



New Mexico Solar Energy Association

2017 Board of Directors Election

The candidates running for 2017-2018 Board seats are:

Elena Kayak (Incumbent, term expire end of 2016)
Jim DesJardins
Athena Christodoulou

The continuing NMSEA Board Members are:

Rolf Nitsche (Term 2016-2017)
Wendy Schumann (Term 2016-2017)
Thomas Solomon (Term 2016-2017)
Julie Stephens (Term 2016-2017)
Gary Vaughn (Term 2016-2017)
David Wilt (Term 2016-2017)

Candidate for NMSEA Board of Directors:

Elena Kayak

Albuquerque, NM

Elena Kayak currently serves as the Rio Rancho Public Schools first District Conservation, Energy & Environmental Educator for nineteen public schools. Her role concentrates on the education of staff and students regarding sustainability initiatives, ranging from renewable energy to water and energy conservation to landfill diversion. She has lived in Corrales for the past 22 years in a passive solar home that added active solar PVs four years ago. She is a weekday vegetarian and when it's not too cold, she may commute to work by bicycle. She is a fan of the book "Garbology" by Edward Humes and of the art of Chris Jordan: Running the Numbers I & II. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COUc-t8lf2c>, <http://www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/rtn/#silent-spring>, <http://www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/rtn2/#water-bottles>

She hopes to be an active part of the state of NM taking the lead in the installation of solar PVs, on schools, public buildings, commercial and residential, parking canopies, PV serving modular pumped hydro power and other onsite generation. Let's go, New Mexico!

Candidate for NMSEA Board of Directors:

Jim DesJardins

Albuquerque, NM

Jim was born and raised in Chicago and earned a B.S. in Business from the University of Illinois at Chicago. After college he worked in computer and telecom sales and in real estate. In 2005 he and his

wife worked overseas in Bangladesh and Cape Verde. Living and working in developing countries gave Jim an appreciation of how important it is to take care our planet and generated an interest in renewable energy. Upon returning to the states, he and his wife, Debora decided they wanted to live in a more moderate climate and moved to Albuquerque, NM. In 2008, Jim opened HydePark Realty and in 2010 he started working in the solar industry. He has held positions as Solar Consultant, Project Manager and Operations Manager and is currently working for Sol Luna Solar. Jim has a Technical Sales certification from the North American Board of Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), coordinates bi-monthly meetings of the New Mexico Solar Energy Assn. (NMSEA). He also serves on the Albuquerque Energy Council and the Renewable Energy Industry Assn (REIA). When he is not working, he can found running, cycling and hiking.

Candidate for NMSEA Board of Directors:

Athena Christodoulou

Albuquerque, NM

Solar for all! I have participated in the 2014 and 2017 Integrated Resource Planning meetings at PNM, organized workshops for several Solar Fiesta, spoken at PRC meetings, written letters to the editor, given solar workshops for 8th graders, and continue to guide the Albuquerque chapter. I have a balanced technical, business, and political sense for the renewable energy arena in New Mexico. NMSEA has a very rich history in all aspects of solar in New Mexico and abroad. As an organization, we have the strong technical, political, and business savvy of all its members and advisory board. I seek to keep NMSEA vibrant and active.

Energy is key and I've taught from nuclear thermal to solar energy and much in between. But I also walk the talk with 4kW of PV, thermal solar for my hot water, passive heating, and electric vehicle. Opening my house to others and allowing them to experience, first hand, the comfort of sustainability has made even more believers in the possibility for a net-zero life.

My first job as a naïve and new college graduate was in the Navy as an instructor teaching nuclear thermal power and then as an engineer in the Naval Reserves specializing in environment and safety. I retired with the rank of Commander. My other professional experiences include: CFO and landscaper for a residential construction company; designer of residential PV systems (Positive Energy Solar- part-time); teacher - high school mathematics and science (APS); and researcher of human development (three sons and a husband). Currently, I am the CEO of the web-based list making tool, Udorami.com.