

Wakarusa Group Candidate Statements

Nancy Muma

I am passionate about reducing climate change and plastic toxicity and will bring this passion to the Wakarusa group and the Kansas Sierra Club. I now have more time to devote to climate issues since I recently retired from being a professor and the Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Kansas. My former profession brings scientific expertise and leadership experience. I am currently the chair of the Lawrence Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board and have been the chair of the Wakarusa Group for the past few years. We have been able to get a single-use plastic bag ban in Lawrence and plan to help other communities in Kansas do the same. We are also planning to campaign for additional ordinances in Lawrence to reduce plastic use in the city.

Patrick Ross

My name is Patrick Ross. I've had the privilege to serve this past year on the Kansas Chapter Executive Committee and as the Conservation Committee Chair. Serving in this capacity has presented a wonderful opportunity to both learn and engage in environmental issues across the state of Kansas. I believe Kansas is in a unique position to champion advocacy in both land conservation and agricultural practices. Iowa has some of the highest rising rates of cancer anywhere in our nation because our current agricultural legislation does not protect farming communities as it should. Instead, we lean toward corporate greed and profit. We as Kansans need to protect our farming communities, stop data centers (because of Kansas SB 98), and save our natural environments of water, soil, air and prairie.

Dominique Sexton

My name is Dominique and I've been advocating for the environment ever since my senior year in college when I took a summer ecology class and fell back in love with the environment. I spent several years learning how to do hands on restoration with some local non profits and friends. Recently I've been following City and County politics and seen how the environment has been neglected in both policy and application of regulations. Spurred on by the New Boston Crossing I've spent a lot of time becoming familiar with City processes, talking to various peoples and seeing the gaps between our public, our institutions and our community organizations. I hope to help Sierra Club Wakarusa Group fill some of these gaps and build some of these bridges and become a local advocacy game changer.

Katie Hasty

I'm a Kansas native who moved to Lawrence from KCMO two years ago. As I've been completing my three-year term on the Missouri ExCom, I've served as Chapter Chair and as Missouri's delegate to the Council of Club Leaders. I founded the MO Chapter's first Communications & Membership Committee, recruited new volunteers, and wrote resolutions, fundraising letters, scripts, and internal memos across the Chapter and the Thomas Hart Benton Group. I love the Sierra Club want to bring my volunteer and professional experience in strategic planning, data analytics, and media to Kansas, to build stronger connections between leaders, Groups, and across state lines. My hope is to help grow stronger outings, event programming, partnerships, and communication channels.

Kathleen Harned

I am currently the Vice Chair of the Wakarusa Group & a KS Chapter Alternate Delegate. I am involved with many community and environmental issues. I have played a key role in creating educational events about Green Hydrogen and the New Nuclear Power that is coming to Kansas. A community educational event about battery storage, is in the planning stage. I have been involved with community awareness programs regarding Evergy, and now there is a need to inform the public about the resurgence of facts regarding the groundwater toxins near the Lawrence Energy Center. Last year I completed FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team Training to become a part of the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps. Recently, I also completed the United Way Board Leadership Training Series.

Dawn Hawkins

I live in rural Douglas County and have been an advocate for environmental and social justice for decades. I currently serve as the Kansas Chapter Executive Committee Vice Chair and Delegate to the national, volunteer SC Council of Club Leaders, and I participate in multiple Chapter committees and the Wakarusa Group (Lawrence area). I want to build on what I have learned so far in my Sierra Club leadership roles, and I am excited about what we can do now that we have two full-time employees to support our grassroots, volunteer network. I love the Sierra Club's mission to educate, advocate, and legislate to protect the environment, and to bring people together outdoors to enjoy and project nature. Let's work together to protect Kansas water, air, soil, wildlife, and wild places!