

President: Sally Berman (2020)

Sally Berman, Folk School committee member, with her late husband, Al, fell in love with the Porkies when they purchased their home "between the Cranberries" in 1976. Sally taught chemistry at a large Chicago suburban high school, and after she stepped through a golden early retirement window in 1994, she led workshops and graduate courses for educators for several years. While they were still in the classroom, she and Al spent all of their holiday and vacation time at their home on the lake and moved to the shore when they retired from teaching in 1994. A few years ago, Sally joined the Folk School Committee, and for the past several years she was the weekend Ontonagon Lighthouse tour guide. As President, Sally's goal is to help the Friends grow and thrive.

Vice President: Jane Rasmussen (2018)

I have been a member of the Friends for a number of years, even before we moved to the U.P. Since relocating here in 2014, I have been involved in the Folk School as a volunteer host, a member of the committee and a student. As an advocate of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, I enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, participating in the park events and bringing our many guests to the Park. I have been assisting the Friend's Treasurer with deposits for the past three years in order to have stronger internal controls and for the past year I have been volunteering my time as the accountant/bookkeeper.

Treasurer: Barb Braithwaite (2018)

Barb has been on the Friends Board or involved in Friends of the Porkies volunteer efforts since the mid-1990's when Dan Urbanski invited her to an early-days board meeting to help out with a cross-country ski event sponsored by the Friends. She is married to Dave, a retired park ranger from the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, and herself is an ex-park ranger from lower Michigan, a former DNR district office manager, and most recently, a clinical psychologist. Some of Barb's other volunteer efforts include local ski patrol at the Porkies, duties with social work agencies around the area, and Board Treasurer for the Friends.

Secretary: Marilyn Knuteson (2019)

Originally from Wisconsin, I retired after a 32-year career with the State of WI Dept. of Corrections. I have been a Master Gardener volunteer since 2010 and have an innate love for the natural world. I am a member of the Friends of the Porkies and for the last two years I have been a member of the Folk School committee, a folk school host and student, and a music festival volunteer. I believe in the mission and vision of both the FOP and the Folk School and will work to continue to make them successful. The Porkies offers an abundance of outdoor opportunities to both local residents and vacationers, and I feel the FOP and FS offer unique and valued opportunities to enhance that experience.

Carol Maass (2018)

A recently retired professional interpreter with 35 years working in National Parks, Carol has volunteered as the Outreach Coordinator for the Friends of the Porkies. With two Bachelors of Arts degrees from the University of Minnesota (Archeology and Geography), she has extensive experience in Cultural Resource Management and Interpretation. Carol has been a member of the National Association for Interpretation since 1989.

Accomplishments include planning and designing multiple exhibits and print materials at three parks. For the last, 8 years of her career, Carol was the NPS Midwest Region Interpretive Media Project Manager managing over 180 exhibits, audiovisual, wayside, brochure and social media projects ranging from a YouTube exotic species video to the Keweenaw Calumet Visitor Center exhibits.

Sue Basile (2020)

Sue just recently joined the Friends of the Porkies board. She has served in different organizations over the years; Ontonagon County Habitat for Humanity, the local animal shelter, OCAP (Ontonagon County Animal Protection), and currently volunteers at the annual Porcupine Music Festival.

Sue's mother is from Ontonagon and lived here until she went to college, and then to the Air Force, where she met Sue's father. After her father retired from the Air Force and she graduated from Gwinn High School in 1972, the family moved to Ontonagon permanently. Sue chose to stay in the area and call it home. She has worked at Citizens State Bank, Smurfit-Stone Container and White Pine Electric Power. She is currently retired, but went back to Citizens State Bank on a part-time basis. Sue laughs when she tell people that, "I've come full circle".

Sue is looking forward to serving on this board and learning more about the Porkies.

Marlene Broemer (2020)

Marlene Broemer joined the Friends board in 2017. She recently returned to the Ontonagon area from travels around the country and the world. Marlene was born in Ontonagon and grew up in White Pine. She graduated from White Pine High School and Michigan State University, received her Master's Degree from San Francisco University and her doctorate from Helsinki University where she also taught.

Marlene presently teaches at Finlandia University. Her skills as an editor, instructor and writer will be a great asset to the Friends board.