

LKOC Board of Directors Bios

At our General Membership Meeting, we elected our LKOC Board of Directors Officers for 2023-2024.
We thought you'd like to get to know them better!

Diane Harding, President

Diane has served as President of the LKOC since 2014, and on the Outdoor Circle Board of Directors in various capacities since 2008, currently as Outdoor Circle President. She also manages LKOC's website. Diane was born and raised in Kaneohe and has an Applied Mathematics degree from MIT. She is a retired software developer in the fields of geophysics, ocean science and seafloor mapping and has served as a University of Hawai'i Foundation Windward Community College Ambassador. Diane has lived in Kailua for the past 45 years, and she and her husband Joe are proud grandparents to 6 grandchildren.

Ken Curtis, Vice President

Ken grew up in the Boston area and graduated from Colby College in Waterville, Maine. After college he moved to Japan where he worked for over thirty-five years in the fields of real estate fund management, private equity investment, and aircraft finance. During this time, Ken and his family visited Hawaii many times and renewed their friendship with Diane Harding, through whom he became familiar with the mission of The Outdoor Circle. Ken and his wife Ikuko moved to Kailua and retired, and although they travel to Japan frequently to visit family and friends, they remain actively engaged in the Kailua community, and enjoy tennis and golf.

Teddi Baumgartner, Recording Secretary

Teddi has served as our LKOC Vice President since 2016 and is now moving into the Recording Secretary position. Teddi is also our Communications Chair and is responsible for creating our wonderful twice-yearly Newsletter, as well as putting out all our LKOC press releases. She is an excellent editor, and our board members frequently rely on her editing skills before we send out testimony and other missives. Teddi was born in Honolulu and raised in Kailua. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and taught school for many years all over the world and the US. She and her husband Craig retired to Kailua in 2010. Her late mother Betty Raun was a long-time supporter of LKOC and the Outdoor Circle.

Kathleen Bryan, Treasurer

Kathleen has previously served as Treasurer on the Outdoor Circle Board of Directors and is currently serving as their Nominating Committee Chair. She has been our LKOC Treasurer since 2014 and has 30 years of financial experience and retired as Vice President and Manager of Financial Planning from the Bank of Hawai'i. Kathleen makes fused glass and jewelry and loves hula and tending the lovely tropical plants in her garden. She and her husband Richard, who is actively involved with the restoration of the Waikalua-Loko Fishpond on Kaneohe Bay, are enjoying their retirement surrounded by their multi-generational family and friends.

Nani Vermillion, Corresponding Secretary

Nani has been our Corresponding Secretary since 2018, and is our social media guru, administering our online Facebook and Instagram pages. She and her husband Dan, who served on the Kailua Neighborhood Board, are active in the community where they are raising their two young boys. Nani has a degree in Urban Planning and Development from USC and currently works from home. She was raised in Waimea, on the Big Island, where her mother, Cheryl Langton, is the President of the Waimea Outdoor Circle. We are grateful to have Nani on our LKOC Board, and to see her continue in the Outdoor Circle tradition.

Francine Mendes, Assistant Treasurer

Francine has been an enthusiastic LKOC member and is currently our Assistant Treasurer. Francine grew up in Manoa and has lived in Kailua for years where she and her late husband Ronald ran a screen business. She is active in tennis and pickle ball, loves golf and world travel mostly to third-world countries, and has strong ties to the Kailua community. Francine is also our official "LKOC mailwoman", diligently collecting and distributing LKOC mail on a weekly basis.

Margaret Brezel, Advisor

Margaret has been an active LKOC member since she and her late husband David moved to Kailua in 2002. She has been a dedicated volunteer in LKOC's "Learning to Grow" program at WCCC over the years, mentoring the students at our plant nursery on the prison grounds. She also spearheaded several tree planting projects at our local

schools, including Lanikai Elementary School. She became an Advisor on our board in 2019, and LKOC welcomes her input and insight.

Leigh Prentiss, Advisor

Leigh has served on our LKOC Board for many years, serving as President in years past. She is currently our Signs Chair and has been ever vigilant in keeping illegal outdoor advertising signage under control in our community. She has been an Advisor on our board since 2016. Leigh and her husband Chuck, who is a past Neighborhood Board President and current President of Hawaii's Thousand Friends, have, for decades, been actively engaged in promoting responsible urban development in Kailua as well as the protection of Kawainui Marsh. Her input on public affairs issues has been invaluable.

Paula Ress, Advisor

Paula has been an enthusiastic member of The Outdoor Circle's Board of Directors as well as the LKOC Board of Directors for more than 30 years, serving as LKOC President in the past, and most recently as our able Recording Secretary. She currently serving as an Advisor. Paula and her husband Bob are long-time adopters of a small coconut park at the entrance to Kailua, active workers in the landscape and outreach at Kailua United Methodist Church, are on the board of the Kalaheo High School Foundation, and she became a certified Citizen Forester for a tree inventory project on Oahu. Paula brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to our board.

Lyn Turner, Advisor

Lyn has been on our LKOC board for many years, serving as President as well as Treasurer, and also as our excellent Town Party Chair for 16 years. She has been an Advisor on our board since 2015. Lyn and her husband Jim, who was past Treasurer of LKOC, are active members in the Kailua Community, enjoying tennis and walking, and now a comfortable retirement in their lovely Kailua home, which they shared with their sweet dog Lily for years, and now with Marli, a short haired pointer. Lyn was born in Aiea and raised on Maui. LKOC is so grateful for the expertise and wisdom she brings to our board.

Claudia Webster, Advisor

Claudia has been a dedicated LKOC Board member for years, most recently serving as our Scholarship Chair. She has been an Advisor on our board since 2017. Claudia has a long background in education and family planning, having started Family Planning Clinics in the Philippines while a United Methodist Missionary and she was an AIDS Education Manager, Oregon Health Division. She was active in our Learning to Grow program at WCCC, as well as serving as our Scholarship Chair, where she headed LKOC's efforts to donate significant yearly funds to Windward Community College scholarships. Claudia is always ready to help in all aspects of our events and activities, as well as our advocacy efforts regarding issues that affect us both here in Kailua and statewide.

Our Board of Directors also includes Committee Chairs, who have served us faithfully over the years.

Steve Mechler, Beautification

Steve has served on the Outdoor Circle Board of Directors for over 20 years, including as past President, and has served as our LKOC Beautification Chair since 2017. He was born and raised in Kaneohe and has been a noted Landscape Architect in Hawaii for the past 45 years. Steve was the landscape architect and designer for our plantings at Alala Point, Kalapawai Triangle and Pali Palms Triangle. He also serves on the Mayor's Council on Culture and the Arts, currently serving as its chair. Steve and his wife Suzi live in Kaneohe where they enjoy their lovely home overlooking Kaneohe Bay. Steve brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our board.

Betsy Connors, Education/Scholarship

Betsy has served on our LKOC board for many years, notably as its past President, as well as past President of TOC. She is currently our Education/Scholarship Chair and also dedicates much of her time volunteering at the LTG Plant nursery at WCCC, where she is currently the nursery's "worm farm" vermiculture expert. Improving the lives of incarcerated women is one her passions and she brings enthusiasm and dedication to all of her efforts. Betsy was raised in New York and was in the field of nursing before she and her late husband Larry, who established the Family Chiropractic Center in Kaneohe, moved to Hawaii in 1977. Betsy also enjoys weekly Mahjong.

Pam Ross, Programs/Events

Pam has served on the LKOC board in various capacities over the years and has been co-chair of our Programs and Events Committee since 2017. The committee organizes numerous events for us, including our twice-yearly general membership meetings and luncheons, and our very popular "Third Friday" series of events: online how-to tutorials, online forums on topics of interest, and in-person docent-led tours of Oahu's botanical gardens. Pam and her

husband veterinarian John Haddock have been Kailua residents for many years. She is also reviving the “Friends of Boettcher” non-profit, in hopes of restoring this historic home at Kalama Beach Park.

Carol Arnote, Programs/Events

Carol has served on the LKOC board in various capacities over the years including as past Chair of Programs/Events starting in 2004. She has been co-chair of our Programs and Events Committee since 2017. She is instrumental in organizing, planning and decorating for our annual meetings, and in the past, organizing our very popular Holiday House Tour events. Carol and her husband Stan are active in the Kailua Community where they’ve lived since 1985. LKOC is so appreciate of Carol’s commitment and long-term service on our board.

Pauline MacNeil, Public Affairs

Pauline has been our Public Affairs Chair for years and has been our key researcher and contributor for all of our advocacy efforts over the years regarding issues associated with Kawainui Marsh, Kapa’a Light Industrial Park, and development in our residential neighborhoods in Kailua. Her keen eye for detail and her passion for the protection of our wetlands has been an invaluable resource for us. Pauline and her husband Neil Frazer, who is a geophysics professor at UH specializing in shoreline change, have lived in Lanikai for years and enjoy their off-grid retreat on the Big Island as well. LKOC is so fortunate to have her considerable expertise on our board.

Terry Beuret, LKOC/WCCC Partnership

Terry has served as our LKOC/WCCC Partnership co-chair for many years where she has nurtured our LTG program at WCCC and mentored the students in the program, week in and week out, for years. Her enthusiasm and commitment to our efforts at WCCC has been so appreciated, and the program is one of the hallmarks of our LKOC achievements. Terry and her husband Kit, who has been one of our emcees for our Town Party for years, live in Kailua, and enjoy traveling.

Ann Latham, LKOC/WCCC Partnership, LKOC Historian

Ann has served as our LKOC/WCCC Partnership co-chair for many years, as well as our LKOC Historian. She has been mentoring the students in the LTG Program at WCCC for decades, providing wonderful insights for them on her twice-weekly visits to the plant nursery. Ann also provides all of our beautiful stage decorations for the Town Party each year. Ann was born and raised in Hawaii, and she and her husband David live in Kaneohe and enjoy caring for the lush tropical gardens and landscaping surrounding their home.

Barbara Krasniewski, Membership/Volunteers

Barbara has been our Membership Chair for years and recently took on the duties as Volunteers Chair as well. She is a past legislative assistant at the state level. She and her husband Stan are longtime Kailua residents, active in the local community, in particular regarding issues that affect our neighborhoods and our quality of life and are devoted “parents” to several wonderful golden retrievers.