Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee Q&A

Governance and Fiduciary Oversight

Q: What procedure is used to develop, vote upon and, most important, effect an ATLANTIC CHAPTER EXCOM resolution?
A:

Q. How do you recruit ExCom members?
A: Our Chapter Bylaws provide for delegates from each group (one delegate per 3000 members in a group and appointed by the group excoms) and for nine at-large delegates elected by Chapter members. This means the total number of executive committee members can change from year to year. In the recent past we have had over 25 members.

Q: How much turnover do you have on the ExCom?
A: We have some turnover each year – maybe 4 or 5 new faces each year.

Q: Who is responsible for providing complete and accurate financial reporting?
A: Our Chapter Treasurer.

Q: Who is responsible for reporting your leadership roster and changes to the leadership?
A: Our Elections Committee Chair reports the results of the At-Large Elections, our Secretary reports actions taken at ExCom meetings re all Chapter ExCom appointments. Our Chapter Coordinator (staff) maintains and forwards to Chapter leadership a detailed Chapter Director listing all leadership positions and chairs and members of Chapter committees. Our Chapter Coordinator is responsible for reporting to national Club via Wild any changes in Chapter leadership.

Q: How do new leaders connect with each other, within the chapter and across the club?
A: Most discussion takes place on the Chapter leaders listserve, chapter excom listserve, and increasingly on the Activist Network Team and Project Pages.

Q: Who is responsible for compliance with outings safety requirements?
A: The Chapter Outings Committee Chair and members of the Chapter Outings Activity Section as well as the Groups’ Outings Chairs.

Q: Who is responsible for compliance with political activity guidelines?
A: Our Chapter Political Chair and members of the Chapter Political Committee and our Chapter Compliance Officer. They are expected to report any issues/problems to the Chapter leadership.

Q: Who is responsible for management of Chapter Staff?
A: The Chapter Chair supervises the assignments/daily activities of the staff – particularly setting priorities. The Chair of the Office & Personnel Committee along with
a member of the Committee are responsible for overseeing the functions and office management of the staff.

**Q: Who is responsible for overseeing the Chapter’s legal activity?**
A: The Chapter Legal Advisor is responsible for overseeing the status of all chapter legal and administrative appeals, in conjunction with each project’s point person.

**Teamwork**

**Q: How does the Atlantic Chapter regularly monitor and work with public and nonprofit environmental organizations in NYS (DEC, APA, ADK Club, NYS Parks and Rec…) ?**

A: 

**Q: As an elected CHAPTER EXCOM representative, can I speak about or for the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club**
A: We know it is impossible to be a outstanding environmental advocate without a clear agenda of issues that distinguish the Atlantic Chapter and National Sierra Club from personal viewpoints! This is how it is done: ...........

**Q: When I want more back ground on any environmental issue, how would the SIERRA CLUB assist both Chapter EXCOM delegates and average Sierra Club members?**
A: 

**Q: Do leaders have to commit to group decisions, even if they disagree?**
A: Leaders must abide by ExCom resolutions. Leaders may abstain from involvement if they disagree.

**Q: Do leaders hold one another accountable to performance/behavior standards?**
They do so on an informal basis – Chapter does not have formal performance standards for different leadership positions and responsibilities for particular activities. Chapter leaders are expected to conform to national Club standards for behavior – do not always do so and if necessary Chapter leadership takes informal or formal action (very rarely) to deal with situation.

**Q: How are conflicts/controversies resolved?**
A: There can be strong differences of opinion on some conservation and administrative issues and some of these relate to national Club policies and procedures. Sometimes we need a lot of dialog, and internal education to resolve the controversies and move on productively. This is one reason why advanced preparation and discussion is critical to an effective ex-com meeting.