

Elections Committee Report

To: Pacific Seabird Group Executive Council
From: Katie O'Reilly and Jane Dolliver, Elections Committee Co-Coordinators
Lara Brenner, Member, Elections Committee
Date: 13 February 2024

PSG Elections Committee Report 2024

A. Elections overview and results

The PSG Elections for the 2024-2025 Executive Council closed on Friday, February 9 at 11:59PM. The candidates in bold type below are the membership recommended candidates to be approved by vote of the Executive Council on Tuesday, 20 February 2024. No write-in candidates were listed.

Chair-elect

Dan Barton

Treasurer

Jenni Learned

Julie Skogland

Student Representative

Alyssa Eby

Aspen Ellis

Sara Wang

Alaska and Russia Regional Representative

Caitlin Marsteller

Anne Schaefer

Sam Stark

Asia and Oceania Regional Representative

Ariel Micaiah Heswall

Europe and Africa Regional Representative

Ruth Dunn

Jérôme Fort

Liesbeth van Hassel

Northern California Regional Representative

Danielle Devincenzi

Corinne Gibble

Sarah Ann Thompson

B. Summary of the 2024 elections process:

Ballots sent 1/11/2024 and elections closed 2/9/24. There were no reminders sent this year.

C. Summary of the 2022 voter turnout

1. 37% of eligible voters with a current email address submitted a ballot, across all regions. This is lower turnout than 2023 (54%) because coordinators did not send out multiple reminder (minimum 2) to achieve this threshold. The Elections Committee's goal is 50%

turnout, every year however this results in several additional hours of volunteer time which were not possible in 2024.

2. Reporting by region: Alaska/Russia 42%, Asia/Oceania 28%, Canada 36%, Europe/Africa 33%, Non-Pacific U.S. States 35%, Northern California 34%, Southern California 28%, Washington/Oregon 52%.

D. Summary of voter comments

1. Candidate recommendations:
 - “Any of the candidates for treasurer and AK regional rep would make great Chairs too!”
 - “Nomination for Chair: Dr. Mayumi Arimitsu, USGS Alaska Science Center”
 - “Stella Solasz, Student Representative”
 - “Northern California Rep – Jessie Beck”
2. Elections process comments - positive:
 - “Great work securing a selection of candidates for (almost) each position”
 - “Thank you for all you do! Keep up the great work!”
 - “Big BIG thank you, PSG Election committee”
 - “Thank you for your work. The survey monkey method seemed to work smoothly.”
 - “Awesome work once again. Ballot was perfect.”
 - “Thank you, Elections Committee! There is a great slate of candidates this year – hard choices”
 - “This was very and straight forward.”
 - “Thank you for finding such wonderful candidates this year (and every year)!”
3. Elections process comments – negative:
 - “I said it before and I’ll say it again. We need a Chair from Mexico, but someone who can and will be up to the task. I have before produced 2 names (but I know there are more): Eduardo Palacios and Yuliana Bedolla [*JD note: Coordinators reached out to both of these nominations via email (in Spanish!); one did not reply, one replied a month later*]
4. Elections comments – neutral
 - “As a note, Verena Gill is stepping down as manager of the PSG listserv and we desperately need to find someone to fill this important position. Any help is appreciated!”

E. Summary of time committed by the Elections Committee

1. Prospective candidate emails/Zooms/Elections Committee meetings ~17 hours
2. Candidate bios compile ~2 hours
3. Ballot set-up and QA/QC ~2 hours
4. Final report and updates to EXCO, committee members ~1 hour
5. Total time estimated ~22 hours

F. Recommendations for future elections

1. We began to ask for help with this committee in 2020. We are now in urgent need of volunteers for this committee. **Jane would like to step down for the 2025 elections season** (see B and C, above). Desired prerequisites for committee members include a) deep history with the PSG community and/or exceptional networking and online research/investigative capabilities, b) desire to elevate and increase participation from persons historically underrepresented in PSG leadership c) endlessly positive and dogged in their electronic communications d) free time, especially Oct-Feb.
2. We welcome participation by EXCO members who are not running in 2025, and/or are stepping off EXCO, but would like to continue to serve PSG. Please reach out! psg_elections@pacificseabirdgroup.org