

Northeast Ohio Sierra Club Ballot Statements- Nov. 2014

Erin Bernstein

I first became a member of the Sierra Club as a high school student a little over ten years ago. I went on to intern and volunteer for a number of sustainability, environmental education, and social justice non-profits from California to Wisconsin. I spent a number of months living and working on organic farms on the Big Island of Hawai'i, building an interest in the connections between human health, environmental health, agriculture and local food systems. With a good deal of environmental science credits under my belt and a Master of Public Health degree, I currently work in health promotion and disease prevention with a continuing interest in the link between human and environmental health. For two years I acted as a leader with the NEO Sierra Club Inner City Outings. For the past two years I've been an Executive Committee member, working as an Events Co-Chair organizing sponsorships, tabling, and planning member events. I brought back East-side Pub Night gatherings, getting members out and together who had not been prior participants. I look forward to continuing to stay involved with the Club and community on both sides of town.

Anne Caruso

I have been a Sierra Club member off and on all my adult life. I have been a steady member since 2010 when I became active in the anti-fracking movement in Ohio. I am a tree-hugger, anti-fracking educator, and the Hydraulic Fracturing Representative for our club for two years now. I am a retired kindergarten teacher which means I spent my days encouraging children to do the right thing, keep trying and have fun learning.

Grace Ciptak

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 25 years, and have also served as Treasurer of the North East Ohio Group for the last three years. I would like to renew my term as Treasurer, so that I may continue to use my financial management skills to help the North East Ohio Group in their conservation efforts. My qualifications include: CPA/MBA, 30+ years experience, both in industry and the non-profit sectors, and a deep commitment to preserving and protecting our environment.

Jane Halbedel

Though I have been challenged by personal circumstances for nearly the past year, and have had to divest myself as the NEO Chapter representative in order to reconstruct our house, I would like to continue with my participatory role with NEO. I have begun to re-engage in attending seminars to further expand my knowledge on climate change impacts and love being part of this unique community that strives to make Cleveland a healthier place in which to live, by bringing important environmental issues to the fore.

While I am unable to commit to continuing as the NEO Chapter representative, until at least 2016, I will, however, apply the knowledge I have gleaned over time, as issues are raised to the Ex-Com for a vote. I enjoy being part of a greater effort to improve the air and water quality of our city and our state, and thus more conducive for the overall health of ourselves and the rich biodiversity that surrounds us.

Dennis Michael Plank

Please vote for me again for the Sierra Club Northeast Ohio Group Executive Committee so I can continue to work on issues covered by the Wetlands, Human Rights, Population, Political, & Outings Committees. I am especially interested in 2015 in working on the annual Native American Conference that will take place at a local church in Cleveland, Ohio on April 10, 2015 and April 11, 2015. Native American leaders and others will be coming to Cleveland from all over the USA to work on human rights and environmental issues.

John Turner

This past year I had the pleasure of being asked to join the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club's Executive Committee to fill a seat that had opened. In the coming year, I hope you will elect me to continue serving in this capacity. My primary endeavor with the NEO Group is to establish Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) chapters at several universities in the Cleveland area, which will encourage said universities to disinvest their assets from fossil fuels and commit to using clean energy. I believe that expanding the SSC in Ohio is of paramount importance because of the major role young people have played in the climate action movement, and because there is a lack of youth activism in our state.

I have been actively involved with the climate action movement for several years. Besides serving on the Executive Committee here in Northeast Ohio I serve as an alternate representative for our group at the State Chapter and am a member of the Policy Committee of the SSC's 2014 delegation to the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change. I also worked recently as an undergraduate researcher in Energy and Sustainability at Case Western Reserve University (where I study economics and environmental studies), and now am researching investing practices for the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Investments.

Andi Whitaker

I have served as NEO Sierra Club's Newsletter Editor for over seven years and on the Executive Committee for four years. Being the Communications Chairperson has familiarized me with our Group and Chapter workings and ensures that I keep track of the pressing environmental issues in our area. I hope to continue service to Club members by being active in the Executive Committee and facilitating communications to promote involvement.

Dallas M Young, Jr.

Resident of Strongsville, Ohio - retired High School Teacher (40 years) - Church Organist - have visited all fifty states and forty-nine other countries - have visited most major US National Parks, Great Barrier Reef, Victoria Falls - support Rainforest Action Group, Sierra Club, Move On, and other Progressive groups - former President, Ohio Music Education Association, District 4 - member of the West Shore Chorale.