

To Whom It May Concern,

Hi my name is Barbara Lonsdale and I am interested in serving on the Board.

My dad is a 3rd generation Santa Monican that went to Alaska to work on the pipeline-married an Eskimo and here I am. I've been going back and forth between Alaska and here until I moved to Venice permanently in 1987. Growing up immersed in the outdoors made me want to help preserve the environment which is why I got involved in the VNC Environmental Committee years ago and am now President co-chair. I noticed that the inner city youth here do not have the opportunity to experience nature as I did growing up while substitute teaching for LAUSD. This made it very special for me to train with The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains & The Audobon Society to lead school groups through the Ballona Wetlands.

I am now leading tours of my own for my company "Alltournative," after years of leading tours as Vice President for the Venice Historical Society, the Venice Art Crawl and The Topanga Docents. I love to share my knowledge of the area and to inspire others to appreciate the beauty of their surroundings-even the quiriness and "funky" characters of our area-there's definitely never a dull moment here with so many different amazing cultures. Some people find it hard to believe that Los Angeles is home to the largest population of Native Americans in the U.S. and the local Native Americans remain a mystery to most. I am happy to be working with the local Gabrieleno/Tongva tribe as one of their "Cultural Liaisons" to help maintain their fascinating culture, which is the main focus of my tours. Wherever you travel in the world, people often celebrate the indigenous peoples and they can be celebrated here as well.

I really just want to want to help preserve the environment, history and culture. I feel that I have been a conduit for information with neighbors and friends in Venice as I am always getting them to support or participate in VNC activities. This is probably why I was the Events Coordinator Chair for years and am still on the board for the Venice Chamber of Commerce. My uncle Wayne Harding and cousin Chris Harding were past-presidents of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce--though my favorite is my uncle-whom The Santa Monica Mirror wrote an article on entitled "The Legendary Impact of John Lonsdale." At 84 years old he is still volunteering to coach for the Girls and Boys Club of Santa Monica, The Little League, Crossroads, and is even known as "The Recycler" at the games because he's always collecting bottles and cans. I'm exactly half his age now and when I grow up, I want to be just like him.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barbara Lonsdale

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