

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

President's Message

January 2024



This is my first year to be addressing everyone as your new President, and I'm very excited to be in this role. I want to first acknowledge the tremendous job that my predecessor, George Milne, did for this organization – and it turns out that no President in our history has served us longer, eight years!

My immediate goals were explained in detail in the last *Outdoors West* publication, namely:

1. Strengthen the core officer positions – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. Strengthen the State Vice-Presidents role.
3. Step up our advocacy on issues of importance to us, our member clubs, and our mission-aligned organizations.
4. Leverage our strong finances for initiating a conservation grant program.
5. Set an example and serve as a resource to our member organizations.
6. Resume in-person Annual Meetings, with electronic attendance always an option.

I'm happy to say that the Executive Committee has already stepped up to this ambitious task list, and we have made significant progress into more than half of the items.

This year, of course, will be an election year, and with that will be both the promises and also the volatility of commitments to environmental and conservation causes. While much progress has happened over the course of the current Biden administration's tenure, we face of course unprecedented challenges ahead, and much more will have to happen going forward. We should be a significant part of this progress forward.

As always, it's important to remember that our strength resides in the volunteer efforts of our members and member organizations, and that FWOC will continue to take action on important issues on behalf of members and member organizations. If you know of issues that are a concern, don't hesitate to approach anyone on the Executive Committee.

Sincerely,
John Rettig

<https://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org>