

Election for Seats on the FWS Retirees Board of Directors for 2018

Each year the terms of 3 of our 9 Board members expire and their seats come up for election. This year in addition, we have a 4th vacancy due to the resignation of another Board member. The criteria for candidacy are experience, competence, ability, and dedication to the purposes and goals of the Association. This year we have five interested candidates. Their bios are attached. All FWS Retiree Association members who have paid their dues in 2017 are eligible to vote to fill these seats.

You may vote for four (4) candidates by:

1. E-mailing your choices to Jim McKeVitt at jimmymac@usamedia.tv;
2. Phoning your choices to Jim at 530-878-7883
3. Snail mailing your choices to Jim at 3220 Christian Valley Road, Auburn, CA 95602; or
4. If you wish to vote online, click the "i" symbol next to the bio for each candidate of your choice.

Please cast your vote for four (4) of these candidates not later than 11:30 pm eastern standard time, December 22, 2017.

FWS Retirees Association Candidates for Election to the Board of Directors

John Cornely. John grew up on the prairies of South Dakota and Kansas and graduated from high school in Osborne, Kansas in 1964. After earning a B.A. degree in Biology at Hastings College in Nebraska, he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force, graduated from Officer's Training School and Radar Officer's School and left active duty in 1973 with the rank of Captain. John then completed a M.S. at Texas Tech in 1975 and a Ph.D. from Northern Arizona University in 1980. He was the refuge biologist at Malheur NWR from 1978 to 1981 and the biologist for Western Oregon Refuges from 1981 to 1988. John was the Migratory Bird Program Chief in Region 6 from 1988 to 2007. Immediately after retiring he was named the Executive Director of The Trumpeter Swan Society and appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. He is a member of the FWS Heritage Committee and is actively involved in oral history interviews. John has completed wildlife consulting assignments in China, Russia and Israel. He likes to fish, hunt, travel, watch baseball and hockey, and sample a diversity of beers. John and his wife, Bea, have two grown children and two granddaughters.



Robin West. Robin West worked for the Service from 1978 to 2014, working in Regions 1, 4, and 7. Most of his career was spent in Alaska where he held positions in Ecological Services, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, and Refuges. At retirement he was serving in Portland as the Regional Chief of Refuges for the Pacific Region. Career highlights include research on fisheries and fish and wildlife contaminants, being the 1988 honor graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, working on the International Migratory Bird Treaty amendments, preparing and conducting leadership and skills training at NCTC, and serving on National Fire Program assignments. Robin enjoys hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, history, and travel. He lives with his wife Shannon on 120 acres of forest land near Rogue River, Oregon and returns to Alaska frequently to visit their three children and friends. Robin states that, if elected, "I would serve to the best of my ability."



Bruce Halstead. After escaping high school alive in Los Angeles, as a certified juvenile delinquent, then spending a couple of years in the army, you would think I would never, ever volunteer for anything again.



Well here I go, volunteering to be one of the Board of Directors of this August group. I'm doing this because I believe in this organization and want to do what I can to keep it strong.

After my time in the army it took a while for me to settle down. I eventually married, had two kids and am now on my second wife, the love of my life. I managed to earn a BS degree in fisheries at Oregon State University. I then worked for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the research division. Out of the blue the Corps of Engineers calls and offers me a position at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. After some negotiation they offered to pay my way through graduate school at the University of Arizona.

After finishing my MS at Arizona I immediately applied for and accepted a position at the Galveston, Texas field office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I knew I had found the agency I wanted to work for and spent the next thirty some years with them.

After Galveston, I took the ascertainment biologist spot in the Albuquerque regional office. From there I

went to the Arcata fisheries office as the project leader. That lasted eleven years and then I was coaxed into the project leader position at the Juneau Fish and Wildlife Office. I retired from the Juneau office on January 3, 2008. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

We now live near Sequim, WA, and I can see Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge out my window. I miss the camaraderie of working with all of my colleagues, but not the political crap that goes along with the job. I treasure the time I spend with fellow retirees and our reunions especially. You never know who you are going to come across next.

If you want me as one of your board members I will do my best to keep us afloat. At my age the main thing is to enjoy what you are doing and have as much fun as possible. Plus every now and then poke some politicians in the eye with a very sharp stick over some issue we all feel strongly about. I will not make America great again, but I will do what I can to keep the Retirees Association a great and interesting group.

Deborah Holle. Deborah Holle was born and raised in rural NW Oklahoma on a farm where her family



raised cattle and wheat. She attended Oklahoma State University and received a BS degree in Zoology and a Masters in Wildlife Conservation, studying coyotes on Wichita Mountains NWR. Later she and her husband Terry Friggel moved to Piedmont NWR in Georgia for 2 1/2 years where she worked in forest management and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers before transferring to St. Marks NWR south of Tallahassee, Florida. She was transferred to National Key Deer Refuge in the Florida Keys as Project Leader and worked with numerous endangered species for 7 years before transferring to Balcones Canyonlands NWR. While at Balcones Deborah

worked on Golden-checked Warblers, Black-capped Vireos and was part of a large Habitat Conservation Plan for the Austin Area.

During her 36 year career she served on several committees including the Uniform Committee, Promises Team for Refuges, Promises Implementation Team, Leadership Development Counsel and the Fire Weather Working Team as the FWS Administrator for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. She was also active in The Wildlife Society and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. She retired in 2014 with 36 years of active service on National Wildlife Refuges.

Currently she and her husband Terry reside in Austin, Texas and are busy being grandparents and volunteering with local organizations. Deborah is working with the local Master Naturalist Group as well as the Friends of Balcones and is on the FWS Heritage Committee.

Bob Streeter. A son of the South Dakota prairies, Bob developed his life-long fascination with wildlife while working on his parent's farm near Madison, South Dakota. He completed degrees in zoology, plant



ecology, wildlife ecology and physiology at South Dakota State, VPI and Colorado State Universities and was employed by game and fish agencies in both South Dakota and Colorado. After serving in the US Air Force, researching the effects of extreme space environments, he joined the Service's Cooperative Wildlife Units program in 1972. Twenty years were spent in various Service Research locations, primarily in the West. He became part of the North American Waterfowl Plan operations in 1988, and established the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program. Bob was appointed

as Assistant Director, Refuges and Wildlife in 1995 and retired from the Service at the end of 1999. He worked for Ducks Unlimited for two years, developing a strategic plan for an expansion of their work throughout Latin America. A year working for Colorado Trout Unlimited followed. Bob and wife Karen live near Fort Collins, CO, and their time since retiring "*has been full, wonderful and fulfilling.*" He and Karen love where they live on the Colorado prairie, on the shore of a small lake and in the shadow of the 14,000' Front Range peaks. They have restored their 5 acres from marginal farmland to a complex of a wetland, native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Where only a meadowlark nested, there are now more than a dozen species of nesting birds, ranging from osprey to American goldfinch. Their large garden

produces much of the vegetables they consume, including gallons of great salsa, and their small vineyard provides enough grapes to make several cases of wine for their table each year. Time not working in his woodshop is likely to be spent with a recently renewed hobby, photography, travel or visiting with his two sons and their families. Of course, hunting, fishing and camping remain important pastimes as is time with his yellow lab that is a “gentle friend in the house but a hunting fiend in the field.”

Volunteering is also a big part of their lives and keeps their “neurons dancing” as Karen observes: AAUW, theater board, CSU foreign student English partner and book clubs for Karen, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Greater Outdoor Colorado (allocating lottery funds to open space, wildlife habitat and parks), statewide water committees, and Trout Unlimited positions for Bob take up many days each month.