**Cheryl Talbert – Candidate for Branch Chair**

I am very excited to offer my name as a candidate for the Foothills Branch Chair position. I started with the Foothills branch in 2009 as a hike and backpack leader and soon took on hike and backpack committee chair roles for Foothills, helping to initiate our flagship ‘Backpacking Building Blocks’ course which has introduced backpacking to over 250 Mountaineers and significantly grown our trip offerings and our backpacking community. I’ve fostered active collaboration between branches in updating minimum standards and building a strong and consistent hike/backpack leader development, certification and recognition program. Beginning in 2012 I became a Mountaineers Global Adventures leader and committee member, leading international treks and backpacks for the club and later helping to update our policies and procedures based on principles of outdoor risk management. In 2013 I became the Foothills representative on the Mountaineers Board of Directors, and participated in a task force to improve collaboration between branch volunteers, Mountaineers staff and the board. Lately I’ve been working to initiate more “gateway” hiking and backpacking programs for beginner families and individuals to build an active outdoor lifestyle and a love and respect for wild places.

I come from a family that spent much of its time enjoying nature, camping and hiking in wild places all over the U.S. I finished a graduate degree in Forestry in 1983 and came immediately to the Pacific Northwest where I worked for 30 years in the forest industry, retiring in 2012. My career overseeing a large business operation allowed me to develop skills in leadership, organizational communication, business management, safety and risk management, and nurturing of diverse people and teams toward clear stretch goals. My husband and I live in Issaquah where we raised two now-grown children and now much enjoy the outdoors, our dogs, a big garden and our Seattle sports teams and particularly our 3 ½ year old grandson!

I believe that these experiences and many others prepare me be a strong leader, champion and facilitator for the dynamic, innovative, volunteer- and member- focused community that Foothills branch is becoming. I would be proud to serve as your branch chair.

**Russ Immel - Candidate for Vice-Chair**

It would be an honor to serve the Foothills Branch as Vice-Chair, to work with the Chair and support our members, branch activities, leaders and volunteers. I joined The Mountaineers in 2009 with the goal of climbing Mount Rainier for my 50th. In 2010, I saw that dream partially come true. We were turned around in an early spring storm, and a few days later a climber was killed in an avalanche at our exact turnaround spot. That primal, life-changing experience energized me on a course of learning and giving back to The Mountaineers.

Since joining, I have completed Alpine Scrambling, AIARE 1, AIARE 2, Navigation, Alpine First Aid, Basic and Backcountry Snowshoeing, Winter Camping, Outdoor Leadership, GPS Navigation and B3. I have served on the Branch Leadership Council and other committees as an active volunteer for the past two years. At present I serve as Snowshoeing Committee Chair, course leader, instructor, trip leader and leadership mentor. This past year, I organized the all-branch Snowshoeing summit and facilitated multiple NWAC Avalanche Awareness seminars for The Mountaineers. I have previous experience as a QA Manager of a software firm, responsible for organization level workflow solutions, a small-business owner, project manager for our home-owner's association, stay-at-home father of three outstanding, college-aged children and supportive spouse of a Microsoft Director. As Vice-Chair, I look forward to working with our existing and upcoming leaders to build an even more effective branch, and I promise to bring energy, passion and enthusiasm to the position.

**Dick Lambe – Candidate for Board of Directors Representative**

I am running for Foothills Director to the Mountaineers Board. This position represents the Foothills branch on the Club Board, which is responsible for overall Club guidance. If elected, I would work to ensure the interests of our branch are considered in decisions of the Board. Also, since most of the current Board members are not active activity leaders, I would represent leader’s interests and concerns to the Board. As a former Foothills Safety Officer, I will also work to make sure safety is a priority.

I originally joined the Club around 1980 to take the Basic Refresher Climbing Course (no longer offered), and rejoined the club in 2000. During that 20 year hiatus, I was actively involved as our troop outdoor activity committee chair and leading Boy Scout backpacking, hiking, canoeing and winter camping trips with my 3 sons. Since rejoining the Mountaineers, I have taken the Alpine Scrambling, Avalanche Awareness, Avalanche Level 1, Glacier Skiing/Snowboarding & Crevasse Rescue, Ski/Snowboard Mountaineering Course and Wilderness First Aid Courses. I qualified for Basic Sea Kayaking by equivalency. For the last 3 years, I was the Foothills Safety Officer. I am a Mountaineers leader for backpacking, hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing. In the last couple of years I’ve led 8 backpacking trips, 5 ski trips, and 1 winter camping (snowshoe) trip, and assisted or mentored other trips. I retired in 2013, which gives me more time for the outdoor activities I love (55 skiing days last season!). Before retirement, I was a construction lawyer for 34 years.

I would be glad to serve as your representative to the Mountaineers Board.

**Chris Soverel – Candidate for Branch Treasurer**

I am an avid outdoor enthusiast who loves downhill skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, back packing, sailing, fly fishing, and riding her horse Nicki - and traveling and cooking, too.  I joined the Mountaineers in 2015 and wish I had joined a long time ago.  Since joining I have completed Mountaineers courses in wilderness navigation, wilderness first aid, AIARE 1, snowshoe, backcountry snowshoe, backpacking, and sailing.  I’ve met some wonderful people along the way and made some fabulous new friends.  I am currently the Foothills Branch Treasurer, having served for about a year.  As for my day job, I am a finance and accounting professional and run my own company, serving as the finance & accounting director for 2 clients.  Prior to this I was a finance director at Starbucks Coffee for many years, the CFO of a restaurant chain, and got my start after college in commercial banking.  I also serves on 3 boards.  I have a BA in Economics from the University of Washington, a graduate certificate in accounting from the UW, and have attended executive education courses at Harvard and the Center for Creative Leadership.  I live on Mercer Island and have a son who is all grown up and studying engineering at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

**Richard Bell – Candidate for At Large Council member Position 1**

I joined the Mountaineers in 2016 after returning to the US from a five year assignment in Europe, with the goal of making some new friends and getting outdoors in the Pacific Northwest. I have been a life-long outdoor enthusiast after hiking down a goat trail and spending a week camped at the bottom of the Grand Canyon in high school. Since joining the mountaineers, I’ve taken Alpine Scrambling, Avalanche Awareness, Wilderness First Responder, Wilderness Navigation, Basic and Backcountry Snowshoeing and I’m looking forward to AIARE 1 this winter. I am a Hike and Backpack leader, and when not outdoors with the Mountaineers I run the trails and scuba dive in Puget Sound.

Professionally, I am a high-tech executive and currently run my own consulting business and start-up. With a passion for mentoring and developing people, I am hoping to bring those skills to the Mountaineers and launch leadership and instructor programs to help take us to the next level. I hold a BA from Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from the University of Washington, Seattle.

With over 20 years of management experience, I’d be honored to serve as am At Large Council Member for the Foothills Branch!

**Amanda Albright – Candidate for At Large Council member position 2**

I joined the Mountaineers in 2015, but wasn’t able to be actively involved until just this year.  In that short amount of time, I’ve become a Hiking Leader, Backpacking Leader, and Qualified Youth Leader. I can’t wait to learn more and get more involved!

Growing up in the Midwest, I casually enjoyed hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, and kayaking/canoeing.  I spent 4 years volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center/animal shelter.  Before discovering the Mountaineers, I led hikes, backpacking trips, and even started a beginner friendly running program for Meetup.  I truly enjoy sharing my love of the outdoors with beginners and families!

Professionally, I have a Bachelor’s in Organizational Leadership.  I was responsible for managing accreditations and writing/implementing international policy for a large, not-for-profit organization. I also enjoyed being involved with the company’s public (and internal) outreach programs- including designing and implementing a mentorship program.  I also became involved with event planning.  This included giving tours and visiting schools in hopes of sparking interest in STEM jobs and to teach safety concepts.  I even wrote and designed a comic book used by Disney for that purpose.

Currently, I live in Renton with my husband and our two toddlers. There is nothing I enjoy more than teaching them to love and respect our lands.  I thank you for your consideration for the position of At Large Council member for the Foothills branch!

**Ryan Dubberly – Candidate for At Large Council Position 3**

I joined the Mountaineers in early 2017 because, as someone new to the outdoors, I wanted to be part of an organization I could explore, learn, and teach with. In my time since joining, I have become a hike leader, become a qualified youth leader, signed up for the outdoor leadership class, have become active in the Foothills Council Meetings, scheduled to help teach Wilderness Navigation, evaluated for the Wilderness First Aid practical sessions, and pending a council vote, I have volunteered to be the Navigation Committee Chair for the Foothills branch to help expand the current offerings.

I have a history of volunteering within the community. I volunteered with the fire department for nearly ten years as a Firefighter/EMT, volunteered for harm reduction at music festivals for three years, and I have been an active member of Search and Rescue for the past year. I enjoy using my knowledge, skills, and experience to assist others in achieving their own goals and being involved in the subjects they're passionate about.

 I've always wanted to be active outdoors and climb. Earlier this year I decided to make that my goal. Since then, I've climbed all five Washington volcanoes and climbed many high peaks. In addition, I have learned to rock climb and rock lead, alpine climb, alpine scramble, and snowshoe. I am scheduled to take the basic alpine equivalency in October and I would like to teach at the basic alpine climbing classes and apply for the intermediate climbing program this year. I have enjoyed becoming and would like to remain, an active part of the outdoors community.

 Because of my passion for and interest in volunteering with many of the activities and courses offered by the Mountaineers such as climbing, scrambling, backpacking, first aid, and navigation, I feel I could help represent the interests of a broad range of Mountaineers members. I look forward to this year’s elections and a new chapter for the Foothills. I see many areas of growth for the Foothills, and I can't wait to see what we can achieve together.

**Steve LeBrun – Candidate for At Large Council Member Position #4**

I am a 15-year club member and have been involved with the Foothills branch for close to 10 years. The Mountaineers club and my club friends are a huge part of my overall quality of life. I have always sought ways to “give back” to the club and the branches through various club volunteering and financial contributions to the club.

In seeking an At-Large Council Position, my goal would be to contribute ideas and energy and my accumulated expertise, detailed below, to further the growth of the Foothills branch. This would involve working to better connect the branch to the eastside geographic communities it supports and helping ensure that the branch continues to offer activities and courses and special events that are meaningful to the membership. We also need to support our branch volunteer leaders and work to maintain a robust pipeline of new leaders and leaders-to-be. Foothills has been an innovative branch, and I want to be of help as we continue to look for new opportunities to meet the learning and outdoor activity needs of our branch membership, while ensuring that our current courses and classes and activities remain strong and are supported and enhanced.

* Club “Super Volunteer” 2014, 15, 16
* Mountaineer Peak Society Member 2014-present
* Branch Chair, Foothills Branch 2013-2017; member of club Branch Leadership Council
* Branch Service Award, Foothills Branch, 2012-13
* Snowshoe Committee Chair, Foothills, 2011-2016
* Hiking Committee Chair, Foothills, 2011-2015
* Hike, Backpack and Snowshoe activity/trip leader
* Course instructor or field trip leader (various dates) for: Basic Snowshoeing, Winter Camping, Conditioning Hiking Series and Basic Wilderness Travel (Seattle Branch), Navigation, Staying Found, Wilderness First Aid scenario nights, Lightweight Backpacking
* Graduate of: Alpine Scrambling, Wilderness First Responder, AIARE-1 Avalanche training, Naturalist course, Navigation, Backpacking, Winter Camping, etc.
* Event Coordinator for branch and club: Backcountry Film Festival; Mile, Mile & A Half film night, three through-hiker speaker engagements, etc.

**Danielle Graham, Candidate for At Large Council Position #5**

I joined the Mountaineers in 2016 after a move to the PNW from Vermont.  Since joining, I’ve taken courses in Skiing, Scrambling, Avalanche Safety, Exploring Nature, First Aid, Navigation, and Snowshoeing.  In addition to instructing in Snowshoe and Exploring Nature classes, I also am a Hike and Naturalist trip leader, a Qualified Youth Leader, and chair of the newly created Youth Committee for the Naturalist program.

I have a professional background in non-profits focused on natural resources and outdoor recreation, including the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and the Appalachian Mountain Club.  I was fortunate to live in Central Europe for 3 years where I led ski, hike, canoe, kayak, and rafting programs for U.S. military members and their dependents.  Past volunteer experiences have included being a Master Docent at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery and a Board Member for the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition, Green Mountain Athletic Association, Vermont Public Radio Community Association, and the Grand Ridge Elementary PTSA in Issaquah.

I have a [B.A.in](http://b.a.in/) International Development and a M.S. in Natural Resource Planning.  I live in sight of the Issaquah Alps with my family—husband, Andrew Pedersen, who loves to volunteer for WFA scenarios, and daughter, Lelia, a middle-schooler who joins in naturalist and weekday hikes with the Mountaineers.  I am excited to be a candidate to join the Foothills Branch Council as an At Large Council member!