Fighting the Flow of Crude
New Opportunities in New York

By Roger Downs
Conservation Director

Over the past four years, the Sierra Club, along with our partners, has been fighting the mass transportation of crude oil through New York State via railcars, oil barges, and pipelines. While the fight has largely centered on the Port of Albany, where North Dakota Bakken crude is transferred from railcars to river barges — the impact of this dangerous oil transport has been felt in almost every major city in upstate NY and along some of the state’s most important waterways.

Two recent regulatory rulings have challenged longstanding claims of exemption by the crude-by-rail industry. What has made this campaign especially difficult is the primacy that the petroleum industry and railroads have enjoyed over state and local laws, stymying public efforts to protect our communities from derailments, spills and catastrophic explosions — like the explosion and firestorm in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, that killed forty-seven people and leveled an entire downtown area.

This tragedy should have inspired a wave of meaningful prohibitions and reforms to the crude-by-rail industry, whose cargos have the volatility of gasoline, and whose tankers have a propensity to derail and rupture. But we’ve seen instead an unrelated expansion of crude oil transport across the continent despite thousands of local, individual efforts to stop it.

Two recent regulatory rulings, however, have challenged longstanding claims of exemption by the crude-by-rail industry, giving city governments and state regulators new hope in constraining an industry that threatens both public safety and our fragile climate. For years, the citizens of Benicia, California, were told they had no authority to stop a new crude-by-rail transloading facility because of the preemptive nature of federal railroad law. On September 28, 2016, the city voted to deny its construction.

But a little-known agency, the Federal Surface Transportation Board, ruled on the same day that the transloading facility — in spite of having railroad tracks — was not subject to federal interstate commerce regulations that preempt cities from denying or approving rail-related projects.

Also in September, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in a surprise ruling, declared that it would not consider reissuing expired Title V air permits for Albany’s rail-to-barge crude oil transloading operation at the Global Partners facility until there is an aggressive environmental review detailing the risks to the community and the climate.

When the original permits were issued in 2012 for the Global facility, the DEC observed that its regulatory hands were tied due to the preemptive rights of the railroads, and that the scope of what the state could control was extremely limited. With the new ruling from the Surface Transportation Board, it would appear that the DEC and the City of Albany will now have greater leverage to limit the impact of the facility — or close it outright.

While the Port of Albany is a central hub of crude oil distribution through NY, there are other parts of crude oil transport that could persist — even if operations are curtailed at Global.

The new DEC permitting requirements for Global indicate a greater emphasis on cumulative impacts, giving us hope that, for the first time, we’ll get a handle on the collective impact that all these projects present — and limit or stop their advance; understanding them to be one larger entity.
For most of us, election season has occupied our attention while the candidates have tried to woo our votes. For the last few weeks, campaign staff have been working over time while voters were inundated with robocalls, television commercials, canvassers and billboards. This year was especially exciting for New York voters as the Democratic and Republican candidates were not known until later than usual in the season, and primary candidates campaigned around the state seeking our votes. In Binghamton, I attended two events with primary candidates — the first time for a presidential election.

The civic energy and responsibility that emanates from voters this time of year is indeed quite gratifying, yet the enthusiasm and sense of responsibility seems to die off starting the next day when the winners are announced. I remember reading an article in which the author compares voting to the daily habit of brushing one’s teeth. It’s one of the most basic activities we can do for our health, but we should not and cannot stop there — there’s still much to be done to maintain the long-term health of our democracy. A Google search reveals that this analogy is not so unique, but we should keep it in mind when thinking of our civic responsibility after election day. We must continue to work the other 364 days of the year toward better environmental policy — whether our candidates win or not. When respectable environmental candidates win, they still need our help as they act on bills and initiatives we support, and they need our assistance in putting public pressure on other elected officials to pass those bills and move forward on those initiatives.

In the midst of election season, we must definitely act to support our candidates by making campaign contributions, phone banking, canvassing, writing letters to the editor and much more. For a complete list of Sierra Club endorsements in New York, visit https://sierraclub.org/content/2016-endorsements. If we want to achieve our environmental goals, we need allies who are willing to step up for the environment and public health, but they cannot be elected without grassroots support from organizations like the Sierra Club. As members must get out there and show candidates we’re willing to put in the time and work for them and for ourselves. But in the post-election season, our work is not complete — we’re just getting started. We must continue to build grassroots support for Sierra Club-endorsed candidates who won and put pressure on all candidates elected to represent us. There are many opportunities to plug into ongoing actions, no matter your passion, interest, or skills. Articles throughout this issue illustrate the tremendous and ongoing work of our staff and volunteers, and the ways you can become involved. In addition, many volunteer opportunities can be found on Volunteer Connection: http://clubvolunteer.org. Just type in your zip code and find opportunities at the local group and state level.

So, once our work in getting out there to support strong environmental candidates is done, we must remember that with the next day after the election we embark on a long journey to defend and protect the environment, along with the democratic process that ensures that our values and concerns are represented. Yes, voting is quite literally the least you can do for your candidates, but we should not and cannot stop there — there’s still much to be done to maintain the long-term health of our democracy.
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

By Bob Ciesielski
Atlantic Chapter Energy Committee Chair

I n the past few months, New York State has taken some of the stron- gest action in the nation to promote the growth of renewable energy. On August 1, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued its Order Adopting a Clean Energy Standard which mandates that 50% of New York’s electricity be obtained from renewable energy sources by the year 2030. The order provides a mechanism to implement the existing renewable energy goal mentioned in the 2015 NY Energy Plan by setting yearly quotas for utili- ties with penalties if they fail to meet those targets.

The potential for a sustainable, re- newable energy economy in New York looms large; yet the state must still set interim Clean Energy Standard targets for renewable energy for 2017-2020.

Long Island Offshore Wind
Then in September, NYSERDA pro- posed its “Blueprint for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan”, with the end of 2017 as a completion target. The proposed Master Plan mentions that New York State has 59 Gigawatts (GW) of wind-driven energy potential off the Atlantic Coast - enough to pow- er approximately 15 million homes.

Moreover, the success of the Blue- print for Offshore Wind depends in large part on input from Long Island and NYC residents, businesses and local governments in favor of renew- able and offshore wind development.

Local action opportunities
This is an important time for our grass- roots Atlantic Chapter members to demonstrate the desire of citizens and local governments for renewable ener- gy development. East Hampton, Long Island, is an important example. Sever- al years ago the town passed a resolu- tion that 100% of its electricity should be obtained from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. Last year’s announcement by Mayor Bill de Blasio that New York City was committed to powering all of its governmental build- ings and facilities from renewable en- ergy also provided major support for the Clean Energy Standard and Off- shore Wind Plans.

Another important local action sup- porting renewable energy is the City of Ithaca’s actual implementation of its plan to procure renewable energy for its electricity needs for all its gov- ernmental facilities and operations. After the plan’s adoption, Ithaca’s goal was met through installations of re- newable energy units, the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) by the city and the signing of municipal contracts with private utilities to sup- ply the balance of its 100% renewable electricity.

Action by Sierra Club members at a local level to promote initiatives sim- ilar to East Hampton, New York City, and Ithaca for their energy future could be a crucial factor in speeding the rapid deployment of renewable energy in our state. Every local ac- tion demonstrates to our State and lo- cal officials and utilities that citizens and municipalities are committed to renewable energy.

Our Chapter website has informa- tion on the Ready for 100 Sierra Club program. It helps members urge mu- nicipalities to adopt tailor-made goals for renewable energy. The Sierra Club New Hampshire Upper Valley Group is working to educate citizens of Ha- nover, NH, including Dartmouth Col- lege, concerning renewable energy potential. The Group’s goal is for Ha- nover to have 100% of its electricity supplied from renewable sources by 2025, and for all energy sectors to be powered by renewables by 2050.

Programs and contacts
There are also other programs to re- duce greenhouse gas emissions, in- crease efficiency and develop renew- able energy, such as the International Compact of Mayors Agreement signed by the cities of Rochester, Albany and New York City. Significantly, the NYS Department of Environmental Con- servation has developed a compre- hensive Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, with support from the NYS Energy Research and De- velopment Authority (NYSERDA). Many localities throughout NYS have signed the pledge to become CSCs, including acting to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This August Governor Cuomo announced the launch of the NYSERDA’s $16 million Clean Energy Communities grant program to help local governments reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy.

If you or your local Sierra Club Group is interested in promoting 100% renewable energy in your community, please contact the Atlantic Chapter through the author, Bob Ciesielski at rmciesse@yahoo.com or Susan Law- rence at shlawr2@aol.com. We will work with you to help your munici- pality resolve to implement renewable energy goals.

Additional information sources:
www.sierraclub.org/readyfor100
www.dec.ny.gov/environmental/50845.html (Climate Smart Communities)
www.compactofmayors.org
www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/ Newsroom/2016-Announce- ments/2016-08-03-GovernorCuo- mo-Anounces-Millions-Avail- able-for-Community-Clean-Energy-Projects (Clean Energy Communities)

Ask Governor Cuomo to Sign Geothermal Energy Tax Credit Bill
By Bill Nowak

T here are more than 1,000 New York jobs at risk in the clean energy sector, and a solution overwhelmingly supported by the State Legislature is at hand. Governor Cuomo’s signature to the geothermal heat pump tax credit bill A9925 can help avert this disaster.

Geothermal heating and cooling has been a growing industry in our state. It offers us a key to beat back the climate change. Geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) cleanly and efficiently heat and cool our homes and offices without fossil fuels, using the con- stant temperature underground as a heat source in winter and a heat sink in summer.

Buildings consume 40% of the total energy in New York State every day, mostly via natural gas, propane, home heating oil combustion or elec- trical resistance heating. Fossil fuel combustion and electricity produc- 

tion (via gas-coal fired power plants or nuclear facilities) have negative en- vironmental consequences through greenhouse gas emissions, generation of toxic waste and air pollution, ex- cessive use of water resources and harmful extraction mining. These im- pacts are significantly minimized by geothermal heating and cooling. Since geothermal technology uses energy stored in the ground, it is not depend- ent on time of day or year, and works in all weather and in every climate.

Economic benefits
In addition, this technology has a pos- itive economic effect on the state’s utilities because it lowers the need for expensive energy infrastructure that is only needed a few days of the year when temperatures exceed 90°F and use of air conditioning spikes. When geothermal systems are in- stalled in homes and businesses, in- door air quality improves and oper- ational costs for heating and cooling are lowered - passing the savings on to the consumer.

A.9925/S.6249 creates important tax incentives for the development of geothermal energy systems inno- vative technology that uses thermal energy stored in the Earth and brings that energy into homes and busi- nesses through a series of pumps and heat exchangers.

So why are jobs at risk? Last De- cember, the 90% federal tax credit supporting both solar and geothermal projects was renewed through 2022 for solar, but geothermal was left out. Representative Tom Reed (R-Southern Tier) is sponsoring HR-5167 to correct that error, but despite bipartisan sup- port, including cosponsorship from New York Congressmen Higgins, Ste- fanik, Rangel, Tonko and Gibson, the success of this bill is in doubt, given Congressional gridlock.

Geothermal heating and cooling sys- tems are New York’s best alternative for achieving net zero energy goals,
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agency experts are asked to weigh in on how the proposal will impact air quality, water purity, public health and safety, biodiversity and our glob- al climate. Villages and cities in the pipeline path will have veto power over the pipeline’s construction and will play a key role in scoping. Public comment hearing schedules have yet to be announced, but early outreach to the DEC and civic involvement in the process will be essential to expos- ing the dangers of this ill-conceived project. Stay tuned.

Port of Albany Crude Oil Trans- loading Facility

The threat: Since 2012, two com- panies, Global Partners and Buckeye, have received permits to transload 2.8 billion gallons per year of fracked crude oil from rail to barge at the Port of Albany. This dramatic increase in crude oil shipments has degraded local air quality and endangered envi- ronmental justice communities living within mere feet of the facility. This has made Albany a global epicenter for crude oil transport.

The opportunity: The Title V air permit that the NYSDEC granted to Global Partners in 2012 to transload 1.8 billion gallons per year of crude oil has expired. But instead of the usual rubber-stamp renewal, the NYSDEC is requiring Global Partners to submit a new air permit application that will be subject to a full environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Part of the strength of SEQRA, which shielded it from environmental review— and played a significant role in the DEC’s reversal of that decision. The fate of this facility remains in the courts, but with a new focus from the DEC on environmental justice, cli- mate change and air quality impacts, the facility has an uphill battle to get permitted. Continued public pressure will be key to ensuring that the trans- port of the dirtiest fuel on earth is not facilitated by the Port of Albany or the DEC permitting system.

Tar Sands Boiler Facility at Port of Albany

The threat: In 2013, Global Partners LLC applied to the NYSDEC for a Ti- tle V air permit to build a seven-unit boiler system at the Port of Albany to heat and reduce the viscosity of heavy crude brought by railcars. Because the relatively light crude com- ing from North Dakota has already been able to pass through Albany in winter, it’s assumed that this application is meant to facilitate heavy tar- sands oil (bitumen) that originates in Alberta, Canada, and requires heat treatment or dilution to transfer from railcar to barge. Tar-sands oil, when spilled into wa- ter, is virtually impossible to clean up because it sinks and slowly oozes as a hazardous plume into the water, rath- er than floating on the surface like other hydrocarbons. The boilers and off-gassing shipments of tar-sands oil would only further exacerbate the poor air quality already present in the high-density neighborhoods sur- rounding the port.

The opportunity: The Sierra Club and partners sued the DEC for issu- ing a negative declaration of environ- mental significance for the project—

Expansion of Oil Barge
Anchorage in the Hudson River
The threat: While the Hudson River has for centuries been used to trans- port goods by barge, including petro- leum products, there has never been such a concentrated effort to use the river for crude oil throughput from its North Dakota source to global re- fineries. The lifting of the Crude Oil Export Ban has only increased the significant traffic of crude oil barges on the Hudson.

A proposal currently before the Coast Guard would allow 43 new anchorages for massive ships and barges — for crude oil to be stored on the Hudson while vessels wait for space at refineries and transloading facil- ities. This expanded congestion of anchorages will endanger the riverscape, increase congestion, and strain the scenic beauty of the river and threat- en the survival of critical species, like the Atlantic sturgeon.

The opportunity: Significant pub- lic opposition to the anchorage pro- posal is mounting in riverside com- munities up and down the Hudson. There is an open public comment period before the US Coast Guard that ends December 6. To submit comments, you may use this USCG online open docket: https://www. regulations.gov/comment?D=USCG-2016-0132-0001

ask governor cuomo to sign geothermal energy tax credit bill
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but in order to promote and facilitate the technology’s growth, it deserves the same financial encouragement as other desirable energy sources like wind and solar.

How you can help
In June, the New York State Legisla- ture stepped into this void and passed a 25% tax credit, capped at $5,000, for residential GHP installations. The combined vote on the bill in both houses was 201 to 1. In recent years, Republican Governors in Iowa and South Carolina have signed similar legislation.

Governor Cuomo has taken signif- icant steps to create and protect en- ergy jobs in New York. $750 million is funding the Solar City plant, with the promise of 5,000 jobs across the State. That is a crucial investment, as we need more solar and wind energy to replace fossil fuels in our electricity mix. NYGEO estimates the geother- mal heat pump tax credit will protect 1,000 current jobs held by New York- ers at a yearly cost of $5 million. Be- sides protecting jobs, the cost of the credit will be offset by payroll taxes and the spinoff taxes generated by geo installations as excavators are hired, parts are bought and projects are completed.

NYGEO urges all who care about the climate to contact Governor Cuo- mo at (518) 474-1041 or via email at https://www.governor.ny.gov/con- tent/governor-contact-form and ask him to sign bill A9925, the geothermal tax credit. If you’d like postcards for your friends, neighbors, coworkers and others to sign, please send a re- quest to mygeoinfo@gmail.com. Or you can send a message from this link on the Chapter website: https:// sierrasecure.force.com/actions/At- lantic&actionId=AR0005999999kamp;id=0703100000117XIAQ&amp;data.

Volunteer Connection: Your Chance to Get Involved!

The Atlantic Chapter is now posting volunteer opportunities on our website through “Volunteer Connection” at http://clubvolunteer.org. Current positions posted include Biodiversity/Vegetarian Outreach Team Member, Social Media Content Coordinator, Fundraising Team Member, Sustainable Agriculture Team Member, and Transportation Team Member.

In addition, you can simply register with Volunteer Connection and indicate your skills or areas of interest. Then, we can follow up with you as opportunities emerge.

The Sierra Club is one of the oldest and most effective grassroots environmental organizations because of you—our members! Visit newyork.sierraclub.org to connect with chapter leaders and ongoing activities related to the topics that interest you most.
ROCKLAND COUNTY WATER ISSUES

By Peggy Kurtz and Gale Pisha

Sometimes it feels like a surprisingly suspenseful novel in installments. Our story is about an eight-year struggle in Rockland County to defeat an energy-intensive desalination proposal and replace it with a sustainable water policy. As we write the next chapter, Rockland County is once again facing a key decision from the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC). We’re asking the public to submit written comments by December 9. The PSC must know that Rockland County is watching its next decision very closely.

In the last chapter, in December 2015, the PSC ordered Suez, a multinational water company, to abandon plans for a desalination project on the Hudson River for Rockland County’s drinking water. It was to be just downstream from the Indian Point nuclear power plant. For the past eight years, activists in the Rockland Water Coalition, including the Sierra Club, have worked toward the goal of a plan that would conserve both water and energy. Instead, Suez proposed the desalination project, which would have jeopardized irreplaceable Hudson River habitat.

The next installment finds us at another critical fork in the road. The PSC is poised to make a decision on Suez’s plans for the next five years. Suez also proposes to charge Rockland County ratepayers $54.1 million for its failed desalination project. If these charges are approved, ratepayers could pay as much as a breathtaking $82 million, including interest, for a project that never even started construction.

Public participation was crucial in stopping this ill-conceived desalination plan. Now we need the public again to submit written comment — as soon as possible — to tell the PSC that Rockland County says NO to the outrageous corporate budget and YES to strong water conservation plans.

Unfortunately, Suez proposes to do the minimum conservation and leak repairs ordered by the PSC, despite expert comment that Rockland County could more than double water saving through conservation and repair of leaks, at relatively low cost.

Your voice is needed at this critical juncture. Will Rockland County move ahead with a cutting-edge conservation plan that maximizes the smartest conservation methods and puts consumers and the environment first? Or will the PSC instead approve Suez’s inadequate conservation and repair plans that could ultimately force us to foot the bill yet again for a far more expensive new supply source in just a few years?

If we succeed, we’ll be helping to forge new ground for water policy in the northeast. Rockland County’s water issues could become a testing ground and model for a more forward-thinking water policy for our state and for the northeast.

HOW YOU CAN HELP NOW

Please send your brief written comment to the NYS PSC by December 9. Find more information online at www.sustainablerockland.org or email rocklandwater@gmail.com. This could be our last chance before a PSC decision to get Rockland County’s water on the eight path to a financially sound and environmentally sustainable plan.

Peggy Kurtz and Gale Pisha are Co-Chairs of the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group’s Desalination Committee.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: TELL A.P.A TO REJECT PSEUDO-WILDERNESS PROPOSALS FOR BOREAS PONDS

By Caitlin P. Ferrante

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Earlier in the spring, Sierra Club members took action, calling upon Governor Cuomo to classify the newly acquired Boreas Ponds tract in the Adirondack State Park as “Wilderness.” Thousands sent in letters urging him to keep these lands pristine and motorless, and also called for public hearings throughout the state.

They listened! The state has scheduled seven public hearings throughout November and December for the public to express its input on the classification of this magnificent wild area.

Opportunity for comment

The state purchased the 65,000 acres of former Finch, Prunyn Pulp & Paper Company lands in early 2016. One of the natural gems of the Adirondack Park, located on the southern edge of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Boreas Ponds Tract offers breathtaking views of the High Peaks, including Mount Marcy; the state’s tallest summit, and unmatched natural wilderness habitat.

The collective voice of New Yorkers gives us the power to create a wilderness legacy for the Boreas Ponds tract. We have the opportunity to ensure these pristine lands remain intact and as breathtaking as possible — but only if you make your voice heard!

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, along with our partners, will be working to coordinate attendance at several public hearings around the state to advocate for “Wilderness” classification of this magnificent tract. We will be offering bus transportation from Ray Brook (from Albany), and to Rochester (from Buffalo and Syracuse), as well as talking points, snacks and pro-Wilderness swag/goodies!

Join us at one of the public hearings to voice your support for:

- Wilderness classification of the Boreas Ponds Tract
- Call on A.P.A to reject current classification alternatives and provide a pure wilderness option.
- Keep the Boreas Ponds Tract motor-free

Public hearings around the state

There are eight hearings throughout November–December:

- November 9, 2016, 7 pm: Adirondack Park Agency, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook
- November 14, 2016, 6 pm: Northville Central School, 131 S Third Street, Northville
- November 16, 2016, 7 pm: Newcomb Central School, 5535 NYS Route 28N, Newcomb
- November 21, 2016, 7 pm: Schroon Lake Central School, 1125 Route 9, Schroon Lake
- November 28, 2016, 7 pm: Rochester Institute of Technology, Golisano Institute for Sustainability, 625 Broadway, Rochester, parking in lot “T”
- December 6, 2016, 7 pm: Bear Mountain Inn, 5020 Seven Lakes Drive, Tomkins Cove
- December 7, 2016, 2 pm: NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany

While we are encouraging everyone to attend the hearing closest to them, we are also highlighting attendance at four hearings: Ray Brook, Rochester, NYC, and Albany (see bearing info above in bold).

If you’re interested in attending one of these four hearings, please RSVP via our website (newyork.sierrahclub.org), letting us know which hearing you plan to attend.

To learn more about attending the public hearings, visit the Chapter website (newyork.sierrahclub.org) or email Caitlin at atlantic.chapter@sierrahclub.org.

Your voice matters! The more people who turn out to express their support of ‘Wilderness,’ the more likely we are to protect this unmatched natural wildlife habitat — the Boreas Ponds land tract!

More information about the hearings

Contact Caitlin at atlantic.chapter@sierrahclub.org. Or direct your attention to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) website. All public written comments must be received by December 30, 2016.
WHAT’S IN YOUR GLASS OF WATER?

Just how certain are you about the quality of the drinking water emerging from the faucet in your sink every day? Or the water in which you bathe, wash your clothes or steam your vegetables regularly? Do you really know what’s in the water you drink? Probably these aren’t among the top 500 issues that hover near the apex of your stack of priority concerns — until a crisis breaks and it becomes glaringly apparent that these are questions we all should be asking. Like the residents of Flint, Michigan, whose drinking water was contaminated with lead and other chemicals when, as a cost-saving measure, their water supply was switched to the Flint River and certain treatment measures were eliminated. Or like the residents of Hoosick Falls, New York, who in 2015 discovered their town’s water supply was contaminated with Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a water and oil repellent used in the production of non-stick cookware, microwave popcorn bags and stain-resistant carpeting now being phased out.

New presences of Cr-6 in drinking water

And now, thanks to the release of an analysis of federal data compiled by the Environmental Working Group, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment, it seems well over two-thirds of Americans — 218 million individuals — in all 50 states, may be living with unsafe levels of dangerous, cancer-causing hexavalent chromium in their drinking water.

Unfortunately, hexavalent chromium is also one of the very, very many chemicals utilized in industry that are either untested or undertested for health impacts and safety. Industries benefit enormously from having this testing status remain in limbo To learn more about this newly revealed threat to our water, go to http://www.ewg.org/research/chromium-six-found-in-us-tap-water.

All this begs the question: How do we really know what’s in the water we drink? If your water is sourced from a municipal water supply, you can contact your municipality or county water board to obtain details about how your water is treated, what it’s tested for and how often. Usually these are tests and treatments mandated by state and federal regulations. This information will also reveal any parameters for which tests aren’t being run. Please realize that the EPA recognizes only 88 regulated drinking water contaminants, and this list includes microorganisms, inorganic and organic chemicals, disinfectants, disinfectant byproducts and radionuclides. Not all of these substances are acknowledged to cause the range of damage they’re capable of inflicting. Chromium, without being considered separately according to its three forms — chromium trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium — is noted as causing allergic dermatitis. Nor are all the sources of these substances recognized or identified.

What is your water tested for

If your water supply is a well, spring or other surface water source and a mortgage was involved, the property had to pass a water quality test indicating the presence of potable water before you purchased your dwelling. That sounds reassuring, but what constitutes “potable”? When I purchased my home in 1988, the well passed with flying colors. When I moved in, all that emerged from the faucet was liquid black sludge. I called the Watershed Inspector to complain, and his response was: “Well, yes, it has the consistency of swamp water, but it’s free of fecal coliform bacteria, which is what we test for.” Wonderful! I had a huge overgrowth of iron bacteria. After digging up one massive boulder/well cover followed by a heavy chlorine shock treatment, I finally, I hope, had potable drinking water.

Ultimately, you’re never going to truly know EVERYTHING that’s in your water because for some substances chemical tests aren’t readily available or costs are too prohibitive or it’s not a substance raising any concern yet. However, the best way to learn about your water is to contact a certified lab and pay to have it tested. There are filters that can remove many harmful contaminants. Hexavalent chromium is removed by quality reverse-osmosis filters, as are many other chemicals. If you visit Environmental Working Group’s website, there’s a whole page devoted to water filtration system recommendations. The real issue is cost. In my area four reliable and extensive water tests is going to be cost prohibitive — $500 or more — while home filtration units are equally expensive. Even faucet models can run into hundreds of dollars.

Consider that the 1.3% of fresh water on the planet that is surface water is the water used by humans and every other species to maintain life. It’s becoming ever more polluted, approaching the point of being beyond repair. Add to this the continued growth in human population and its insistence on embracing water-intensive diets and it’s impossible to ignore the looming water catastrophe on the horizon. According to the World Health Organization, by 2025 half the world’s population will be living in water-stressed areas. By 2050, that number will be two-thirds of the population.

Potable drinking water will be more valuable than gold if it can be protected and maintained. But to accomplish this, knowledge is key: knowing what’s in the water now and how to prevent further contamination in the future.
Before the 20th century, the Hudson River was its region’s principal highway of commerce. Sleek sloops, schooners and steam-towed barges picked up and dropped off factory goods, textiles, vegetables, ice, lumber, bricks, oysters, seeds—everything to stop the general stores of villages and growing cities.

Today, tugboats shove cargo barges up and downriver, most carrying refined heating oil, gasoline, or crushed stone. They’ve been joined lately by more (and larger) oil tankers and barges. They carry crude oil from North Dakota via the Port of Albany, then south to East Coast ports and refineries.

The maritime industry is a crucial link in local trade, and refineries. But today’s crude oil barges bring very little besides a few jobs, and nothing to enrich the lives of Hudson Valley residents.

Shipping industry representatives have asked the Coast Guard to establish new anchorages for tugs, tankers and barges in the Hudson, from Yonkers to Kingston. The outcry against the proposed anchorages from environmental watchdog groups, elected officials, and citizens has been fierce.

Here are the basic questions and answers behind the headlines.

Who requested the proposed new anchorages?
The Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey Tug & Barge Committee, an industry association that represents tugboat companies that move crude oil barges.

American Waterways Operators, a national tugboat and barge association, supports the proposed anchorages. They are also being sought by the Hudson River Pilots Association.

When?
On January 21, 2016, in a letter to the District Coast Guard Commander.

Where will the proposed anchorages be located?
Ten anchorages have been proposed, with a total of 43 “parking spaces”, covering about 2000 square feet. They would be located at Kingston Flats South, Port Ewen, Big Rock Point, Milton, Roseton, Marlboro, Newburgh, Tompkins Cove, Montrose Point, and Yonkers. There is currently only one federally-designated anchorage—off Hyde Park—between Yonkers and Albany.

Why do shipping industry groups say they need the new anchorages?
Hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) allows otherwise inaccessible oil fields to become productive. The technique began to revive the sagging U.S. oil industry in 2008, creating a surplus of crude oil, much of it from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota. Since 2011, transport of this highly combustible liquid has caused numerous spills, 11 fiery freight rail explosions, and 47 deaths. Bakken crude travels in mile-long “bomb trains” over CSX rail lines through NY State and the heart of Rockland County. Some of it is off-loaded to tanker ships and barges at the Port of Albany.

Before 2016, this crude oil was destined for domestic refineries, mainly in New Jersey. But the oil glut has put a growing number of tanker business leaders even more vocal about quality-of-life and economic impacts.

Any threat to re-industrialize the region would alter the status quo, and many concerned citizens. The re-industrialization of Albany’s crude oil terminals, where tankers and barges are loaded for the journey south to foreign export.

Who can grant and establish the proposed anchorages?
The Hudson River is a federal waterway, designated as a United States of America Highways. The US Coast Guard District Command is authorized to establish anchorages on Federal waterways within its jurisdiction.

Why do shipping industry groups say they need the new anchorages?
Hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) allows otherwise inaccessible oil fields to become productive. The technique began to revive the sagging U.S. oil industry in 2008, creating a surplus of crude oil, much of it from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota. Since 2011, transport of this highly combustible liquid has caused numerous spills, 11 fiery freight rail explosions, and 47 deaths. Bakken crude travels in mile-long “bomb trains” over CSX rail lines through NY state and the heart of Rockland County. Some of it is off-loaded to tanker ships and barges at the Port of Albany.

Before 2016, this crude oil was destined for domestic refineries, mainly in New Jersey. But the oil glut has put a growing number of tanker business leaders even more vocal about quality-of-life and economic impacts.

Any threat to re-industrialize the region would alter the status quo, and many concerned citizens. The re-industrialization of Albany’s crude oil terminals, where tankers and barges are loaded for the journey south to foreign export.

Who can grant and establish the proposed anchorages?
The Hudson River is a federal waterway, designated as a United States of America Highways. The US Coast Guard District Command is authorized to establish anchorages on Federal waterways within its jurisdiction.

When would the anchorages be made available?
Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Alyson Conroy stated in an email on 9/26/16, “The Coast Guard is in the Advance Notice to Public Rule Making (ANPRM), a preliminary phase of any rule making official, the vessels will need to yank itself out of economic malaise, has recently made significant investments in riverfront improvement. Worry about outdoor-café customers staring at giant oil tankers is just a quibble over fine-dining aesthetics. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and local business leaders fear that a floodlit oil barge parking lot could quickly crush the germinating seed of urban revival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who requested the proposed new anchorages?</td>
<td>Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey Tug &amp; Barge Committee, American Waterways Operators</td>
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<tr>
<td>When?</td>
<td>January 21, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where will the proposed anchorages be located?</td>
<td>Ten anchorages have been proposed, with a total of 43 “parking spaces”, covering about 2000 square feet. They would be located at Kingston Flats South, Port Ewen, Big Rock Point, Milton, Roseton, Marlboro, Newburgh, Tompkins Cove, Montrose Point, and Yonkers.</td>
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If you don’t lie near one of the proposed anchorages, why would you care about this?

What You Should Do
Register your comment on the proposed anchorage sites with the Coast Guard before December 6, 2016. See the complete “Proposed Rules Document” for other ways to submit comments.

River pilots and crews are skilled mariners, with a high regard for safety, and crude oil tankers are all now double hulled. Accidents, nevertheless, do happen. The increased crude oil traffic, along with the maneuvers in and out of the multi-ship anchorages, will only up the odds. In 2012, the first oil tanker to leave Albany, the Stena Primorsk, got just 10 miles south with its 12 million gallons of Bakken crude before running aground. Her double hull saved the day in that case, but it was a close enough call to warrant plenty of alarm.

The safety record of tugboats that transport crude oil barges is not stellar. According to a 2015 investigative report by New York World and the Albany Times Union: “Tugboats used to move oil barges are often decades old, and all of them have been involved in at least one accident in the past several years, including accidents like engine breakdowns, steering failures, and electrical malfunctions, according to a federal vessel database.” Spills on the order of millions of gallons, with only a fraction of that retrievable from the water, would affect the estuary’s health and life for many years, and many miles in either direction.

Oil and water...
It’s taken over 40 years of hard work and vigilance by watchdog groups and concerned citizens to get the Hudson to be the cleanest it’s been in living memory. Now, oil profiteers want to use the river as a parking lot and a superhighway for dangerous cargo. That threat is bringing ever more voices to the save-the-Hudson choir.

In an editorial this week – “No Parking on the Hudson” – the New York Times chimed in: “The river is beautiful, but it is still sick, a victim of misbegotten power plants and factories, municipal waste, toxic dumping and government neglect. A nuclear plant’s cooling system kills fish by the millions. General Electric stained miles of the riverbed with PCBs, and the damage will linger for decades to come. The river once had a commercial fishery, but the pollution of all kinds took care of that. Now comes the North Dakota oil.” Communities on the river are raising a stink. They should for the most basic reason: oil and water.

Learn more:
Federal decision-making docket folder
Sustainable Saturday Answers
Your Hudson Anchorage Questions
continued from page 7
If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

LORI SULLIVAN
Director of Gift Planning
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612
(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
sierraclubplanning.org

(See the Summer Sierra Atlantic 2016 Part 2 article on the barge anchorages (http://atlantic2.sierraclub.org/content/proposal-massive-new-barge-anchorages-threatens-hudson-river) for references to information on the proposal, how to submit comments and recommended comments.)
THE COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS PROVIDES ACCESS TO NATIONAL SIERRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR GRASSROOTS VOLUNTEERS

Role of the Council of Club Leaders

Mission of the Council of Club Leaders
- Build unity within the Club by facilitating open, meaningful and responsive two-way communication between national entities and grassroots leadership.
- Represent chapter and group perspectives, give voice to chapter and group concerns and assist chapters and groups in their work to achieve
- Provide advice and assistance to the Board of Directors and other Club entities on matters affecting chapters and groups.
- Be knowledgeable about available resources and training programs to assist National Club entities in building the Club’s leadership capacity.

Responsibilities of the Council
- Identify the interests of grassroots leaders and facilitate channels for solutions; identify and advocate solutions needed to help chapters and groups meet Club goals.
- Identify and advocate solutions for the Club to meet chapter and group goals.
- Ensure that chapter concerns about Club policies and procedures are communicated to the appropriate entity.
- Provide an inclusive, ongoing forum for in-depth deliberation on emerging Club issues.
- Provide an opportunity for chapters to consider Council resolutions affecting chapters prior to CCL voting.
- Serve as a source of experienced leaders for national projects.
- Represent the Club membership as delegates to an annual meeting for the purpose of discussing the activities and operation of the Club, and making recommendations to the Board.
- Be a conduit for the flow of information among national entities, chapters and groups, including opportunities for chapter/group training needs.

By Kate Bartholomew
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter 2016-17 CCL Delegate

How often have you thought, or overheard someone else give voice to your unspoken opinion, that the National Sierra Club Board of Directors seemed aloof and disconnected from the grassroots volunteers and the environmental struggles they engage in on a daily basis? I know I have, far more times than I can count over the course of my involvement with the Club. But, when I try to see it from the perspective of the Board, I realize it can be extremely difficult to be deeply engaged with 2.4 million members and supporters, parsed out in 64 local Chapters, further divided out into all the many Groups within each Chapter. If that level of involvement were part of the job description, no one would ever run for the National Board.

Fortunately, the Sierra Club devised a solution in the form of the Council of Club Leaders, a group comprised of delegates from each of the 64 Chapters which interacts directly with the National Board of Directors and brings forth resolutions, sponsored by the grassroots to present to the National Board. In the Atlantic Chapter, the Delegate and Alternate are selected by the Chapter Executive Committee from its duly elected At-Large Delegates. Both serve a two-year term.

The 2016 CCL and Annual Board of Directors Meeting

This year’s event was held Wednesday, September 7th, through Saturday, September 10th, in Oakland, California, across the bay from San Francisco, and where the new National Sierra Club Offices are located. All of the CCL workshops, meetings and presentations occurred in the new office space, which is much newer and sleeker in design than the old space, and carries a considerably slimmer price tag. I think the key feature I found most uplifting was the vast amount of natural light available to the staff - definitely an improvement.

Over the course of the first few days, the planned presentations dealt with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; State of the Chapter; Developing Leaders Engaged in Movement Building; Chapter Fundraising; and Building Power for Change through Leadership Development. We also had a chance to attend smaller breakout sessions devoted to topics including Ready for 100, Supporting the Dakota Access Pipeline Fight; Beyond Dirty Fuels; and Sierra Club Food and Agriculture Landscape Analysis. It was an incomprehensible amount to absorb in two days. Thankfully we were each sent home with a flash drive, which I will download and share with our office staff so this knowledge can be uploaded to the Chapter website for all to enjoy.

Following the educational portion of the gathering, we turned our attention to the true purpose of the meeting: the resolutions sent in by Chapters around the country for CCL consideration to present to the National Board of Directors. A total of 15 resolutions had been sent to the CCL Resolutions Committee from various Chapters. 11 were being recommended for adoption, 4 were not. All had to be discussed and considered, yes, Roberts Rules are followed, and there is a Parliamentarian, but the same can be said of the British House of Commons. In truth, the CCL behaved far better than the House of Commons - or the House of Lords - members were just extremely vocal. We did get through all 15 resolutions and voted affirmatively on 10 of them, including one. Resolution #11, the Atlantic Chapter had decided to support sponsored by the Montana Chapter that urged the National Club to adopt an ultimate goal of no more than a one degree Celsius increase in global temperature.

Support Chapter’s work in NYS

We need your help to fight fracking infrastructure, maintain the Chapter’s other critical conservation efforts and continue print publication of the Sierra Atlantic. Your membership dues primarily support the Club’s national priorities. Your additional support is needed to strengthen the Chapter’s work in the state legislature and throughout the state.

Please use the coupon below to send us your donation. Contributions and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity.

Yes, I want to help the Atlantic Chapter preserve and protect the environment of New York state. I am enclosing my gift of:
- $500
- $250
- $100
- $50
- $25
- $10
- $5
- Other $______
- $5,000 or over

Check made payable to Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter is enclosed.
- I’d like to make a single payment by credit card.
- I’d like to become a sustainer with a $_____ monthly or $_____ quarterly credit card donation.
- Bill to: Mastercard
- Visa
- Discover

Acct no ___________ Exp date _____
Signature__________
Name__________________________
Sierra Club membership no__________
Street_________________________
City__________________________State____ZIP

Mail this completed form with your check or credit card information to: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, PO Box 38225, Albany, NY 12203

A copy of our latest financial report can be obtained by writing to Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, PO Box 38225, Albany, NY 12203, or the NYS Attorney General.

continued on page 10

continued on page 10
Role of Council of Club Leaders continued from page 9

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Additional resolutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Educate his/her chapters and groups on the role of the Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Educate his/her chapters and groups on relevant Club policies, programs and training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Report the work and recommendations of the Council back to his/her chapters in a timely manner.</td>
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Counsel Actions

• Participate directly with the Board in an annual meeting of the Sierra Club and any other meetings that the Board may authorize.

All resolutions were taken on by the attendees in good order and carried, without discussion.

From left to right, John Muir award recipient Tom Goldtooth, President Aaron Mair and Executive Director Michael Brune

ATLANTIC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Don Hughes

The Atlantic Chapter ExCom had three all-day meetings January 30 (NYC), April 16 (Albany) and June 25 (Rochester), as well as at least a half-dozen conference calls. Much of the business conducted at these meetings is administrative: dealing with appointments, elections, budgetary matters, personnel, publications and outreach, and recommending political endorsements, among others.

- Elections were held in January.
  - Erin Riddle was elected Chapter Chair, and Don Hughes, Vice-Chair.
  - Jim Lane was re-elected Secretary. A position he has held for over 20 years. (Unfortunately, Jim was suspended from the Club by the Board of Directors in July. Carl Arnold is currently filling that office.)
  - Steve Kulick was re-elected Chapter Treasurer, a position he has held for over 30 years.
  - Kate Bartholomew and Sara Schultz were elected Conservation Co-chairs.
  - Kate was also elected delegate to the Council of Club Leaders.

- Over a dozen resolutions were passed since the beginning of 2016, and more were discussed and debated. Here are highlights:
  - In response to National’s threat to suspend or expel four long-time Atlantic Chapter leaders, Ken Baer, Diane Buxbaum, Jim Lane and Don Young, the Chapter urged National to “uphold the right of each of the accused to hold leadership positions and to continue to be a member in good standing of the Sierra Club” (January 17, 2016). After disciplinary actions were invoked in May, the chapter followed up with a second resolution that urged National to reverse the disciplinary actions and offered to begin a constructive dialogue with the Board to reach a mutually satisfac-

- The ExCom explored the viability of joining Tony Avella in a lawsuit concerning the alienation of parkland by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. The suit was filed in the Supreme Court, Appellate Division.
- The ExCom approved the Lower Hudson Group’s request for $5,000 to help the Rockland Water Coalition pay for expert help in examining Suez North America’s water management plans for Rockland County to ensure their sustainability and to avoid the need for future desalination.

- The next Chapter ExCom meeting will be held on January 28, in New York City. Contact any officer or the Albany office for details.
Following are statements from candidates running for at-large delegate seats to the Chapter’s Executive Committee. Each candidate’s bio tells how they reach to them with questions. More information about each candi- date is available at https://ny.sc2.sierrraclub.org/content/2016-large-ex- com-election.

Thelma Fellows / Flushing
I would like to be on the Atlantic Chap- ter ExCom for another term in hopes of making a contribution to its many environmental causes. Most recently, I located a pro bono attorney to write an Amicus Brief in support of a suit re- garding protection of parkland in NYC, and I obtained consent from the At- lantic Chapter for a New Matter Form necessary to receive approval from the Sierra Club to proceed with the legal action. I have served for one-two year terms as executive at Large and, I believe, for three-two year terms on the New York City Sierra Club Ex- Com where served one year as Chair. Currently I am an off-board outreach Chair organizing monthly programs in Queens to complement the ongoing programs provided in Manhattan Addi- tionally, I have been organizing tabling on Governors Island each summer, and in other locations for the past few years. I continue to participate in the NYC Sierra Club Photography Committee, which has separate monthly meetings. I served as chair of this committee for four years before being elected to the NYC Sierra Club ExCom. ThelmaFel- lows@yahoo.com.

Robert Ciesielski / Owego
I am requesting your vote for at-large delegate for the Atlantic Chapter Ex- Com. Over the past 12 years I have served as Secretary and Chair of the Ni- agara Group and most recently as Chair of the Chapter’s Energy Committee. While Chair of the Energy Commit- tee, the Chapter worked tirelessly for a ban of high volume horizontal fracked gas drilling. We have taken on the tasks of promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency as a substitute for fracked gas, a gas infrastructure, other fossil fuels and nuclear power.

Erin Riddle / Owe go
Since I joined the Sierra Club in 2000, I have gained extensive experience in executive service and leadership while serving at the group and chap- ter levels, most recently as Chapter Vice Chair and Chair over the last two years. In these two years, I have demonstrated leadership while work- ing with other chapter leaders and staff to recruit volunteers for many important programs in the Chapter, including social media coordinator, editor and writers for our electron- ic newsletter, grant writer, and liti- gation coordinator. I also recruited volunteers to serve on and revamp our transportation and open space/ recreation committees. As Chapter Chair, I have fostered innovative programs which will help us grow as an organi- zation and become more effective in achieving our goals.

Carl Arnold / Brooklyn
As both vice chair and chair of Atlant- ic Chapter, I was part of a team that collaborated on all its work, including efforts to increase our fundraising, grow our membership, fix committee meetings, etc. and get “silked” parts of the Chapter to speak with each other. There are now closer ties with the Beyond Coal Cam- paign, SC. Foundation and the NYC ORG (Outings).

I would like to supportfrac; to work against fracking — gave speeches, lobbied, wrote and edited materials, co-wrote the first legislative bill to ban frack- ing, was interviewed numerous times, helped organize forums and screen- ings, and contributed to the change in National’s position on fracking. I rep- resented the chapter at the first two Chapter Assemblies in California. My understanding of how the National Chapter works has helped enormously in dealing with Chapter affairs.

At present I’m collaborating with 5C’s Northeast Region fundraiser and am Volunteer Coordinator for the region. I have partnered with women and younger members to contribute fresh ideas and energy to the Club. Their enthusiasm combined with older members’ institutional memory and activism will help revitalize the Chapter. To continue on this path, I’d appreciate your support. It’s essen- tial for every member to vote! carlar- nold@mac.com.

Mary Finneran / Cairo
New York state has always been my home, having been raised in the south- ern Finger Lakes region in the Che- mung River valley, and having lived in central NY; western NY; the Delaware River Valley, and the Hudson River Val- ley/Catskills. I have become enamored by the beauty specific to each region, and have made it a point to know the entire state, including the urban areas and their unique characteristics. All are worth fighting for.

Harold Bauer / Wayland
I have been a Club member for over 30 years while my first Sierra Club talk on the disastrous effects of nuclear war was 35 years ago in Omaha, Nebraska, the Strategic Bombard Command Center, at the time, for nuclear war. In September of 2011, I joined Occupy Wall Street, in Zuccotti Park. That Fall and Win- ter, in Rochester, I supported Occupy Rochester tent camp in its downtown Washington Square Park. This crazy election year, I have supported Bernie Sanders, who is a great person for the 99% movement. Now in 2016, I support Hillary Clinton, and men and women everywhere, who want diver- sity, inclusion, equity and justice.

For most of my scientific career, I focused on the development and up- stream and origins of social and lan- guage processes in common chimpan- zees and humans involved by doing field and laboratory studies in Canada, East Africa, Germany and the United States. As our Chapter Wilderness and Wild- life Committee Chairperson, I’ve advo- cated the conservation of our wildlife, predators, wildernesses and man par- ticularly concerned about the role of climate change in our sixth mass ex- tion on our planet. Invasives are a reminder of the new Anthropocene bi- ology wilds@newyork.sierracclub.org.

Gale Pisha / Nanuet
Several years ago the threat of a desalina- tion plant being built on the banks of the Hudson River drew me into becoming a nearly full-time envi- ronmental activist. The energy-inten- sive process mass produces a plant a climate change accelerator which would force all regions to drink water containing trace amounts of radioactive elements from a river whose irreversible habitat would have been at risk from yet another envi- ronmental insult. Readers of Sierra Atlantic know from articles I have co-authored that our grassroots ef- forts were successful in getting the desalination project stopped; we are now advocating for a strong sustain- able water conservation plan.

As Secretary and ExCom member of Lower Hudson Group and Alternate Delegate to the Chapter Executive, I have been working for Sierra Club’s envi- ronmental goals in many areas, includ- ing reducing fossil fuel infrastructure proliferation, promoting renewable energy, and advancing electric vehicle use. By participating in the national and New York State Sierra Club political workings, serving on the Chapter Legislative Commit- tee and coordinating Lower Hudson Group’s Rockland political endorse- ments, I have learned how to help elect and interact with good people who support our environmental goals.

I would appreciate your support to continue this work as an At-Large Del- egate. soyagale@verizon.net.
BALLOT FOR SEVEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT LARGE DELEGATES

The Sierra Club, the largest grassroots environmental group in the world, is proudly democratic and member-driven. The at-large people you elect, along with the Group reps direct the work of our chapter. Eight individuals have been nominated this year to run for seven open seats. There are four full term (two years) slots and three partial terms left by resigning members. Accordingly, the four top vote-getters will fill the full two-year terms, while the fifth, sixth, and seventh vote-getter will serve one year terms.

Eligible to vote:
- Members in good standing in the Atlantic Chapter as of October 26, 2016.
- Each member may fill out only one ballot.

Joint members use both ballot columns.

Voting procedures:
- Each member may vote for seven candidates or fewer. Voting for more than seven candidates will void your ballot.
- Ballots will be counted in early January, 2016.
- Members who do not receive a ballot, or who damage or lose their ballot, may request a replacement from Atlantic Chapter office employees. They will send you a replacement ballot bearing your membership number and the signature of a Chapter staff member. Only such replacement ballots sent to you from Chapter staff will be counted. No replacement ballots will be issued after December 15.
- If you have any questions or problems, contact Chapter staff at 518-426-9144, or email caitlin.ferrante@sierrclub.org.

Online Voting:
If you prefer to vote online, locate your unique voter ID above your name on the address label to the left on this page. For joint memberships, there is a second voter ID printed also. Visit the Chapter’s website, (https://atlantic2.sierrclub.org/content/2016-large-excom-election) to review the candidates’ statements and find further instructions on how to vote online. If any questions, please email Caitlin at atlantic.chapter@sierrclub.org. If you prefer online voting, your choices cannot be emailed. Everyone voting online must follow the link and use the official online ballot. The online voting deadline is December 31, 2016.

Mail-in Voting:
Those who prefer a paper ballot and those who aren’t online may still vote, but you must choose one method only. If you vote using both the paper ballot on this page and the online ballot, the only one counted will be the online ballot. Ballots should not be cut or separated from the address box on this page—with its identifying Sierra Club number and your name.

The Elections Committee will only count ballots that are attached to your name; others will be discarded. Do not cover up your mailing address—it is used to verify that the ballot is being submitted by an Atlantic Chapter member. For your privacy, after your membership is authenticated, the election committee separates all ballots from the names, and then separately counts them with no identifying information to ensure secrecy.

Mail your folded ballot with attached identifying address and number in its own envelope so as to conform to U.S. postal regulations. Affix a first-class stamp to your envelope and mail to: Elections Committee, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, PO Box 38225, Albany, NY 12220. Mail your ballots so that they are received on or before December 25.