Mission and Vision
The mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is to foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors. AMC envisions a world where being outdoors is an integral part of people’s lives; where our natural resources are healthy, loved and protected. The Western Massachusetts Chapter serves AMC members and the general public residing in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2021 Executive Committee

Officers
Brant Cheikes  Chapter Chair
Heather Wyman  Vice Chair
Tricia O’Neill Hanrahan  Treasurer
Ashley Warner  Secretary (partial year)
Rosalee Walter  Secretary (partial year)
Martin Mahoney  Past Chair

Committee Chairs
Jack Spear  20s/30s
Cosmo Catalano  Appalachian Trail (Chair, partial year)
Debra Weisenstein  Appalachian Trail (Chair, partial year)
Janine Papesh  Bicycling
Rick Whitney  Communications
Robert Cherdack  Conservation (Co-Chair)
Rosalee Walter  Conservation (Co-Chair)
Alex Cowley  Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Co-Chair)
Dawne Piers-Gamble  Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Co-Chair)
Chris Neil  Mountaineering (Co-Chair)
Chris Thompson  Mountaineering (Co-Chair)
Ray Girard  New England Trail
Kathy Martin  Outings
Dee Dice  Paddling (Co-Chair)
Mary Therese Durr  Paddling (Co-Chair)
Bonna Wieler  Paddling (Co-Chair)
Bill Fogel  Training & Education
Jeannette Pierce  Social Media Editor
Jon Hanauer  Chapter Trip Approver (partial year)
Kathy Martin  Chapter Trip Approver (partial year)
Brad Gawron  Webmaster (partial year)
2022 Executive Committee Slate
Below are the nominees for the 2022 Executive Committee:

**Officers**

Brant Cheikes  
Chapter Chair

Jim Walton  
Vice Chair

Jaclyn Jones  
Treasurer

Rosalee Walter  
Secretary

Martin Mahoney  
Past Chair

**Committee Chairs**

Jack Spear  
20s/30s

Debra Weisenstein  
Appalachian Trail

Janine Papesh  
Bicycling

Rick Whitney  
Communications

Robert Cherdack  
Conservation (Co-Chair)

Rosalee Walter  
Conservation (Co-Chair)

Dawne Piers-Gamble  
Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Chris Neil  
Mountaineering (Co-Chair)

Chris Thompson  
Mountaineering (Co-Chair)

Ray Girard  
New England Trail

Kathy Martin  
Outings

Dee Dice  
Paddling (Co-Chair)

Mary Therese Durr  
Paddling (Co-Chair)

Bonna Wieler  
Paddling (Co-Chair)

Bill Fogel  
Training & Education

Alice Flyte  
Membership

Jeannette Pierce  
Social Media Editor

Kathy Martin  
Chapter Trip Approver
Chapter Chair’s Report
Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge us during 2021, the Western Massachusetts chapter showed tremendous strength and resilience. I’m grateful to the many volunteer trip leaders who contributed their time and passion for the outdoors to the AMC mission during the year. Thanks to their efforts, our chapter organized over 280 trips during 2021, compared to only 85 during 2020. That is an achievement we can all feel pride about.

With the arrival of safe and effective COVID vaccines, reductions in case counts, and increased vaccination rates, AMC moved to Phase 3 of its reopening plan in mid-June. As a result, it became possible to lead outdoor activities with larger groups and with less onerous disease-prevention protocols. Things felt much more “normal” while still being far from pre-pandemic norms. This may explain the remarkable increase in chapter-led activities. It became easier to recreate safely outdoors, and that made a world of difference.

Still, many activities continued online, including trainings and webinars. At the Executive Committee level, we were joined by an enthusiastic and capable Communications Chair as well as a new Social Media Editor. As a result, we dramatically increased our use of social media to get the word out about our mission, programs, and activities.

During the first quarter of 2021 we completed the final steps of our chapter’s name change, from the Berkshire Chapter to the Western Massachusetts Chapter. We retired our old internet domain (amcberkshire.org) and converted over to amcwma.org. Supported by a talented volunteer webmaster, we rolled out a brand-new website with a fresh and modern look, built on the latest web server platform.

Our Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (JDEI) Committee saw strong growth with new leadership and engaged committee members. During the year the committee held 20 open meetings, hosted 4 invited speakers, and led the way on an initiative to make JDEI training an expectation for all Executive Committee members.

In October, with enthusiastic support from AMC’s Volunteer Relations department, our chapter hosted the first FallFest event at the Noble View Outdoor Center (NVOC). This well-attended, family-friendly outdoor event included volunteer-led hikes on NVOC trails, demonstrations and information sessions offered by various activity committees, music, and a BBQ lunch. The event was so successful that it will likely be repeated in 2022.

By the end of the year, the Chapter saw a fantastic increase in both members and memberships: 3052 members (up 9.4% over 2020), and 1876 memberships (up 10.3% over 2020).
Having completed my second year as Chapter Chair, I remain grateful to the chapter's all-volunteer Executive Committee members, who worked with dedication and high spirits to keep the chapter running throughout 2021, and to AMC's outstanding professional staff who advised and supported us whenever and wherever they were needed. At the request of the Executive Committee, I will serve as Chair for a third year before passing the torch.

Brant Cheikes
Chapter Chair

**Appie of the Year**
Each year the chapter recognizes one of its members for outstanding sustained commitment in service and leadership. The 2021 “Appie of the Year” award was given to Heather Wyman.

![Appie of the Year Certificate]

**Chapter Standing Committee Reports**
Below are brief annual reports submitted by the various standing committees of the chapter.
The Young Members (YM) Committee hiked avidly during 2021, leading a total of 19 hikes throughout Western Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Hikes were well-attended (averaging nine participants per hike) and were frequently waitlisted. We led several interchapter hikes with the Worcester and Connecticut chapters and sampled a variety of terrain, ranging from rolling hikes on the New England Trail to strenuous climbs on Mts. Ascutney and Monadnock.

The YM Committee plans to continue frequent hiking in 2022; our aim is to continue to offer regular interchapter hikes and hikes of varying levels of difficulty, with the aim of introducing as many people as possible to the joys of being outside. To accomplish this, we plan to continue to collaborate with our counterparts in other chapters, with the specific goal of recruiting and retaining new leaders.

Jack Spear
Chair, 20s/30s
Appalachian Trail (AT) Committee

Our Mission: Manage and protect the Appalachian Trail and trail corridor lands in Massachusetts.

Management roles: chair, vice-chair, past chair, secretary, treasurer, volunteer coordinator, group outreach coordinator, public communication coordinator, coordinators for each volunteer role listed below.

Volunteer roles: trail maintainers, shelter adopters, corridor boundary monitors, natural resource volunteers, cultural site adopters, Upper Goose Pond Cabin caretakers, project volunteers.

Scheduled Projects: 55 projects included trail and campsite maintenance, boundary maintenance, monitoring rare plants and controlling invasives, wildlife transects, maintaining open areas.

Our Partners: Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), National Park Service – Appalachian Trail Office (NPS-APPA), Trail Town Committees from Dalton, Cheshire, Great Barrington.

Total Volunteers: ~200
Total Volunteer Hours: 5200 hours

Trail Usage:
The visitor numbers in 2021 were greater than 2019. Overnight use rebounded from 2020 while day use remained high. Two sections of trail closed due to flooding for 4-5 days in July. (Statistics were collected via shelter logs and trail cams)

Upper Goose Pond Cabin
- Inspections of the fire alarm system and chimney were required by NPS and completed in July.
Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

- The cabin was open to visitors with limited capacity June 27 – Aug 9.
- Caretakers were in residence Aug 9 – Oct 15 to manage camping and visitor use.

**Trainings**
- CPR/First Aid class taught by Josh Weeks on Oct 24 with 7 participants, primarily sawyers.
- Sawyers – no trainings in 2021. We have 9 current sawyers with bucking and limbing certification, 3 certified in felling. Recertification classes needed for 4 sawyers/fellers in 2022.

**Diversity**
- Land acknowledgement under discussion with Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe.
- Privy signage at Upper Goose Pond updated to be more trans-inclusive.

**Partner support and coordination**
- ATC coordinates all AT maintenance clubs. The Southern New England Regional Manager, Tracy Lind, works closely with our committee and in CT and southern Vermont.
- DCR provided two ridge runners to patrol the trail and manage overnight sites. AMC ridge runners, coordinated by David Kurtz (aka “Silver”), provided excellent support for the southern Berkshires and Connecticut AT this season.
- AT Communities: Cheshire and Dalton remain active trail towns, Lee is exploring a similar designation.
- National Park Service owns the Upper Goose Pond cabin and determined operating parameters under their COVID regulations in 2021.

Debra Weisenstein
Chair, Appalachian Trail
The Bicycling Committee rebounded strongly from the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee planned and posted nineteen trips in 2021, compared to just seven in 2020. Three trips were canceled due to adverse weather conditions, but the rest went forward and were well attended. Trips were offered during May through September.

In 2021 we expanded our offerings to accommodate people just getting started with outdoor bike riding. We offered three “Intro to Road Cycling” activities. Each began with a 45 minute training session covering required equipment; rules of the road; group riding rules; pre-ride checks; and efficient pedaling techniques. Then the group went on a relaxed pace ride of about 15 miles on relatively flat terrain. These rides went smoothly and we received lots of thanks from the participants.

A husband-wife trip leader pair joined us in 2021 after relocating from BN and led eight trips of their own design. The committee now has eight approved trip leaders.

Janine Papesh
Chair, Bicycling
Communications Committee
This year saw some important changes to communications and marketing activities in the Chapter. In February, Rick Whitney joined the Executive Committee as the Communications Chair and Jeannette Pierce stepped into the role of Social Media Manager in June. Filling these roles was an important step in getting our communications efforts running smoothly. June also saw the retirement of our webmaster, and we have an active call for a new volunteer in this role. Fortunately, we have resident experience in our existing volunteer pool and have been able to update the website back- and front-ends without pause.

The biggest development of the year was the increase in our social media activity. On July 12th, we set up our Instagram account and have been seeing on-going growth and engagement with this channel (Figure 1). As of year-end, we have 215 followers and are expecting further growth in 2022. We have also been able to update Facebook regularly and have seen a noticeable improvement in page and post engagement metrics (Figure 2).

![Figure 1. Instagram Insights, October 21 – December 31, 2021](image)
*Instagram data is available for 90 days. This data shows year-end data compared to the previous 90 days (Aug – Oct).*

![Figure 2. Facebook Page Reach, Jan – Dec, 2021](image)
*Page reach is a metric that demonstrates how many unique page visitors engage with a post or story on our Facebook page. This chart shows how our engagement became more regular starting in June.*

We sent out nine eBlasts to our opt-in user base this year and have seen regular and consistent engagement in this channel as well. Due to technical reasons, the data for our email was not available at the time of the writing of this report.
The Communications team also worked to promote the Fall Festival, which was held on October 16th at Noble View. We collaborated on the press release with Volunteer Relations, Noble View Staff and Lodging Operations. Tickets for the event were promoted across all communications channels and sold through Eventbrite starting on September 17th. In all, we had 178 unique ticket orders and sold out our maximum 350 tickets on October 11th.

The Communications team continues to explore new opportunities to improve our messaging, engagement and reach, and to find opportunities to support and promote the mission of the club and our chapter.

Rick Whitney
Chair, Communications
Although still amidst a pandemic, the Conservation Committee had a good year in 2021, with a big thanks to Heather Wyman who joined the committee leadership. We had our first committee meeting, recruited members, and began our new monthly webinar series. The committee hosted 11 events, including invasive plant removals, nature hikes, trash cleanups, and a DIY hummingbird feeder event. Our monthly webinar topics included wildlife conservation on Mt. Tom, forest health and carbon sequestration, invasive species, reptiles in Western Massachusetts, and the AMC’s policy on solar siting. The main legislative work of 2021 consisted of developing material regarding solar power developments in forests, contacting legislators about forest protection and an increased funding for DCR, and attending webinars on locating solar power off forests and farms.

We hope to continue to increase the number of committee members in 2022, through webinars, meetings, and events. We are currently planning on holding more invasive plant removals, some family days with nature crafts, and trash cleanup events. The committee will be hosting an Earth Day cleanup in April.

Robert Cherdack and Rosalee Walter
Co-Chairs, Conservation
Leadership of the Family Outing Group transitioned from Heather Wyman’s energetic guidance to new Co-Chairs, Laura Stinnette & Dawne Piers Gamble. Laura volunteers at Noble View Outdoor Center and Dawne leads the WM JDEI Committee.

2021 saw the integration of this WMA Chapter Committee with the active Education & Programming Committee of the Noble View Steward’s Council. This was an invaluable connection that has resulted in much more programming for families. In collaboration with the Hilltown Family Center, a StoryWalk Trail was developed and seven Books were shared with local children. This will continue in 2022, with the addition of a system to track participation.

Family Outings provided six engaging family fun activities for the AMC October FallFest. Our model of collaboration with Noble View Steward’s Council & NV Caretaker led to a hugely successful event (200 folks) and one that included other local AMC Chapters. The year ended with our Star-Gazing Night in collaboration with Noble View. With 35 attendees, two telescopes and lots of S’mores, this will become a bi-annual event!

We developed a ‘22 Calendar of Events, including a Family Fun Sledding Day in February, Earth Day, Springfest, Star Gazing Night. Continued connection with the Huntington Community Health Center and Family Hilltown Center is also planned, as
well as a youth project with Holyoke Heritage Park. Due to Covid, we have yet to have an in-person meeting, but look forward to one in 2022.

Dawne Piers-Gamble and Laura Stinnette
Co-Chairs, Family Programs
Outings Committee

This year, Outings posted 110 activities of which 88 were primarily hikes. The hikes were led by 26 different volunteers, and every Tuesday hike was covered by a volunteer. The following new hiking leaders were added: Alice Flyte, Deborah Lewis, Greg Deily, Lori Banks, Bill Fogel, Jose Schroen, Margot Lacey, Nancy Mack, Jerry Sambrook, Josh Weeks, and Dawn Piers-Gamble.

The MVP Hike leader this year was Alice Flyte. Alice is a brand-new hike leader but posted half a dozen hikes in 2021. She concentrated on leading beginner hikes and received numerous compliments. We are so lucky to have her as a leader.

Our goal for next year continues to be what it has been for the last several years, get more people outside. We are concentrating on introductory hikes, while maintaining our seasoned leaders.

The Tuesday Hiking group has scheduled a hike for every Tuesday, except for a small period in 2020 when hiking was canceled due to covid, for over 20 years. One of its founding members died this year and her fellow long-time hikers Jeannie Jones, Susan Lantz and Wendy Stinson, created this memorial tribute.

Kathryn Martin
Chair, Outings
REMEMBERING GLORIA LAFLAMME (1930-2021)

Gloria LaFlamme, long time AMC member, founder of the AMC-Berkshire Tuesday Hikers, passed away on May 13, 2021. Gloria represented what is so important about AMC: it is nurtured and run largely by volunteers. Gloria inaugurated what has become one of the most popular hiking groups in AMC Massachusetts.

Gloria was born and lived her 90 years in western Massachusetts. She thrived in the out of doors, appreciating the natural world and its unending marvels. After retiring from her nursing career, she devoted more time to outdoor explorations. Gloria decided to designate one day a week of her retirement for hiking. On Tuesday, October 5, 1999, Gloria, and two fellow AMC members, Diane Crowell and June Hoerle, gathered at Chesterfield Gorge in Chesterfield, MA for the first Tuesday hike. The rest, as they say, is history.

Every Tuesday, for the first three years, Gloria selected a hike, a ski, or a snowshoe in the Pioneer Valley and beyond, designated a time and meeting place and those in the know showed up. For six more years, she coordinated getting a leader every week. In the early years, there was no email so the hiking information was shared by phone calls. Call Gloria and get the scoop. Lightning, ice, freezing or heavy rain, were the only reasons to cancel a hike.

With the advent of email and easier communication, the number of hikers swelled along with changes to managing Tuesday hikes. When Gloria retired as the solo coordinator in 2008, it took four people to share the job of recruiting weekly hike leaders. To this day, an anniversary hike is held in October at Chesterfield Gorge. Gloria was a role model for future hike leaders, continuously recruiting and encouraging people to become leaders. She created a lasting legacy that Tuesday hikers remember today.
Paddling Committee

The volunteer leadership team has worked to revitalize paddling activities and programs. COVID-19 continues to restrict our efforts. We are hopeful to have a more vibrant present this Spring, Summer and Fall. Together, this team accomplished the following:

- Trained in ACA Paddling Level 1 June 2021;
- Contracted for ACA Paddling Level 2 for June 2022;
- Met monthly;
- Purchase 2 flat water boats and safety equipment to help beginners. One whitewater sit-on-top with safety equipment.
- Nominated David Elliot for Volunteer Leadership Award;
- Met with Faith Salter (AMC) and Jim Sullivan (Zoar Outdoor) to find ways to partner and get people on the water;
- Participated in AMC WMA fall event at Noble View, with demos and discussions;
- Held a virtual planning meeting in January of 2022 with multiple events focused on getting people on the water. List of planned activities.

Trips

- Memorial Day weekend “Intro to whitewater” help with Boston and NH - a total of 22 students 5/30-5/31 (ww)
- Goose Pond - May 23 (flat)
- Goose Pond - May 8 (flat)
- Lower Otter Brook - 5/2 (ww)
- Lower Otter Brook - 5/1 (ww)
● Knightsville - 4/18 (ww)
● Week of Rivers in North Carolina in June (ww)
● Introduction to kayaking at Holyoke Rows on Sept 4 2021 (flat)
● 10 participants on Fife whitewater on October 4th (ww)
● Slalom Race New Boston - participated and helped judge 10/17 (ww)
● CT AMC picnic participant 10/24 (ww)
● Met with AMC volunteer services and Zoar Outdoor 12/10 (flat and ww)

Dee Dice, Mary Therese Durr, Bonna Wieler
Co-Chairs, Paddling
New England Scenic Trails (NET) Committee

In 2021 the NET Committee delivered 2300 volunteer hours on a wide variety of trail maintenance projects.

Bridget Likely resigned her position as NET Coordinator. A sincere “thank you” to Bridget for her 4 years with the NET. Liam Cregan joined AMC as the new NET Coordinator. Liam is a long-time resident here in the Valley and most recently he worked on the Robert Frost Trail Initiative for the Kestrel Land Trust. He has a Master’s Degree in Sustainability Science from UMass Amherst. He has worked for AMC as a seasonal employee and is an avid trail runner and plays drums in a rock band. Welcome Liam! Lydia Jankowski, our intern, has completed the first complete NET trail inventory. Thanks to Lydia for taking on this project and hiking the whole trail.

The Richardson sold their land in Northfield to the Mount Grace Land Trust. This land includes the Richardson-Zlogar cabin and 0.5 mile of the NET. The sale will conserve 37 acres for the use of future generations.

Significant accomplishments for the year include these:

- The accessible trail on NET Section 1 is structurally completed with some cosmetics left.
- We completed the first tent platform on Section 3, and worked with the Teen Crew to complete a new easier access to the Westfield River on Section 2. This includes a new 20-foot plank bridge over a very wet and muddy area and other trail improvements.
- Worked with the Teen Crew to update water bars on Sections 1 and 6.
- More signage was added this year, clarifying trail sections going south.
- Added three new maintainers, two in Section 17 and one on Section 16. Thank you to Tom Campbell, Colin Hamill and Dave Pirog for your volunteer service!
- Two of the maintainers are now approved trip leaders: Jerry Sanbrook, and Greg Deily. One maintainer completed both Wilderness First Aid and Grip Hoist. Thanks to Mike Rioual, Heather Wyman, and Ray Girard for their continued work on Story Corp.
- There was a successful outing on National Trails Day hosted by some of the maintainers. and a cleanup on Section 3 on Earth Day.

The NET also sponsored another Hike 50 and 100 Challenge. I sincerely thank Harry and Susie Sharbaugh, Ray Girard, Heil Linquist and Dave Pirog for a tremendous effort to clean up numerous blowdowns and reblaze 14 of the 18 miles of the M&M in N.H. The NET continues into N.H. but uses the M&M name.

Ray Girard
Chair, New England Trail
Training and Education Committee

The AMC Western MA Training and Education committee has been involved in many committee, chapter, and organization-wide initiatives in support of training for our current and prospective leaders. In 2021, the committee piloted its first hybrid training (online/in person) jointly with the Worcester Chapter. In our efforts to diversify and collaborate more widely, representatives from three other chapters (Boston, New York/North Jersey, Delaware Valley) and our own new chapter leaders within the chapter representing hiking, climbing, paddling, young members, and biking activities were invited to facilitate/instruct. 32 people participated in the online portion of the training with 20 proceeding to the in-person day. The chapter gained ten new leader candidates, seven of whom have already become leaders!

Additionally, four Wilderness First Aid trainings within Western MA were held. We also taught a Youth Mental Health First Aid course (Hybrid) for Volunteer Trail Crew Teen leaders and WMA Family Leaders in June through partnership with the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Committee members (Adam Jasionkowski and Kathy Martin) facilitated AMC’s virtual leadership trainings. Western MA instructors participated on the Outdoor Leadership and Development Committee (Kathy Martin as the Central Region Representative for the Worcester, Western MA, and Mohawk-Hudson chapters and Bill Fogel as the Interchapter Climbing Committee Chair). Feedback and recommendation were given for the phase 3 rubric for leading during COVD. Chapter members (Alex Cowley, Julie Rosier, and Bill Fogel) contributed to a guide for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Learning & Self-Assessment Resources and a new DEI Training Module. Chapter representatives (Chao Xie, Dawn Piers-Gamble, Kathy Martin, Adam Jasionkowski and Bill Fogel) participated in a facilitator training pilot that culminated in a presentation of the new DEI Training Module to the AMC community in October.

A psychological first aid training was provided for an interchapter climbing training activity in August. In addition, WMA Training and Education leaders (Kumi Wauthier and Bill Fogel) facilitated a series of six workshops aimed at introducing marginalized and underrepresented community members to crag development and stewardship Community Ascension Project. A very busy and highly productive year for the Training and Education Committee!

Bill Fogel
Chair, Training and Education
# Treasurer’s Report for Calendar Year 2021

## Financial/Budget Update - 2021

### Western Mass

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**Totals:** $31,986.00

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<td>500.00</td>
<td>68.98</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>431.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>628 Executive-Storage Fees</td>
<td>950.00</td>
<td>935.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>629 Executive-Meetup.com Fees</td>
<td>230.00</td>
<td>210.24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>630 Paddling Committee</td>
<td>6,444.00</td>
<td>3,506.03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,937.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>631 Executive-Outdoor Festival</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>632 Bicycling Committee</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>330.93</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(80.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>633 Mountaineering</td>
<td>842.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>842.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>634 Chapter Trainings</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>620.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>880.00</td>
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</table>

**Totals:** $31,853.00

| Overall Budget Surplus/Deficit: | $11,599.76 |

**Adj balance w/income:** $18,882.16

**40.7%**
Chapter By-Laws
Approved by Chapter Membership on November 5, 2021.

ARTICLE I -- Name

This organization shall be called the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (the "Chapter").

ARTICLE II -- Purpose

The purpose of the Chapter is to promote outdoors and conservation activities for its members that support the mission of the parent organization, the Appalachian Mountain Club (the “Club”).

ARTICLE III -- Membership

Any member of the Appalachian Mountain Club in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire or Franklin Counties of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be a member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter, unless that member notifies the membership office of the parent Club in writing to the contrary. Any member of the Appalachian Mountain Club residing outside those areas may become a member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter by notifying the membership office.

ARTICLE IV -- Administration

Section 1: The administration of the Chapter shall be vested in a Chapter Executive Committee (known as the Executive Committee or ExCom) consisting of four officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the Chairpersons of all Standing Committees of the Chapter. (Each Executive Committee member shall have one vote in matters set before that committee for discussion.) The Regional Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, without voting rights. Five members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

Section 2: The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by plurality vote at each Chapter Annual Meeting and shall hold offices until the next Chapter Annual Meeting or until their successors are chosen. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not be eligible to hold the same office more than two consecutive years. However, in the event no candidates for Chair or Vice-Chair are available to run for office after the completion of their second, consecutive year of office, the Chapter Executive Committee may vote to extend the terms for one year by placing in nomination the current incumbent(s) for those offices pursuant the membership vote at the annual meeting. All members of the Executive Committee shall be members of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the AMC.
Section 3: A Nominating Committee of five shall be elected at each Chapter Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Chapter Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons at the subsequent Annual Meeting. They shall also nominate at least three and no more than five chapter members for the succeeding Nominating Committee, the nominees encompassing the widest range of Chapter interests. The nominees for the Nominating Committee shall include a prior Chapter Chairperson, and the Nominating Committee Chair shall be designated. The names submitted by the Nominating Committee shall be made known by the Secretary to all members of the Chapter, by newsletter or other mailing, at least two weeks before the Chapter Annual Meeting. Any five Chapter members desiring to place an additional candidate in nomination may do so by sending to the Chapter Secretary, post-marked not later than five days before the Annual Meeting, a nomination paper stating the office to be filled, the proposed candidate, and written verification of consent from the nominee to serve if elected. No person shall be eligible for elective position on the Executive Committee unless nominated by one of the above methods.

Section 4: The Chapter Chairperson shall preside at all Annual and Special meetings of the Chapter and of the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties customary to the office.

Section 5: The Chapter Vice-Chairperson shall serve as Chapter Chairperson in the absence or disability of the Chapter Chairperson, and shall assume such other responsibilities as may be delegated by the Chapter Chairperson and/or Executive Committee. The Chapter Vice-Chairperson shall automatically succeed to the office of Chapter Chairperson, should that position be vacated before the term of office is completed.

Section 6: The Secretary shall keep a list of all members, shall give notice of all Annual, Special and Executive Committee meetings; shall keep the minutes of those meetings and the current records of the Chapter; shall conduct the correspondence of the Chapter; and shall perform other duties as may be designated by the Chapter Chairperson and/or Executive Committee.

Section 7: The Chapter Treasurer shall receive all funds paid to the Chapter; shall administer the budget approved by the Executive Committee; shall disburse funds as authorized by the budget and by special votes of the Executive Committee; shall make periodic reports to the Executive Committee of receipts and disbursements; and shall make an annual report to the Chapter and the Club. Note: Standing Committees that collect fees for goods and services, may disburse the funds so collected for payments approved by that Standing Committee.

If approved by the Executive Committee and AMC’s Finance Office, individual Standing Committees may establish operating accounts that are managed independently of the Chapter’s operating account. Such Standing Committees shall be familiar with and follow all requirements and guidelines as defined in the AMC Volunteer Finance and Administration Manual.
Section 8: The Standing Committees have the responsibility of
1. Planning and conducting programs and activities of interest to members of the Chapter
2. Performing services for the Chapter and the Club
3. Carrying out obligations to the Club and to the public, which have been assumed by the Chapter.

In fulfilling its particular responsibilities, each Standing Committee shall cooperate with other standing Committees of the Chapter and with corresponding committees of other chapters and the Club. The Chairperson of each Standing Committee shall, within 30 days of the Annual Meeting, appoint chapter members to the Committee and notify the Chapter Chairperson of committee membership and committee meeting schedules.

Section 9: Should any vacancy occur in the Executive Committee or the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee may appoint a member of the Chapter to fill such vacancy until the next Annual Meeting. The appointed member will have full voting rights on matters set before the above-mentioned committees.

Section 10: Any member of the Chapter elected to membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club Board of Directors shall thereby become a non-voting member, ex-officio, of the Executive Committee of this Chapter during such term of office.

Section 11: Any Chapter member may recommend the appropriation of a sum of money for a worthy purpose at any meeting of the Chapter, and said recommendation shall be referred to the Executive Committee for approval or rejection. Chapter funds may be appropriated only by approval of the Executive Committee, or by procedures as set forth in Article IV, Section 7 of these By-Laws.

Section 12: No expenditure shall be made or financial obligation incurred by any officer, committee, or member of the Chapter for which the parent Club will be exclusively responsible without previous authorization by the Club Board of Directors.

Section 13: No official pronouncement in the name of the Appalachian Mountain Club, involving opinion or policy in matters of public interest, shall be made by the Chapter or any member thereof, without the expressed and written consent of the Club’s Board of Directors or their duly authorized representatives which is obtained by following AMC’s Communications Policy.

ARTICLE V -- Meetings

Section 1: The Chapter Annual Meeting should be held within the first two weeks of November of each year. Should the need arise, the Executive Committee may choose
an alternate date for Annual Meeting. Notice of such Annual Meeting shall be given to all members of the Chapter at least two weeks prior to the date thereof.

Section 2: Special meetings of the Chapter may be called at any time by the Executive Committee or upon written request of Chapter members addressed to such committee. The Executive Committee shall notify the Chapter membership of the time, location, and purpose of special Chapter meetings at least two weeks in advance of said meeting.

Section 3: Thirty-five members of the Chapter present at any Chapter Annual or Special meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4: The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet at least bi-monthly.

ARTICLE VI -- Committees

Section 1: The Executive Committee will establish or dissolve such Standing Committees as are necessary and proper for the work of the Chapter. The Chairpersons of such committees shall be elected by Chapter membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2: The Executive Committee may establish and dissolve such temporary or ad hoc committees as deemed necessary and proper for the work of the Chapter. The Chairpersons of such committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Such appointment does not entail voting privileges on matters set before the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Job descriptions for all Standing Committees shall be updated every five years or sooner if necessary, by the Chapter Executive Committee or by the members of that Standing Committee.

ARTICLE VII By-Laws

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting, provided notice of such amendment shall have been sent to all members of the Chapter at least two weeks previously, and provided a quorum is present pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of these By-Laws. If the Executive Committee deems that a mail-in vote is necessary, the same quorum as for a Chapter Annual or special meeting would apply.

Section 2: A review of these By-Laws shall occur every five years, or sooner if necessary, as determined by the Executive Committee. Changes to the By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon approval by the membership.

ARTICLE VIII – Discrimination
Discrimination, harassment, or hostility toward others of any kind (based on identities including, but not limited to race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical characteristic, socioeconomic background, nationality, age, religion, or beliefs) shall be prohibited in all aspects of the Chapter’s activities and programs. All Chapter members shall be expected to comply with the Club’s Code of Conduct.
Past Chairs of the Western Massachusetts* Chapter

1929–30 Edward K Allen 1969–70 Norman E Aubrey
1931 Joseph F Partenheimer 1971–72 Forrest E House
1932 Edwin W Gantt 1973–74 Margaret Rose
1933 Donald E Temple 1975–76 William T Cushwa
1934 Howard M Buffinton 1977–78 Walter L Haynes
1936 Donald McClench 1981–82 Kathryn E Burnett
1936–37 John Dickson 1983–84 S Alberta Stutsman
1938 Horace E Allen 1985 John Pritchard
1939 William K Buxton 1986 Florence Mertz
1940 Eugene E Durst 1986–87 Edward N Lewis
1941 Maynard O Saunders 1988–89 Paul Evans
1942–43 Parke W Farrar 1990–91 Sue Lewis
1944–45 Warner B Sturtevant 1992 Jean Armitage
1946–47 Carl O Chauncy 1993 William Kopel
1948–49 Harold T Daugherty 1994–95 Thomas J Leary
1950 Heinz J Sherbow 1996–97 Christopher J Ryan
1951–52 Ellis H Pritchard 1998–99 Kathryn B Leary
1953–54 Byron Chauncy 2000–01 Thomas Senuta
1957–58 John A Saunders 2005–06 Rob Robertson
1963–64 Edith M Libby 2010–12 Dave Sauriol
1965–66 Garrison Householder 2012–14 Sabine Prather
1967–68 Charles L Kirkpatrick

2014-15 shared by 4 members of the Executive Committee: Roger Beer, Wayne Rodrigues, Grace Ferrante, Patrick Fletcher

2015 – 17 Jan Alicia Nettler
2017 – 19 Martin Mahoney
2019 – 21 Brant Cheikes

* The Berkshire Chapter was renamed the Western Massachusetts Chapter in late 2020.