

Sierra Sage of South Orange County 2024 Executive Committee Candidates

Vote at sc.org/VoterPortal between Oct 1st and Nov 13th.

Tod Fitch

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since the early 1980s and my wife and I have been life members since 2015 when we moved into the area served by the Sierra Sage group. I have been in leadership positions with the Mount Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and in the National Ski Patrol. I am currently the candidate trainer for the Mount Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and qualified by the National Ski Patrol as a Nordic/Backcountry Instructor.



My interest in the outdoors, especially hiking and camping, has been lifelong starting with family hiking and camping in the 1960s. Over that time I have seen great changes, usually for the worse, in the health of our natural environment.

I have enjoyed many local hikes sponsored by the Sierra Sage and would like to contribute to the success of the group. Your vote will allow me the privilege of serving on the Management Committee.

Ed Maurer

I'm a 45-year member of the Sierra Club, an active hike leader for over 20 years, and the editor of the OC Sierran newsletter reaching over 20,000 members, friends, and supporters of the Sierra Club throughout Orange County 6 times a year. I'm running for election in 2024 to help our Management Committee regain its strength by



- Returning the board up to its full potential of 9 active members, preferably with SC members living in Sierra Sage's geographic area.
- Appointing a representative to the important Political Committee, a position that remains unfilled.
- Cooperating more closely with the other Sierra Club entities in Orange County to better deal with membership, fundraising, outings, and other important issues.
- Taking on city councils reluctant to enact measures to deal with climate change and other environmental issues.

- Increasing outreach with better meetings, programs, and meet-and-greet events throughout south county.

To move forward, we must communicate better, listen more, and I ask for your vote.

Doug Shepard

I have held the position of OCSS political representative for approximately one year. In this capacity, I have represented the OCSS at the SC Orange County Political Committee monthly Zoom meetings, canvassed for political campaigns, interviewed a candidate for SC endorsement, attended fundraisers and helped run Table Top displays to attract new members to the SC. I have also served as an alternate representative for our OCSS group to the LA Executive Committee. I attended every monthly 4-hour Zoom meeting as a non-voting alternate member. These meetings gave me an overall view of the people and workings of the Sierra Club's LA Ex Com during this important transitional period for the new Sierra Club management group. Therefore, please consider my candidacy for OCSS Executive Committee.



Helen Maurer

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 40-plus years and an outings leader for over 20 years. As with many members, it was love of the outdoors and specifically of hiking that encouraged me to join in the first place. Over time, I became involved in other aspects of the Sierra Club's activities. I served on the Sierra Sage Management Committee for two terms—until life intervened—although I have continued as the group's appointed representative on the OC Conservation Committee as well as our representative on the OC Safe Trails Coalition, where one of my primary concerns is e-bikes. In the interest of full disclosure, I believe in the positive potential of e-bikes as an alternate form of transportation that can help us to get away from fossil fuels, but also believe that they do not belong on our wilderness trails. In addition, I am the copy editor for The OC Sierran.



As we move further away from COVID and rebuild our group activities, I would like to serve again on the Sierra Sage Committee and I ask for your vote.

Linda Pauer

As a Sierra Club member since 2003, it wasn't until the past few years that I've become active with the Sierra Sage group. Enjoying educational programs and hiking throughout the beautiful wildland trails of Orange County has inspired further engagement with the local membership. As a volunteer, I've worked side by side with many of the ExCom board members to bring speakers to bi-monthly educational meetings on the topics of Urban Foraging, CoastKeepers and Sierra Club Working Together, and the Wilderness Travel Course. Currently, I serve as the Assistant Editor of the OC Sierran, and have written informational articles on many of the subjects of interest to members, including climate change, land use, wildlife crossings and hiking events.



As an advocate for the environment, I support the Sierra Club's efforts to protect wild places and endangered species. Consequently, returning the Sierra Sage board to its full capacity of active members, engaging with environmental partners and leading fundraising initiatives to ensure continued outreach throughout the region appears to be an important priority. It would be an honor to join with members of the Sierra Sage ExCom to achieve these goals.