

KATHRYN [KATE] BARTHOLOMEW

PETITION CANDIDATE

RESIDENCE: Montour Falls, New York

CURRENT MEMBER SINCE: 2006 (Life member)

OCCUPATION: Retired public secondary school biology and environmental science educator

SIERRA CLUB LEADERSHIP POSITIONS: Atlantic Chapter Chair (2018 — present); Atlantic Chapter Conservation Co-Chair (2016 — 2018); Atlantic Chapter CCL Delegate (6/2016 — 2/2018); Atlantic Chapter CCL Alternate Delegate (2/2012 — 2/2014); member of National Cryptocurrency Task Force (2021 — present); member of National Nuclear Free CORE Team (2018 — present); Atlantic Chapter At-Large ExCom Delegate (2/2012 — 2/2018; 1/2022 — present); Atlantic Chapter Finger Lakes Group ExCom Delegate (2/2009 — 2/2012; 2/2018 — 1/2022); Atlantic Chapter, Finger Lakes Group Chair (2009 — 2018); Atlantic Chapter, Finger Lakes Group Conservation Chair (8/2008 — 2/2012; 1/2021 — present).

OTHER LEADERSHIP: Treasurer and founding member of Coalition to Protect New York (2010), a broad, grassroots coalition organized to oppose methane fracking in the Empire State; Chair of the Schuyler County Environmental Management Council (2005 — present); member of the Schuyler County Planning Commission (2013 — 2018); environmental representative on the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (2012 — 2018); member of the Board of Directors of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County [NY] (2009 — 2014); member of the Board of Directors of Community Dispute Resolution Center of Tompkins, Chemung and Schuyler Counties [NY] (focus on transformative mediation & restorative justice) (2004 — 2009).

STATEMENT:

I can't remember a time when environmental and social justice didn't figure prominently in my consciousness. After completing an undergraduate degree in South Asian Philosophy and Religion, I pivoted through a brief career in editing and graphic design to a marvelous 20 years as a public secondary school biology and environmental science educator.

The reason I joined and became a Life Member of the Sierra Club was because of the organization's unique status as a grassroots, volunteer-led and empowered environmental force for change. All meaningful, lasting change begins with the individual, therefore it must begin locally, with the grassroots.

Two of the most momentous environmental milestones achieved in New York during my time on the Atlantic Chapter ExCom were the banning of fracking and passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, both directly due to the collaborative action of diverse individuals and coalitions of grassroots activists.

Being volunteer driven, imbues the Club with the agility, flexibility and power necessary to tackle the interdependent devastation and complexity of Climate Disruption, systemic racism and exploitation of the natural world, other species and one another by systems designed to maintain the power of a few over the many.

I've spent a career as a dedicated "deconstructionist," working to dismantle structures of oppression and violence to living beings and ecosystems wherever I see them. I believe in the basic rights of all people to life, liberty, clean water, clean air, healthy food and the space to be heard.

One way Sierra Club promotes these values is through Outings, which I strongly support and wish to make more accessible for all.

I also believe in the necessity for candor, transparency, clarity, humility and access in any decision-making process. This is especially crucial in grassroots organizations. And grassroots volunteers must be central in these processes, because they are the heart and soul of the Club.

Other issues I engage include Indigenous Rights, the Rights of Nature, nuclear disarmament and nuclear waste, PFAS, and regenerative agriculture.

If you do me the honor of electing me to the Board of Directors, I pledge to bring these philosophies and values to my work on the Board to best serve every person in our amazing organization.

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