

The Outdoor Circle

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Scott R. Wilson, President

Scott Wilson grew up in Ventura County, California, and has lived in Hawai'i since 1980. He has Architecture and Urban Planning degrees from the University of Hawai'i and has operated his own architectural practice in residential and commercial design since 1993. Since 1995 he has been a member of various professional organizations, including Malama Manoa, AIA Honolulu, Friends of the Natatorium, and Hawaii's Thousand Friends. He has been a member of the TOC Public Affairs Committee since 2016 and as Chair has led the effort to draft a set of Public Policies and supporting statements which embody the 100 plus years of advocacy and action of the organization. As TOC President, his priorities include increased advocacy on issues of urban livability and spearheading public education efforts to increase tree planting and tree canopy percentages throughout the islands.

Jonathan Sudler, Vice President

Jonathan has been a TOC member since 2017, as well as the Vice Chair of the Arborist Advisory Committee to the Mayor's Office, Hawai'i County, since 2018. He is a designer and corporate event planner, holding an MFA in Sculpture with a minor in religious studies and a strong interest in Art History. Jonathan is in constant search of creative solutions to many professional challenges. His focus on The Outdoor Circle is a positive reaction to the many environmental challenges we face here in Hawai'i and abroad. As we care for our trees, they care for us.

Paula Ress, Secretary

Paula has been an enthusiastic member of The Outdoor Circle's board over the past 19 years and an active member of the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Board. She and her husband are long-time adopters of a small coconut park in Kailua, active workers on the landscape and outreach at Kailua United Methodist Church, is on the board of the Kalaheo High School Foundation, and she became a certified Citizen Forester for a tree inventory project on Oahu.

Kathy Whitmire, Treasurer

Kathy was TOC Board President from 2005 to 2007. Since then she has served TOC on its Finance and Public Affairs Committees and has been a Board member of both the Kaneohe and North Shore branches. She also chaired the TOC task force that successfully opposed "bus billboards" on Oahu in 2014. Prior to moving to Hawai'i, Kathy was Mayor of Houston for 10 years where she led the campaigns to stop billboard proliferation, plant over 2 million trees and expand park space. She chaired the Board of Scenic America from 2000 to 2002 advocating for scenic conservation at the national level.

Diane Harding, Branch Representative

Diane is currently the President of the Lani-Kailua Branch of The Outdoor Circle and has served as past TOC Treasurer and Branch Representative. She was born and raised in Hawai'i, and is a retired software developer in the field of ocean science and seafloor mapping. She also serves as a University of Hawai'i Foundation Windward Community College Ambassador.

Mimi Bornhorst Gaddis, Nominating Committee Chair

Mimi was born and raised in Honolulu and attended Hawai'i public schools. She participates in many outdoor activities including swimming, stand up paddling, sailing, fishing and gardening. She believes protection of green space can and must be at the forefront of Honolulu's future. Her vision includes partnerships between The Outdoor Circle, industry, and the community to maintain Oahu's natural beauty. She currently sells residential real estate and previously worked in the maritime industry.

Denise Soderholm, Advisor

Denise grew up in Mesa, AZ and moved to Honolulu in 1992. She joined TOC's Board in 2003 as Assistant Treasurer and then served as Treasurer for 3 years and Vice President for 2 years before becoming President in 2009. Initially, Denise joined the Board at the urging of her late Mother-in-Law, Jane Morris, a long-time member of the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle. She remained committed because TOC represents a mission she believed in. Denise and her husband, Erik, own and operate Soderholm Bus & Mobility. They sell and service buses, wheelchair accessible vehicles and auto adaptive driving aids. They have two children, Gus and Gabi, who spent many afternoons in the TOC conference room and share a passion for environmental issues.

Gordon Aoyagi, Director

Gordon serves on the Manoa Outdoor Circle Branch Board and has been a Hawai'i resident since 2015. He has over 30 years of mainland local government experience. He was a public transit manager in CO, CT, OR and MD. In Montgomery County, MD, he served as senior assistant to the County manager, MCFRS Fire Administrator, and Homeland Security Director. Retiring in 2008, he consulted in Public Safety. Service on nonprofit boards included the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the Washington DC chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese American Veterans Association, and the Colorado College Alumni Association Council. He is a Vietnam veteran and has a BA from Colorado College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado. An environmentalist at heart, Gordon is eager to work with and learn more from TOC.

Board Bios Continued on Reverse

Cheryl Chesnut, Director

Cheryl and her family moved to Hawai'i from Washington State in 1970. After returning from college, she made Hawai'i her home, living previously on Maui and Oahu. Working in the interior design field has been her passion and career for over 35 years. An avid gardener, with little knowledge, just a love of digging in the dirt, she has had many a vegetable and herb garden. In 1998 Cheryl moved to Kamuela where she and her family became a part of the community as her daughter attended the Parker School. It has been her privilege to give back to the community by volunteering at the Hawai'i Island Animal Shelter, the St. James Thrift Store, and the Waimea Outdoor Circle. Over the last eight years Cheryl has had a fun and rewarding experience taking her grandchildren to the Ulu La'au Nature Park. By joining The Outdoor Circle Board, she hopes to learn, grow and contribute to its many great causes statewide.

Joan Gossett, Director

A TOC member since 1998, Joan has held various positions with the North Shore Outdoor Circle including recording secretary, Vice President and Co-President. She has been in the event production business since 1983, with a degree in drama and theatre from the University of Hawai'i. Joan was born and raised on Oahu and now resides on the island of Hawai'i, where she is recording secretary for the East Hawai'i Outdoor Circle branch. She believes TOC is a critical agency for helping educate the public in our planetary fight against climate crisis, using the planting and caring of trees for carbon sequestration.

Maureen Murphy, Director

Maureen moved to Hawai'i after earning a BS in Ornamental Horticulture in 1978. In 1990 she started Horticultural Consultants International, a landscaping company that specializes in beautification projects, tree pruning and consulting. She is a Certified Arborist, a Registered Consulting Arborist, a Qualified Tree Risk Assessor, and a landscape contractor. In addition to a BS, she holds a Master's degree in Horticulture and a degree in Fruit Science. Maureen was introduced to The Outdoor Circle in 1980 and has been involved ever since. She has held various positions in several different branches, depending upon where she was living at the time. In the mid 2000's she served on the TOC Board as Vice President and is excited to serve once again. She currently serves as the President of the Kaua'i Branch.

Jennie Martinez Peterson, Director

Jennie worked at the Hawai'i Nature Center where she served as Environmental Education Program Manager, Curriculum Specialist, and Natural Historian. She was a consultant on the development of several community environmental education programs including Lyon Arboretum and the Manoa Heritage Center. Jennie has participated in the development of comprehensive Environmental Education curricula and other teacher trainings for the Department of Education. She has also served on DLNR's Na Ala Hele Advisory Board and the Hawai'i Environmental Education Alliance.