



THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of The Prairie Club

Fall 2026



Where do Prairie Clubbers Hail From?

What started as a small group of walkers in Chicago has grown into a community that spans far and wide. Hazelhurst Caretaker Vern Kits recently put together a map using our 2025 directory, and it is amazing to see how far we have reached. While many of our members still live in the Chicago area, our membership has spread across the nation and even the world over the generations.

Even though our members may be thousands of miles apart, Hazelhurst and Spring Grove Camps bring us back together. They offer the perfect opportunity to reunite and create lifelong memories.

Whether you are coming from Washington for a large family reunion, Florida for a getaway with friends, or Maine for a family vacation, the Prairie Club camps are a true home away from home.

As the steamy air of summer moves out and the crisp air of fall moves in, it is easy to feel like you missed your chance

Inside This Issue

- Where Our Members Hail Front Cover
- Where Our Members Hail cont... Page 2
- Nominating & Election Procedures for Open Director and Officer Positions Page 3
- Nominees for Open Officer Positions Page 4 - 7
- Nominees for Open Director Positions Page 8 - 11
- Hazelhurst Site For Sale Page 12 - 13
- Deceased Members & Friends Page 14
- New Member Applicants Page 14

Where do Prairie Clubbers Hail From?

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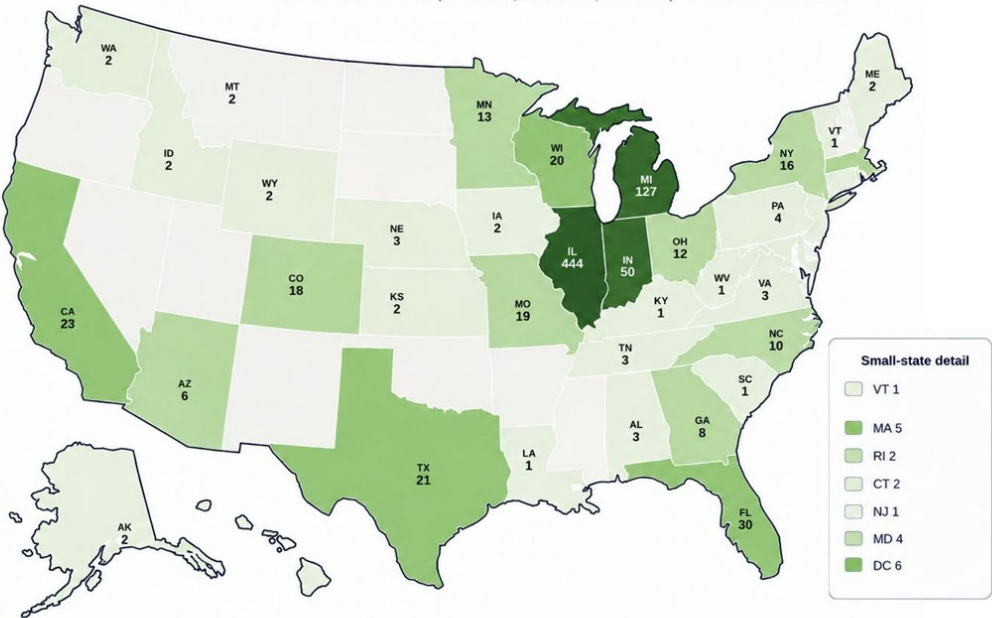
to enjoy the Camps. Not true! Both Hazelhurst and Spring Grove are situated near unique and amazing natural areas, perfect for Fall and Winter activities.

So why delay any longer? Call your friends near and far and say, "Let's meet at The Prairie Club!" Our rental facilities are open year-round. Contact the office today to make your reservation.

You may reach us by phone at (630) 620-9334 or by e-mail at prairieclub@sbcglobal.net

Prairie Club 2025 Membership by State

Each directory listing counted once according to its mailing-address state
874 U.S./D.C. members | 38 states plus D.C. represented | 3 international members



Source: The Prairie Club 2025 Membership Directory (dated August 8, 2025). Map outline: public-domain Wikimedia Commons.

Nominating & Election Procedures for Open Director & Officer Positions

Each year the Prairie Club Nominating Committee meets to select nominees to fill upcoming club Director or Officer positions that open in December. Director terms are for three years, Officer terms are for two years. The Officers are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Hazelhurst Camp Chair and the Spring Grove Camp Chair, selected by the respective camps, are also Officers. There are twelve Directors; four three-year terms start each year. These seven Officers and twelve Directors constitute the Prairie Club Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee publishes nominee names in the September issue of the Prairie Club Bulletin. In accordance with Prairie Club By-laws, if you wish to submit an alternative name by October 1 for nomination, either obtain a members' nominating petition form from the office, which must then be signed by ten or more eligible club members, or write a nominating letter and have it signed by ten or more members. In either case, the office for which the nomination is made should be indicated and the names and addresses of the signers included (see By-laws, Article VII-Election, and Letter Ballots, Section 1, for procedures). Only voting members in good standing are eligible for nomination.

In addition to positions filled through this process, much of the club's work is done by committee chairs. Standing committees are appointed by the Board. Chairs and their committees are member volunteers who lead and accomplish the club's mission.

On the following pages you will find short biographies of the nominees for open officer and director positions on the Board.

Nominating Committee

Nominations for the 2027 Board

Officer Nominees

President - Sarah "Sally" Craig Pratt

Sarah (Sally) Craig Pratt has a passion for seeing the Prairie Club thrive; that passion and her professional education lends itself to a history of strong professional and volunteer board leadership. As a lifelong and multi-generational member of the Prairie Club, Sally, like the rest of her family, has been very active in the club, more specifically Camp Hazelhurst, her entire life. She believes in the value of conservation, preservation, and protection of the land, both within the club and around the world. Sally considers the alignment with the Club objectives, environmental education and disseminating the knowledge of environmental projects, the best way to ensure and sustain the distinct qualities each camp offers our membership.

Sally retired from the University of Notre Dame Office of Research in 2019. Her professional background includes global health program management, fundraising and development, special events, and teaching executive leadership skills at the St. Joseph (IN) Chamber of Commerce. She has extensive volunteer leadership experience on boards and committees, including 25 years chairing the Northern Indiana Arts Commission and 33 years (now retired) as a member of the National Ski Patrol.

Sally pledges to work within our organization to encourage and motivate more members of the next generation to take responsibility for our Club's viability. Her family has been siteholders at Hazelhurst since 1930 and involved in the early days of Tremont. She holds a Master's degree magna cum laude in Nonprofit Management Administration (NMA) from the

(Continued on page 5)

President - Sarah "Sally" Craig Pratt

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University of Notre Dame with an undergraduate degree summa cum laude in Communication and Visual Arts from Albion College. She has three children Maddy (Sammy), Mitchell (Camille) and Tyler (all Club members), and 2 (5th generation PC-er) grandchildren.

1st Vice President - Charlie Johnson

As a third-generation Prairie Club member and a Hazelhurst Siteholder, I have been actively involved with the Club for over 50 years. My appreciation for the Prairie Club was instilled by my grandparents, Sam and Sadie Mae Carley, and my parents, Roger and Janice Johnson, whose dedication, leadership, and advocacy helped shape my lifelong connection to this special community. Their commitment to preserving the Club's history, natural beauty, and unique culture has inspired me to continue that legacy and help ensure it thrives for future generations.

I graduated from North Park University in Chicago with degrees in Economics and Marketing. My 35-year professional career in business development, strategic marketing and executive leadership focused on developing and implementing large scale infrastructure projects into the public sector marketplace.

After spending 27 years in Overland Park, Kansas, where my wife, Rebecca and I raised our family, we returned to our roots in the Chicago area in 2017. During the pandemic, we made Hazelhurst our full-time home and retired from work in 2023.

Today, I enjoy sailing, playing tennis, cycling, and traveling with family and friends. I also enjoy spending my time collaborating and lending my experience in supporting the Prairie Club and helping preserve its traditions, strengthen our community, and contribute to its continued success.

Officer Nominees

2nd Vice President - Hope Little

Hope Little joined the Club in 2000 when she became active in the walking and hiking activities. In 2003, Hope became a member of the Board; she was elected Prairie Club President in 2008. In addition to holding these positions, she has served on the Nominating Committee, the Centennial Committee, has chaired the Annual Meeting Committee, and is a dedicated Prairie Club walker. To contribute to her love of the outdoors, Hope spearheaded the club initiative of planting trees, as a result of this initiative, the Prairie Club has sponsored the planting of 600 trees in the Coral Woods Forest Preserve of McHenry County. Through the Trees for the Future Foundation, the club has promoted the planting of trees in Asia and Africa.

Hope is a graduate of De Paul University and is retired from the State of Illinois as a Medicaid Auditor. She served as Chair of the Organizing Committee of the North Shore Crop Hunger Walk and had functioned as the organization's Treasurer for three years. Hope had been Co-Director of the Nicaragua Medical Alliance, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization that sent medical supplies and equipment to clinics in Nicaragua. Due to problems with the current Nicaraguan government, Hope collects medical supplies for Project Cure in Westmont, Illinois for worldwide distribution.

Treasurer - Mark Sever

Mark V. Sever has been the current Prairie Club Treasurer the past eight years. He retired as Deputy Vice Chair of Professional Practice from Ernst & Young LLP, one of the Big Four accounting firms, in June 2015, after a 39-year career. During his career, Mark's role in Professional Practice included consulting with clients throughout the country on a variety of accounting, auditing, and financial reporting issues. In addition to his role as

(Continued on page 7)

the lead audit partner on a variety of financial services companies, Mark served as the engagement quality review partner on a number of the firm's global accounts including: Walmart Stores, Inc., The Coca-Cola Company, McDonald's Corporation, Whirlpool Corporation, Maytag, Aon Corporation, Cardinal Health, Brunswick Corporation, Wrigley, Newell-Rubbermaid, and IMC Global.

Mark earned his B.B.A. degree in accounting, summa cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame. Mark is a registered certified public accountant in Illinois.

Mark and his wife, Christie, have been siteholders since 2009. Their three children, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren all live in the Chicago area. Mark and Christie enjoy the beach and sunsets at Hazelhurst, golf and traveling.

Recording Secretary - Wendy Lyford

I have spent time at Hazelhurst virtually every summer from infancy, despite always living far away. My grandparents, all named "Hughes," lived next door to each other in Cottages 62 (still owned by my family) and 68. I joined the club in 1994. I have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Club operations by participating as a Board member and Secretary.

I retired in 2020 after a career in law, court administration and mediation, including 23 years in Anchorage, Alaska. I have 3 adult sons and we have introduced our fifth generation, twin granddaughters, to Lake Michigan and Hazelhurst in the last three years. I enjoy volunteering at Hazelhurst in the library, on conservation work parties, and the Hazelhurst History Committee.

Director Nominees

Jan Millermaier MD, FAAFP

A Hazelhurst siteholder since 1988, I have developed a deep love, appreciation and understanding of everything the club stands for: conservation, community, volunteerism, and a love of nature. My biggest contributions to camp Hazelhurst to date have been co-directing the Kid's Variety Show for 13 years and chairing camp council for a brief time during the pandemic.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison I earned degrees in Communicative Disorders and French and completed medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin. After that I trained in Family Medicine at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Over a career spanning several decades, I married Ed Miller, had 3 children, and practiced across the disciplines of geriatrics, urgent care, emergency medicine, and family medicine in Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin. In my later years I moved into healthcare leadership, co-directing the Department of Medical Informatics at Spectrum Health (now Corewell Health), where I oversaw provider education, clinical software development, and the technology integration of newly acquired health systems, retiring in the fall of 2024. As a retiree, I finally feel ready to contribute more to the Prairie Club than time allowed during my professional career.

My current interests consist of international travel, cycling both in the states and abroad, sailing, maintaining my French fluency, playing Mahjong and bridge, and of course spending time on the beach and in the cottage with my 3 children and their families. I am proud to say my grandchildren are 5th generation Prairie Clubbers as we are part of the Miller clan whose history with the club goes back to the 1940's. I am hopeful this tradition will continue well into the future.

Judy Wagner

Judy Wagner became a member shortly after being introduced to Hazelhurst and the Prairie Club by Terry Riban and Hope Little. Since joining, Judy has enjoyed participating in several camp activities including conservation projects and working the annual meetings. Beginning in 2026, Judy is the Committee Chair for Buena Vista. She is also active in the PC walking group.

Judy is currently retired, after working primarily in the Environmental, Health and Safety fields as a consultant then in manager positions at companies that manufacture medical devices. Surprisingly, these jobs came after completing a BS, majoring in Biology, Marine Science and Chemistry. Judy is an avid scuba diver since the age of 17 and jokes that she has a degree in her hobby. The environmental portion of her career allowed her to pursue her passion while the H&S portion paid the bills. To be successful as an H&S specialist, she applied skills in psychology, leadership and team work to motivate workers and accomplish corporate and department goals. To be successful in the environmental portion, she focused on current issues to reduce employers' negative impact on climate change, air/water pollution and management of hazardous waste. Both portions require understanding and proper application of Federal, state and local regulations, as well as best practices as technology and research evolve.

Judy has two beautiful daughters, both scuba divers, and a granddaughter who already loves to swim and be outdoors. Judy has mostly resided in the western suburbs of Chicago and currently lives in Lombard where she is creating natural habitat by adding native plants to her backyard "sanctuary." She loves the peace and quiet of HH and access to nearby hiking and biking trails.

Director Nominees

Randy Lutter

A lifelong Hazelhurster, a Club member since adulthood, and a Hazelhurst siteholder since 2018, I have always had a deep appreciation of nature, a love of outdoor activities that provide closer connections to our environment, and a commitment to conservation. My recent work to support the Club includes serving as Hazelhurst beach chair from 2021 to 2025, as a member of the Club Board since October 2025, and as Conservation Chair for the Club (in 2026). I would like to continue to help the Club (and Camp Hazelhurst) as a member of the Board of Directors.

While chairing Hazelhurst's beach committee, I set up Hazelhurst's Club boat program, which provides boats--sailboats, paddleboards and kayaks donated by Hazelhursters--for Club members and guests to use free of charge. After a 2021 sewage overflow closed the Birchwood beach, I started testing beach water for E. coli, and shared news of occasional elevated levels with beachgoers and neighbors. To improve our response to beach emergencies, I started Beachwatch, which trained more than two dozen Club members in emergency procedures. I enjoy teaching people about boating on Lake Michigan and continue to run the Hazelhurst Club boat program.

I bring extensive professional and personal experience to the Club Board. Trained in economics at UC Berkeley, with a PhD from Cornell, I worked on a variety of health, safety and environmental regulatory matters at three federal agencies from 1991 to 2020. I taught economics at the State University of New York at Buffalo and public policy at the University of Virginia. I served on the boards of directors for a professional society for economists, and for two small nonprofits in the Washington D. C. area. I directed the 2010 U.S. Whitewater Slalom National Championships and regularly kayak Class 4 rivers like the Gauley and the Cheat. I avidly hunt wild pawpaw.

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Randy Lutter

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Fully retired since 2024, I look forward to seeing family and friends at Hazelhurst and to travels here and abroad with my wife Chessa. I wish to serve on the Prairie Club Board to help the Club more fully serve its members in pursuit of its mission.

Sharon Lemler

I came as a guest to Hazelhurst when I was little, visiting Katherine and Francis Koch - that's 65 years ago now. My own parents joined the club about 45 years ago, and since that time, it's become one of the "Best places on Earth" for all Favorite and Lemler family members. Jim and I became site holders about 35 years ago. Our grandchildren now chant in the car, on their way to Hazelhurst "Are we THERE yet?"

Ways I have contributed to Camp and Club life include the following:

- Becoming known as "the Garlic Mustard Queen" when almost no one knew or cared what garlic mustard was.
- Re-introducing and Co-directing (with Jan Millermaier) the Kids' Variety Show for 14 years.
- Serving as HH Conservation Chair for 30+ years... and counting. That committee does a heck of a lot - too much to list. It takes a broken hip to keep me from relentlessly teaching, encouraging, and charging in to plant natives and yank out invasives.
- Serving as HH Vice-Chair for two years, and then Chair for two years, with all the Council and Committee and Board service thereunto appertaining. That was a heck of a lot, too.

In my spare time, I have had a full 42-year career as a Clinical Specialist in Psychiatric Nursing, teaching, and practicing in Indiana, Illinois, and New York. (That may not pertain to board service, but I thought I'd mention it.)

For Sale – Camp Hazelhurst Cottage

106 Dune Road

Beautifully Updated | Year-Round Living | Steps from the Beach

Starting Bid: \$450,000

Private Cash Sale

This thoughtfully updated Camp Hazelhurst cottage blends timeless character with modern comfort. Originally a seasonal cottage and now converted for year-round living, it features soaring vaulted ceilings, a beautiful stone fireplace, warm wood finishes, updated mechanicals, two bedrooms, two full baths, and two flexible bonus rooms. The cottage can comfortably sleep 4-10 people.





Recent Upgrades

Mini-split whole-house system (2023) + additional unit in front flex room (2025)
 LG electric oven and refrigerator (2022)
 Maytag microwave (2022)
 GE dishwasher (2026)
 Generac whole-house generator (2023)
 Hot water heater (2023)
 Remodeled downstairs bathroom (2025)
 Ceiling fans in bedrooms (2022)
 New 30-year roof (2026)
 Electrolux washer/dryer combo (2026)

Select furniture and televisions will remain with the home

Sale Timeline

Bids accepted September 15-October 15, 2026
 Submit bids by email to Terri Hebert at terri.hebert@gmail.com
 Schedule showings through Terri Hebert by email at terri.hebert@gmail.com or by phone at (501) 412-5841 – Sellers will control the showings
 Successful purchaser announced October 31, 2026
 Starting bid at \$450,000.00
 Earnest money of \$10,000.00 due upon execution of the Purchase Agreement and credited towards the purchase price at closing
 Sellers will occupy the home until construction of their new residence is completed
 Closing and possession anticipated in February-March 2027
 Sellers will maintain insurance, utilities, taxes, routine maintenance, and all ownership responsibilities until closing date

Our Departed Members and Friends

We have received news of the passing of the following members since the last edition of our Bulletin. Please remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Betty Tuttle

passed away on August 13, 2026

New Applicants for Membership

The following candidates have applied for membership since our last Bulletin was published. If you know of any reason why an applicant should not be admitted to the Club, please write to the Membership Committee, via the Club office address: 12 E. Willow St., Unit A, Lombard, IL 60148

Nathaniel Graham

Philadelphia, PA 19121

Sponsors: Janet Millermaier, Sarah Spurgin Witte

Interviewed by: Sharon Lemler

Claire Meyers

Chicago, IL 60622

Sponsors: Ann Cahill, Mary Ann Aubrey

Interviewed by: Anne Walker

Mark Meyers

Chicago, IL 60642

Sponsors: Mary Ann Aubrey, Yifei Jaski

Interviewed by: Marilynn Gorawara

Theresa Rinne-Meyers

Denver, CO 80219

Sponsors: Ann Cahill, Yifei Jaski

Interviewed by: Philip Miller

Prairie Club Officers 2026

President	Mike Maloney
1st Vice President	Sarah Craig Pratt
2nd Vice President	Hope Little
Treasurer	Mark Sever
Recording Secretary	Wendy Lyford
Hazelhurst Camp Vice President	Dan Gapen
Spring Grove Camp Vice President	Erin Kiehlm

Standing Committees 2026

Audit	Charles Manthey
Elections	Terry Riban
Finance	Charles Manthey
Historical	OPEN
Membership	Jean Hendren, Anne Walker
Nominating	Rebecca Johnson

Activity Committees 2026

Activities/Walkers	Terry Riban
Annual Meeting	Hope Little
Buena Vista	Judy Wagner
Conservation	Randall Lutter
Family Cottage	Terri Breach, Barb White
Farm House	Deb McGrath, Barbara Wittersheim
Promotional	Barb Burton-Halfpenny
Publications	Natalie Brennan
Hazelhurst	Dan Gapen
Spring Grove	Erin Kiehlm, Brian Reed
Spring Grove Lodge	Mickey Hanson
Website	Natalie Brennan

Mission Statement:

The Prairie Club, founded in 1908, encourages the love of nature and participation in outdoor recreation by providing facilities and activities that allow members and guests the opportunity to experience the great outdoors. We foster a sense of community, the appreciation of the beauty of nature, and importance of environmental conservation through the maintenance and programs of our two permanent camps, Hazelhurst and Spring Grove.

The Prairie Club

12 E. Willow St., Unit A

Lombard, IL 60148

(630) 620-9334 Phone

(630) 620-9335 Fax

E-mail: office@theprairieclub.org

Website: www.theprairieclub.org

Return Service Requested



Join The Prairie Club on hikes, kayaking, and other activities!

Be sure to follow the Prairie Club on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

Search for "Prairie Club of Chicagoland Activities Group"