

## Who is this Alaskan running for the BOD?

Greetings from Fairbanks. My name is Donna Gardino. I have been a member of the **Fairbanks Ski Patrol (FSP)** for over 15 years and a member of the **Birch Hill Nordic Patrol** for four years. I am an OEC and OET Instructor as well as a Mentor. I am currently **Alaska Assistant Division Director and a Member-at-Large on both the Planning and Governance Committee**. I was **Secretary** of the FSP for about a decade. I am also the **IOR** for Alaska's Northern Region OEC Refresher. I am active on the local, state level and national level and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve, if elected, on the Board. I have the skills to **listen to all members' concerns**, regardless of member affiliation or geographic location, without bias, and to act **with transparency**.

**Outside of the NSP**, I spent twenty years of my career developing long and short-term transportation plans, most recently serving as the Executive Director for the Metropolitan Planning Organization, designated by the Governor, covering the urbanized area of Fairbanks and North Pole. I managed an annual operating budget of \$430,000 and capital budget of \$9-23 million. I ensured that the organization was in good standing to receive federal surface transportation funds for our priority projects.

Planning, in a regulated environment, is my obvious strength. I developed bylaws, memorandums of understanding and policies and procedures as the inaugural Executive Director of this organization, amending them as necessary as the organization grew. This work translates well to the NSP, particularly to the **Governance and Planning** Committees. As in any organization, developing the plans is not enough. You must have a vision, goals and objectives and the ability to measure your plan's success so that you can continue to grow, thrive and be sustainable and relevant in the long-term. I believe in **strategic planning**.

I desire the continued success and organizational growth for the NSP. Two of the challenges the NSP faces are the same challenges of many organizations, **recruiting and retaining** members. We also face a changing environment where skiing, while our legacy, is not the only sport to which we provide aid as we expand into Bike Patrolling and beyond. We must seek these avenues to be **relevant** to our members and the industries we serve. Encouraging folks to participate year-round would also be of value in increasing the membership and a way to capture more interest in patrolling from a larger pool of interested candidates. It would also increase familiarity with the NSP. Finally, now, more than ever, the NSP must be **resilient**, and anticipate, prepare for, respond, and adapt to change and sudden disruptions to remain relevant and sustain our organization for years to come.

I have the energy and desire to give to the BOD and would like to answer any questions you may have. You can find me on Facebook or email me at [djgardino@gmail.com](mailto:djgardino@gmail.com). The future is in every members' hands. Please vote!!