

Crossroads Group Sierra Club

FALL 2022



Elections 2023-2024 - 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 4 candidates. The second column is for use by those with joint memberships. Ballots must be returned by December 1, 2022.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2022 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"/>
Terri Wilkerson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Please:

1. **Vote for up to four people (their statements are page 2).**
2. **Print out this ballot.**
3. **Place the ballot in an envelope.**
5. **Mail the ballot to:**
Sierra Club Crossroads Group
P.O. Box 306
Brighton MI 48116

[Vote in November](#)

[Vote in November](#)

[Vote in November](#)

Executive Committee Chairs

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

Treasurer: Julie Griess
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Secretary: Cathy Broses
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Chapter Group Representative:

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VISIT US AT:

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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.

Terri Wilkerson

Commitment to the interdependent web of life has made me an environmentalist for decades. I'm a longtime member of the Sierra Club, who is also active with the Huron River Watershed Council, and a member of the Livingston Land Conservancy, as well as Michigan Inland Lakes and Streams. I am especially passionate about protecting our water which motivated me to lead a project to examine Line 5 in the Straits, become President of the Cordley Lake Association, and promote native plantings.

Line 5 Call to Action

Your input about the proposed Line 5 tunnel is urgently needed. Enbridge wants this tunnel to continue using its 645 mile shortcut to move 23 million gallons of oil (which we barely use and don't need) from Canada through Michigan and back to Canada. Please make your comments to the Army Corps of Engineers via Oil & Water Don't Mix (OWDM) as soon as possible at

www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/submit_army_corps_tunnel_comment .

Keeping track of the number of comments helps OWDM to keep the public pressure on our elected officials who need to know an increasing number of voters object to Line 5 in all forms. Putting "opposed to Line 5 tunnel" in your subject line is really the most critical, although OWDM has lots of tips with specifics - and even a pre-filled script to make it super easy.

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

Crossroads Sierra Club has endorsed 6 candidates running for Livingston County Commissioner.

Check your Voter Information Card or see our website www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads/political to find out what district you are in. Note that with the 2022 redistricting there are now 9 districts in Livingston County.

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



Amber Bismack, D 9

Ms. Bismack the need to tackle financial issues in creative, thoughtful, caring ways bringing a different perspective to the Livingston County Commission (LCC). She recognizes that many different people have many different perspectives and backgrounds and she will work hard to find collaborative solutions when people have many different perspectives and backgrounds and she will work hard to find collaborative solutions when working with community organizations. She's a member of the Huron River Watershed Council Board of Directors, a member of Rep. Slotkin's Environmental Advisory Board and co-founder and director of Residents Working Against Huron River Flooding.



Lori Cowan, D 3

Ms. Cowan has been an elected township trustee for over 20 years. She's an environmental activist having volunteered for the Livingston Land Conservancy and the Huron River Watershed Council. She has served on county committees relating to waste water management and parks. Her goal is to be a fair and honest bipartisan voice for the entire district. She will look out for what is truly best for her community, basing her decisions on facts and science, not politics.



Caitlin Perry Dial, D 7

Ms. Dial is currently Vice Chair of the City of Brighton Zoning Board of Appeals, VP of Michigan Museums Association, Trustee for Brighton District Library and board member for Brighton Area Historical Society. Crossroads members who know Dr. Dial have worked with her on various projects, find her to be thoughtful, knowledgeable, energetic and very concerned about the work she was engaged in. She expresses concern about the lack of information shared with the public about the Livingston County High Quality Natural Areas Assessment. She will work to find creative solutions; improvements in traffic patterns for bikers and more access to public transportation (LETS).



Lorrie McMahan, D 6

Ms. McMahan feels strongly about clean water and feels polluters should be held accountable. She is very concerned about the County's High-Quality Natural Areas but finds it deficient as a parcel by parcel analysis. She would support property owners, decision makers and interest groups to initiate site-level inventories to provide the detail needed to fully assess a property's environmental value. She supports the reduction of single use plastic; the reduction of everything gas powered and increased public transportation. She suggests a grant program to address green solutions, solar panels and green jobs programs.



Amelia Purdy Ketchum, D 4

Ms. Purdy-Ketchum is a lifetime resident of Livingston County and great-granddaughter of one of the area's first farmers. She is passionate about the land and our natural spaces. She has spent nearly a decade in the Parks and Recreation field. She uses a creative style of problem solving and cites the design/building of the Villa Barr Art Park in Novi as an example. Living in Howell, she's dealt with contamination from the Medline plant and Diamond Chrome Plating. She's concerned that waste management and states PFAS contamination of nearby farmlands is worsening and those responsible aren't being held accountable.



Michelle Spisz, D 1

Ms. Spisz is passionate about clean water and the threat of chemical contamination; maintaining and expanding green spaces; ongoing development into rural areas; lack of curbside recycling and inadequate recycling centers. She lives on a dirt road and states that the road commission's grading is destroying the environment. The need for public transportation and safer places for non-motorized vehicles in rural areas is an ongoing concern. She believes that better education is the key to addressing the needs of low income communities in energy efficiency and renewable energy plus the need for added resources for direct assistance.

Michigan Sierra Club has endorsed the following Michigan House candidates:

Jennifer Conlin, HD 48: www.facebook.com/Conlinforstaterep

Ms. Conlin pledges to listen to her constituency, find common ground with fellow legislators, and fight for clean drinking water, reproductive freedom, voter's rights, polluter pay bills, invasive species, upgrading parks.

Christina Kafkakis, HD 49: www.facebook.com/voteforChristinaK

Ms. Kafkakis is running because for too long, middle-class families like hers have been forgotten in Lansing. She's a wife, and mom to four kids in public schools. She's also a small business owner, community advocate and lifelong volunteer. Here's what she's not: A career politician.

Sara May-Seward, HD 51 www.facebook.com/SMSforMI51

Ms. May-Seward currently sits on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Oakland County's Neighborhood and Housing Development and is a member of the Oakland Community Health Network Board. She has been a Democratic precinct delegate in White Lake since 2018 and when COVID-19 shut down Michigan bars and restaurants, she volunteered as the One Fair Wage Unemployment lead, helping tipped workers navigate Michigan's UIA/PUA system. Her top environmental concerns include clean safe water, polluter pay bills, and sustainable compost programs.

Brenda Carter, HD 52: <http://www.facebook.com/BCarter4StateRep>

The Sierra Club and Michigan Sierra Club have endorsed the following Congressional candidates:

Elissa Slotkin, CD 7: elissaforscongress.com

During her time in Congress, Congresswoman Slotkin has pushed the EPA to test for PFAS in drinking water and ensure that the results of PFAS testing conducted on or near military installations is disclosed to the public. She has also urged multiple administrations to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance---critical and long-overdue steps that the Biden Administration committed to tackle

Haley Stevens, CD 11: haleystevensforcongress.com

See the Michigan Chapter political page (www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsements2022) for a full list of candidates endorsed by the Michigan Chapter political committee.

Tribar and Polluter Pay Laws

On July 29, at Tribar Technologies chrome plating facility in Wixom, a “slug” of wastewater containing dangerous toxins including hexachrome was released into the city’s sewage wastewater system that was not equipped to handle such toxins. The pollutants ended up in the Huron River and resulted in a “no contact” advisory by the State for long stretch of the Huron River. Fortunately, the amount of toxic chemicals was far less than feared and the advisory has been lifted.

But this is not the end of the story. How is it that a major company such as Tribar did not have safety protocols in place to prevent such a release of toxins to occur? Why did Tribar wait hours before reporting the issue to the state? Why has Tribar, a company with a sad history of environmental transgressions, been allowed to continue operating?

And the key question: Why do Michigan taxpayers often end up paying for the cleanup of pollution caused by businesses in our state? The answer to this question is easy. Michigan used to have strong polluter pay laws but under the Engler administration these laws were weakened substantially. So now our tax dollars often go to clean up the mess made by corporations.

There are bills that have been introduced to the Michigan legislature a number of times over the past years. House Bill 4313, introduced by Representative Rabhi, and Senate Bill 0058, introduced by Senator Irwin, both address the issue of polluter pay. The problem is that the Republican leaders of the committees assigned these bills will not permit a hearing. Without a hearing there can be no vote to send the bills on to the full House and Senate.

That means that Michigan taxpayers will continue to pay for damage done to our water and air and land by irresponsible corporations. So what can be done? Call or write you state representative and state senator and urge them to support polluter pay laws. It’s really rather simple. When corporations make a mess, they should clean it up at their expense. If enough of us speak up, change is possible.



Crossroads organized a press conference and protest to raise awareness of the release of toxic chemicals into the Huron River.

Remembering Dan Minock

Dan Minock, one of the Crossroads Group's founders, passed away on June 21 after suffering with Alzheimer's for several years.

But that will not be how I remember him. Dan was one of our Group's first outings leaders, newsletter editor, and as one past founder said to me when I told him of Dan's passing, he was the "soul of the Crossroads Group". He led us on spring bird hikes through Kensington for years where he taught many of us about birds, mushrooms, and gentleness about being in nature. His lessons I've lovingly passed on to my kids and grandkids. With his wife Donna's permission, I share the first article he wrote in our first newsletter. This article brought me, in tears, from engaging as a stay-at-home mom, frustrated with how society defined that for me 40 some years ago, back to a kid that loved nature and eventually, an activist.



--Sue Kelly

Least Flycatcher by Dan Minock

Crossroads Group newsletter, May 1991 Volume 1, Number 1 (reprinted with permission)

I was pacing a windy woods in Kensington Park, not seeing much just steaming off the perturbations of work, when I heard a short buzzing sound in a nearby thicket at the edge of a field. I slowed down. The sound came again – an unmusical two-part sound, not on my agenda, though I have found that one of the keys to successful meetings in the woods is that there be no agenda – a difficult rule to enforce, or even to remember.

I was about to go on when the sound came again, like a jagged object falling into red mud. The wind seemed to shred it. Now I recognized it, half-remembered it, as the note of a bird, and I stopped. What helped me stop, I think, is that I have several people I report to if I see unusual birds. But what was this – a Henslow's sparrow? A Clay-colored sparrow? Some kind of warbler?

I walked off the path and approached the thicket quietly, waiting at an edge for something to appear.

The thicket was a tangle of rounded bittersweet stems, with the blue canes of blackberries growing at the edges. A pair of tufted titmice searched the boxelder in front of me. The wind sounded far off in the woods; here the air suddenly motionless. From somewhere close by I heard the lisp of a blue-gray gnatcatcher.

I heard the burry two-part note again, from close by, but I could not see it yet. I waited.

It is a simple difference I want to describe here. A few minutes ago I was walking, counting, and planning. Now I was holding still, listening, and watching. I have found that more turns up in these moments when I am still than can be accounted for by being still. Occasionally what turns up will be something I have been thinking about – keeping an ember glowing of the suspicion that the mind and the world connect in ways I do not understand and no one has explained to me.

This time, though, what appeared was something I wasn't thinking about at all: in the boxelder where the titmice had been, a bird with a yellow face greenish-yellow back, and a black throat. It was passing vividly through, coming from somewhere in Central America where its habitat is threatened, and heading to somewhere in northern Ontario. In fifty years, this species will probably vanish. Bothered, for the moment, it was, reminding me that in the world there are channels and paths; occlusions; fluency in languages for which we do not have the system; mists; seasons; a sky that is always changing; sweet stems exploring the bright air; possums smashed on the side of freeways; and vantage points that allow us to hear and not hear, see and not see.

When I heard the original buzzing call again, I knew what it was: a least flycatcher, one of a small family of tiny birds, related to the kingbird and the wood-peewee. A few minutes ago, if I had been able to name it, I would have said it was "just" a least flycatcher. But as I said, it is a simple difference.

The wind started up again, and a small dark-bellied cloud passed in front of me. I headed back toward the path, and my hands were connected to my wrists, my wrists to my arms, my feet to the earth.

Crossroads Group Events

See our Meetup site 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.

Outings

Island Lake Recreation Area Fall Color Hike – Saturday October 22, 1pm

Location: Island Lake State Recreation Area, Brighton – meet at trailhead parking lot

Enjoy the fall colors on this 5.5 mile hike on the yellow loop trail.

Pontiac Lake Hike – Saturday October 29, 1pm

Location: Pontiac Lake State Park – meet at Pontiac Lake Beach parking lot

Join our 4.5-mile hike on trails that will include the park's scenic viewpoints.

Proud Lake Hike – Sunday November 20, 1pm

Location: Proud Lake State Recreation Area, Commerce Twp. – meet at Foot Path Trailhead lot off Park Headquarters Rd

Choose between a faster 5-mile hike and a slower 2-mile hike around the scenic nature trails.

Programs

Sierra Club Crossroads Group presents these programs free to the public at
Brighton District Library: 100 Library Dr, Brighton, MI.

Wednesday November 16, 2022 7pm: Cooking with Scraps by author Lindsay-Jean Hard

Wednesday January 18, 2023 7pm: How Great Lakes Observations Help Us Understand the Past, Present, and Future by Steve Ruberg of NOAA

Wednesday March 15, 2023 7pm: Solar Panels: Benefits and Misinformation by Mike Buza, Chair of Sierra Club Nepessing Group

Crossroads Supports Eagle Scout Project


This spring, Eagle Scout aspirant Daniel Delduca proposed building a bird blind at the Howell Nature Center for his Eagle Scout project. It was an ambitious undertaking that would require a lot of planning, a lot of funding and a lot of labor. With the help of his family and the Crossroads Group, he succeeded. The finished project is an impressive building that will last for many generations. It will be an instructional facility used with campers and available to all visitors to the Nature Center to observe birds close up.

The project was built with financial support of the Crossroads Group and with many hours of labor from Crossroads leaders and members. This is just one example of the kinds of things that Crossroads does to build a better community.





Sierra Club—Crossroads Group
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 Brighton, MI 48116

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