West LA Group
2025 Executive Committee Candidates
Vote at sc.org/VoterPortal between Oct 1st and Nov 13th.

John Nilsson



Since my retirement from the Real Estate industry in 2014 I have been active in volunteer efforts with organizations that make a difference. I have been a managing Board Member of the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club Camera Committee and served as the Group's Chairman for from 2020 thru 2023. I have been a Certified Sierra Club Outings Leader for the last 6 years and am the past Publisher of the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club Camera Committee "Focal Points Magazine. In addition, I have been an active member of the Sierra Club's Santa Monica Mountains Trail Crew, maintaining hiking trails throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. Finally, I am currently an active member of the West Los Angeles Sierra Club Political Committee.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of these important Sierra Club efforts over the last several years am anxious to continue my efforts with the West LA Group to promote 100% renewable energy efficiency and the complete shutdown of oil production in the Inglewood Oil field as well as other oil production facilities throughout California over the next 10 years.

****

David Haake



I am a life member of Sierra Club and have chaired the West Los Angeles Group's Executive Committee since 2011. A graduate of the Wilderness Travel Course, I enjoy backpacking and bird-watching, and before the pandemic co led the Group's weekly Parker Mesa Overlook hike. I am proud of our outreach efforts through the SierraWest.us website, eNewsletter, and events. My goal is to build an equitable, inclusive, and just West LA Group to strengthen Sierra Club's impact on making our community healthier, more livable, and sustainable.

Beyond the West LA Group, I serve as Chapter ExCom

member, Treasurer, and co-chair the Angeles Chapter's Clean Break team, advancing a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Clean Break helped secure Culver City's 2021 decision to phase out oil operations in the Inglewood Oil Field. I also serve on the Clean Power Alliance's Community Advisory Committee.

Nationally, I led the effort to launch Sierra Club Volunteer Connection (https://clubvolunteer.org/) as an equitable portal for volunteer engagement. My contributions have been recognized with the 2017 Phil Bernays Service Plaque, the Angeles Chapter's highest award, and the 2021 William E. Colby Volunteer Leadership Award, the Sierra Club's top volunteer honor.

****

Ralph Levinson



I am a Health Sciences Professor (ophthalmology), emeritus, UCLA. I have been interested in environmental issues going back many decades (I participated in the first Earth Day in 1970 as a teenager).

On retiring, I created a website, Planetary Health for Busy People (841 visits with 1.1 K page views in the last 30 days, 290 to the Clinician's Corner page with an average of over 8 minutes per view), and recorded a series of podcasts, Your Planet Your Health.

I knew David Haake at UCLA, and a couple of years ago we met up again at a Sierra Club-backed demonstration. We hoped to work together on environmental issues, but my cancer got in the way. I spent the last year winning that battle. I am now ready to fight to protect our health by protecting our environment, seek social justice, and reclaim our democracy (I am on a volunteer advisory committee for Grassroots Democrats HQ). Being on the Sierra Club West Los Angeles Group Executive Committee would be a rewarding way to contribute to this effort.

****

Nancy Barba



I am a mom, climate professional and organizer with Culver City for More Homes, energy efficiency and decarbonization programs director, former planning commissioner, Sierra Club West LA Group vice chair and first-generation Latina.

I have supported Latino Conservation Week, Activist Academy,

PolCom and an ad hoc subcommittee. I bring a rich background of worked and lived experience to community engagement. I advocate for housing growth in job-rich, transit-rich, and high opportunity communities. I center policy changes that address the critical need for urban infill, a priority for climate and resiliency.

I ask for your support to bring a vision of urban environmentalism that centers equity and social justice, values diversity, and engagement to address the climate emergency.

****

Colby Devitt



Colby Devitt is a longtime Culver City resident and member of the Executive Committee of the West Los Angeles Group of the Angeles Chapter. She also serves on the Chapter's Clean Break Committee. A passionate advocate for ending oil drilling, Colby has written widely on climate and environmental issues, with articles on fossil fuel divestment published in Yes! Magazine, Truthout, and BillMoyers.com; on climate grief in The Good Men Project and Medium; and climate fiction in Orca Literary Magazine, with more forthcoming in Grist Magazine.

Colby is CEO of Catch the Sun Media, a social media and digital marketing consultancy. As a communications professional, she has lectured on "Using Social Media for Social Good" at USC Annenberg, the New York Film Academy, and Harvard University. She was also a founding fellow of Practical Utopias: An Exploration of the Possible, led by Margaret Atwood.

Colby enjoys hiking local trails, biking along Ballona Creek, and supporting revitalization efforts of the LA River, where she also serves on the Advisory Board of the LA River Arts. She is grateful to the diverse community of Sierra Club members working tirelessly to protect our local public spaces and would be honored to continue serving on the West Los Angeles Group's Executive Committee.