves, wildlife and environment in the Borderlands, climate change, supporting rights of indigenous peoples, air quality, continuing protection of the black-footed ferret, and stewardship of forest trails. I am the Yavapai-Prescott Broadband Leader of Great Old Broads for Wilderness (environmental partners of the Sierra Club in Arizona), conservationists who are advocates, stewards, and educators for wild lands. My truck is always ready for field work, packed with camping and backpacking gear. I am often the chuckwagon for Sierra Club and Broads events. I am a retired college instructor, teaching exercise science and wellness topics. Thank you for your vote so I can continue my advocacy and stewardship for our wild lands. I encourage everyone to join in our advocacy for wild lands and other current issues.

### PALO VERDE GROUP

**Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D.** (*Membership Number: 43413679*)

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**Korey Hjelmeir** (*Membership Number: 50097860*)

For as long as I can remember I have loved the outdoors - if there was ever an excuse to be outside, I would find it. As such, I am a passionate environmentalist. With the increased threats to our environment in recent years I decided to narrow the focus of my activism, with the Sierra Club as my organization of choice. Currently I chair the chapter's political committee and participate on the fundraising, publications and wildlife committees. I've put my outings leader designation to use for service projects, fundraising and PAC hikes. I enjoy helping with events like tabling for Climate Action, organizing text banks and canvasses and planning Environmental Day at the Capitol - to name a few. I'm also involved with other likeminded organizations and trainings, to help further environmental causes. While my main focus on the Political Committee is to try get people involved in activism, I've realized working on other committees we all have different goals. For the Sierra Club to be the best we possibly can, we need a strong executive committee working together to help all our different groups achieve their respective goals, and I would like to be part of that team.