



## Catskill 3500 Club Official Ballot 2026

As outlined in the Catskill 3500 Club Bylaws, Officers and Directors are elected annually by the membership. The Nominating Committee proposes a slate, which is approved by the Board. All Directors must chair or serve on a committee, with appointments made by the President. Further details on our nominating process is in our bylaws, available on our website at <https://www.catskill3500club.org/governance>.

All active members (current on paid dues) are encouraged to vote. Please complete, sign, and return your ballot by email (PDF or photo) to Sherri Goffman at [secretary@catskill3500club.org](mailto:secretary@catskill3500club.org) or by mail to: *Catskill 3500 Club, P.O. Box 294, West Hurley, NY 12491*.

Below are the nominated candidates approved by the Board. Please check the box to approve.

### Officers (4)

- President: Lori Herpen
- Vice President: Maria Bedo-Calhoun\*
- Treasurer: Chris Hummel
- Secretary: Maria Orchard

\*Maria Bedo-Calhoun, a former Club President, has agreed to serve a one-year term as Vice President to support organizational continuity since our 501c3 was established under her Presidential term. She does not intend to seek the office of Vice President or President in future election cycles.

### Directors (9)

- Chris Garibian (new)
- Sherri Goffman
- Colleen Hardcastle
- Yanny Hecht (new)
- David Oliver
- Mike Siudy (new)
- Lourdes Sonera
- Jack Walker
- David White

Please print your name and member number, and sign/date below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Bios of New 3500 Club Director Nominees



**Christopher Leon Garibian** is a dedicated and driven hike leader for the past few years with the Catskill 3500 Club, proudly recognized as the **2025 Hike Leader of the Year**. Holding Club number 3881 and Winter patch W1474, Christopher brings grit, preparation, and a steady presence to every mountain he steps on. His commitment goes far beyond leading hikes — he has been a trail steward, participates in road cleanups, and continues hands-on trail maintenance efforts. Safety is at the core of his leadership style, backed by his ongoing current Wilderness First Aid and CPR-AED certifications.

Christopher leads with a deep respect for the Catskills and a passion for helping others push past limits, build confidence, and experience the raw beauty of the Catskills. Whether guiding first-time hikers or seasoned peak-baggers, his mindset is simple and consistent — show up prepared, respect the mountain, and embrace the challenge. For Christopher, the mission is clear: Adventure Awaits — and he's ready to lead the way.



**Yanny Hecht** is an avid hiker and dedicated leader within the Catskill 3500 Club.

Born with a love for the outdoors, Yanny's hiking journey began in childhood in Burlington, Vermont, where his mother would take him and his siblings on adventures. They would ride tricycles to the edge of the woods, hike in, share lunch together, and hike back out. As a young camper in New York, he continued exploring through overnight hikes and camping trips.

As an adult living in Rockland County near Harriman State Park, Yanny became a regular weekend hiker. A colleague introduced him to the Catskill 3500 Club, sparking a passionate pursuit of high-peak challenges. Enchanted by the 35-peak goal, he completed all 35 Catskill peaks in one year and finished the Winter 35 the following year. This quickly led to friendships with club leaders and an ever-expanding list of accomplishments: the Adirondack 46 and Winter 46er, the White Mountains, the Green Mountains, Maine peaks, the Catskills Hundred Highest, and progress toward U.S. high points. He also became a LASHER on the Appalachian Trail, completing sections state by state.

In 2010, shortly after finishing his first round of the Catskills, Lori Rankin invited Yanny to become a hike leader. He began leading regularly—especially winter weekend hikes—while continuing his own challenges. Today, as Outings Chair for the Catskill 3500 Club, he enjoys hiking with fellow leaders, recruiting and mentoring new ones, and sharing his deep appreciation for the club. For Yanny and many others who live for the trails, the 3500 Club remains a true slice of heaven.



### **Mike Siudy #1728 W695**

Mike spent a lot of time outdoors growing up fishing and swimming in the Great Sacandaga Lake, but he really didn't begin hiking until the late 90's while attending college at SUNY New Paltz. After settling in the area, hiking became a favorite activity, along with rock climbing, mountain biking, and trail running. He finished his first round of the Catskill 35 in 2008, became a winter 35er and ADK 46er in 2009, and completed the ADK 46W in 2010. Now totally addicted to the mountains, he branched out to other areas and eventually climbed all of the Northeast 115 4000 footers as well as the hundred highest peaks in the Catskills, Adirondacks, and in New England. He has also summited two dozen of 14,000 foot peaks in Colorado and competed in ultra distance trail races in Norway and the Alps.

In 2025 Mike took over canister maintenance responsibilities for the 14 trailless peaks in the Catskills from longtime maintainer Jim Bouton and has been enjoying that role immensely.

Mike's favorite hikes have always included being off trail on the "bushwhack" peaks. During the time he hiked in the Catskills he saw the transition of the trailless mountain areas evolve from true wilderness to become the extensive herd path networks that we see today. Mike is eager to be involved in protecting and preserving the fragile environments of these mountains so future hikers may share the same rewarding experiences that he has had over the past three decades.