

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



Please cast your vote for our annual board of directors elections, and help us decide the future direction of Appalachian Voices. The board is instrumental in our success as they work in partnership with the staff to help define the focus and direction of the organization. Below is information about each of our board members who are up for election, along with a ballot. On the reverse side, you may find information about our current board members not up for re-election this year.

Please use the attached paper ballot and enclosed reply envelope to cast your vote. You may also vote online at [AppalachianVoices.org/board-elections](http://AppalachianVoices.org/board-elections). Ballots are due November 1st.

## BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

**Heidi Binko, 2nd term**— Heidi serves as associate director of Special Climate Initiatives for the Rockefeller Family Fund (RFF), working closely with national and regional advocates and foundations at the nexus of climate and coal and playing a leading role in creating strategic partnerships between funders and advocates interested in helping the nation move beyond a coal-based economy. Prior to joining RFF, Heidi was the executive director of the WestWind Foundation, a family foundation based in Virginia. She currently serves as a board member of the Environmental Grantmakers Association and Appalachian Voices, and as a co-chair of the Climate and Energy Funders Group. She holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



**Rev. Jim Deming, 1st term** — Jim is the Minister for Environmental Justice for the United Church of Christ where he is involved in grassroots environmental justice programs, education and advocacy. For three years, he was the Executive Director of Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, educating congregations on environmental stewardship, renewable energy and energy conservation. Jim also served as the Executive Director of the Kentucky/ Tennessee Water Environment Association. He is excited about working with Appalachian Voices and members of the faith community to draw attention to environmental injustices like mountaintop removal.

**Cale Jaffe, 1st term** — Cale is a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, focusing on clean air advocacy, energy, and climate change. He is also a Lecturer at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he teaches a seminar on Environmental Law and Federalism. Cale is on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Conservation Network, and is a past chair of the Board of Governors for the Environmental Law Section of the Virginia State Bar. In 2007, he was part of the legal team that won a unanimous victory before the Supreme Court of the United States in *Environmental Defense v. Duke Energy*. In 2008, Cale was a co-recipient of the Virginia Conservation Network's Blue Ridge Award. Cale is a graduate of Yale University and earned his law degree and a Masters in Legal History from the University of Virginia.



## OFFICERS

**Christina Howe, Chair** — Christina resides in Valle Crucis on the Watauga River. She served as senior vice-president of a development company in Miami, Fla., which built, managed and sold shopping centers, office buildings and airport hangers. She founded and owns two real estate companies and assisted her late husband in building the 350,000 sq.ft. Orlando-Sanford International Airport terminal in Sanford, Fla. She served as President of the High Country Conservancy for 4 years and is currently President of the Shull's Farm POA. Christina is a sailor, an avid tennis player and enjoys golf. She is a passionate environmentalist and Green has always been her favorite color.



**Heidi Binko, Vice-Chair**— See bio at left.

**Matthew Anderson-Stembridge, Secretary** — Matthew currently directs the Creation Care Fund, which provides financial and technical support to Christian environmental grassroots initiatives. His background includes training with Green Corps and working with Greenpeace. He directed environmental and rural advocacy and education in Washington, D.C. for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as national campaign efforts on climate and energy for the National Council of Churches in Christ. Matthew also served as executive director of Twin Cities-based coalition Faith in the City. Matthew graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in environmental studies and is completing a Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership from the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He lives in Saint Paul with his wife Kirsten. Matthew enjoys curling and coaching ultimate Frisbee.



**Bunk Spann, Treasurer** — Bunk is the founder of the National Center for Developmental Education at Appalachian State University, a former member of the Boone, N.C. town council and current chair of the Boone area Planning Commission.



**Please fill out the ballot below and mail to our main office in the provided envelope, OR vote online at [AppalachianVoices.org/board-elections](http://AppalachianVoices.org/board-elections)**

MAIL-IN BALLOT

Your vote is important to us! Please fill out this ballot and return in the envelope provided by NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please fill out the information below to verify that you are a current member:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the boxes below to accept each of the nominees individually, or

**Check here to accept all nominations**

### BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

- Heidi Binko** (2nd term)
- Rev. Jim Deming** (1st term)
- Cale Jaffe** (1st term)

### OFFICERS

- Christina Howe** for Chair
- Heidi Binko** for Vice Chair
- Bunk Spann** for Treasurer
- Matthew Anderson-Stembridge** for Secretary



# APPALACHIAN VOICES—Board of Directors

The following are current serving members of Appalachian Voices' Board of Directors.  
(Reelection year for each board member is noted following their name)

**Dot Griffith, 2012** — Dot Griffith earned her BFA in Photography from the University of Georgia and is the founder of the Banner Elk Advocates for Responsible Expansion (BEARE). She is the mother of two and loves to cycle, hike, camp, cook, dance, and now spread awareness about mountaintop removal coal mining.



**Mary Anne Hitt, 2011** — Mary Anne Hitt is deputy director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, which is working to eliminate coal's contribution to global warming by preventing the construction of new coal-fired power plants, accelerating the retirement and replacement of existing coal plants, and ensuring the massive coal reserves in the US remain underground and out of export markets. She previously served as executive director of Appalachian Voices, where she was one of the co-creators of iLoveMountains.org. She was also previously the executive director of the Ecology Center and the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project. She grew up in the mountains of east Tennessee and now lives in West Virginia.



**Brenda Huggins, 2012 (rotates off)** — Brenda Huggins is a retired school teacher and former member of the North Carolina Textbook Commission. Brenda helped co-found the Catawba County Litter Task Force in Newton, N.C. She is a long-standing volunteer for Appalachian Voices, including delivering The Appalachian Voice newspaper to two counties in western North Carolina. She currently teaches part-time at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. Brenda is an avid hiker and an active member of Catawba Valley Outing Club, and enjoys helping to maintain hiking trails in the area.



**Pat Watkins, 2011** — Pat is an ordained minister in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Denise Honeycutt, served as missionaries in Nigeria with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. He currently serves as the Executive Director of



Caretakers of God's Creation, an environmental ministry of the Virginia Conference. He is a member of the United Methodist Women's Division Green Team for the denomination. Pat tries to live out his passion for God's creation by living his life in such a way as to make a smaller footprint on God's earth. He is an avid organic, permaculture gardener. His passion is to raise the awareness, particularly among people of faith, that there is a connection between faith and taking care of God's creation. He and Denise live in Fairfax VA.

**Lauren Waterworth, 2013** — Lauren is a native of Boone, N.C. She has a background in geology as well as studio art, and she earned her JD from Tulane University Law School with a certificate in Environmental Law. After finishing law school, Lauren returned to practice law in Boone, where she discovered a passion for criminal defense work. She also practices in the areas of Environmental Law, Land Use and Planning. When not in the office or in the court room, Lauren enjoys walking her dogs with her wonderful husband, skiing as a member of the National Ski Patrol, gardening, hiking and painting.



**Willa Coffey Mays, Board Member Ex Officio** — Willa has over 25 years experience leading environmental and non-profit organizations. Prior to her work with Appalachian Voices she was Director of Operations and Development for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in Bozeman, MT; Assistant Director of the Center for the Environment at Catawba College, and Director of Development for the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Liz Aycock** — Riverkeeper Advisory Council

**Jonathan C. Allen, CPA CFP, CLU** — Chair's Advisory Council

**Alfred Glover** — Chair's Advisory Council

**Thank you for Voting!**  
**Please mail your form in the provided envelope to:**

Appalachian Voices  
191 Howard Street  
Boone, NC 28607