



## Your Vote Needed: Mount Vernon Group Elections in January

Members of the Mount Vernon Group (residents of Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, eastern Fairfax County and eastern Prince William County) are eligible to vote in the annual election to select members of the group's Executive Committee.

This year we have six candidates for five open positions. After reading the candidate statements below, please use our [online ballot](#) to cast your vote.

If you would like to receive a ballot by U.S. mail, contact Bruce Parker at 827 Fontaine St., Alexandria, VA 22302-3610, 703-549-5792, [bruce@chesdata.com](mailto:bruce@chesdata.com).

The deadline for voting is January 8, 2017.

[Dean Amel](#) | [John Bloom](#) | [Seth Heald](#) | [Derek Meyer](#) | [Colin Nackerman](#) | [Katherine Peinhardt](#)

### Dean Amel:

I've been a member of the Sierra Club since 1987 and became active in the Mount Vernon Group shortly thereafter. After serving as Virginia Chapter treasurer and on the Club's national Finance Committee for several years, I returned to the Mount Vernon Group Executive Committee in 2010. I have served as group chair for three years in total, including the last year.

Since my return to the ExCom, the group was active in the successful effort to close the GenOn coal-fired power plant in Alexandria; worked on the task force that developed Arlington's Community Energy Plan and its implementation; supported mass transit; maintained an active political campaign that has endorsed dozens of candidates for local office; rallied to call attention to the presence and influence of the pro-polluter American Legislative Exchange Council in Arlington; worked to preserve open space in the face of development pressures; worked on the Club's campaign to move to 100% renewable electricity in Alexandria and Arlington; and joined in efforts to get Alexandria to stop dumping raw sewage into the Potomac from its combined sewage system in Old Town.

In addition, over the last six years the Mount Vernon Group's financial condition has improved and stabilized. With your support, I will continue to promote the environmental goals that we share for the next two years.

### John Bloom:

I am a Life Member of the Sierra Club with a passion for promoting renewable energy and climate change policy. I am a current member of the Executive Committee, where I serve as Public Health Issues Chair for the Mount Vernon Group. I also serve as Public Health Issues Chair for the Virginia Chapter, and as the Mount Vernon Group's voting Delegate to the Virginia Chapter. These roles allow me to contribute to work across state and local environmental issues.

I am an enthusiastic supporter and active participant in the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign in Arlington, which is asking the County to commit to 100% clean electricity by 2035, and to 100% clean energy in all sectors by 2050. I serve on the research team that is strengthening the case for clean energy in Arlington.

I believe climate change is the defining challenge of our era. In light of the 2016 national election results, I am more committed than ever to helping the Sierra Club advance state and local climate-related policies and programs. I look forward to working creatively and collaboratively, exploring new strategies, and developing new allies in these efforts. I would greatly appreciate your vote.

### **Seth Heald**

I am a longtime member of the Sierra Club and have served the Virginia Chapter for several years as vice chair and then chair. I've been active on a variety of climate-change related projects and issues, including the Ready for 100 Campaign, the Beyond Coal Campaign, and a project to highlight Dominion Resources' role in the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

I'm one paper away from receiving my master of science degree in energy policy and climate at Johns Hopkins University. I will receive the degree in May 2017.

Local and state action to address greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change is more important than ever. I'd like to continue to work with other activists on the Mt. Vernon Group excom to continue and expand this work.

### **Derek Meyer**

I've been involved with the Sierra Club for over 5 years, participating in everything from visibility events of all sizes to writing letters to the editor to meeting and networking with elected officials. I often take the initiative in group settings and always strive to build consensus. And as someone who speaks French and Spanish, I welcome the opportunity to reach out to local communities in those languages and start a dialogue with them about environmental issues.

At this point, there seems more to be done than ever, given the recent political earthquake and its various aftershocks. I think it's crucial for the Club--at all levels--to reach out and work both with fellow environmentalists and others who are generally like-minded. I look forward both to learning from others and sharing ideas and energy to advance a green-minded perspective.

### **Colin Nackerman**

As a recent college graduate, I am eager to continue in grassroots organizing with the Sierra Club. Over the last four years I have organized and led two student organizations focused on environmental activism and investigating corporate funding at universities (UnKoch My Campus). I was able to lead multiple campaigns for Greenpeace, [350.org](http://350.org), CCAN, and Oceana, and would be honored to lend my experience and passion to the Mount Vernon Group. I have assisted with Sierra Club rallies and events, but am eager to do more.

While in school I also worked in climate science and policy, and I currently work in the solar industry, so I would hope to expand collaborations and thought leadership. Thank you very much for your consideration!

### **Katherine Peinhardt**

I've been a member of the Sierra Club for some time now, participating in the Beyond Coal Campaign in NYC, during my time there as a graduate student, studying Climate and Society at Columbia. I currently work at the World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, coordinating communications

-- I am deeply entrenched in the field of sustainable urban development, and hope to bring my experience to this chapter of the Sierra Club.

Above all, I hope to learn as much as I can from the Sierra Club -- I hope to find new strategies to show that a sustainable future can also be one that benefits everyone, equally. I'm involved locally with Casey Trees, as well, frequently volunteering on DC tree-planting projects. I look forward to bringing all that I can to this chapter of the Sierra Club, for a better climate and a healthier state of Virginia.

*This content originally appeared in the December 2016 issue of the Mount Vernon Sierran, the Mount Vernon Group's quarterly newsletter. For more information about the Mount Vernon Group, please visit [virginia.sierraclub.org/mvg/](http://virginia.sierraclub.org/mvg/).*