

TO: SCA Board of Directors

FROM: SCA 2025 Nominating Committee

Chairman, Gary Paudler

Jay Sullivan

Clinton Kelly

RE: Committee Report (Updated 11.29.25)

The SCA tasked the Nominating Committee with selecting and recommending qualified candidates for the 2025 election to fill Board of Directors seats. The members unanimously agreed to look for individuals who, as a group, are the most qualified and capable of leading the SCA in achieving its mission, addressing current and future community challenges and opportunities, and gathering and considering members' input. The Committee started in August and finished four months later with the submission of this report.

The SCA held an open public nomination period from September 8 to October 13, during which all members could nominate themselves or others for the Board. The Nominating Committee thoroughly considered and evaluated all eligible candidates using questionnaires, résumés, CVs, bios, interviews, phone calls, and other methods, except for candidates who did not respond to the Committee's requests for information.

Based on its work over the past four months, the Committee now unanimously and enthusiastically recommends to the SCA Board and the SCA membership the following slate of candidates for election to the Board:

Nominating Committee Recommended Slate/Candidates

Jack Azar

Doretta Bonner

Jed Hirsch

Eric Panofsky

Peter Stockmann

All eligible candidates are listed below, including the recommended slate. Members may vote for up to five candidates, even if they are not on the recommended slate.

- Jack Azar (Recommended by the Nominating Committee)
- Doretta Bonner (Recommended by the Nominating Committee)
- Suzy Cawthon
- Jed Hirsch (Recommended by the Nominating Committee)
- Eric Panofsky (Recommended by the Nominating Committee)
- Peter Stockmann (Recommended by the Nominating Committee)
- Jim Witmer

Candidate Bio's

Jack Azar (NomCom Recommended Candidate)

Jack is a third-generation Summerland native who has also lived in San Francisco, where he earned his BA in Communication Studies at SFSU, as well as in Paris, Los Angeles, and New York.

He is the founder and CEO of GlideView Collective, which focuses on life coaching, and founded The Legacy Lounge, both based in Santa Barbara.

Jack's first job was at Stacky's Seaside. Later, he administered grants at The Santa Barbara Foundation.

He values the natural beauty of Summerland and the small-town feel, even as he recognizes commercial pressures affecting development.

As an SCA Board member, Jack will encourage communication and information sharing among the SCA, Summerland's residents, and local businesses.

Emergency preparedness and a thoughtful approach to both commercial and private development will be among his main priorities. Jack is eager to foster partnerships between SCA, the Montecito Association, and the Carpinteria Valley Association.

Doretta Bonner (NomCom Recommended Candidate)

Doretta moved from the Bay Area to Summerland about three years ago. In Woodside, she became involved with the Fire Protection Board and other non-profit organizations, gaining valuable fundraising experience.

She works with The Samburu Project to help provide safe drinking water for Kenyan villagers.

She studied at UCSB and San Francisco State University and worked in broadcast television for CBS and in video production at Oracle.

Doretta loves the small-town vibe of Summerland and its stunning natural beauty, calling Summerland “The lovely hidden gem of Santa Barbara County.” She wants to help develop a better system for communicating with residents during a natural disaster and to assist the community in preparing for such events.

Suzy Cawthon

Suzy earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from Baylor University. She has an extensive background in commercial banking.

She is the owner of Santa Barbara Jazzercise.

Suzy has lived in the Santa Barbara area for 22 years and in Summerland for over 13 years. She served on the PTAs at San Marcos and Santa Barbara High Schools. Suzy has three grown children.

Suzy enjoys Summerland’s beaches and parks.

Suzy is a former SCA Board member, serves on the Summerland-Carpinteria Fire Protection District Board, and is the District 1 representative on the Santa Barbara County Park Commission. Suzy advocates for a new fire station in Summerland at a new location and supports extending the sanitary district’s wastewater ocean discharge.

Jed Hirsch (NomCom Recommended Candidate)

A builder in Santa Barbara since 1980, Jed is the founder and owner of Jed Hirsch General Building Contractor, Inc. He has been a resident of Summerland for 8 years.

Jed has two children in first and second grade at Summerland Elementary School.

A longtime member of Surfrider Foundation and a former officer of The Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers, Jed is eager to focus his community involvement on Summerland, emphasizing effective community-wide communication.

Familiar with Santa Barbara County Building and Safety—including zoning, permits, utilities, and more—as an SCA Board member, Jed will concentrate on Summerland’s relationship with the County’s Board of Architectural Review. He aims to ensure that residents have a voice in development decisions and how these impact Summerland’s unique character.

Eric Panofsky (NomCom Recommended Candidate)

A Summerland resident for about 8 years, Eric and Eléa have a 6-year-old daughter at Summerland Elementary and an 11-year-old who recently graduated from there. Eléa is a teacher and serves on the board of Parents for Summerland School (PFS). Eric has volunteered significant time helping SCA with its information technology and is a former SCA Board member.

Eric is the founder and CEO of SLTWTR. He wants to ensure that the Summerland community maintains a voice in decisions made by Santa Barbara County that affect Summerland.

With a deep appreciation for Summerland’s natural resources—its ocean, beaches, open spaces, wildlife, and trails—Eric is committed to helping the community make thoughtful, deliberate decisions about managing development pressure.

Peter Stockmann (NomCom Recommended Candidate)

After a 36-year career at Ford Motor Company, including work in strategic planning, product development, and training, Peter and Nancy—his wife of 58 years—retired to Summerland about 8 years ago to be near their son, Eric, who already lived here. Their daughter and her family live in Cotopaxi, CO.

Peter graduated from St. Joseph’s College and earned master’s degrees from the University of Cincinnati, Central Michigan University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University, as well as a doctorate from Fielding University.

Peter has served on several boards of directors, including three charter schools.

Peter is especially concerned about traffic and parking on weekends. As an active community volunteer, he aims to promote more community activities in Summerland.

Jim Witmer

Jim graduated from UCSB and has lived in Summerland since 1976. He is married to his wife, Lucy, and they have two grown children. Jim, a former SCA Board member, has supported the SCA for many years.