

**THE MOUNTAINEERS  
BRANCH ELECTIONS BALLOT 2024**



This paper ballot is for the convenience of those Mountaineers members who did not receive an email notice to vote electronically in their branch elections. This ballot is to be used by members of the Everett, Foothills, or Olympia Branches.

To cast a valid vote, place a check mark in each box beside the candidate name you wish to vote for in each role. For your vote to count you must include your name, signature, date, Mountaineers Branch and email address below (for the purpose of membership verification). You may only vote for the Branch of which you are a member, and this must match on the form.

**VOTE:**

For each candidate, please cast your vote "For" election if you are in favor of their election or "Withhold" if you are not.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Home Branch  Everett  Foothills  Olympia

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

By signing I certify that I am current in my membership dues, have not yet voted in this election, and am 14 years of age or older.

**MAIL TO:**

The Mountaineers – BOARD ELECTION  
7700 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

**ALL BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR BE HANDED IN-PERSON BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 IN ORDER TO BE VALID. All active Mountaineers members of age 14 and older are eligible to vote. Each eligible member may vote only once - duplicate votes will not be counted. Results will be announced on October 1, 2024 via a blog post.**

## **Everett Branch Elections 2024**

### **Chair Elect**

The Chair Elect shall act as Chair during the temporary absence or disability of the Chair. After one year as Chair Elect, the incumbent shall take over all duties of the Chair for the following year and then mentor a new Chair Elect in their third year. Between Chair Elect and Chair the total term would therefore be 3 years. The Chair shall attend and preside over all regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall serve as spokesperson for the Branch and shall perform any other duties prescribed herein. The Branch Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

### **Robert White**

Since becoming a member of The Mountaineers in 2016, I've had the privilege of serving in multiple capacities within our organization. Most recently, I have been serving as an at-large Board director and the chair of the E&I Committee. At the Everett Branch I've been part of the Executive Committee, filling the role of treasurer and volunteering as an instructor for several of committees, including climbing, scrambling, and Lookout & Trail Maintenance.

As Everett's next chair, I would promote and embed its commitment to inclusion, environmental justice, and community engagement, and be a fierce advocate for The Mountaineers 2023-2028 Strategic Plan with a particular focus on the Engage and Advocate strategic priorities. I would be very grateful for your support for the position of the Everett Branch Chair-Elect in the upcoming elections.

### **Cast Your Vote for Robert White as Everett Chair-Elect**

- For
- Withhold

### **Vice Chair**

The Vice Chair shall act as Chair during the temporary absence or disability of the Chair and Chair Elect. Except for good cause, the Vice Chair is expected to attend all meetings over which the Chair presides. The Vice Chair is also expected to participate actively in the Branch Succession/Nominating Committee. The Vice Chair will also take on additional tasks and special projects as agreed to between the Vice Chair and the Executive Committee.

## **Everett Branch Elections 2024**

### **Lydia Gillis**

Since 2022, I have filled the position of vice chair and decided to run for re-election with the Everett Branch.

After taking the scrambling course, I looked for ways I could continue to contribute and decided to take the leap into a leadership role. During my time as vice chair, I worked with other leaders within the organization to help bring forward voices from members to address concerns and resolve issues.

Additionally, I coordinated with staff and the Board to create social events reflective of the desires and interests of our members. I look forward to continuing this journey with The Mountaineers by asking for your vote to re-elect me as your vice chair.

### **Cast Your Vote for Lydia Gillis as Everett Vice Chair**

- For
- Withhold

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall ensure that procedures are established and properly operating for the collection and disbursement of all funds for which the Branch is responsible and shall make periodic and annual reports concerning the same. The Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of and receive and review the budgets proposed by the activity and program committee chairs for the next fiscal year and shall combine them into the Branch Budget Proposal according to requirements determined by the Finance Committee of The Mountaineers Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall actively participate in the Finance Committee of The Mountaineers Board of Directors to ensure active representation of the Branch's interests in Finance Committee decisions and to bring insights and decisions from the Finance Committee back to the Executive Committee.

### **Billy Anthony**

Although relatively new to The Mountaineers and the Everett Branch, I have quickly grown an appreciation for this organization and its core values. Through The Mountaineers, I developed skills, friendships, and experiences with ease during the short timeframe of my current membership. I am greatly impressed and humbled by my course's current leaders, volunteers, and instructors, and feel it is my duty to give back to the community - much like a majority of members already do. I appreciate your consideration of me for the role of treasurer and look forward to the opportunity to serve the Everett Branch in the coming years.

### **Cast Your Vote for Billy Anthony as Everett Treasurer**

- For
- Withhold

## **Everett Branch Elections 2024**

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Branch and shall be the custodian of all Branch records, correspondence, and reports other than those for which the Treasurer is responsible. The Secretary shall, in coordination with the Chair, prepare and distribute written agendas for all regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee and shall take, maintain, and distribute in a timely fashion minutes of all Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary shall be the liaison for the Branch with Mountaineers staff for annual elections, communicating Executive Committee-approved nominees for the ballot and communicating election results back to the Executive Committee.

### **Janelle Schank**

My short time with The Mountaineers has driven home the importance of having a community of individuals - gathered around a love for the outdoors - helping each other gain skills and confidence to reach new heights and experience growth in outdoor spaces. I would be honored to support this community in it's goals, and give back and pay it forward since the outdoors have given me so much. I hope to continue building connections and friendships through The Mountaineers, sharing the enjoyment of our wilderness areas with the surrounding community, and encouraging others to do the same by supporting the Everett Branch in it's mission.

### **Cast Your Vote for Janelle Schank as Everett Secretary**

- For
- Withhold

## **Everett Branch Elections 2024**

### **Branch Director - Everett**

The Director shall serve as the Everett Branch representative on The Mountaineers Board of Directors . In addition to the duties of a Branch Director set forth in The Mountaineers Bylaws, the Director shall represent the Everett Branch at the meetings of The Mountaineers Board of Directors and shall communicate the Board's activities to the Everett Branch Executive Committee (subject to limits of confidentiality). In addition, the Director, shall, as needed, report the activities of the Everett Branch Executive Committee (subject to limits of confidentiality) to the Board.

### **Matt Hansen**

I grew up exploring the “wilds” of Iowa. Weekends were filled creating adventures through canoeing, camping, or just wandering across forests and corn fields. My opinions about adventure changed one summer in high school when I went on a 2-week backpacking trip in northern New Mexico. I dreamt of mountains and remote summits. I became an avid climber during grad school traveling across several states to get my climbing fix. However, like many people, my climbing career paused for almost 15 years after the birth of our second child. When we moved to Seattle and our son joined the Mountaineers Adventure Club (MAC) in 2019, I quickly followed him, and my desire to travel to the mountains was rekindled.

Over the last few years, I’ve participated in many facets of the Mountaineers experience. I volunteered with MAC throughout my son’s time in high school and have continued since he graduated. After completing the basic climbing course with the Everett Branch, I have instructed at field trips, been an assistant trip leader on climbs, and was the field trip coordinator for the Everett basic climbing course. I’m passionate about helping others achieve their outdoor dreams and goals, and it’s especially gratifying to support the youth programs. Seeing how a kid lights up after some accomplishment whether it’s a hard lead or their first time sleeping in a tent is a special experience.

### **Cast Your Vote for Matt Hansen as Everett Branch Director**

- For
- Withhold

## **Foothills Branch Elections 2024**

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall ensure that procedures are established and properly operating for the collection and disbursement of all funds for which the Branch is responsible and shall make periodic and annual reports concerning the same. The Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of and receive and review the budgets proposed by the activity and program committee chairs for the next fiscal year and shall combine them into the Branch Budget Proposal according to requirements determined by the Finance Committee of The Mountaineers Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall actively participate in the Finance Committee of The Mountaineers Board of Directors to ensure active representation of the Branch's interests in Finance Committee decisions and to bring insights and decisions from the Finance Committee back to the Executive Committee.

### **Erik Jensen**

I joined The Mountaineers in 2022 to find a community of outdoor enthusiasts and to build up my outdoor skills. I've participated in a number of day hikes and taken courses such as Wilderness Navigation and Wilderness First Aid. I've really enjoyed these experiences and it's increased my enthusiasm for The Mountaineers and the volunteers that make these courses and activities possible. Through The Mountaineers I've become better prepared for the outdoors, learned new hikes to try, and made meaningful connections with other members.

I view the Foothills Treasurer role as an opportunity to get more involved and to give back to The Mountaineers community utilizing skills I've accumulated over my 25+ years in corporate finance. I've been the acting Foothills Treasurer since October 2023 and I look forward to the opportunity to officially take on the role.

Outside of The Mountaineers I've volunteered for numerous trail work parties with Washington Trails Association and I've been a patroller with the Snoqualmie Pass Volunteer Ski Patrol the past five seasons. I also volunteer with Farestart helping out with various events and have been doing weekly food deliver for Imagine Housing and Platefull. Most recently I've taken on the Treasurer role for my daughter's high school basketball booster club (my wife and our two high school kids have been long-time residents of Bellevue). These experiences, the past year serving as the Foothills Treasurer, and my broad professional experience (that includes finance and accounting work) has given me the skills and experience to serve as the Foothills Treasurer. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Cast Your Vote for Erik Jensen as Foothills Treasurer**

- For
- Withhold

# **Foothills Branch Elections 2024**

## **Board of Directors Representative - Foothills**

The Mountaineers Board of Directors is the governing body accountable for the overall management of the organization, as dictated by our bylaws. The Board's role, on behalf of members, is to set the financial, strategic, and social goals for The Mountaineers. Branch Representatives on the Board are elected by members of their specific branch, but they are still called to serve the entire organization and all members. These Board members act as a liaison between their branch and the wider organization and make sure that the perspective of their branch is being considered. The Board's responsibilities include developing and approving the strategic plan, approving the organization's annual budget, tracking overall financial performance, hiring the CEO, electing the Board's officers, and setting organizational policies and procedures. The Board works with the CEO and staff to set the overall direction for the organization through the strategic plan and also reviews and approves the annual budget, reviews performance to that budget, and provides oversight and assistance to management to achieve our annual goals. Most importantly, the Board assures we are living our vision, mission, and values.

## **Liz McNett Crowl**

I have been a member of the Mountaineers since 2013. I became a Mountaineers volunteer in 2014, serving as a leader, mentor and instructor for several courses and activities including hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, naturalists and urban walking for the Foothills and Seattle branches. I have been serving as the Foothills Branch Board Director since January 2023.

In 2020, I partnered with Christina Buckman to create and co-lead the Foothills GoHike: Beginning Hiking Course, later we added the GoHike Alumni Course. I am a member of the Urban Walk Council and was instrumental helping to draft activity standards and leadership training for Urban Walking and to work through the process of creating a new Urban Walks activity of The Mountaineers. Since 2021, I have served as Chair of the Urban Walks Committee. In 2023, I partnered with Lori Heath to develop a Leadership Development seminar on Leading Mindful Outdoor Experiences, presented on Mindful Outdoor Experiences at the 2023-2024 Leadership Conferences and lead Mindful Outdoor Experience trips. I am a native Washingtonian and have been a resident of Skagit County since the early 1960's. I am retired, following a 45+ year career in public health and as a fitness professional. I have enjoyed being a volunteer with The Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Council of Governments Non-Motorized Advisory Committee, chair, Skagit County Parks Board, and was a co-founder of the Skagit Women's Alliance and Skagit Runners. I am a mixed media collage and textile artist, adventurous cook and enjoy tending a large cut flower and native garden. I believe that my professional experience, nonprofit leadership and engagement with The Mountaineers have prepared me to fulfill the commitment and skills needed to serve as a Branch Board Director. I am honored to serve on the Foothills Branch Council and represent the Foothills Branch on the Mountaineers Board of Directors. I appreciate having the opportunity to continue to contribute to the club and to speak for our branch volunteers and members.

## **Cast Your Vote for Liz McNett Crowl as Foothills Board of Directors Representative**

- For
- Withhold

## **Olympia Branch Elections 2024**

### **Chair Elect**

The Chair Elect shall act as Chair during the temporary absence or disability of the Chair. After one year as Chair Elect, the incumbent shall take over all duties of the Chair for the following year and then mentor a new Chair Elect in their third year. Between Chair Elect and Chair the total term would therefore be 3 years. The Chair shall attend and preside over all regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall serve as spokesperson for the Branch and shall perform any other duties prescribed herein. The Branch Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

The Chair-elect should study and learn the club and branch governing documents and prepare to serve as Chair.

The Chair-elect should convene a meeting of course chairs before the Open House, to coordinate course activity dates, in order to avoid scheduling conflicts between courses. Invited course chairs should include Basic Alpine Climbing, Alpine Scrambling, Wilderness Skills, Wilderness Navigation, Basic Snowshoeing, Basic Cross Country Skiing, Backpacking, First Aid, and Sea Kayaking.

Additional duties and responsibilities are determined and assigned by the Chair

### **Katja Hurt**

"I officially joined The Mountaineers in 2016, but it feels like a lifetime as I grew up hearing stories about the early days of the club from my parents and grandparents. I completed the Alpine Scrambling course in 2017 and knew I wanted to be more involved. I joined the scrambling committee and became a hike and scramble leader, leading conditioning hikes while completing the Basic Alpine Climbing course in 2018. For the past six years, I have helped out as an instructor for Scrambling and Climbing and I am a regular presenter for the club-wide Leadership Development Series on topics from risk management to psychological safety and peer support. I served as the Leadership Chair for the Olympia Branch from 2021-2022 before moving out of state for work; now that I am back in Washington (for good!), I am eager to resume a leadership role with Olympia and continue supporting the wonderful work of the organization."

### **Cast Your Vote for Katja Hurt as Olympia Chair Elect**

- For
- Withhold



## **Olympia Branch Elections 2024**

### **Secretary**

#### **Duties of the Secretary**

- The is the "recording officer" and "official custodian of all branch records and reports "except the treasurer's reports and records. (Article V,3. Rules Governing the Olympia Branch of The Mountaineers, dated May 1, 1990.)
- Carrying out the intent of The Mountaineers Bylaws and Branch Rules, policies and past practice requires the secretary to:
- Record the proceedings of each monthly Officers Committee meeting, and send a final draft copy of the meeting minutes to each Officer prior to the next regular meeting.
- Publish meeting minutes to Mountaineers website.
- Periodically arrange for archiving of meeting minutes and other records of Branch activities with Chair of Library and Records Committee.
- Contribute to Branch Policy updates, by providing input and/or delegating appropriate update procedure.
- Coordinate receipt and tally of ballots in Branch elections in the event the Program Center is not able to administer Branch elections.
- Notify all candidates of outcome of election and, to the extent possible, "preserve all ballots until new officers shall have been installed." (Article VI,2., Rules Governing the Olympia Branch of The Mountaineers, dated May 1, 1990.)
- After all candidates have been notified, submit election results to bulletin contact for publication.
- Attend Branch meetings and other activities as requested by the Branch Chair.
- Notify the club office of all course graduates including equivalencies.

**There are 2 candidates for Olympia Secretary - Please vote for 1 on the following page**

## **Olympia Branch Elections 2024**

### **Samantha (Sam) Pskowski**

"A native of New Jersey, I have called Olympia home for the last 6 years and have to remind my family several times a year that the West coast is certainly the best coast. Since joining the Mountaineers in 2019, I've completed the basic climbing course, complete with a COVID interruption, and been an active volunteer with the Navigation committee. Outside the Mountaineers, I work as a public health professional for the state, spend time running around Olympia with my 3-year old pup Maple, and can be found flailing on 5.11s at Cirque. I'm excited by the chance to get further involved with the branch, learn more about branch operations and give back my time."

### **Justin Fuehrer**

"I have been a member of the Mountaineers since 2005. During this time, I completed the Basic Climbing Course, Basic Sea Kayak Course, am currently an active Hike Leader and Backpack Leader and serve on the Advisory Council. I also have experience in the austere setting through other organizations including the Wilderness Medical Society where I completed my Fellowship in Wilderness Medicine (FAWM) and Diploma in Mountain Medicine (DiMM), and serve as a support member for Olympic Mountain Rescue.

In addition, I am currently a board certified physician in three specialties (Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine) and have been active on several state and national boards including serving on the New York American College of Emergency Physicians, New York Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, as well as the Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education"

### **Cast Your Vote for Olympia Branch Secretary**

- Samantha (Sam) Pskowski
- Justin Fuehrer