Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

SAGUARO GROUP

Beverly Full (Membership #10337194)
I have served as chair and organizer of the Group since 2004. I lead canoe outings on sections of the Green and Colorado Rivers as well as local hikes. I would be happy to serve another term on the Saguaro Excom.

Doug Murphy (Membership #43160855)
I have served as Chair of the Saguaro Group, as well as vice-chair, service outing chair and publicity chair over the past 16 years. I feel the work we do is important and I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving on the Saguaro Group’s Executive Committee.

Urb Weidner (Membership #41397461)
Urb has been an active member of the Saguaro Group for over 12 years. Having served as Group Treasurer for ten years and Service Projects Coordinator for the past two years, Urb continues to expand his role in the Saguaro Group.

Pete Weinelt (Membership #52260708)
I've been a Sierra Club member for 9 years. I've been an outings leader for 6 years. I support most all of the Sierra Clubs environmental and political positions. I have enjoyed the company of most all of the people I've met through Sierra Club events.

YAVAPAI GROUP

Gary Beverly (Membership #11123716)
I have been a member of the Sierra Club for three decades and have been active in the Yavapai Group ExComm since 2006 as vice-Chair, Outings Chair, Publications, and Chair. My primary project is to protect the base flow and riparian environment along the Verde river, which can in part be achieved through Congressional designation of the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River. My other interests are in air and water quality, the Grand Canyon, forest management, and in trails. If re-elected, I will continue my efforts with increased vigor.

Joe Zarnoch (Membership #30189140)
I have been a long-term Sierra Club member, including serving as a former outings leader for the biking group in southern California. My career, as an environmental specialist and investigator, consisted of overseeing remediation proposals and cleanup actions at contaminated military sites, managing hazardous materials/waste and regulating underground storage tanks for a fire department, investigating environmental crimes in conjunction with a District Attorney's Office and then later employed as an environmental fraud investigator for the California EPA. I am currently the Yavapai Group Treasurer and involved on Prescott National Forest management issues and protecting the Verde River, the only remaining Arizona perennial river and a paramount concern for ecological diversity in our state. I am seeking re-election to the Yavapai Group Executive Committee.

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ GROUP

Emma Benenati (Membership #17616609)
I have been involved in national forest recreation and environmental issues for the past eight years, serving on committees and meeting with forest supervisors to question, as well as, persuade them to manage and preserve our forests more effectively. I have many years of experience in teaching at all levels and management of projects and large groups. Our earth desperately needs the values and mission of Sierra Club and I would like to be a part of this important movement.

Kay Bordwell (Membership #47200591)
I have been involved in wildlife issues for many years in northern Arizona. I was a volunteer for 5 years and board member of the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project and served in that position for 2 years. I also participated in prairie dog capture and relocation several times in and around Flagstaff with Habitat Harmony. I am presently part of the Wildlife Activists Group. I have spoken before the Arizona Game and Fish, written letters and advocated for positions that encourage scientific management of the Mexican Gray Wolf. Living at the Grand Canyon for ten years as a teacher, I worked with the Park Rangers in promoting and developing programs for students and youth particularly the Grand Canyon Youth River Trips of which I took middle and high school students with guides, down the Colorado and San Pedro Rivers to encourage outdoor experiences and interests that last a lifetime. I believe in the goals of the Sierra Club and particularly in this time of threatened ecological disruption in so many areas, feel we all should help to make a commitment to strengthening our lands, water and wildlife for future generations. I ask for your vote so that I can help our northern Arizona group stay vigilant in protection of our valuable outdoor assets.

RINCON GROUP

Russell Lowes (Membership #43781677)
The realm of energy has taken a turn to the better over the last few years in some ways. Solar, wind and battery prices have come down dramatically. However, globally and in the U.S., the energy sector still produces over 60% of the total impact of global warming. The “solar blend” is in the process of replacing the old 19th and 20th Century options of coal, gas, nuclear and oil. My recent analysis is that if we replace nuclear and fossil fuels with this solar blend, then we can reduce our carbon output by 96%! My environmental work has been mostly focused on energy over the last several decades. I have also been involved in Wilderness Area advocacy since high school, with our Wilderness Area review process. Additionally water conservation, mining issues, and...
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RINCON GROUP

Margaret “Meg” Weesner (Membership #13399492)
I have been a member of the Sierra Club for more than 40 years, and a life member for much of that time. I was elected to the group ExCom six years ago, and have served as group chair for five years. Since 2006, I have been an outing leader for the Rincon Group. In 2013-2014, I led chapter activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and received the chapter’s Conservationist of the Year Award.

I believe that the Sierra Club’s success on a wide range of environmental issues results from its numerous volunteers who are willing to devote their time and energy to work on conservation issues. With your support I would like to continue this work in southern Arizona. Sierra Club is unique among national environmental organizations because of the opportunities it provides for grassroots members to become actively involved in conservation. Involving youth and non-traditional communities is important for the future of our efforts. I would be honored to continue serving on the group’s executive committee and working to protect our air, water, wildlife, and public lands for all our residents and to improve sustainability throughout our community.

Palo Verde Group candidates continued top right

PALO VERDE GROUP

Rebecca Hinton (Membership #47513854)
I am a current member of the Palo Verde Group (PVG) Executive Committee. I am an active member of our Chapter’s Political Committee. I help organize the monthly programs for the PVG. I volunteer for Sierra Club events including Environmental Day at the Capitol, canvasses, text banks, postcard writing, and tabling.

Don Steuter (Membership #23812444)
My main interest with the Sierra Club since joining in the late 1980’s has been protection of public lands, in particular fighting to stop irresponsible mining across our most special landscapes and preventing destructive cattle grazing in our hot desert and riparian areas.

My history with the Sierra Club includes chairing the Palo Verde Group Conservation Committee (1990 to the present) and the Chapter Conservation Committee (2001 to present). I have worked on several campaigns and projects over the years including organizing with others the Conferences on Conservation of State Lands (COSTL – 1998-99) and as a steering committee member for the Citizen’s Growth Management Initiative in 2000. I also worked on the Grand Canyon Campaign Protection Committee, am on the steering committee for the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, represented the Chapter at Council of Club Leaders, and serve as secretary for the Chapter Political Committee.

Working with the oldest and most influential conservation organization and its many hard working and committed members has been an honor. With your vote I’ll continue the effort to keep our air and water clean and our wild places wild.

Support Your Local Sierra Club

When you make a donation to the Grand Canyon Chapter, you support Sierra Club’s work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our efforts to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, to curb global climate change, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. If you haven’t already, please also consider signing up to become a monthly, recurring donor to support local Chapter efforts!

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support the Sierra Club’s citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Donate online at: http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/donate or by mail to:
Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

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