TACOMA MOUNTAINEERS COUNCIL ELECTION

2017-2019 Term

**JIM PAXINOS**

Position: Council Chair (2nd Term)

I have had the honor of serving as Council Chair for the Tacoma Mountaineers since October of 2015 and as a member of Council since 2013.

After moving here from Phoenix, AZ in 2010, I joined the Tacoma Mountaineers in 2011, graduated from the Basic Climbing Course that same year then moved on to Intermediate Climbing shortly thereafter. I have been an active member of the Tacoma Mountaineers since then, providing leadership on the Branch Council, Basic and Intermediate Climbing Programs and other branch-related activities and events.

As a continuing Chair, my focus will be to honor and support the amazing programs and structures which have made the Tacoma Branch so successful and unified. I will also work with Council to ensure our branch is continually improving and growing, by offering programs and activities that are responsive to the needs of current members and the interests of potential members. Additionally, it’s imperative that we increase opportunities for members to become activity and branch leaders to ensure the continued vitality of our branch.

My professional background is a natural fit for serving as a Mountaineers’ leader and branch chair. I am currently an Educational Leadership Consultant for the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI). I provide coaching and organizational support to school district superintendents and principals across the state. Previously I was an assistant superintendent of public schools, district administrator, school principal and teacher.

I am passionate about being a Mountaineer and am honored to be part of this incredible organization.

**TROY MASON**

Position: Vice Chair

Early in life I learned to love the outdoors as a Boy Scout. Currently, my wife and I continue to enjoy the beauty of Washington together as avid hikers and backpackers.

I fell in love with climbing after twice attempting Mount Rainier as part of charity climbs with a guide service. Wanting to learn to climb self-sufficiency, I joined The Mountaineers to take part in the basic climbing course. In the following years, I completed the basic course as well as the sport and trad climbing courses. I enrolled in intermediate climbing in 2011, and I've since served on both the basic and intermediate committees. The last two years I've had the honor of sitting on the Tacoma Branch Council and I would enjoy nothing more than to help see projects through to their next stage by serving for another term.

**MICHAEL HOY**

Position: Treasurer

I began working in public accounting nine years ago and during my first busy season signed up for a guided attempt of Mt Rainier in an effort to balance the crazy hours I was working. While the climb did not result in a summit the experience had a major impact on my life and I couldn’t get the climbing bug out of my system. I continued to pursue guided climbs with increasing comfort and success and eventually signed up for, and graduated from, the Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course in 2013. Climbing does not come naturally for me and my experience in the course resulted in some of the most proud moments of my life. I feel an immense sense of gratitude to the organization and the many volunteers and feel that with my accounting background the Treasurer role is a natural way for me to give back.

I am currently a Senior Accounting Manager in the corporate office of the largest accounting firm based on the West Coast. I have been a licensed CPA in the State of Washington since 2009 and am a current member of the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants and American Institute of CPAs.

**RICK YASGER**

Position: Council Secretary

I have been with the Mountaineers since 2003.  I completed Alpine Scrambles that year, have been a Scrambles Instructor since 2004, completed Basic Climbing in 2009, and am currently actively working through the Intermediate Climbing program.  My volunteer activities also include 13 years having been vice president, treasurer, and president of Peninsula Neighborhood Association, a community-based environmental organization in Gig Harbor; treasurer and other roles with Tahoma Audubon since 2002, and treasurer of seven political campaigns including the Pierce Transit and Tim Farrell campaigns in 2011-12.

I am hoping to see continued building of relationships with the South Sound community as well as conservation organizations such as Audubon and Washington Trails.  It has been exciting being on the Mountaineers Board during the construction of our new Program Center and indoor & outdoor climbing walls and would like to continue serving in my role as Secretary.

**RICHARD LEVENSON**

Position: Council Member/Admin Division Chair

I am a 1973 transplant to Western Washington, having grown up and attended college out east. In 1978, I joined the Mountaineers, took the Basic Climbing Course of that era and then spent 30 years engaging in professional and family affairs and many outdoors explorations and adventures. In 2013 I rejoined the club, took the Basic Climbing Course of the modern era and was reintroduced to the disciplines and the excitement of climbing and to the remarkable people of Tacoma branch.

I am a long-time attorney focusing on real estate, commercial transactions and business organizations, with sidelines in charitable organizations, healthcare and much interesting miscellany. I am fortunate to have some skills and experience that will fit well with Council activities and I am committed to giving some energy back to Tacoma Branch in view of the many benefits received.

**JIM FELTUS**

Position: Tacoma Representative to the Mountaineers Board of Directors

Bio: I joined The Mountaineers in 1996 to re-learn Mountaineering through the basic climbing course. I was immediately struck and impressed with the level of dedication and passion The Mountaineers community had toward the natural world and teaching the many skills needed to safely move in a potentially hostile environment. These were people like me and I was hooked and wanted to give back. After finishing the basic climbing course, I took the intermediate climbing course, the navigation course, leadership courses, and other courses offered by The Mountaineers. I had the pleasure of serving as Branch Chair from 2004 to 2005.

I have helped teach the Decision Making seminar and have served on our Branch Council for several years. Along with Chuck Neudorf, I helped create the Sport Climbing course in Tacoma. In that same vein, with the help of Justin Canny at the Univ. of Puget Sound, I arranged to bring the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour to Tacoma through the sponsorship of The Mountaineers. Over the years I have helped teach in both the Basic and Intermediate Courses. Recently, I have helped oversee the construction of the new Program Center in Tacoma and was actively involved in the fundraising efforts directed at the completion of the Program Center. I still am an active climber. Currently I am serving on The Mountaineers Board of Directors as the Tacoma Representative, the Board Finance Committee and the Board Collaborations Committee. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve another term as the Tacoma Representative on The Mountaineers Board of Directors.