
2017 Candidates for San Fernando Valley Group Executive Committee
6 Candidates (Listed in random ballot order)
6 Open Positions

Belen Katzen

When I married Barry Katzen almost 7 years ago, I knew very little about the Sierra Club. Since then I have learned a great deal about this most worthy organization. I am happy to serve the San Fernando Valley Group in the position of secretary. I have done this for approximately five years. I will continue to serve. In addition, I work at the sign-in table for our meetings, greeting people and encouraging them to join us for our programs, outings, and hikes. I recently served as coordinator of our June Dinner, our primary fundraiser for the year. I particularly encourage younger people and those representing minority groups to join with us in protecting the environment for future generations.

Barry Katzen

Thirty years ago, I joined the San Fernando Valley Group management committee as treasurer. Since then, I have been Program Chair, representative to the Angeles Chapter ExComm, Political Chair, Vice Chair to the Group, and now Chair (for over 10 years). It has been a privilege serving in an organization dedicated to preserving the environment, combating global warming, and advocating clean air and water. I plan to continue serving the San Fernando Valley Group for the now and the future, and will try to attract younger members to perpetuate the work that this club, founded by John Muir in 1892, is doing.

Terrie Brady

I hope to continue to serve on the board of the San Fernando Valley group of the Sierra Club. I have been the Conservation Chair for the San Fernando Valley group for the past 5 years. We have worked to stop sprawl in our area. The respect of government entities has been one of the most gratifying aspects of serving on the board. To say “the Sierra Club urges you to protect this area from development and sprawl” in Browns Canyon, Studio City, and Calabasas has made a difference for many communities.

I can be reached with questions and conservation issues at sfvscsepbasin@gmail.com. I offer this email at meetings and email interested parties alerts on conservation. I also tweet for our group at [@sfvsierraclub](https://twitter.com/sfvsierraclub). I send messages related to national and local conservation campaigns. One of these conservation issues on the Federal level was listing of the Monarch Butterfly as an endangered species.

I also join efforts with My Generation campaign; working toward 100% renewable energy. Renewable energy is one of the main solutions to stop global warming, and is critical to a livable planet. Please vote for me to continue to work toward a livable planet.

Julie Szende

I am happy to be running again for the position of Membership Chair of the San Fernando Valley Group. I have held this position for the past 11 years. I have also been editor of the Group's electronic newsletter, Valley Sierran, for five years. This newsletter is basically a membership newsletter; it gives our members a schedule of activities for the month, and encourages prospective members to join. I am a member of the Management Committee and attend its bi-monthly meetings. I also attend our Group's monthly meetings. I edit and send out the Valley Sierran each month. Finally, I keep track of new members, in order to keep them informed of meetings and events.

I am passionate about wildlife conservation. In this capacity I inform our members about as many wildlife conservation issues as I can. I also write a monthly article for the Valley Sierran on our diverse and precious California wildlife.

I am asking for your vote in this upcoming election. Thank you!

Jan Kidwell

Sierra Club member since 1984. Began at the Chapter office as the Friday volunteer, January, 1996, while studying for a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning (1997), to better understand how to protect open space and preserve wildlands. Later that year appointed Speakers Bureau Chair. Served till 2001 giving talks on conservation issues and land use planning.

Co-chair, Angeles Chapter Transportation Cmte, 1999 – 2002, guiding the campaign to get the Exposition Light Rail project on MTA's top three list of projects. Our campaign resulted in the Expo light rail line being funded and built.

Founder and Chair of the Chapter's first Air Quality, Global Warming and Energy Cmte, 2003 – 2006. Used the Club's National Cool Cities Campaign literature to persuade 11 coastal cities to commit to reducing the GHG's produced by their cities' operations.

Served on Verdugo Hills Group ExCom as Climate Change Chair, 2007 – 2013. Elected Chair of their Conservation Roundtable sub-cmte. Also served on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Cmte, to protect wildlife habitat.

Currently, San Fernando Valley Group Political Chair for 2017, to protect all our hard won conservation gains of recent decades. Also, working with the Transportation Cmte this year on bringing forward from 2050 to 2025 the MTA's conversion of the Orange bus line to light rail.

Gabe Szende

I have been a member of the SC for over 40 years. I have been leading hikes for over 20 years. I have been member of the SFV Group for over 10 years. My background in accounting would qualify me for the continued position as the Treasurer of the group. Currently I do hold the same position at two other organizations.