



THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Niagara Frontier Chapter

Picnic, Annual Meeting, and Election

By now you should have received the announcement that the executive committee, in order to safeguard the health and safety of our members, has voted to cancel the annual summer picnic scheduled for Sunday, August 30, at Ellicott Creek Park.



We have also decided that we must cancel in-person meetings in the fall for similar reasons.

On a positive note, we will combine the meeting and election with a virtual version of our annual ice cream social and slide show.

Members are asked to send up to 10 of their favorite photos from their latest adventures to Doug Gaffney (dgaffney@roadrunner.com) by September 1. The slide show will be prepared as usual, and display the images during the conference for all to enjoy. Each presenter will be given an opportunity to comment on their images, as always. We encourage our members to prepare their own delicious treats to feast on while watching the show!!

So, mark your calendars, start going through your photos, and begin shopping for your favorite toppings! See you at the show!

From the education chair

There will be no education workshop during the September meeting, but I always learn so much about places to hike, bike, and paddle and explore from the annual slide show. I can't wait!

Next month Mike Radomksi will present an online workshop on map and compass for us. We hope to follow it with an outing to practice our skills. Mike presented two great webinars on the High Peaks last spring, as we met virtually for the first time. Watch this spot and the monthly e mail for more details.

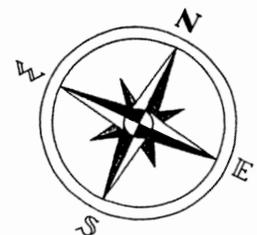
- Teresa Corrigan, Education Chair

Our business meeting...

and election will take place during a Zoom video conference scheduled for

Tuesday, September 8,
at 7 PM

You will receive the invitation to the Zoom meeting in a separate email closer to that date.



ADK-NFC 2020 Election

The Nominating Committee has assembled the slate of candidates for our 2020 election. Originally, members were to vote on candidates for three offices. Unfortunately, Maureen Rowley has reluctantly concluded that she is unable to serve another term as Program Chair.



Conservation.



There is no other candidate running for that office. Therefore, the position is going to be vacant until a replacement can be recruited.

Greg Germaine was appointed to replace Victoria Rowley as First Vice-chair / Outings, after she resigned last fall. Members need to approve his appointment and his completing the remainder of Victoria's term, which ends on August 31, 2021.

Bob Van Hise is running for another term as Second Vice-chair /

The election will be held during our Zoom video conference, scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7 PM.

Message from the Chair

These continue to be challenging times for our chapter. The pandemic is still active across the country, with no end in sight. New York State is doing well for now. However, we are at constant risk of a resurgence for a number of reasons. The state club is still unable to forward our share of the dues, and we continue to operate on an austerity budget.

At our executive committee meeting on August 4, we made the difficult decision to cancel our picnic. The precautions required to gather safely would have robbed the picnic of everything we find most enjoyable, such as mingling and sharing a potluck buffet. It seems like we made the correct decision. Before we could cancel our reservation and request a refund, the county parks department notified us that they were canceling all upcoming shelter reservations and sending everyone their deposits back.

In place of the annual meeting at the picnic, we will hold an on-line business meeting and election, along with a virtual ice cream social and vacation slide show, at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 8. Please refer to the rest of the newsletter for further information.

We also felt it was necessary to cancel any in-person meetings in the fall. I spoke to the staff in the church office. They rent space to a number of organizations who are making similar decisions. The church is allowing all groups to keep their spots on the monthly calendar, and is "penciling them in" for January 2021. In the meantime, we will continue our monthly newsletter, and are considering offering on-line content, such as video meetings and webinars, as a replacement for in-person meetings.

There are also a number of changes in chapter leadership. Maureen Rowley is unable to continue to serve as the Program chair, so her name has been removed from the ballot. Teresa Corrigan is resigning as Education chair. These two positions will be vacant until we can recruit replacements. Finally, Mary Noack, our newsletter editor and electronic communication chair, is accepting a position with ADK, and moving out of the area. She has graciously offered to continue to serve as editor for the time being.

On a positive note, our outings have resumed, and initial reports are that things are going well. As long as the pandemic is under control in New York, and outings are able to be conducted safely, they will continue.

As chapter chair, my number one goal for the remainder of my term is to ensure that a core of members remain active so that, when the pandemic is over, our chapter is able to resume full operation and continue as a strong and vibrant organization.

— *Paul M. Gannon*

Outings



09/02 - WEDNESDAY – BIKE

(B) Clarence Bike Paths & lightly trafficked roads. Trip Leader - Mike Lex. Evening timeframe. 10 miles. Please email trip leader at mblex@roadrunner.com for further details. Limit 10 participants... REGISTER EARLY!!

09/15 - TUESDAY – BIKE

(B) West River Road, sunset ride - bike path & Beaver Island State Park! Trip Leader - Mike Lex. Please email trip leader at mblex@roadrunner.com for further details. Limit 10 participants... REGISTER EARLY!!

09/20 - SUNDAY – BIKE

(B) "So long summer," Sunday morning ride on lightly trafficked roads in Clarence, Newstead, Akron - approx 20 miles. Trip Leader - Mike Lex. Please email trip leader at mblex@roadrunner.com for further details. Limit 10 participants... REGISTER EARLY!!

Keep an eye out for additional September outings in the weekly email blasts!

Announcements

Newsletter Editor Heads North

From a humble Buffalo dwelling, a NFC volunteer answers the call and joins our bretheren at the Adk Mtn Club Heart Lake property; our Newsletter Editor / Electronic Communication chair, Mary Kathryn has accepted the position of Adirondack Loj Night Manager and has moved north to the ADKs! Always hoping to do more to help the organization, Mary is truly thrilled to be working for and with such insipring folks. If there's one thing NFC has taught her is that ADK members and staff are some of the most wonderful souls to encounter.

"I'm so grateful to work with organizations that thrive on supporting the adventure community and help everyone do their part to protect the land from unnecessary harm. I strive to help others enjoy their adventure safely and am so lucky I get to do that in a place I love." –said Mary.

Mary will be staying on as Newsletter Editor \ Electronic Communication chair for the forseable future. ADK NFC wishes her luck and hopes members will stop by the Loj and say hi if they have the chance!



ADK By-law Changes

The text below is copied from a letter we received from Tom Andrews, the new ADK President. He discusses the proposed changes to ADK's by-laws. As he reports, the Board of Directors debated this issue, and voted to approve them at their last meeting. Now it is up to the membership at large to approve or reject the changes.

Our executive committee has already considered the changes. At our July meeting, the majority decided to instruct our director to vote NO on the proposal. The number one concern of our committee is that, under the changes, the Board of Directors will no longer be composed of individuals elected by each chapter. Instead, a board will be recruited, and once established, choose its own replacements as members leave. Chapters will elect representatives to an advisory group, who will be empowered to make recommendations to the board for their consideration, but have no authority to implement those recommendations.

...I write to bring you up to date on an important event happening in September, which began more than a year ago when ADK's Board voted to commence a comprehensive strategic plan process. During the past year, this process has been overseen by a team of dedicated volunteers, who are very familiar with ADK's history and culture, together with key senior staff. As part of this process, Shelly Bischoff, of Conservation Impact, reviewed all of ADK's relevant governance and financial documents and conducted more than 60 interviews with chapter representatives, board members, and other volunteers. Throughout this review, the strategic plan committee identified two main improvements that are essential to survive and prosper: (1) firm up ADK's mission in order to ensure a second successful hundred years; and (2) improve our governance structure to better address changes and to more effectively support ADK's mission.

Indeed, many issues that the club faces are tied to our current governance structure, the most glaring of which is the Board composition, which is not only three times larger than most non-profit board, it fails to fulfill the necessary functions that are expected of non-profit boards. Indeed, Board members have acknowledged as much, both publicly and during interviews with our strategic planning consultant. And so, after the strategic plan was approved by the Board, ADK leadership established a By-Laws Working Group to develop a set of revisions to the current bylaws that address many of the shortcomings identified as part of the strategic plan. These revisions were then presented to both the Executive Committee, which unanimously supported the revisions, as well as to the full Board of Directors, which passed the revised bylaws by more than a two-thirds vote.

Now it's your turn. The September/October issue of the Adirondac will be in mailboxes soon and will include the proposed bylaw revisions along with a ballot that will give every ADK member a chance to vote. Please take the time to read the bylaws, mark the ballot and send in back to ADK, make sure it is postmarked by September 18th. This is the first time in 20 years the membership has had an opportunity to vote to help make ADK a stronger organization, both in advocacy and as a leader in outdoor education, to become more responsive on emerging issues, and set ADK up for stronger financial stability in the years to come...

Comments on draft changes to The Adirondack Mountain Club Bylaws

The Executive Committee of ADK-NFC voted to oppose the proposed changes to the Adirondack Mountain Club's bylaws. I voted that way because the new bylaws give control of the Club and its assets to a small self-appointing body instead of the Board of Directors whom, now, we the membership elect.

The September-October issue of Adirondack will give the membership an opportunity to vote yes or no on these proposed changes. We oppose the following changes to the ADK bylaws because:

- These changes would turn us from a member directed organization into a corporation governed by a self-appointed and self-sustaining board of only those wealthy enough to contribute financially, in meaning full amounts, to the Club.
- Ordinary members of this new ADK company would become clients, who maintain membership by paying dues but who have only an advisory role in directing the activities of the Company or the use of its assets, assets of which our current membership now has ownership.

The proposed mission of ADK would be directed away from two of its present core purposes:

1. Protecting the Forest Preserve through advocacy
2. Natural resource conservation.

The membership's only hand in guiding ADK would be a brand new but powerless Advisory Board which we would be allowed to elect. The specific changes are below.

1. Present mission statement in brackets, New mission statement underlined.

[The Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc. (ADK), as set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation, is dedicated to the protection and responsible recreational use of the New York State Forest Preserve, parks and other wild lands and waters. ADK, founded in 1922, is a member-directed organization committed to public service and stewardship. ADK employs a balanced approach to outdoor recreation, advocacy, environmental education and natural resource conservation.]

ADK works to protect NY wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates.

2. Change in structure of the board from representative of the Chapters to self-appointed and wealthy enough to contribute financially annually. This disenfranchised our membership turns all decisions over to this very different Board. New wording underlined below.

1.2. The Board of Directors (the "Board") shall consist of between twelve (12) and twenty (20) directors. Directors shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and be members in good standing with ADK. Directors should be selected on the basis of their demonstrated awareness of the purposes and needs of the corporation, their willingness to serve, and their professional or individual skills which contribute to the board-related functions of the corporation. The Chair of each standing committee shall also be a member of the Board of Directors.

1.6. Directors shall be elected by a majority of the current Directors who are present at a meeting for which there is a quorum.

All members of the Board of Directors shall contribute financially to the organization, shall represent ADK at public events, and should further help with fundraising efforts to ensure that ADK has sufficient resources to carry out its mission.

3. Another long new section of bylaw is creates a new entity, an Advisory Board elected by Chapters but devoid of any power.

- Larry Beahan, Secretary ADK NFC



Our Executive Committee

Chair	Paul Gannon	paulmgannon54@gmail.com	(716) 395-5739
Outings Chair	Greg Germaine	gwg99t@gmail.com	(716) 696-0829
Conservation Chair	Bob Van Hise	adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com	(716) 628-0355
Programs Chair	Maureen Rowley	mrowley62@yahoo.com	(716) 628-0369
Education Chair	Teresa Corrigan	teresacorrigan85@gmail.com	(716) 835-1905
Membership Chair	Kathy Clerkin	kmclerkin@gmail.com	
Director/Webmaster	Rob Laing	rlaing537@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Doug Gaffney	dgaffney@roadrunner.com	(716) 631-3979
Electronic Communication Chair & Newsletter Editor	Mary Kathryn Noack	marynoac@buffalo.edu	
Secretary	Larry Beahan	larry_beahan@roadrunner.com	(716) 839-3112
Hospitality	Carol Schuster	carolschuster@gmail.com	
Archivist/Historian	Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney	woodthrush3@hotmail.com	(716) 825-7329
Outings Co-chair: Waterways	Richard Schraven	richardschraven1@gmail.com	(716) 564-2106
Outings Co-chair: Biking	Mike Lex	mblex@roadrunner.com	(716) 430-8986
Outings Co-chair: Hiking & Winter	Leslie Salathe	lesliesalathe@live.com	