



Slate of Candidates for 2022 Election

As detailed in the governance vote, which passed at the last annual meeting, the Club legally needs to move to a slate of Officers and Directors as all board members who vote on behalf of Club membership are required to be elected. Additionally, the membership voted to combine the 1st and 2nd Vice President roles into a single VP. Most of the Director's nominations on this slate have held committee chair positions for years and have opted to remain in their committee chair roles but also become a Director. Directors are voted on by membership, but committee chairs are decided on by the president in consultation with the Nominating Committee.

As so many of the committee chairs who are on the slate as Directors have been in their positions for years and are known well by membership, we have only included bios for the four new candidates to the Board. Those follow this slate. We have also created a Director Emeritus position for past board members who can offer their wisdom but no longer are voting members. Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner co-chair with Michael Bongar is moving to that role and we are fortunate to continue to have his extensive Club knowledge and history to help with our meetings.

If you are a member in good standing (current on dues) We ask that you vote, sign and return your ballots by email to secretary@catskill-3500-club.org. If you are not able to digitally sign and save, you can also print, sign and take a photo of your signed ballot and email that to the above. Or send it by mail to: Catskill 3500 Club, PO Box 294, West Hurley, NY 12491

If you have any questions, email contact@catskill-3500-club.org.

The Nominating committee recommends the election of all the following individuals.

Yes (Check)

Officers

President: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago

Write-in _____

Vice President: Michael Bongar

Write-in _____

Treasurer: Jay Hui

Write-in _____

Secretary: Linda VanSteenburg

Write-in _____

Directors

Chris Adams (Assistant Membership Chair)

Maria Bedo-Calhoun (incoming Conservation Chair)

Jim Bouton (Canister Maintainer)

Bill Chriswell (Winter Weekend Chair)

Marv Freedman (Outings Chair)

Jake Haisley (Aspirant Chair)

Colleen Hardcastle (Trailhead Steward Program Co-Chair)

Lynn Houston (incoming Digital Content Chair)

Yanina Levchinsky-Grimmond (Canister Editor)

Lourdes Sonera (Trail Maintenance Chair)

Annmarie Spiciarich (Search & Rescue Team Chair)

Dick Vincent (New York New Jersey Trail Conference Representative)

David White (Membership Chair)

Director write-in: _____

Please print your name, member number date and sign below.

Name _____ Member # _____

Signature _____ Date _____

New Candidates to the Board

Michael Bongar #2173, W994 (Vice President)



After attending Antioch College and majoring in theatre, Michael ran off to join Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Clown College. Michael has been a clown, actor, producer in theater, television, and film, and owner (along with his wife Tina Volz Bongar) of his own live entertainment company ever since. BONGARBIZ produces live entertainment and special events for Fortune 500 companies, destination retail, film and television too.

Traveling with his family to National Parks during his youth, Michael always wanted to get as far as he could on any trail, before being called back to the family for dinner. Michael and Tina have hiked and backpacked on the East Coast and in the Sierras. Even though Michael's been hiking and climbing in the Catskills since the 1970s, it wasn't until he climbed Mt. Marcy, with his son Brad on his 60th birthday, that he decided to complete the 3500. The Club's winter requirements inspired Michael and Brad to climb Mt. Rainier in 2017. Michael is a dedicated Hike Leader and loves meeting aspirants and club members along the way.

Chris Adams #2710 (Director)



Chris joins the board as an assistant to the membership chair in 2020 and recently took on coordination of the Club Service Award. Chris is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast. It was immediately apparent during his first visit to Devil's Tombstone Campground in 1996 that the Catskills were a special place that would have to be a part of his life. Growing up in Central Pennsylvania, he was always out in the woods with his dad and his friends, whether it was hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, exploring, sledding, or finding a great spot to take a nap.

Chris was almost through with his first round of climbs of the 3500+ peaks when he decided to join a Club led hike to see what the Club element of this challenge was about. The people he met and the conversations that he had that day up Rusk, East Rusk, Hunter, and Southwest Hunter enriched what started as a personal challenge by gaining insight into the bigger picture of the Catskill 3500 Club, its members, and the conservational and educational work in which the Club participates. These days, Chris can most often be found hiking in the Catskills, Hudson Highlands, or the Alleghenies of his childhood—partly because all that he wants to clean at the end of his days in the woods is his Camelbak. Chris lives in Hastings-on-Hudson and Phoenicia, NY, with his wife, son, daughter, cat, and his main hiking partner, Rosie the standard poodle.

Colleen Hardcastle #2990 W1416 (Director)



Colleen is the co-chair of the Trailhead Steward Program and serves on the Club Audit and Stewardship Committees. Colleen earned the Club Service Award this spring, and is Wilderness First Aid certified. Colleen also maintains a trail near her home in New Jersey, coaches for Girls on the Run, and kayaks. Her COVID hobby has been logging what she finds growing in Naturalist.

Lynn Houston #3578, W1406 (Director)



Lynn Houston is from a family of school teachers in Newburgh, New York. While growing up, she would help her parents navigate the increasingly complex world of computers and social media, so it was only natural that she found her way into a career in internet technology, after teaching college English for over a decade and running a small literary press. She has since developed a specialty in information privacy (minimizing agencies' collection of citizens' personal information) and has worked for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee under the Council of Inspector Generals. She recently bought a house along the Rondout Creek in Kingston to be closer to hiking in the Catskills and Adirondacks. An avid Catskill hiker and lifetime member of the Catskill 3500 Club, she is now half way through completing the Northeast Ultra 8.