

2017 Candidate Statements

Gary Anderson | *Topeka ExCom*: I have served as Chair of the Topeka Group ExCom and have represented our Group at the Chapter ExCom. I am also the Chapter PAC Treasurer. I continue to be very proud of the work that our Kansas Sierra Club does for our state and its citizens. I also believe that opposition to our fossil fuel interests and efforts to promote understanding of what is necessary to fight climate change continues to be our highest priorities. We also need to support our lobbyist and his efforts to promote good environmental decisions in our state and local government. I would try to reach out to more of our state-wide and Topeka area members to provide education and support for their environmental interest and work. We must strive to get our members actively involved in our issues, policies, events, and struggles.

Adison Banks | *Kanza ExCom*: While relatively new to the Sierra Club, I have had a life-long interest in the environment, instilled in me by my parents and grandparents. A native Kansan, I focused on environmental and natural resources law at Washburn. After graduating in 2014, I moved to Texas and started volunteering with Sierra Club, picking up trash in the parks and tabling at events. In 2016, I joined the Fort Worth Group's ExCom, where I had the opportunity to argue two environmental justice causes to the Dallas and Fort Worth City Councils. In Dallas, I helped stop a concrete plant from getting built in a low income neighborhood, where particulate pollution would have harmed people, particularly children. In Fort Worth, I helped keep the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens free to the public. My wife and I moved back to Kansas this year and, whether I am picking up

trash or arguing a cause to a local policy maker, I would like to continue volunteering with the Sierra Club.

Amber Berg | *Manhattan: (Chapter ExCom)* I am a student in Kansas State University's Regional and Community Planning program and the president of Students for Environmental Action (SEA). I helped transform SEA into an energetic group of passionate individuals who engage the campus and Manhattan community in environmental action, including a campaign against plastic shopping bags. I organized our group trip to this year's WEALTH Lobby Day and hosted an environmental art exhibit. I was selected as a 2017 Udall Scholar. I want to get young people involved in environmental issues to ensure the longevity of our movement and a clean future for the state of Kansas. My roles on campus and in SEA can allow me to engage the youth with long-time members of the Sierra Club to ensure Kansas and our communities are environmentally vibrant and resilient.

Kelly Bowlin | *Wichita: (Chapter ExCom)* I am a new member to Sierra Club, although I am very familiar with the organization. I am semi-retired after selling my Home Health and Hospice agency and am managing real estate investments with my husband. I now have the time and energy to change directions from healthcare to conservation. Over the years I have become increasingly concerned about the amount of damage we are doing through pollution. The recent changes in the government and roll back of programs designed to protect the environment have empowered and impassioned me to take action to protect this beautiful planet for my grandchildren and their grandchildren. As a previous business owner, I offer broad experience as an administrator.

Having been in a federally funded healthcare program I am also a good researcher. Being on the Chapter Executive Committee will allow me to make a difference and effect change.

Daniel DeGroot | *Southwind ExCom*: As a member of the Southwind Group ExCom, I have helped plan activities, including education on Kansas pollinators at the Exploration Place and traveling to Washington, D.C. for the People's Climate March. I have been administrator for the Peace and Social Justice Education Fund in Wichita for over a year. I handle financial accounts, work on fundraising campaigns, and help with communications, including weekly calendar, website updates, and newsletters. During the protests at Standing Rock, and more recently after hurricane Harvey, I assisted with supply drives. Furthermore, I attend all board meetings, handle the scheduling of events, and make presentations on the current state of the Peace Center. I also work as a Volunteer Coordinator for University Friends Church where I help care for homeless families. I would appreciate your vote for the Southwind Group ExCom.

Anita Frank | *Topeka ExCom*: I am happy to run again for ExCom membership in and for Conservation Chair of the Topeka Group of the Sierra Club. Please share with me your ideas for this appointment. Thank you for your support.

Steve Hassler | *Kanza ExCom*: I am currently the Outings Chair for the Kanza Group and have served on the Executive Committee on and off since 1993. I was recently appointed to fill an ExCom vacancy and am now standing for election. The next few years will be as challenging as ever, as we face

hostility to our mission at both the federal and state levels of government. Nevertheless, recent months have brought some hope, as our Outings program continues to grow. Moreover, many new participants are embracing our conservation message for the first time and deciding to become Club leaders. During the past year I have focused my efforts on educating our outings participants about environmental issues and the value of healthy ecological systems, most recently at advanced Outings leader training. Thanks for your support.

Melissa Hickham | *Wakarusa ExCom*: No statement submitted; see Karin Pagel-Meiners statement.

David Kirkbride | *Wichita: (Chapter and Southwind ExComs)* I have been chair of the Southwind Group, the Southwind Group Delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee, and, for the past four years, an elected member of the Chapter Executive Committee. I also serve as Chapter Secretary and as Chapter Outings Chair as well as a member of the Chapter Education Grants Committee. The work of the Kansas Chapter has been very impressive, especially our on-going efforts to stop the expansion of the Holcomb coal-fired generating station, our fight against global warming, and other local environmental battles. I am also impressed with my colleagues on the Chapter Executive Committee, who are highly motivated individuals dedicated to protecting Planet Earth for our children and grandchildren.

David Kyner | *Wakarusa ExCom*: I have served as treasurer for the Wakarusa Group in Lawrence for two years and wish to serve again on the ExCom. I write letters to our politicians and newspapers about my concerns for the environment, which include the overuse and pollution of water by industry, farming, ranching, feed lots, golf courses, and homeowners. Overuse of fertilizers and pesticides

also contaminates air and soil. Fracking should be more regulated in its proximity to towns, its impacts on use and contamination of water, and its waste injection causing earthquakes. Clean energy should be promoted, including non-fossil fuels like wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric power. The public should be warned about the toxic effects that chemicals have on everyone's health.

Lori Lawrence | *Wichita: (Chapter & Southwind ExComs)* I got ambushed! Yvonne Cather met me on a bus I organized and recruited me! I've been with the Southwind ExCom for the last few years and I am trying to help Southwind branch out! I started the Brewery Events that have brought in more than 75 people. I still organize buses for Sierra Club (and for the Women's March); I just did my 6th one. I am hoping we will expand beyond Wichita and start having meetings where some of our other Southwind members live (tell me if you want us to come to you!). My mission is not over! Sierra Club still has a lot of fights to wage. Especially EARTHQUAKES for us here.

Janet Lhuillier | *Kanza ExCom*: I joined Sierra Club in 1991. I have been on the Kanza Executive Committee for the last two years, volunteering with the annual fundraiser before that. I have a M.A. Degree in Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution and currently serve as the Executive Director of Heartland Mediators Association for attorneys and non-attorneys covering the state of Kansas and western Missouri. I would like to continue serving on the ExCom because I think my work experience and mediation skills can benefit the group. I have a passion for helping Mother Earth and humanity in any way I can. My interests are in wind energy, fracking and fresh water. I am also on the Kansas Chapter ExCom and was honored to represent Kansas at the 2017 Sierra Club National Convention

in Washington, DC. My goal is to find better ways to communicate with and engage our members.

Craig Lubow | *Kansas City: (Chapter and Kanza ExComs)* As a SC member since 1987, I have served on the Kanza Group and chapter ExComs in many roles: Conservation Chair, Kanza Chair, Membership Chair, Kanza Vice-Chair, and Political Chair. Next year will be a vital political election year; I want to focus a lot of energy on getting environmentally friendly candidates elected. I am also a rotating host on Eco Radio KC, which airs on KKFI Community Radio. This is an important means of getting our message to the community. Finally, as we move into the modern age of social media, I want to be sure that we do not leave behind the members that are not computer savvy. Please vote for me for reelection to the Kanza ExCom and for election to the Kansas Chapter ExCom. Thank you.

Richard Mabion | *Kansas City: (Chapter ExCom)* My interest in Sierra Club began during an EPA workshop on Brownfield Training Grants in 2008. It was then I realized I lived in a county that had four coal-powered plants, and had not heard any citizens talking about it as an issue of concern. Recognizing the impacts of air pollution on public health, I created an annual educational event "Building A Sustainable Earth Community" to get more people of color involved in the environmental movement. I have been working with the Chapter for many years on energy efficiency education in Wyandotte Co. In January 2012, I was recruited and elected to the Chapter ExCom as its first Black member. As Environmental Justice chair, I have participated in a number of national Sierra Club workshops on diversity and equity. I am also president of the NAACP of KCK, where I have brought greater awareness of environmental issues. I would consider it an honor to continue working with

Sierra Club in my KCK neighborhoods. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Karin Pagel-Meiners | Wakarusa

ExCom: Melissa Hickam and I have been serving as Acting Co-Chairs this past year. I feel fortunate to have been able to partner our Wakarusa Group with other environmental groups in the community to offer numerous films and lectures. I have also instigated seasonal vegan potlucks (you don't have to be a vegan to come!) and worked with the Chapter's Food and Ag Committee to bring funding to the Sunrise Project's Community Garden under the new "Healthy Foods and Farms" initiative. It is my hope that we can find ways to educate and engage our group members as well as members of the community, especially reaching out to people beyond "the choir." I care deeply about the issues of global warming and climate change, water contamination, and food security. We have no Planet B.

Kent Rowe | Wichita: (Chapter & Southwind ExComs) Kent Rowe, with a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and a Master's level degree in Toxicology, has authored numerous research papers and led investigations in environmental & occupational diseases and toxic exposure determinations. His efforts to promote clean energy, agricultural hemp cultivation, and elimination of needless hydrocarbon-based commodities includes installing solar and wind generation in homes and churches and measuring pollution emissions in Wichita's industrial & transportation corridors. He is a member of the WSU Green Faculty Group, Vice Chair of the Southwind Group, and a founding member of the newly-formed Wichita Society of Alternative Resources (SOAR).

He recently orchestrated the donation of the first solar panel to the Mechanical Engineering Dept. at WSU and implemented a design to incorporate more solar panels on campus buildings. He operates a countryside Airbnb powered by solar & wind, including a plug-in electric car & tractor/mower.

David Schenk | Overland Park:

(Chapter Excom) I have always had an interest in the environment but only joined Sierra Club in 2016. With the overwhelming evidence that humans are causing climate change, I decided to get involved to help raise awareness and to work for change. I have a great interest in renewable energy. I am also aware of the harm that is being done by fracking in Kansas and want to work with Chapter leaders on a campaign to stop it. With a masters degree in business and previous management experience, I can multi-task and offer good communication skills and the ability to work with a variety of people. I believe we are to be good stewards of God's creation. I wish to use my skills and passion to bring about positive change so we and future generations can live in a safer, cleaner, healthier world.

Gail Shafton | Kanza ExCom: I joined Sierra Club in 2007 to oppose coal-fired power plants in Kansas. As a nurse practitioner, I'm passionate about human and planetary health. My conscience and moral compass demand that I help create a low or non-carbon based economy to avert climate catastrophe. I have served as the Kanza Group Vice Chair, Program Chair, Publicity Chair, Communications Chair, and Education Chair. I developed the Kanza Cinema Series and served as the lead organizer

for the 2017 People's Climate March KC, where I engaged younger people, communities of color, indigenous people, and faith communities. I've been an active promoter of social media on behalf of both the Kansas Chapter and Kanza Group and collaborated with local colleges and churches to broaden our impact. If elected, I would focus on engaging local government and citizens to reduce green house gas emissions and improve resilience to the impact of climate change on our community.

Duncan Whittier | Topeka ExCom: I am seeking a second term on the Topeka Sierra Club's Executive Committee because climate change is the most significant issue of our time and the Sierra Club is the best voice calling attention to this issue. I want to leave my grandchildren and their grandchildren an environment that is as beautiful and wondrous as mine has been.



SIERRA CLUB
KANSAS CHAPTER

Ballot Instructions

Read the instructions below before marking your ballot. Improper votes will be discarded.

- Check the mailing label on this packet. Above your name is your local Group affiliation, as well as your membership type: "SNGL" or "JNT".
- Review 2017 Candidate Statements.
- Regardless of Group affiliation, everyone may vote for Kansas Chapter (statewide) ExCom candidates.
- If you are affiliated with a local Group, you may vote in your Group's election. If you live in an area not affiliated with a local Group ("Unaffiliated"), you may only vote in the Chapter election.
- If your mailing label says **SNGL**, then you have a single membership and should vote in only one column. **JNT** indicates a joint membership; each of the joint members may vote but in separate columns.
- Each member should vote **only once** for any one candidate.
- Write-in candidates are not allowed.
- After voting, fold the ballot with the Chapter address visible, apply tape, add postage and mail by Dec 31.

Kansas Chapter - Statewide Election *(Pick up to 5 candidates)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Amber Berg - <i>Manhattan</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Lubow - <i>Kansas City</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Bowlin - <i>Wichita</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Mabion - <i>Kansas City</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Kirkbride - <i>Wichita</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kent Rowe - <i>Wichita</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Lawrence - <i>Wichita</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> David Schenk - <i>Overland Park</i> |

Kanza Group - Kansas City *(Pick up to 5 candidates)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Adison Banks | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Lubow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Hassler | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Gail Shafton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Lhuillier | |

Southwind Group - Wichita *(Pick up to 4 candidates)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel DeGroot | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Lawrence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> David Kirkbride | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kent Rowe |

Topeka Group - Topeka *(Pick up to 3 candidates)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Anderson | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Duncan Whittier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Anita Frank | |

Wakarusa Group - Lawrence *(Pick up to 3 candidates)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Hickham | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Karin Pagel-Meiners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> David Kyner | |

Flint Hills Group - Manhattan

No group election for 2017

YOUR BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2017 IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED.