



2022

Awards of
Distinction

NOMINATIONS



Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
Board
Member

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Alex Vassar

District: Arcade Creek Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

I am nominating Alex Vassar, Board Chair for the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District, for the CARPD Outstanding Board Member.

Alex Vassar has served on the board of the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District for five and a half years. His service to the district has included a year and a half as Board Chair (2021-Present), three years as Vice Chair (2018-2020) and six months as Interim General Manager (2021).

During his time as Vice Chair, Director Vassar led a working group which reviewed and updated the district's policies for the first time in a decade.

Alex also served three years on the Board's Finance Committee, setting funding priorities and ensuring sound fiscal policy through the thoughtful construction of a \$900,000 annual budget. Most notably, Alex spent months investigating the district's finances which revealed a previously unrecognized \$500,000 in outstanding debt owed to CalPERS for unpaid retirement benefits for former district employees. Recognizing that the amount owed was growing quickly, Director Vassar successfully led the board to adopt several significantly trimmed budgets, redirecting the funding to pay down the district's longstanding unfunded liability.

As a result, following our most recent annual audit, the auditor said that district was on its strongest financial footing in the decade that he had been conducting our reviews.

Finally, in from March to August 2021 Alex served as the district's interim General Manager. In that capacity, he led the creation of a secure centralized records storage, developed new policies for internal controls which have resulted in better oversight on district finances, oversaw the purchase of a new lawn tractor, gator and added work safety features in the maintenance shed.

CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



District Contact Name: Lisa Gonzalez
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CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Ayn Wieskamp

District: East Bay Regional Park District



District Submission:

Director Ayn Wieskamp has served on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) for 23 years. EBRPD is a system of beautiful parks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in California, serving over 2.8 million people. We preserve and protect 125,000 acres in 73 parks, including 1,250 miles of trails.

Prior to her being elected to the EBRPD Board, Director Wieskamp served as a Councilmember for the City of Livermore for 18 years. She had also served as a Director of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) and the Alameda County Recycling Board. Director Wieskamp received the 1998 California Association of Recreation and Park Districts Special Award for her development of special family events and for her efforts to expand parks and trails to be closer to the underserved communities in her ward. The EBRPD Parks in her ward include some of the most highly visited parks in the county: Ardenwood Historic Farm, Mission Peak, Coyote Hills, Del Valle, Monument Peak, Sunol Wilderness, Pleasanton Ridge, Shadow Cliffs, Ohlone Wilderness, and Tassajara Creek. The cities within her ward in Alameda county include Brightside, Dublin, part of Fremont, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, Scott's Corner, and Sunol.

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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Director Wieskamp's unwavering advocacy for the preservation of the natural environment and providing access for all has made a lasting impact on the county and the community. Among her major achievements:

- As a member of the Alameda County Recycling Board, Director Wieskamp supported the creation of official recycling efforts in Livermore. Thousands of tons of waste have hence been diverted from landfills. Livermore and Berkeley were trailblazers in environmental conservation in the county.
- As an EBRPD board member, Director Wieskamp advocated for 20 years for the creation of a park at Dumbarton Quarry in Fremont. A shoreline campground was finally built on a quarry pit that was once 350 feet below sea level and required six million cubic yards of dirt to be filled from several large Bay Area construction projects. The Dumbarton Quarry Campground provides a convenient and affordable getaway for the communities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties during the pandemic. It is linked to thousands of acres of parkland with extensive miles of trails for hiking and biking.
- Director Wieskamp supported the protection of thousands of acres of land in the densely-populated Tri-Valley area, including additions to Pleasanton Ridge and Vargas Plateau Regional Parks in Fremont.
- As a local leader, Director Wieskamp has had to strike a fine balance between the public's needs and the challenges of serving as an equitable and inclusive leader -- sifting through complex and, sometimes, controversial/political issues to make sound and sustainable decisions for the community and the agency. Carefully managing limited resources and meeting public needs and expectations are key considerations in her decision making.
- Director Wieskamp is also a forerunner of several environmentally sound planning. She was a founding member of the Wheels Bus, Livermore Amador Valley Transportation Authority. Her community advocacy included memberships in League of Women Voters, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Tri-Valley Elected Women, Tri-City Ecology, Save Mount Diablo, and American Association of University Women.

Director Wieskamp is truly a champion ahead of her times and a dedicated public servant who has devoted her life to preserving parks for perpetuity and access for all.

District Contact Name: Mona Koh
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CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

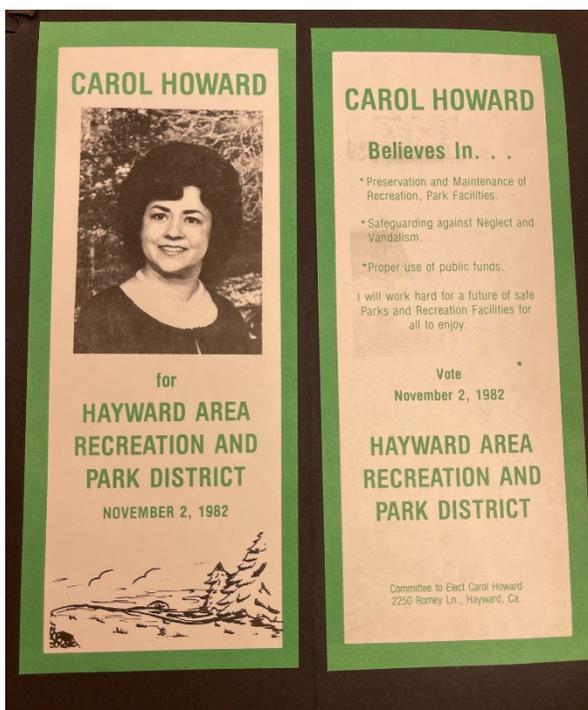


Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Carol A. Pereira

District: Hayward Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Mrs. Carol A. Pereira has served as member of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) Board of Directors since 1982 and has made contributions and impacts that have significantly launched the agency into the future. As a member of the Board of Directors and Current President of the board, Carol serves for the District that provides recreation and park services to the residents of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward, San Lorenzo and a section of the unincorporated area of San Leandro, California and represents services to over 309,000 residents.

As a lifelong resident of Hayward and the Daughter of Golden West, Mrs. Pereira has deep roots in the Hayward area. Her grandfather had a ranch in the Hayward Hills above what is currently D Street. It is those local roots and humble beginnings that have instilled into Mrs.

CARPD Awards of Distinction

Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Pereira her deep devotion to the Hayward area and preserving its rich and treasured history.

Growing up in Hayward she attended Bret Hart School, the home of Harry Rowell's first 'Cowboy Show,' and graduated from Hayward High. Mrs. Pereira began her working for Machado's Hillside Chapel at the front desk/book work from 1991 to 2006. When Diocese of Oakland bought the business. Mrs. Pereira continued to work there until they purchased Sorenson's Brother Mortuary for an additional three years at the front desk/book work and retired in 2011, for a total of 20 years.

Now retired, Mrs. Pereira has been on the Hayward Area Recreation Park District since 1982 holding office for President for several times. This position allowed Mrs. Pereira to do what she loves making it possible for the community to enjoy all the facets and activities that are the diversity of the Hayward Area.

Mrs. Pereira is married to Leroy Pereira and has 5 grown children. She is a grandmother to ten children and a great-grandmother to sixteen and counting. She is active in Questers, an organization dedicated to the study, conservation and preservation of historical objects and existing landmarks for the benefit of today and tomorrow. As well as a member of the Hayward Area Historical Society, and dedicated supporter of the Rowell Ranch Rodeo.

Mrs. Pereira has served the community for 40 years. Because of her time served, she brings a wealth of historical knowledge to HARD. During her tenure on the Board, she has been a part of many facilities and park designs and opening. She has led the way for the District and its highest priority and mission of ensuring all residents have access to services and parks. She, along with the Board and Staff, were instrumental in the development and passing of measure F1 in 2016, a 250-million-dollar bond measure to acquire parkland in park poor areas and renovate and develop new parks and facilities. This ballot measure was such a priority for Mrs. Pereira that she personally worked hours making calls, walking neighborhoods, and answering questions to educate the public. Passing the ballot measure was an unprecedented achievement for the District. In the past two years, H.A.R.D. parks and facilities have grown exponentially, including the Mia's Dream Come True all ability playground and renovation of the largest regional park in the HARD system, Kennedy Park.

Mrs. Pereira has always had a love for Hayward Area Recreation and Park District and its rich history. She is collaborative and a historian, but her greatest achievement is her willingness to embrace and work tirelessly for the community she serves for forty years! It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mrs. Carol A. Pereira as Outstanding Board Member for CARPD.

District Contact Name: James Wheeler
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**CARPD Awards of Distinction
Outstanding Board Member - Nominee**



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Maryalice Faltings

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Maryalice Faltings will complete her 28th and final year as a member of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. She will serve her final year as Chair. Director Faltings has served on two Special District Board of Directors, as well as on the Board of Directors of the CARPD. She has been a driving force in the area of Parks and Recreation.

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While on the Board of LARPD Director Faltings has been the Chairperson several times. Not only has she been very involved at the Board Level but has taken a very strong stance on Historic Preservation in Livermore and the State of California. Director Faltings was the driving force behind the Ravenswood Progress League and the Buckley Trust who stewarded the Historic Buckley Mansion and Grounds called Ravenswood.

District Contact Name: Mathew Fuzie
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CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Jan Palajac

District: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

During the start of the Pandemic Jan Palajac was the Chair of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. Director Palajac was the right person in that position and the right time.

We all know what a massive amount of decision making took place during the first year of the pandemic. We know the amount of research and networking that needed to be done to move forward from a dead stopped position to one where we were serving our constituents as much and as safely as we could.

Director Palajac was all in in her role as Chair of the Board. The General Manager asked Director Palajac to represent the Board at all senior staff and emergency meetings. She did so without fail. Having a board member let alone the Chair in these high charged meetings was a risk, but a risk that the times rewarded. Director Palajac took the role of equal team

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



member and conducted research, networked with other agencies, and played the role of bended ear to give insight into how the Board of Directors might think as the staff and General Manager planned strategic responses during the emergency.

We believed our emergency structure with Chair Palajac in a major role allowed LARPD to respond much quicker to the response and challenges of the pandemic. We took many bold steps with our organization including restructuring our organization, our Pension Obligation and our finances.

When Director Palajac came off of the roll as Chair, she continued to play a major role with the staff and General Manager to continue our march forward. She has become a most trusted confidant of the staff and will always be appreciated for her dedication to LARPD

District Contact Name: Mathew Fuzie
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CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Al McGreehan

District: Paradise Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to nominate on behalf of the Paradise Recreation and Park District, our Board Chair, Al McGreehan, for CARPD's Outstanding Board Member.

Mr. McGreehan began his service as a Board Member in 1993 and has served continuously with outstanding leadership ever since. He has served in numerous board roles multiple times and is our current Chair. Al brings a keen professional understanding of local government and planning, as he served over 35 years in planning and community development in Northern California in Plumas County and the Town of Paradise. Other agencies have benefited from Al's long service including CARPD and Butte County LAFCO.

Al has provided steady leadership and support after the Camp Fire to the district and community in a planning and recovery role. On a personal note, I appreciate his clear-eyed judgement, historical context, scrutiny of details, and commitment to providing a voice for community members.

Al is a true supporter of recreation and enjoys several activities such as softball, running, golf and others. He is also an advocate of our annual ice rink and has donated to it every year, along with donating to our swim scholarships.

He is up for re-election this year and I have no doubt that he could continue this role, I feel that it is important to honor and acknowledge someone that has provided outstanding service and contribution to our community (both recreation and locally) for over 29 years!

District Contact Name: Dan Efseaff
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CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Nick Schouten

District: Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District



District Submission:

Nick Schouten has served on the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for more than 40 years. Currently the Vice President of the Board, he has served multiple terms as President, guiding the district as it has grown from one park to more than 100 parks and facilities in an 800-square-mile area with 275,000 residents as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022.

A resident of San Jacinto, Schouten is a retired dairyman and longtime coach and game official. He has served youth in the San Jacinto Valley for more than 50 years. He was a coach at St. Hyacinth Academy in San Jacinto in 1969 when he became school board president for both that school and Notre Dame High School in Riverside.

Schouten was president of the San Jacinto Little League and involved with Junior All-American football and was instrumental in transitioning youth sports programs to Valley-Wide.

Schouten has served more than 30 years on the CARPD State Board, where he is currently president.

District Contact Name: Dean Wetter
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