

Andrea Cherniak-Tyson

It's been an honor to be on the NCNCA BOD and a founding member of the DEI committee the past 2 years. The experience has revealed the enormous complexity to support and grow amateur bike racing in our region, as a wholly volunteer run non-profit organization. We are in a changing landscape- financially, socially, practically. But the time is incredibly ripe for restructuring for this new reality, learning from the past and bravely moving toward future.

If re-elected I'd like to see us get back to this foundational root purpose of our organization and establish Guiding Principals to gauge every single action as a board. Then continue to refine Goal Oriented systems and procedures that can turn that purpose and vision into a reality. How does the NCNCA do that?

- As a member of the USAC Task Force to reimagine the Local Associations- i.e.NCNCA- I'm pushing for much more meaningful and actionable solutions in the USAC partnership- that relationship has become dysfunctional.
- With dwindling income resources, prioritize financial pipelines and finalize the 501C3 status for tax benefits.
- It is paramount to build a reciprocal collaborative relationship with our members- teams/clubs. Capitalize on the wealth of skillset, knowledge and connections working as a team toward the collective goal.
- To help broaden racer pool and volunteer base, bring into the fold other pertinent bike organizations and support other disciplines than Road, honoring uniqueness of all but utilize their appeal and successful strategies.
- Support promoters with their daunting task with innovative solutions to making events financially viable, well attended and enjoyable. Planning for the race season in conjunction with other local events and consider fewer races to build up excitement to those still on the calendar.
- Emphasis on clearer internal organization and communication, stronger community messaging and social marketing to build up positive welcoming environment.
- Continue to build up new ridership by supporting youth initiatives and development pathways to NorCal/Nevada's intimidating high caliber talent, making the peloton safer and bringing up racers through pipeline.
- Continue work with DEI/Rider Support in helping to understand then lower the true hurdles for women and underserved population sby creating space for all to thrive and excel.

We have made strides, it's been messy but I believe with diverse perspectives, dedicated visionaries and more community buy-in we can not only be successful locally but become the new paradigm of bike racing in America- making NCNCA THE destination for fun, safe and seriously competitive bike racing!

Barry Padilla

I'll be brief. If elected to the Board of Directors of NCNCA I will work diligently with those on the board, and the members, to ensure safe and competitive racing is available to cyclists in Northern California and Nevada. I will also promote NCNCA participation in outreach and development programs in order to enhance our sport with young riders and their families, and within disadvantaged communities. By increasing interest and participation in cycling, we ensure larger and stronger fields and provide economic viability to race promoters and their sponsors.

If elected, I assure you I will use every means available to educate and bring myself up to speed on past, current and future matters being addressed by NCNCA. Thank you for your consideration.

Cheers,

Barry Padilla

Charlotte Hart

Hello!

I am excited to be running for a position with the NCNCA board. I have been racing in the district for over 15 years after racing with Tibco and Vanderkitten during the 2006-2008 seasons. I have enjoyed racing with our NCNCA women on a variety of crit and road race courses throughout California and Nevada. I am passionate about women's racing and look forward to working together to create innovative solutions to increase participation of women. I am a mom to an active 11 year old son, Rylan. We love adventuring in the high Sierra. I have been teaching high school economics, political science and Sierra Nevada for 17 years. I also run two outdoor clubs and guide kids on adventures all over the Sierra. I'm also a current union representative for my campus, and have been for several years. I keep getting elected to things!

Gabby Zacks

Hi NCNCA! My name is Gabby Zacks, and there's a good chance we've already crossed paths at a road/track/cx/gravel event since I started racing in the district in 2018! Some of my fondest memories are from NCNCA races with NCNCA people, and it would be a great honor to give back to the organization that has provided me with so much. I have a *lot* of ideas, and wanted to share a few of my top priorities if I were to be elected to the board:

- Create a unified NCNCA vision and roadmap to reverse declining participation and revenue trends
- Optimize the racing calendar to prioritize high-quality, high-participation races. I'm an engineer, so you bet this process includes a Pugh chart!
- Standardize categories for all district races, with a focus on equity and building the sport
- Collaborate with promoters to introduce novel race formats. I have ideas to promote a more welcoming AND competitive atmosphere, and will *gladly* talk your ear off if you're interested in them!

In addition to racing my bike, I've spent the last few years learning how to make an impact in cycling. My "industry" experience includes:

- Organizing the 2022 NCNCA Women's Series, including coordinating with race promoters, sponsors, and volunteers, social media marketing, and developing a new prize structure to boost participation
- Founding member of the NCNCA DEI and Rider Support committee since 2020, implementing an on-the-ground rider support program at races and incident reporting procedures
- 2021 board member of the San Jose Bicycle Club, where I drove a major update to the Code of Conduct to promote inclusion and sportsmanship

I am very familiar with the NCNCA's organizational procedures, so my goal is to hit the ground running and immediately get to work on bold initiatives to improve cycling for everyone in the district! While I can't promise to get everything done in one year, I will promise listen, learn, and advocate for the future of the NCNCA.

Haley Nielsen

Dear NCNCA,

Last year at this time, I wrote to you about how I was excited to represent our community with enthusiasm, competency, and respect for all. Today, with one year's board service under my belt, I hope to continue to serve with those same values.

This past year has been one of learning and development. Our relationship with USAC has changed. The pandemic restrictions are lifted and events are back in full swing. Cycling is different than it was three years ago, for better and worse. Our community is looking beyond

road, and beyond business as usual.

If re-elected, I will continue working towards a sustainable NCNCA. I'm working to submit our paperwork to move from 501c4 to 501c3 status so that we can more easily receive donations that will be tax deductible. I also plan to work with our Communications and Fundraising committee more closely to start a newsletter (apparently NCNCA had one back in the day!). It's clear our riders are hungry for more transparent communication around upcoming races, category options, and just what the heck NCNCA does. I also plan to keep robust conversations with (and demands on) USAC going as a contributing member of the USAC Local Association Task Force.

My work on your board is not done. I ask for your support and your vote to continue working for the sport that I love and the community that consistently brings joy and camaraderie like nothing else can.

Ride on,

Haley Nielsen
Director, Eclipse Racing

Helena Gilbert-Snyder

Hello NCNCA community,

I am running for a Board position this year because I want to strengthen road racing in our district and address accessibility and engagement from groups and individuals that have historical low participation in our races.

I started cycling as a senior in high school, joining my school's NICA team, and I now race at the professional level in the U.S. across mountain, gravel, and road. I am an active advocate for the sport, speaking at the Get Kids on Bikes fundraiser, joining the Hear Her Sports podcast, and coaching for local NICA teams. This past year I spearheaded the NCNCA initiative to equalize race times and payouts for Women's and Men's P/1/2/3 criterium races.

As a member of the Board, I will seek out and listen to the voices of any individual. I'll search for solutions and changes that will improve the NCNCA community for everyone in the district. I'll represent this community with enthusiasm, humor, and the belief that there's always progress to be made.

Thank you for your consideration,
Helena Gilbert-Snyder

Jason Grefrath

I would be honored to be re-elected to the NCNCA Board of Directors.

Over the past year, in addition to regular board duties, I organized and presented market data to the BoD. I analyzed USAC license data and NCNCA racer data, uncovering participation trends by age and category. As a result, the board and promoters were able to make more informed decisions to increase racer participation and satisfaction. Additionally, I created and implemented the NCNCA rider satisfaction survey, with the goal of shaping NCNCA races for 2023 and beyond.

About me:

NCNCA races, group rides, mentors, and competitors were critical in my development as a racer. I progressed from a bright-eyed nervous and strong Cat 5 racing at Leesville in 2008 to a Cat 1 who has won his share of races, competing and finishing well at Elite and Masters National races.

I want to enable the same type of development and growth in our district. I also want to enable racers who have no interest in being a higher category rider, who race because it's a fun environment where they can be competitive at their level. Racing should be everyone's version of fun.

I have experience leading organizations and have a somewhat diverse background as a race promoter and a participant. I am the current President of ThirstyBear Cycling Masters Racing Team. In 2020, I ran a weekly 15 race distanced time trial series during COVID. I have raced over 350 races and have been a member of five different teams during my 14 years of racing.

I promise to be a champion of excellent bike racing in the NCNCA, excellent not just by my estimation, but by the estimation of everyone who participates.

Thank you for your support.

Jason Grefrath

John Marengo

I would be honored to serve on the board for the first time and will do my best to support USA Cycling.

As for me, I got back into racing at the age of 53 after a 34-year drought. I raced briefly (one-year) back in the time of Greg Lemond when I was 19. I remained a fan of cycling through the years and came back to competing after I injured or wore out limbs and ligaments needed for other sports. Cycling is my lifestyle now and I love it.

I will soon be an official senior citizen (65 race-age next year, aka “old man”) and retired from work so I have the time needed for this position. One thing I’ve noticed since coming back to racing is an appreciable drop-off in race participation during that time, especially in the younger age categories. It seems the Men’s 50+, and 60+ races are usually well attended but we need the younger men and women out there racing to keep races viable for the sponsors. No doubt the Pandemic has had a negative effect but there is no reason we can’t get back to pre-pandemic times or even those glory days of my youth. I’m for examining the data and doing what is needed to bring out women, younger racers (under 40), as well as keeping the older guys engaged. I’d appreciate your support.

Logan Jensen

A Plan to Lower the Barriers to Entry in Cycling within the NCNCA

In bike racing, the focus of attention is on the rider that wins the race, but the thrill of that win depends on the size of the peloton behind. The high barriers to entry inherent to bike racing limit the size of our peloton and make it much less accessible than other sports. Most races are expensive, located multiple hours driving distance away from population centers, and result in negative outcomes for beginners that dissuade them from racing again. These barriers are particularly exclusionary to women, minorities, and disadvantaged groups.

As a candidate for the NCNCA board I propose a few simple changes to how the NCNCA organizes, promotes, and supports bike racing in our district that would make bike racing cheaper to participate in, easier to access, and more engaging for participants and spectators. These changes include expanding and supporting weeknight practice races across the NCNCA to increase new rider skills prior to competing in sanctioned events, securing sponsors for the Best All-Around Rider and Best All-Around Team competitions to subsidize race entry fees for new racers, and developing new forms of engaging social media content to spotlight diverse racer's cycling journeys.

As a first year racer and in the NCNCA, full time Public Administration student, and the volunteer social media manager for the Monterey Bay Racing Team and Sand City Criterium, I am uniquely qualified to understand the barriers that exist to new racers, propose policy and operational changes that can effectively address them, and ensure that those changes result in the long term development cycling in Northern California and Northern Nevada. If elected, I will dedicate myself to growing the size of our peloton, making sure that no rider falls off the back, and ensuring that more of our riders are in a position to go for the win.

Signed,

Logan Jensen

Logan Jensen
Monterey Bay Racing Team
Volunteer Social Media Manager

Matt Martinez

My goal as a board member is to support the bicycle racing community at large. As well as assist race directors in hosting quality consistent events. As a board member, I will help with keeping ridership growth a priority and shall focus on making the races a positive experience for all participants. I plan to work with other board members to keep NCNCA one of the most active and productive associations in the country. I will keep spreading the word to the bicycle enthusiast community and share what else is possible on the bicycle.

I have been involved in bicycle racing community for over 30 years, as a racer, official, and promoter.

May Liu

Dear NCNCA Members,

I respectfully request your vote for a seat on the NCNCA Board, to broaden my contributions in growing our community and further elevating our tremendous local talent. It's hard to imagine becoming what you can't see. I am unequivocally committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within our sport. I believe there is a place for every rider, and I seek to improve and enhance experiences for all demographics.

Born and raised in the Bay Area, my love affair with two wheels began on motorcycles. I started racing pedal bikes in 2014, largely due to the encouragement of fellow racers and riders in the NCNCA community. Those interactions have been unforgettable. Since then, I've continued to grow and evolve as a racer with some notable achievements. My proudest race achievement to date, has been successfully leading and developing the first Terun Elite women's squad. I bring my personal understanding and perspective from my own race experiences within the NCNCA and from many national-level events and championships throughout the country.

Professionally, I have been an educator for over 15 years. I have taught in a variety of roles, both in and out of the classroom, locally and internationally. I currently serve as a program director and instructional coach for a nonprofit focusing on advancing scholar outcomes in under-resourced communities. I connect and collaborate daily with community partners to provide resources that empower youth and provide meaningful and sustained change. I am adept at doing a lot, with very little, in constantly changing and challenging landscapes. I would like to apply my thoughtful, solutions-oriented approach and collaborative mindset in retaining ridership, and creating and promoting pathways for racers of any age.

I am committed to supporting the growth and development of our racing community in THE most competitive district. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to getting to work!

In community,

May Liu

Terun Elite Women's Team Captain
2022 & 2021 NCNCA W1/2 Best All-Around Rider
2022 Masters Track National Champion (35+ Team Pursuit)
2021 Masters Road National Champion (40-44)

Melissa Avery

NCNCA Board,

During the past four years, I have been involved in the NCNCA junior racing scene learning all the ins and outs of bike racing. After traveling all over the US this past year, I'm excited to share what I have learned and ready to implement new ideas with our growing Junior field in the NCNCA. I am willing work with others on the Board in any capacity and will strive to continue growing our Juniors Fields in all cycling disciplines, not just in numbers but in building a meaningful community.

I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering my time on the NCNCA Board, I strive to continue working on building a strong relationship with teams/clubs, USA Cycling and race promoters and other organizations that will better our racing community in the NCNCA. I believe we can grow as a district if we invest our efforts in our Juniors, supporting the parents and creating a community that is welcoming to all levels of Junior Racers.

In the following year, I will work towards streamlining all NCNCA communications on our website, calendars, social media and events. I will also work towards supporting our local USA Cycling officials, new race promoters and help any team that wants to create a Juniors Team.

I am a longtime advocate for getting children and youth active in the outdoors with board and volunteer positions on national organizations such as the American Hiking Society and Latino Outdoors, which serves the local community in the SF Bay Area.

I am also currently the Bicycle Representative for the Mobility Commission of the City of Fremont, which advocates for better cycling infrastructure and community bicycle education programs in Fremont. I believe my passion for getting juniors healthy, active, and having fun on bikes would make me a great fit for the Junior Representation for the NCNCA Board.

Sincerely,

Melissa Avery

Mike Hardaway

I have been a board member off and on since 2013 and an official, mostly in Northern California and Nevada, for a little longer.

I see a major opportunity, and challenge, coming for American bicycle racing, and thus USAC and especially NCNCA, in the return of the Summer Olympics to the U.S. and California. After being gone for more than a generation, they're back: Los Angeles in 2028.

I believe having the "home team advantage" will inspire many talented riders to achieve very high levels of competitiveness, just like it did in 1984 (Los Angeles) and 1996 (Atlanta). This is a chance to begin a renaissance for our sport.

1984 was the first time a women's road race was an Olympic event and it gave the world stars like Connie Carpenter and Rebecca Twigg. As a result, racing nationwide started a twenty year build-up with a huge increase in women's participation. Like in 1984, I expect 2028 will inspire many women to start racing, or to race and achieve more, because of the attention paid to the Olympic build-up.

There are junior and young adult riders right now in California who have the talent to be part of the Olympic team in 2028. All they need is the dream and the opportunity to develop that talent into world-class competitiveness over the next six years. One thing NCNCA already does already, as does USAC, is give incentives to race directors to have women's elite races as long and hard as the men's races, with equal prize lists. There is more we can do.

As a board member, I see my part in this as helping ensure that the opportunities remain available and that riders with the dream know that all they need to bring is dedication. Please return me to the NCNCA board so I can continue this task.

Robert Leibold

I would like to continue serving as a director on the NCNCA Board for 2023. The organization is in the process of changing and maturing, and I would like to help provide continuity, having served on the Board in a number of positions over the past 24 years. If re-elected to the Board, I would like to try for the Secretary position again, but will be happy to serve in any capacity. I also plan to put more time into the Safety and Policy committees.

As a race director, I will continue to recuse myself from voting in decisions that financially affect my business, though I plan to participate in discussions about them.

I think we need to have a Board and an organization with more information for the members and the racing community. All of our minutes and decisions should be posted on the website, forums, groups, etc, and our meeting places and times should be posted well in advance. I also think it is important for the organization to meet physically each time, provided we can do it safely, as well as utilizing whatever webcasts/zoom meetings are also available.

Will Hakim

Dear NCNCA Members,

I am running for a seat on the NCNCA Board of Directors in order to help grow the sport of bike racing. I started cycling in 2017 and racing in 2019; with the help of many others along the way I fell in love with our fantastic sport and grew to appreciate the transformative impact it can make. By joining the NCNCA Board, I hope to provide other aspiring cyclists with a similar experience.

This year, I have worked hard to promote women's racing. In June, I worked with the captains of the men's elite teams [to speak out in support](#) of providing additional women's fields at Watsonville Criterium. In August, we spoke out again in favor of more equitable scheduling for women's racing at the Sand City Criterium. If elected, I hope to continue this work by setting out a bold and inclusive vision for women's racing in 2023.

I have also been lucky to serve on the 2022 Board of Directors for my home club, Alto Velo. As an AV board member, I helped organize the Pescadero Road Race - one of the best-attended road races this season. I've become familiar with the logistical, operational, and financial challenges that race promoters face and I hope to bring some of those learnings to the NCNCA in 2023.

I would be proud to serve the NCNCA in 2023 and hope to have your vote as we together build a bigger, better, and more inclusive racing community.

Will Hakim

Wilson Gorrell

I've been an avid road and mountain bike racer since 2006 and have experienced the highest as well as the lowest participating in cycling. My wife and I recently sold our bike stores in Folsom and El dorado hills and understand the struggles that face many businesses and organizations. I would like to bring a fresh perspective to the NCNCA to improve rider participation and experience.