



Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Fall 2017 ExCom Election Issue

No Matter Your Vote, The Choice Is Green

The Sierra Club is a national grassroots environmental organization that elects volunteer leadership from among its members. Every Maryland Chapter member is entitled to vote and run for leadership positions within the Chapter and local Groups. Learn more about the current candidates by reading the information below. To choose your leaders, see page 14 for voting instructions, then go to page 15 for the paper ballot.

Chapter and Group Executive Committee Elections

The Maryland Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) is composed of six at-large members and one delegate from each of the eight Groups. Every year, the Maryland Chapter elects three at-large ExCom members to serve two-year terms.

The Chapter ExCom is responsible for:

- Managing chapter affairs and activities.
- Establishing chapter policies.
- Providing members with activities and services that are consistent with the bylaws, policies and standing rules of the Sierra Club and applicable state and federal laws.
- Overseeing volunteer committees.
- Addressing Maryland's environmental issues.
- Electing the Maryland Chapter Chair and other officers from within its ranks.

Chapter ExCom activities include financial management, membership services, production of publications, and conservation and political programs. Those elected will begin their terms January 2018.

The Maryland Chapter's Groups serve smaller geographic areas within the state, which include:

- Anne Arundel (Anne Arundel County)
- Catocin (Frederick, Carroll, and Washington Counties)
- Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City, Baltimore and Harford Counties)
- Howard (Howard County)
- Montgomery (Montgomery County)
- Prince George's (Prince George's County)
- Southern Maryland (Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties)
- Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

There is no active Group on the Eastern Shore at this time. These eight Groups carry out the mission of the Sierra Club and Maryland Chapter at the local level by initiating local conservation campaigns, organizing outings, and educating members. Every Group elects its own ExCom to set goals and manage activities. The size of each Group's ExCom and the number of openings that are up for election vary according to each Group's bylaws.

Chapter Elections Committee

Martha Ainsworth, Eric McKenzie, Janis Oppelt, Chris Yoder

Chapter ExCom Candidate Statements (Vote for up to 3)

CHIARA D'AMORE, Columbia, Howard County



Having been a Sierra Club member since the 1990s and Maryland resident since grade school, I am eager to bring my experience as an environmental scientist, educator, and community activist to the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter. I am particularly energized to work at the state level on advancing a clean energy economy and taking urgent action supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation. I am also very dedicated to protecting our Maryland watersheds and our natural heritage.

I hold an M.S. in Environmental Science, a Ph.D. in Sustainability Education, and am the founder and president of The Community Ecology Institute and the founder and director of Columbia Families in Nature. I have worked as an environmental consultant for over 15 years serving clients such as the United Nations, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, and energy utilities (including all of the Maryland utilities). My work is currently focused on fostering environmental and social well-being through reconnecting people with the natural environment as well as designing, implementing, and evaluating environmental programs.

I am an experienced board member, currently supporting the Audubon Society of Central Maryland and having served as an elected board member for a Columbia, Maryland, village.

KATIE METTLE, Woodbine, Howard County



I am Coordinator of the Public Health Committee, a member of the Beyond Gas Team's Steering Committee, and on the End Incineration Team. I was appointed to the ExCom in 2017 to fill a vacancy.

During the 2017 legislative session, I served as Sierra Club's lead volunteer for the Keep Antibiotics Effective Act, and organized in support of the fracking ban. Both bills passed. For both bills, I lobbied legislators; wrote, edited, and/or delivered hearing testimony; and trained and coordinated other volunteers in lobbying and phone-banking.

On the ExCom, I have been an advocate for elevating the status of women in the Sierra Club Maryland volunteer leadership, and for hiring more women to staff positions. I am working with leadership to restructure the recruitment and hiring process to attract more qualified female candidates. As a member of the ExCom, I will continue to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion

within the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, so leadership may more accurately reflect membership.

I also hope to expand the mission of the Public Health Committee to truly embody the principles of environmental justice, and to use my position within the ExCom to push Sierra Club Maryland further in this direction.

MARK POSNER, Silver Spring, Montgomery County



I'm currently a Chapter ExCom member, serving as Vice-Chair. I am also the Chapter Legislative Chair, serve on the Energy Steering Committee and Political Committee, am the Chapter's delegate to the national Club's "Council of Club Leaders," and am an outgoing member of the Montgomery County Group's ExCom. I am a longtime Club member, first joining as a college senior. Before retirement, I had a 35-year career as a civil rights attorney, mostly working in voting rights enforcement.

My efforts as a Club volunteer have focused both on supporting and helping to lead the Club's environmental advocacy, and sustaining the Chapter's internal organizational work and processes. During the 2017 General Assembly session, for example, I was the Club's volunteer lead for the efforts that resulted in passage of

all our priority bills (most notably, the fracking ban), and our submission of written testimony supporting dozens of other bills. I'm looking forward to continuing this role during the 2018 session.

Like other Club members, I am deeply concerned with the existential threat of climate change, and would like to continue my ExCom membership to help our Chapter make a difference on this and the other pressing environmental crises.

Group ExCom Candidate Statements

All Groups except the Western Maryland Group are conducting elections this year.

Anne Arundel Group

(Vote for up to 3)

CARMEN SKARLUPKA, Edgewater



Over the past 30 years as an Anne Arundel County resident, I have actively advocated on environmental issues, including: environmental lobbying of Maryland legislators on behalf of the Sierra Club in 2017; anti-fracking, participating in direct actions and testimony against Dominion Cove Point; environmental violations, advocating and reporting on wetlands violations within the County; and safe drinking water, advocating on behalf of Maryland's private well-owners network. I was a bus coordinator for the People's Climate March.

I am a transplant from the New Jersey Hudson/Meadowlands Group, having come from paid canvassing (PIRG) for the Sierra Club. (I recruited about 1,000 members.) In Edgewater, New Jersey, massive over-development was occurring: hundreds of luxury high-rise units, blocking the views of the long-time blue-collar residents. Similarly, the New Jersey Palisades (cliffs) were being blasted out for thousands of additional upscale condos.

The Sierra Club was needed! I contacted the state organization. The then-defunct Hudson Group made a comeback, focusing on the Hudson/ Palisades. I served as Vice-Chair, then Chair, and briefly on most standing committees at one time or another (until I could get another person). Recruitment was my strongest contribution.

We challenged each development at the Planning/Zoning Boards and governing bodies, mounting petition campaigns, presenting educational forums, and supporting local pro-environment candidates. We had occasional success, preventing a high-rise development on the Hudson until Mother Nature intervened. (Since

Sandy, no building is permitted on that tiny strip of land.) Elsewhere, we didn't win conclusively, but often forced developers to downsize.

Overdevelopment and open space are still crucial, but now I am most dedicated to renewable energy, serving on the Chapter Energy (Solar Subcommittee) and Political Committees.

JOAN TUREK, Harwood

I earned my B.A. from the University of Connecticut and Masters and PhD in Economics from Yale. I was employed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services. I am a past Chair of the America Statistical Association's Committee on Disability and Statistics and past president of the Federal Executive Institute Alumni Association.

I have been involved in community activities for many years, serving on the South County Small Area Planning Committee, as Secretary of the South County Coalition, and Chair of the South County Exchange. I am a founder, past and current President of the

LOUISE TAYLOR, Annapolis



Harwood Civic Association. I served on the Sierra Club Anne Arundel Group ExCom from 2007-08, resigning to serve on the County Planning Advisory Board. I rejoined the ExCom in 2014. I am also on the Boards of Owensville Primary Care and the Chesapeake Environment Association. On the ExCom, I will continue to be involved in land use issues, ensuring adequate public input in the new General Development Plan to Keep South County Rural. I played a lead role in abolishing family conveyance, which created developments for sale on the open market.

Catoctin Group
(Vote for up to 6)

DANIEL ANDREWS, Westminster, Carroll County



I've been on the Group ExCom for 13 years and Chair for more than 12 years. I've hiked about 700 miles of the Appalachian Trail and have an affinity and respect for our/the environment. I'm greatly interested in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric vehicles. I also live a near zero-waste lifestyle and helped stop the previously planned waste incinerator, to be sited in Buckeystown (an eight year slog). Moreover, I enjoy teaching others about all aspects of sustainable, lighter, and simpler living.

Over the next two years, I'd like to help our group continue to attract

members, and help everyone participate in some manner. I also want to make sure they're enjoying themselves and creating fun. As the saying goes "many hands make light work" and we have a lot to do as we move forward. I'd also like to start an initiative whereby our group proactively reaches out to others, who don't really understand the Sierra Club or environmental issues very well.

DAVID BARROW, Myersville, Frederick County



My goal is to increase participation in the Catoctin Group by reaching out to younger people who are interested in the environment and nature and getting passive members more actively involved.

In direct support of our Group, I've coordinated two buses to the People's Climate March; assisted the West Virginia Sierra Club in joining our buses; attended the march and rallies to ban fracking in Maryland and the canal encampment at McCoy's Ferry; attended the energy efficiency tour at the Maryland Center for Veteran Education and Training; created a video to support the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; attended the Frederick Composting Summit; assisted in a screening of Before the Flood; and helped the West Virginia Sierra Club on two events. I have also performed

outreach support at "In the Streets" in Frederick City for the Sierra Club and Frederick County.

I participate in several groups that support the environment, including the Sierra Club, StreamLink, the Composting Working Group, Frederick County's Office of Sustainability and Resource Management, the Monocacy and Catoctin Watershed Alliance, and the Frederick County Forestry Board. I'm the western region representative for the Maryland Tree Farm Committee and maintain a State Certified Tree Farm.

ANTHONY IACOVELLI, Frederick, Frederick County



I have been an active member of the Catoctin Group since 2011 and have worked on many environmental issues in Maryland, including fighting the proposed incinerator in Frederick, serving on the Frederick City Ad Hoc Watershed Advisory Committee, and lobbying on behalf of environmental bills during legislative sessions. I was a certified outings leader with the club from 2014-2016 and am currently the Catoctin Group Treasurer.

In the next two years, I would like to see the club continue to focus on solving our local solid waste disposal issues, working to conserve and restore agricultural and natural lands, and supporting statewide policies to combat

climate change. I live in Frederick County and am pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Maryland while working at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick.

RON KALTENBAUGH, Jefferson, Frederick County



I have been a lifelong environmentalist, long-time Sierra Club member, and, over the past several years, increasingly active in environmental and sustainability-related groups. I am currently President of the Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington, D.C., (EVADC) and Chair of the Frederick County Sustainability Commission. In March 2017, I attended a Climate Reality Project conference in Denver, Colorado, and now give presentations on climate change.

Since 2010, I've been working on my own personal net-zero project including home solar, geothermal heating and cooling, and an electric car. I have a Master's Degree in Computer Science and work as a Network Engineer for a Fortune 500 company. I live in Jefferson, Maryland, with my wife and daughter and I am an avid skier.

As part of the Catoctin Group ExCom, I hope to help harness the increased interest in Sierra Club efforts to address various threats to our environment with a special focus on climate change.

VERONICA POKLEMB, Ijamsville, Frederick County



I have been actively involved with the Sierra Club for about three years. During that time I have served on the Catoctin Group ExCom, the Chapter Conservation Committee, which also connected me with the Gas Committee, and the Zero Waste Committee. I coordinate the End Incineration group, which is part of the Zero Waste Committee.

Through the Catoctin group I became connected with the No Incinerator effort in Frederick County, which resulted in the cancellation of a planned trash incinerator. I learned a great deal through this process and realized how rewarding it is to engage in such an effort, especially when success is achieved. Being actively involved in community issues is extremely important, and as a member of the ExCom I would continue to support engagement on local issues by the Catoctin Group.

KATHLEEN RALL, Jefferson, Frederick County



The daughter of a Texas rancher-philosopher and an English professor from Illinois, I am also a wife, mother, grandmother, forever gardener, yogini, former

counselor, nurse, horse-breeder, construction worker, and tree grower.

As an ExCom member of the Catoctin Group, my first goal is to help our group to grow and welcome new members. Also I will continue to promote the "Ready for 100" campaign and the support of Sierra Club-friendly political candidates.

To preserve a livable planet we must drastically reduce greenhouse gases, protect our water supply, and prepare citizens for transition to a new way of living. I hope to become a more active part of the awaited ones via the Sierra Club.

**Greater Baltimore Group
(Vote for up to 7)**

CHRISTOPHER K. CROFT, City of Baltimore



I am a Professor of Sustainable Communities at the University of Baltimore, and President of ESI, a non-profit consulting group. My background is in biology, environmental science, and business.

My interest in the Sierra Club began in the early 1980s in Los Angeles, where I worked with the Club on sewage remediation in Santa Monica Bay. I found the Club a marvelous instrument to affect change in local policy. In the mid-1980s, I worked as a high seas

biologist aboard fishing vessels in the Pacific. I then moved from government service to public service in conservation. I worked in Washington, D.C., for several national environmental organizations during the 1990s.

I presently serve as Vice Chair of the Greater Baltimore Group's ExCom and Chair of the Group's Labor and Economic Justice Campaign. The area I am passionate about is environmental and economic justice. I carry the torch for social justice, lit by many of my students, who worry about their ability to pay high interest student loans with the meager employment opportunities available to them. Thus, my commitment to ground wealth in our communities through green jobs. I want all our children to have the same benefits I enjoyed.

LYNN DAVIDSON, City of Baltimore



I've been an environmental activist since the early 1980s, and a Maryland Sierra Club activist since early 2014. I'm presently a member of the Club's Greater Baltimore Group ExCom, the Maryland Chapter ExCom, and Co-Chair of the Chapter's Energy Committee. I chose to focus my work on climate change because I think it is the most pressing issue of our time. I'm also working to bring transparency to the electric sector in Maryland. I believe that consumers have a right to know

where their electricity comes from.

Professionally, I've served as Executive Director for Environmental Solutions International, an environmental consulting organization; Program Director for the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation; Marine Habitat Policy Coordinator for Greenpeace; and Administrative Director for the National League of Conservation Voters.

Although important, the university I attended, boards I've served on, national environmental organizations I've helped create, and times I've testified before the US Congress, really don't speak to why I care about the work of the Sierra Club. My passion comes from my experiences with our nation's Native American leaders, and my cross-country bicycling expeditions. They imparted a love for the natural world and a strong desire to protect and serve Mother Earth.

AMBER DOHERTY, City of Baltimore



I am a Midwestern transplant to Baltimore. I grew up in a family that valued gardening, road and park clean-ups, and being of service in the community. I have been an infrequent Sierra Club member (mostly due to time and resource scarcity) and am looking to refocus my community work on the environment and equity. I'm

32, recently married, and excited to become a more engaged Baltimorean!

KEVIN KRIESCHER, City of Baltimore



One way to rally another is to empower him/her—as an active component (not just financial supporter) of the Sierra Club machine—and promote campaigns by reaching out and assigning tasks to a larger radius of volunteers. I would continue to advertise meetings not just as a source of information about prominent campaigns, but a place to invest and share individual proposals; this bolsters attendance.

Regarding prominent issues, I do not have a favorite; I am likely to champion anything that conserves the environment. I am trained in science and always go to the text book before the meeting to learn facts. The most realistic strategy often involves baby steps; our environmental problems are broadcast on broad scales but fixing them often involves succeeding at local levels, at which point they become trends.

Finally, improving the environment is synonymous with improving life because, despite urban isolation, we are still animals. However, the Sierra Club must not officially back any campaign just because it improves life. To retain respect and leverage as an environmental organization, we must only involve

ourselves in issues directly involving the environment.

BETH RENWICK, City of Baltimore



Since being elected to the Greater Baltimore Group (GBG) ExCom two years ago, I have worked with fellow ExCom members to revive the Group by working to have our by-laws approved; attending the monthly State Chapter meetings as the representative from the GBG and reporting back; working to establish a GBG budget committee, of which I am a member; and working to understand how the Sierra Club "system" works (including its computer system and guidelines).

I am asking for your vote so that I may have the opportunity to continue the work I've begun, including engaging members of the Group to brainstorm and identify causes and issues pertaining to the environment for the Group to work on more deeply in the near future. I am also excited to be working on certification to be a Sierra Club outings leader and the opportunities that certification will provide in terms of getting people into the woods.

IAN SCHLAKMAN, City of Baltimore



Professionally, I'm a technology consultant for schools, providing consultation on complex licensing, privacy, and government regulatory issues. I'm a local business enthusiast who has worked with new economy groups, locally, nationally, and internationally. I've worked on many sustainability and environmental justice issues, including projects to revitalize regional power and sewer infrastructure. I've also worked as an advocate for individuals and families with my social justice work, particularly in Douglass Homes Public Housing. Most recently, I completed a fellowship at the Institute for Policy Studies in the New Economy Maryland program, focusing on sustainable local supply chains.

I've served actively on the boards of several nonprofits including BLEWS (Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore), CSBA (Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance), BGCA (Baltimore Green Currency Association), and the Baltimore TimeBank. I'm also an Associated Black Charities Maryland Board Pipeline Professional and a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout. I'm very involved politically in the Baltimore and Maryland area. In 2016 I received the Sierra Club's endorsement in my race for Baltimore City Council. Before that I was the campaign manager for Councilman Ryan Dorsey in his successful bid for Baltimore City Council in the Democratic Primary.

JACK WISE, Nottingham, Baltimore County



I am running for the Greater Baltimore Group ExCom and hope to expand the Group's outings program. I have a B.S. degree from Towson University in Geography and Environmental Studies. I have been leading Sierra Club outings since 1982. I believe it is important for people to hike and be outside, it helps people to understand the importance of protecting the environment and nature.

**Howard Group
(Vote for up to 5.)**

PETE BARNES, Columbia



I have been a Sierra Club Member since 2009 and worked on the Beyond the Coal Campaign in Denver, Colorado, before moving to Columbia, Maryland. I love hiking and paddling on the trails and waters of Maryland, and enjoyed getting involved in the BioBlitz and the celebration of the Mattawoman Creek. I look forward to helping in any capacity to bring awareness to the environment. I am particularly passionate about increasing the use of solar power; I work for SolarCity/Tesla.

JOANNE HECKMAN, Columbia

I have been a resident of Howard County for many years and have

worked on numerous Sierra Club campaigns for conservation, legislation, and political candidates. I have served on the Group's Executive Committee as Secretary, Conservation Chair, and Chapter representative. I manage the support group "Preserve Patapsco Valley State Park." I am currently the Chair of the Group's Natural Places Committee. I'm a Master Naturalist with a special interest in cultivating and promoting native plants and native habitat restoration.

SUE MULLER, Columbia



I use my Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management at my job at Howard County Recreation and Parks, where I have served a variety of leadership roles in many efforts, including the Howard County Greenfest, Frogwatch USA, and Project Clean Stream. I also helped manage the Herp Atlas, a five-year effort to record the location of all of the species of reptiles and amphibians found in the state. I have been active in the Howard Sierra Club Group for many years, and have served as Conservation Chair, Programs Chair, and as an outings leader.

ALAN SCHNEIDER, Clarksburg



I am currently Vice Chair of the Howard County Group, the Group's Political Chair, and its delegate to the Maryland Chapter. I am also on the Chapter's Zero Waste Committee. Activities in the last year included: working on campaigns for "No Fracking," "YES" on Campaign Public Financing, and Get Out the Vote; attending hiking leadership training; and initiating a landfill tour.

I have testified before the Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and the County Council. I collected some of the almost 7,000 signatures for a Referendum Petition. I am a Board member of the Howard County Citizens Association, the Greater Highland Crossroads Association, and a licensed attorney in Washington, D.C., North Carolina, and Oregon.

The loss of life and economic devastation caused by the Ellicott City Flood in 2016 could have been avoided had the County adopted stormwater protection recommendations made by a task force after previous Ellicott City flooding. Protecting wetlands, watershed forest cover, and underground water is vitally important to our lives, our communities, and to the Chesapeake Bay. Including environmental criteria in land use decisions would be beneficial for all parties. Safeguarding our environment requires combining mutual interests of multiple communities for facilitating effective citizen participation.

PAT SOFFEN, Ellicott City



I have been a resident of Howard County for more than 20 years. I began my involvement with the Sierra Club in 2017, and quickly took up a number of significant roles. I am now an appointed member of the Group ExCom and the Group Treasurer. I also helped organize the Climate March on Washington and the Chapter Jamboree.

I would like to continue to serve on the Howard Group ExCom to have a further impact in Howard County through creating opportunities for families to learn more about local environmental concerns and how to get involved in the Howard Sierra Club Group.

Montgomery Group (Vote for up to 5)

ELIZABETH BUNN, Silver Spring



Please consider me for a seat on the Montgomery Group ExCom. I am dedicated to the mission of and excited about contributing to Sierra Club's work at the County and State levels. As a recent retiree, I am ready to dedicate my time and energy to this work. Currently, I am assisting the Political Committee by formulating questions and interviewing candidates. I am

also working on a program to recruit volunteer activists to raise environmental issues at candidate forums with the goal of raising the profile of these issues and expanding our volunteer base.

I am also interested in two issue areas – renewable energy and transportation—and believe my background and skills will be an asset in promoting them. I have worked for the national AFL-CIO as Director of Organizing. One recent project involved a public transportation coalition, Jobs to Move America (Sierra Club is a partner), which focused on passenger rail and bus initiatives. Before that I worked for 25 years for the United Auto Workers and have experience in electoral and issue campaigns. I am committed to using these skills to advance environmental initiatives that our planet so desperately needs. Thank you.

GERALD EHRENSTEIN, Bethesda



I am a physicist who has been interested in the issue of sustainable energy for many years. Since I retired from the National Institutes of Health, my volunteer work has focused on the environment. I have taken courses on environmental economics at the University of Maryland and on the physics of sustainable energy at UC Berkeley. I taught an undergraduate physics course at the

University of Maryland for several years, and included in that course the physics and economics of climate change.

I have been a member of the Montgomery County Sierra Club Group for about 7 years, and was its Treasurer for 3 years. My focus is on energy conservation and renewable energy. I gave a number of talks to church groups and civic associations on practical ways to conserve energy. I also was a member of the Montgomery County Sustainability Working Group and its Renewable Energy Subcommittee. More recently, I arranged a joint meeting with MD SUN to encourage homeowners to install solar panels, utilizing the co-op that MD SUN had organized. Many of those attending the meeting have installed solar panels. I would like to continue on the ExCom with a focus on solar energy.

MICHAL FRIEDMAN, Rockville



Since 2013, I have served on the ExCom of the Montgomery Sierra Club Group and, recently, as Vice Chair. Representing the Executive Committee (and our 6,000 members), I have presented Sierra Club testimony before the County Council on clean energy-related issues, including the Montgomery County Green Bank, the energy tax, the Office of Sustainability Annual Reports, operational budgets for the Office of Sustainability, and

before the Planning Board on increasing affordable housing near transit hubs (to promote social equity and reduce carbon emissions) and incentivizing energy efficiency in new buildings.

I have also developed advocacy training sessions; delivered climate presentations to civic and religious groups; organized a rapid response network; and developed questionnaires for County Council, County Executive, and Planning Board candidates (and will do so for the coming local races) to help us elect candidates who will push the hardest to achieve our goals.

The climate crisis is an existential threat. In this County, the biggest contributors are buildings and transportation. We need aggressive promotion of energy efficiency, especially to underserved populations; clean energy; and smart equitable growth, including strong alternatives to cars. My goal is to help make Montgomery County a national model for effective climate action.

KENDRA LAWRENCE, Silver Spring



I've been serving as Membership Chair of the Montgomery Group since May 2017. I've been actively working to develop and expand this role in multiple ways by: reaching out to dozens of new members and potential volunteers; collaborating with

Coalition for Smarter Growth and the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter to plan and schedule voter registration and canvassing events; working with the Communications Chair to help update and improve the group's website; and serving as the Jamboree Representative for the Group. My approach is to work closely with members of the ExCom, issue leads, and external groups to identify and create more opportunities for our potential volunteers and activists.

As a member of the ExCom, I would continue to develop and expand the role of Membership Chair and work to expand the Group's membership and activists/volunteers. In the long term, I'm interested in climate change education as a core issue. I have a background in ecology, entomology, teaching environmental science, and project management, which gives me a good set of skills to effectively contribute to the Group. I joined Sierra Club because I want to develop a lasting place in an organization that will make an impact at the local level.

STEPHANIE RIDDICK, Rockville

As an amateur solar astronomer, I know how important the sun is. Solar energy has expanded, in part, thanks to your efforts. I testified for community solar in Annapolis (2015) and for an energy tax exemption (2017). Today, community solar subscriptions are available for residents, including renters. I thank the Montgomery Group for completing my proposal to send a comprehensive statement

to the county government on the five fires and future retirement of the Dickerson incinerator. We will achieve the zero waste and 100% clean energy future that we deserve.

I will continue to strengthen our partnerships with the NAACP and environmental groups. As an individual initiative, I thank the cities of Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park for supporting my proposal to meet together as a Municipal Environment Council. I also appreciate the assistance of Poolesville/Agriculture Reserve residents for organizing with me our first up-county meeting. Finally, I will follow-up on my 2017 budget request to the County Council/Executive to begin installing solar energy on Housing Opportunity Commission properties to assist low-income residents, a critical environmental justice goal.

I ask for your vote and thank you for all you do. Let's address climate change and build our sustainable future together!

Prince George's Group (Vote for up to 5)

MARTHA AINSWORTH, Bowie



I'm a community activist and native of Prince George's County, a research economist and evaluator of public programs by training. I was elected to the Prince George's

Group ExCom in 2010, and have served as Chair since 2013.

Over the past four years I've worked with the ExCom to build the Group, offering more events and outings and engaging more members, the public, and policymakers on local environmental issues. In 2014, we mobilized volunteers to survey shoppers' reusable bag use in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. In 2015-16, we surveyed county restaurants to measure use of foam food containers, before and after the county banned them. We successfully worked to ban fracking in Prince George's County and are monitoring implementation of the Styrofoam ban, while working with the Department of Environment to adopt a Zero Waste Implementation Plan. With Patuxent Riverkeeper, I have led Group efforts to prevent sprawl near the Patuxent River in Bowie.

If re-elected, I will work for broader engagement of members and the public; adoption of a Zero Waste plan by the County; small-donor campaign financing for County elections; and smart growth that preserves open space and reduces congestion, pollution, and environmental damage.

TOM DERNOGA, Laurel



I have been a member of the Prince George's Group ExCom since 2011. I am an attorney with a

background representing civic associations and environmental organizations in land use, and in environmental and transparency matters. I served on the Prince George's County Council from 2001-2010, and was Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee for three years. My legal and government background assists the Executive Committee in addressing growth issues, environmental laws, enforcement, and other matters. I am very interested in smart growth and transportation, storm water management, and climate change.

JANET GINGOLD, Kettering



I joined the Sierra Club in November 2016 because of a firm conviction that we need to do all we can at local and state levels to protect the health of our planet and its people.

Experience as a pediatrician, public health researcher, science teacher, and scout leader have shaped my view that connections with the natural world are essential for our physical and mental health and for nurturing attitudes and behaviors that protect our environment. Since becoming a certified Sierra Club outings leader last spring, I have led four hikes in Prince George's County. I have also participated in other initiatives of the Prince George's Group, including providing input about the county Zero Waste Strategy and the Belt Woods Strategic

Management Plan, meeting with elected officials to elicit support for environmental legislation and surveying local businesses to monitor compliance with the county Styrofoam ban. I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the ExCom in summer 2017.

Going forward, I hope to help evaluate candidates for local and state elections in 2018, to work for sound environmental policies and land-use decisions, and to organize outings that will help more people explore, enjoy, and protect our precious planet.

E. ANNE RILEY, Silver Spring



My Sierra Club member card says I've been a member in Delaware and Maryland since 2003, but I think it has been longer. The environment has been my number one political activity, including Maryland's fracking ban. I marched against fracking in Philadelphia in 2016 before the Democratic Convention. I lobbied and marched in Annapolis against fracking and we won!

Water is my obsession. In Delaware I was the League of Women Voters chair of the Sea Level Rise and Water Committee. I was proud to have solar panels on my home. In 2017, I testified at the EPA regarding proposed unhealthy changes. I also attended the People's Climate March. I am a novice birder and enjoy the outdoors.

I have been impressed with and enjoyed the Prince George's Sierra Club Group's Zero Waste field trips. I would like to set up a trip to the outstanding D.C. Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant affecting sanitation. I live at Riderwood, a retirement community, and I hope to grow the Sierra Club membership there. I have been active in their Sustainability Group.

I hope to learn more about Maryland environmental issues and legislation, and focus on clean water-related concerns, as water is life!

SUSAN STEWART, Greenbelt



I've served as a citizen activist and lobbyist for the environment for over 10 years, starting as a Chesapeake Climate Action Network volunteer addressing climate change and anti-nuclear power. I've lobbied at the county, state, and U.S. Congress on many environmental and progressive issues, and served on the Group ExCom for about 6 years.

I have established a Facebook page to help our Group stay in touch with social media. I'd like to further expand our social media presence, with regular updates on what our group is working on.

I'd like to keep focus on several issues, including climate change, keeping fossil fuel infrastructure from building in our county, Zero

Waste, building a stronger coalition for biking, Smart Growth, and smart transit. Environmental justice is an important bridge issue, connecting solutions to break the cycle of poverty, uplift communities of color, and protect the environment. We need to keep strengthening this bridge in our county, and recruit new members and allies. Lastly, we can't do our best work without funds. I'd like to create a fun, annual fundraiser for our Group that can also provide our members with another opportunity to socialize.

Southern Maryland Group
(Vote for up to 5)

BONNIE BICK, Oxon Hill, Prince George's County



My passion is protecting biodiversity through advocacy. Persistency has led to considerable land preservation of forests and anadromous fish spawning streams. As chair of the Maryland Sierra Club Chapter's Campaign to Save Mattawoman Creek, I've been active in bringing hundreds to enjoy educational paddles on the estuary.

I also wear a political hat that has proven vital in elections that has helped change the direction of Charles County away from sprawl development. Sierra Club mailers, TV ads, and endorsements conducted with my leadership and fundraising educated thousands

on the connection between land-use, aquatic quality, and local elected officials. I was presented the Melissa Laser Fish-Habitat Award by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. I also hold this year's Maryland Water Monitoring Council's Dr. Carl Weber award, which is presented annually "to an individual involved in water monitoring in Maryland who exhibits the spirit, vision and leadership so exemplified by Carl." These awards are an appreciation for one who, during ichthyoplankton surveys two decades ago, was so inspired by these migratory animals that she has urged all to fight for them ever since.

Re-elect me to continue working together, strengthening the club in advocacy, outings, and enjoyment of our natural environment.

DARLENE GALBREATH, Hollywood, St. Mary's County



I would like to serve on the ExCom of the Southern Maryland Group. Since working with the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, I have volunteered at many events, including the Calvert Green Expo. I coordinated funding, transportation and volunteers for buses to the People's Climate March. I was appointed as the St. Mary's Political Chair, and have represented the Southern Maryland Group several times on the Maryland Political Committee.

Educating and getting people involved in the numerous environmental causes has become an urgent need with our current political climate. I have professional experience working with the public, which would make me an excellent Volunteer Coordinator. I am warm and friendly, and know how to discuss environmental issues with members and non-member volunteers. My knowledge of multiple computer programs and experience teaching and training staff would also be of benefit. I am a motivated, detail-oriented individual, and a quick learner.

There is so much we can do in our daily lives to help our earth and its resources, and together we can really make a difference in the future of our planet. I would like to be a part of that green future!

CODY HANCE, Great Mills, St. Mary's County



As a teacher, historian, and environmentalist, I not only have an interest in protecting our environment, I also believe I have a responsibility. As a teacher, I see and speak to young adults every day. I am constantly aware of the future that is ahead of them and the conditions they will need to succeed. They will need an education in their field of study and in daily life. They affect the world so differently now than they will in the future. They need to know what impacts they will have

on the world, and that includes the impacts they will have on the planet on which they live.

As a historian, my favorite American president was Teddy Roosevelt. As a progressive, I believe he pushed this country in the best direction possible and his policies did so much to shape the natural environment which we have today. I want to help continue his mission, as I fully believe in what he did. Lastly, as an environmentalist, obviously I love nature. I want to do everything I can to help protect and preserve it for myself and posterity.

**ROSA HANCE, Great Mills,
St. Mary's County**



As a member of the ExCom, I believe that I bring fresh energy, organization, growth, and visibility to the Southern Maryland Group. Since joining the Sierra Club, I have worked to increase involvement of members and non-members alike. During the campaign to ban fracking in Maryland, I organized petitioning, business canvassing,

and letter writing campaigns. I educated the public on the issue of fracking with film screenings and encouraged them to join me in delivering written and spoken testimony at the county and state levels. It was encouraging to see the people of Southern Maryland rally together to protect their natural resources, and shows that the environmental cause can unite many disparate groups.

At the local level we must build a community of engaged and educated citizens. In particular, I hope to reach out to local families to foster more involvement and activity. This will help to grow a strong and enduring local presence. I believe it is our responsibility to clean up the pollution in our water and air as well as hold both our governmental representatives and private companies to high standards so that we can prevent additional damage to our precious ecosystems and public health.

**RACHEL MARTIN JONES,
Lexington Park, St. Mary's County**



I want to make an impact on environmental protection and education. I am very concerned about environmental protection, especially in these times, because there is no voice or representative to speak for the other species on the planet. It is up to us, as another species that also lives and benefits from a healthy ecosystem, to educate those who are unaware and to influence legislation to make the best possible choices with the least damaging impact on the environment.

I am especially interested in educating people and promoting awareness of the variety of choices we can make that have a positive impact. Besides getting the word out about damaging legislation and regulations to protect our forests, air, and waterways, projects like rebuilding wetlands or removing invasive species, planting new canopy trees, and promoting growth of species that house and feed other beneficial animals are very important. In volunteering for projects like these, people can become more interested in protecting our environment.

The more informed you are, the more you can help Maryland's environment.

As a Sierra Club member, you're a champion of the environment. You can increase your impact with one simple step: provide the Sierra Club with your email address.

The Club relies on email to keep members informed of environmental news and opportunities for action. We won't spam you; there are strict limits on the number of times we can contact you by email. The Club does not share or sell email addresses without your permission.

You're receiving this paper ballot because we don't have an email address to send you the ballot electronically OR you requested not to be contacted by email. This ballot is the only newsletter you will receive this year because paper newsletters are cost-prohibitive. The monthly e-news is the only vehicle your Maryland Chapter can use to bring you up to date on triumphs, challenges, and opportunities to make a difference in Maryland.

Sign up now. Put your e-mail address on your ballot and send it in. It will keep you abreast of opportunities to transform your commitment to a better planet into effective action.

How to Vote

Please read all candidate statements before casting your ballot. All members can vote for Maryland Chapter at-large ExCom candidates. Group members should only vote for ExCom candidates representing their respective Group.

You can cast your ballot in one of two ways:

1. **Vote online at <http://sierraclub.org/maryland/club-elections>.** All electronic votes must be recorded by **December 16, 2017.** **OR**

2. **Complete the paper ballot on the next page.** Detach the page and mail it to:
Elections Committee
Maryland Chapter Sierra Club
7338 Baltimore Ave., Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740.

Ballots must be postmarked by **December 16, 2017.**

You will need your membership number, which is printed on the address label of this issue of the *Chesapeake*, to complete the electronic or paper ballot. This is needed so the Election Committee can confirm that you are a Sierra Club member eligible to vote; your vote is confidential.

If you have a joint membership, both members can vote. On the **paper ballot**, there are two columns, one for each person in a joint membership. Single members should use only the first column. On the **electronic ballot** on the website, each member can use the joint membership ID number and vote separately.

If you have any problems with either ballot, please contact the Maryland Chapter Office at 301-277-7111.

Chapter and Group ExCom Paper Ballot

Maryland Chapter		
Your vote	Joint member only*	<i>All Maryland Chapter members vote for up to 3.</i>
		Chiara D'Amore (page 2)
		Katie Mettle (page 2)
		Mark Posner (page 2)

Anne Arundel Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Anne Arundel County. <i>Group members vote for up to 3.</i>
		Carmen Skarlupka (page 3)
		Louise Taylor (page 3)
		Joan Turek (page 3)

Catoclin Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Frederick, Carroll, and Washington Counties. <i>Group members vote for up to 6.</i>
		Daniel Andrews (page 4)
		David Barrow (page 4)
		Anthony Iacovelli (page 4)
		Ron Kaltenbaugh (page 5)
		Veronica Poklemba (page 5)
		Kathleen Rall (page 5)

Greater Baltimore Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Baltimore City, Baltimore and Harford Counties. <i>Group members vote for up to 7.</i>
		Christopher Croft (page 5)
		Lynn Davidson (page 6)
		Amber Doherty (page 6)
		Kevin Kriescher (page 6)
		Beth Renwick (page 7)
		Ian Schlakman (page 7)
		Jack Wise (page 7)

Help us save trees and devote more of our resources to the environment! Leave us your email address:

Howard Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Howard County. <i>Group members vote for up to 5.</i>
		Pete Barnes (page 7)
		Joanne Heckman (page 7)
		Sue Muller (page 8)
		Alan Schneider (page 8)
		Pat Soffen (page 8)

Montgomery Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Montgomery County. <i>Group members vote for up to 5.</i>
		Elizabeth Bunn (page 8)
		Gerald Ehrenstein (page 9)
		Michal Freedman (page 9)
		Kendra Lawrence (page 9)
		Stephanie Riddick (page 10)

Prince George's Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Prince George's County. <i>Group members vote for up to 5.</i>
		Martha Ainsworth (page 10)
		Tom Dernoga (page 10)
		Janet Gingold (page 11)
		E. Anne Riley (page 11)
		Susan Stewart (page 11)

Southern Maryland Group		
Your vote	Joint member only*	Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties. <i>Group members vote for up to 5.</i>
		Bonnie Bick (page 12)
		Darlene Galbreath (page 12)
		Cody Hance (page 12)
		Rosa Hance (page 13)
		Rachel Martin Jones (page 13)

Note: The Western Maryland Group is not conducting an election at this time.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP #:

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740



Chesapeake

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EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET