



## President's Message



Dear Fellow EPA Alums,

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and that the New Year is off to a good start. I am deeply honored to serve you as President of the EPA Alumni Association for the coming two years. I am a proud Alumnus of Region 5.

It is important for us to continue living up to our motto "We're Not Done Yet." Knowing how much all 2,563 of us accomplished in our combined 60,685 years of service to protect human health and the environment, the world is indeed a better place because of what we did. I want the Alumni Association and our members to do all we can to continue improving the environment long into the future. For certain, with climate change and so many other challenges, the world needs us. With our knowledge and experience, we all well suited to the challenge.

Over the next two years, my goals are to look for more ways to nourish and pass along our experience to the next generation of environmental leaders. It is also to work to get more active alumni groups in each Region and AAship, empower our members to be effective in local environmental improvement efforts, increase our visibility as an organization, and, to do all that, increase our membership.

I encourage you to get involved in the EPA Alumni Association in ways that best fit your interests and skills – be it running for the Board, getting engaged in our



### Association Leadership

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Dave Ullrich  
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**New Members**  
November 2  
through Dec 31

Jim Augustyn  
Elizabeth Behl  
Eve Boss  
Carolyn D'Almeida  
Kirsten Engel

Committees and organizing alumni events in your Region or AAship.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you.



**DAVE ULLRICH**  
**PRESIDENT**

Mary Goetz  
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Julie Zimmerman



## EPA Alumni Association ACADEMY

Come Join us in a Discussion on

### **ENDING COMBUSTION IN TRANSPORTATION**

Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
3:00-4:00 PM Eastern

#### **PLEASE REGISTER**

Transportation is the largest source of both greenhouse gas emissions and emissions that cause smog and soot pollution. One proposed solution is to electrify our cars and trucks. At our next Academy session, we will dive into the recent efforts to electrify our transportation system, the cutting-edge work happening in California, and the barriers that still need to be addressed. Our panelists, [Paul Cort of Earthjustice](#) a fellow EPA Alum, and [Sydney Vergis of the California Air Resources Board \(CARB\)](#), will also discuss the partnerships that are helping craft this approach! See their bios below!

Come join us for a fun and energizing discussion!!

**Paul Cort** is the Director of **Right to Zero**, based in the **California Earthjustice regional office** in San Francisco, CA. He received his bachelor's and master's



degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in civil and environmental engineering, and his J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1996.

Prior to joining Earthjustice, Paul was an attorney with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of General Counsel in Washington, D.C. and, more recently, Office of Regional Counsel for Region 9 in San Francisco.

Paul came to Earthjustice in 2005 and focuses on air pollution matters, specifically in the San Joaquin Valley. Paul is also an adjunct professor at UC Hastings where he teaches an environmental law clinic.



**Dr. Sydney Vergis** was appointed Deputy Executive Officer - Mobile Sources and Incentives - at the California Air Resources Board in June 2023. Dr. Vergis' responsibilities include overseeing new and emerging air pollution control programs and policies related to mobile emissions sources.

In addition, she oversees the incentive programs in the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division and the Mobile Source Control Division (MSCD). Previously, Dr. Vergis was the Division Chief of MSCD, overseeing the development and implementation of medium-duty, heavy-duty and off-road emissions regulations, as well as many of CARB's incentive programs. She previously led CARB's Legislative Office and is a former Senior Land Use Planner and former Yolo County Planning Commissioner. She is also a member of the Davis Sunrise Rotary Club.

Dr. Vergis received a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning, a B.A. in Economics and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Transportation Technology and Policy, from the University of California Davis.



## ACADEMY SESSION

### Addressing Climate Change with Advances in Renewable Energy

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
4:00 pm Eastern**

Dr. Dave Mooney of DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will be joining us for our second Academy session of 2024. NREL's 3000+ professionals are engaged in cutting edge research in such areas as biofuels, photovoltaics, and wind energy. Dr. Mooney will fill us in on how they prioritize their research and their current hot issues. Please add the program to your calendar and register.

**[PLEASE REGISTER](#)**

## ACADEMY SESSION

### EPA ALUMNI PARTNERING WITH CITIZEN LEADERS TO PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITIES

**Thursday, February 29, 2024  
4:00 PM Eastern**

Mark Your Calendar and Register Now!

The Environmental Protection Network, our sister organization, has been connecting EPA Alumni with disadvantaged communities who have requested assistance. The panel will include the EPA Alumni and a member of the community who are working together on the two projects. The projects include the Tar Creek Superfund site and a rural water project in Washington State. More details to follow, but please put it on your calendar and register!

**[PLEASE REGISTER](#)**

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

Some of you may remember that EPA had an Exhibit in the Ronald Reagan building that described the history of EPA. Since that was established, the Agency has been planning, designing and building out the National Environmental Museum and Education Center in the William Jefferson Clinton North Building (formerly Ariel Rios North). The Center should be completed in January 2024; we are hoping for a virtual event about the Center with the Agency in February or March.

Please check out this information regarding the [EPA Exhibit](#).

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### **Stay Tuned for all of our Academy Programs!!**

We post session names and registration links for our Academy sessions on the front page of our web site, add to our Facebook page, and include in our weekly newsletter. In addition, we send out email invitations to our Members!

If you have missed any of our earlier Academy sessions, they were recorded and can be found at <https://www.epaalumni.com/videos>

**Nominate Yourself--  
Or Maybe Someone Else (with their permission)  
to the Alumni Association Board!**

Are you interested in getting more involved in the Association and continuing to make a difference in the environment and EPA; continuing to learn and enjoy the company of your friends and former colleagues? If yes, maybe you would like to help lead our growing organization (close to 2,600 Members). Please consider being a candidate yourself or nominating someone (with their permission) to the Board.

The 15-member Board directs the activities of the Association on behalf of our members. We meet every other month for 90 minutes. Our Association is a non-partisan diverse group, with recent retirees and not-so-recent retirees, a range of Agency grade levels and type of work, in Headquarters, the Regions and laboratories. Our Board should reflect the diversity of our membership.

Watch for the nominations email from the Association; it will be sent out in February.

Stay tuned!

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## **Possible Shutdown Assistance for EPA Staff and SEE Enrollees**

As reported in our November 2023 Newsletter, the EPA Alumni Association continues to plan so we can support Agency staff and EPA SEE enrollees, in accordance with federal ethics requirements, if there is a government shutdown. (See current federal ethics rules below). We want to support staff and EPA SEE enrollees who are having problems putting food on their table or purchasing essential medications because of the shutdown.

During the 2019 shutdown, the Association supported EPA Staff and EPA SEE enrollees during the shutdown which resulted in 280 Alumni giving gifts with a value of \$36,500 to 165 EPA employees and SEE enrollees.

We are anxious to identify Alumni Members ahead of time who are willing to be in the initial group of donors to send gift cards to these staff and SEE Enrollees. If you want to help, please click this link. And many thanks!

### **[INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING](#)**

Send questions or suggestions to [epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com).

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#### **Current Federal Ethics Rules**

Federal employees cannot accept any gift of cash or cash equivalents (currency, bank check, Venmo or Zelle transfer, etc.). Federal employees can accept a gift with a *value* of \$20 or less, excluding cash, from any one source such as a store gift or e-gift store card (Safeway, CVS, Walmart, etc.) or other items with a value of \$20 or less\*.

\*The Federal ethics rules allow an unsolicited gift of \$20 or less per occasion and no more than \$50 in a calendar year from one person.

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## **Calling All Retired Grant Project Officers & Specialists!!**

EPA has been working hard to implement the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) over the course of the last two years. Both of these laws created historic opportunities to advance the mission of the EPA but also require the agency to award a historic number of very large and small grants in a narrow timeframe. The Agency will also be receiving considerable oversight in their management of these grants.

EPA is pursuing numerous hiring options including exploring the possibility of bringing on retired former EPA grants project officers and grants specialists on a temporary basis as reemployed annuitants.

Individuals brought on under this program would work as project officers with new grantees and will provide advice and assistance to state, local and/or tribal governments and non-profits to help facilitate the success of the grants and the grantees.

This is a great opportunity to ensure that EPA has the resources to manage these grants and for the country and grantees to succeed in their environmental goals! Please think about it.

If you are interested, please reach out to Yulia Kalikhman at [Kalikhman.yulia@epa.gov](mailto:Kalikhman.yulia@epa.gov) EPA's hiring approaches leverage all available regulatory flexibilities.

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Do you have a suggestion for a speaker at our next Annual Meeting? The big event for the EPA Alumni Association every year is our annual meeting. This year will be no exception. We usually have it in late April or early May. Now that we can plan in-person meetings, we will do that with a virtual attendance option. The in-person part will most likely be in the Washington, D.C. area. As soon as we have a date and location, we will let you know.

We are looking for a speaker and topic who is interesting, informative, inspiring and non-partisan. We are not able to give an honorarium but can cover some incidental expenses.

If you have any ideas about who might be good as our speaker, please send the suggestion to [epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com) It would be great if you could let us know how we could reach this person as well!!

## MYSTERY

We have heard that there was a time capsule buried in 1976. Have you heard about it? If yes, do you know where it was buried? And what was in it? If you have answers, please email [epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com).

# A FEW UPDATES FROM OUR REGIONAL ALUMNI

We have included an update and a couple of photos from recent Regional gatherings. If you want to include information from your Region or AAship, please send to [epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com) for the next quarterly newsletter!

## Region 5

On December 19, 2023, about 25 EPA Region 5 alumni and spouses attended our annual Winter Solstice gathering at the J.W. Marriott in Chicago. Current EPA Region 5 staff were also invited. It was great seeing everyone. We sent a video greeting to our former Region 5 RA Valdas Adamkus who just turned 97. We now have 272 alumni in our Region 5 email group, and we always encourage them to join the national Association. During 2023, 13 Region 5 Alumni joined the national Association. We are planning an outing for our Region 5 Alumni in late January or early February 2024. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and all the best in 2024! Steve Goranson and Dave Ullrich



Region 6 held one of their social gatherings on November 9 in Dallas. These socials, usually organized by Betty Williamson, have been a frequent way of bringing Alumni together and recruiting new EPA Association members.

Bob Steiert from Region 7 reached out and said that he invites about 300 Region 7 Alumni each month for their monthly lunches. Twelve volunteers set up their monthly lunches wherever they wish to host in the KC metro area. Lunches are individual checks, full menu, and seating together. Attendance normally ranges from 10 to 25 each month. He also attached a photo of a recent lunch (October) in Leawood, Kansas.





Region 9 had a hike on November 3 for nearly 30 EPA Alumni Association members and spouses/significant others in the San Pablo Bay Nature Wildlife Refuge. Distance was approximately 5 miles, and Loretta Barsamian and husband Harland, who organized the hike, provided narrative on how EPA participated in the restoration of the San Pablo Bay marshland. As usual, most of the hikers visited the Hop Monk Tavern in Novato for refreshments following the hike.

## Many Thanks for Supporting the Alumni Association!

### We Can't Do This Without You!

Many thanks to all of our Members who participated so far in our this year's Fundraising Drive. We appreciate your support! There is still time to participate. [Click Here](#) to make a secure online donation now. If you prefer to send a check, please send to:

EPA Alumni Association  
628 Chester River Beach Road  
Grasonville, MD 21638

We want to thank the Members listed below. This list includes all donations from November 3, 2023, by Paypal through December 31st and mailed donations received by December 16th.

Allan Abramson, John Adams, Frederick (Derry) Allen, John Allis, Tim Amsden, Michael Ardito, Daiva Balkus, Michael Bandrowski, Beverly Banister, Linda Baric, Donald Barnes, Thomas Barnwell, Thomas Baugh, Barbara Beck, Bonnie Bellow, Paul Berger, Jim Berlow, Blake Biles, Gordon Binder, Victoria Binetti, Linda Birnbaum, Elizabeth Blackburn, Melanie Blaha, Mary Blakeslee, Richard Boice, Michael Bonchonsky, John Bosch, Brooks Bowen, Marilyn Bracken, Joanne Brennan McKee, Rob Brenner, Dale Bryson, William Burnam, Helga Butler, Lorraine Butler, John Calcagni, David Calkins, Carol Campbell, John Cantilli, David Carroll, Lynda Carroll, Stephen Clark, Margaret Conomos, Basil Constantelos, Norman Cook, Gail Cooper, Valerie Cooper, Ila Cote, Elizabeth Cotsworth, Jeneva Craig, Betsy Curnow, J. Davies, Barbara Davis, David Davis, William Dickinson, Marguerite Duffy, Diana Dutton, Frances Eargle, Charles Elkins, Barbara Elkus, Jerry Emison, Kirsten Engel, Dan Esty, Dale Evarts, Gregory Fabian, Margie Fehrenbach, Penelope Fenner-Crisp, Abraham Ferdas, Rodger Field, Jerry Filbin, Charles

Findley, Deidre Flannery Tanaka, Robin Fletcher, Michael Flynn, John Fowle III, Jeanne Fox, David Friedman, Laura Fujii, Jack Gakstatter, Thomas Gallagher, Linda Garczynski, Anne Giesecke, Barry Gilbert, Joseph Goffman, Alan Goodman, Stephen Goranson, Kimberly Green-Goldsborough, Georgina Guernica, Mark Hague, Sally Hanft, Edward Hanley, Sallyanne Harper, Karl Hausker, Al Havinga, Grady Helms, Matthew Hoagland, Sharon Hollander, Dave Howekamp, Charles Howland, Dennis Huebner, Phillip Hutton, Marshall Hyatt, Elizabeth Janes, Steve Jellinek, Julie Jensen, Rebecca Jones, Bobbie Kahan, Rick Karl, Karen Kellen, Cynthia Kelly, Katrina Kipp, David Kling, Carl Kohnert, Frans Kok, Kachig Jack Kooyoomjian, Debra Kovacs, Walter Kovalick, Cat Kuhlman, Marilyn Kuray, Jeff Lape, Korina Layne-Jones, Dennis Leaf, Frederick Leutner, John Lyon, Bruce Macler, Douglas MacMillan, Caren Madsen, Dawn Martin, Mark Masarik, Craig Matthiessen, Thomas McCabe, Jr., Mel McCottry, Diane McCreary, Mike McDavit, Barbara McGuinness, Chilton McLaughlin, Robert McManus, Robert McNally, John Meagher, Albert Meiberg, Luther Mellen, Mary Lou Melley, David Menotti, Leonard Miller, David Mobley, Brian Molloy, Jane Moore, Walter Mugdan, Douglas Mundrick, Royal Nadeau, Carlton Nash, Bill Neuffer, Barry Nussbaum, Terry Oda, Donald Olson, Joseph Paisie, Christina Parker, Susan Pastor, Dorothy Patton, William Pedersen, Donna Perla, Jeffrey Peterson, Michael Petruska, Gloria Posey, Martha Prothro, William Rice, Ruth Robenolt, Adela Rodriguez, John Rogers, Marvin Rubin, Sam Sasnett, Wayne Savage, Amy Schaffer, Mark Segal, Michael Shapiro, Kris Shurr, John Silvasi, Harvey Simon, Gajindar Singh, Arthur Smith, Jr., Mary Lou Soscia, William Spratlin, Elaine Stanley, Fred Stiehl, Steve Stodola, Jerry Stubberfield, Hema Subramanian, Richard Sugatt, Robert Sussman, Charles Sutfin, Stephan Sylvan, Alexandra Teitz, Lee Thomas, Lee M. Thomas, Joseph Tikvart, Steve Torok, Sharon Trocher, Stephen Tuber, Lee Tyner, David Updike, Debra Villari, Craig Vogt, Lydia Wegman, Kenneth Westlake, John Wheeler, John White, Betty Williamson, Michaelle Wilson, Richard Wilson, Sharon Wilson, Catherine Winer, John Wise, Neil Wise, Steve Witkin, Paul Witthoeft, Eugene Wojcik, Carol Wood, Jim Woolford, Gene Wossum, George Wyeth, Victor Yamada, Dianna Young, Dan Yurman, Larry Zaragoza, Paula Zevin, Donald Zinger

## We Need your Help Recruiting New Members!

Maybe today is the day that you recruit a friend or former colleague to the join the Alumni Association! [www.epaalumni.com/join-now](http://www.epaalumni.com/join-now).

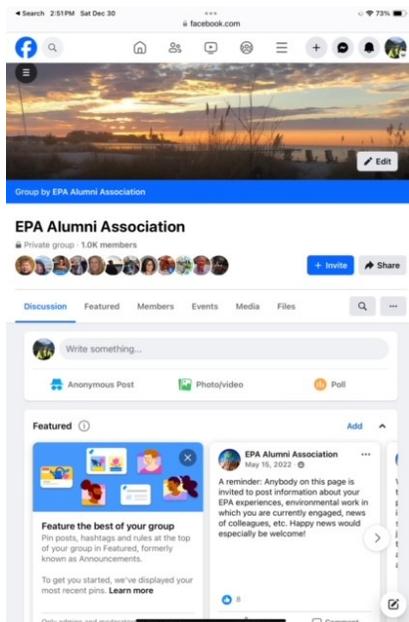
Check out our Member Directory at [EPA Alumni Association: Search Members](#). If you don't see the name of your former colleagues, reach out and ask them to join!

Here's a [brochure](#) you can cut and paste into an email. You can also just text or phone them! Joining is free, but we do solicit voluntary donations once a year.

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### In Memoriam

Since our November newsletter, the Association has been informed that the following former EPA employees having passed away. If you learn that a former colleague has died, you may share that information on our Facebook Page or let us know at [newsletter@epaalumni.org](mailto:newsletter@epaalumni.org). We will then post the obituary on the Association web site.



## Did You Know that We Have a Facebook Page?

One of the easiest and quickest ways to pass along new developments is by posting information on Facebook. It's also very easy for a member who sees a post on Facebook to comment on it, add a photo or link to another web site, etc.

Over 1,000 Association Members have joined our Facebook page. We know that Facebook is not for everyone, but if you do use it, or want to give it a try, we encourage you to like our page and you will see updates on issues and people of interest. Click here to go to our [Facebook Page](#).

## Your Membership Profile

The information in your membership profile can get stale. Perhaps you've started a new job, moved, changed your email address, or taken on a new volunteer position.

If so, please update your membership profile; it's easy to do. Just search for your name in the directory, click on it and when your profile comes up, you'll see an **Edit** button. Click on it and away you go! Don't forget to save your changes.

If these instructions don't work for you and you need help, please email [epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com) and we will help you out!

## STAY INFORMED!!

Sign up for the Weekly EPA and Environmental News Update - its primary focus is on new people, budgets, and policies of the current administration. It's great reading!

Go to: <https://www.epaalumni.com/transition-news> to read it or subscribe.

P.S. If you would rather not receive these newsletters, please email us at [newsletter@EPAalumni.org](mailto:newsletter@EPAalumni.org) rather than using the other tools available in this newsletter. If you unsubscribe from this newsletter, you will be unsubscribing from all of the Association emails.



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