

Orange County Group Candidate Statements

Julie Garner



I became a Sierra Club member in the 1980's because I was concerned about pollution, loss of wildlands and degradation of natural resources. I believed (and still do) that the Sierra Club is an effective way to amplify our individual voices in support of a healthy and sustainable environment. After joining the Sierra Club, I learned of outings that were provided by volunteer leaders in numerous groups throughout the Angeles Chapter – what a great way to get outdoors! After years of being a participant on hikes all over Southern California, I was convinced by several leaders to also become a leader. For the past several decades I've enjoyed leading outings for the Mt. Baldy Group, the Orange County Group and OCSS. But the outings that are at the top of my list are the ones involving ICO – Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors. I am a Sierra Club life member and participate in Chapter events and outreach/tabling opportunities when possible.

Marcia Garten



My name is Marcia Garten as a native Californian I have been a proud member of the Sierra Club for many years.

Currently I serve as Treasurer for the Orange County Sierra Club, the co-chair for Orange County Membership Committee, and the Orange County Political Committee. The Sierra Club continues to make an impact on local, state, and national issues that directly affect the environment and our everyday lives like climate change, sustainability, clean renewable energy. I served as a City of Anaheim's Public Utility Board member for eight years, where we divested from coal and nuclear power and moved to more sustainable solar, wind, and geothermal energy. As a science educator for the Orange County Department of Education, I know how important it is to engage our diverse communities equitably in Orange County especially in our underserved neighborhoods.

We need to protect our planet from the devastating effects from climate change by supporting the mission of the Sierra Club "to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth." Please join me in building a stronger Sierra Club, as we all share a responsibility to protect our natural resources for generations to come. Thank you so much for your support.

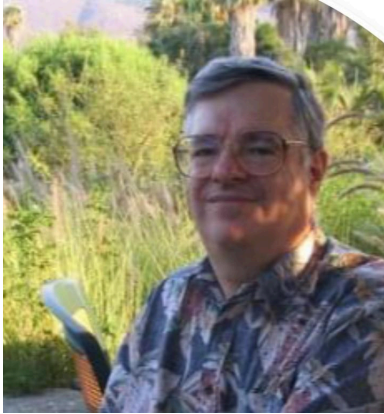
Gideon Strich



As a life member of the Sierra Club I have a strong commitment to the club's goals of protecting, preserving and enjoying our outdoor spaces. I have been a member of the Orange County group executive committee for approximately eight years and have represented the Orange County group in the Los Angeles Chapter executive committee for six years. I was an instructor in the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) for nine years and I am an I-rated leader, and until the Covid pandemic I led several backpacking experience trips per year for the program. I will continue to represent the interests of the Orange County Group in the Angeles Chapter and will enjoy introducing new Sierra Club members to the joys of backcountry travel for as long as I can.

Gideon Strich MD

Darrell Neft



I am completing 2 years on the OC Group ExComm and OC PolComm.

My interest in people and environment is a result in our obligation to repair the world, Tikkun Olam. I graduated UC Irvine as an Electrical Engineer. I worked for the Department of Navy as an Engineer and Union Representative, including International VP. I have participated in various organizations in leadership and worker activities. In 1970 we were aware of climate change but the rate of change was underestimated, lulling us into complacency. Part of reducing climate change is developing better social connections in society. We need to stop thinking about individual ethnicity, sex, religion, age, and political affiliation in developing social connections.

We are one.

John Larue



My name is John LaRue and I seek your vote for election to the Orange County Group Management Committee.

I've been a life member of the Sierra Club for about 40 years. For a decade and a half—until March 2020—I helped facilitate the OCSS conditioning hikes at Turtle Rock. In addition to leading those conditioning hikes, I have also led and co-led day hikes and mule pack trips. For the past three years, I've served as Conservation Chair on the Orange County Management Committee and currently also serve on the Orange County Conservation and Political Committees.

Among my overall goals in seeking this position are not only to preserve, protect and grow our open spaces but also introduce people to the enjoyment of hiking as well as support Sierra Club's many volunteers.