

Nominated by:
Jane Wyckoff
Norbert Knapp

Elizabeth “Schatzi” Wood

Sandy Blackwell

Years of Service: 2020 - 2021

We are honored to nominate *Sandy Blackwell* for the *Elizabeth “Schatzi” Wood Award*, because she exemplifies the spirit of this Award, through her dedication and determination. Involved in many activities and leadership positions in her club, council, NSCF and Far West Ski Association for 16 years, it is not just her tireless volunteer time, but her grit and drive to keep her council alive and flourishing during a very difficult time, that she is worthy of this nomination.

Without Sandy stepping in, the future of the *Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs* was tenuous. A former *VP of Travel, VP of Programs and Vice President of the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs*, Sandy took the helm as *LAC President* in 2018 and still serves as its President, even though she has moved to Idaho. Under Sandy's leadership, participation by the member clubs of the LA Council has increased. Attendees to Far West Ski Association Annual Ski Week nearly doubled from prior years.

As conducting an in-person meeting for elections was not possible during the Pandemic in 2020, her officers all volunteered to stay on for another year and were re-elected. She realized it was a time that members need to know they were not alone, so she conducted the *LAC monthly council meetings via Zoom*. Others were in the same boat, and could discuss their concerns and reach out in case of need. She had more attendees on those meetings – sometimes 40 people – than were at in-person council meetings in some years. In 2021, facing open positions for some of the offices, Sandy actively called the ski clubs for possible candidates, and new volunteers emerged.

Last year, Sandy took the time to resolve several administrative issues for the LAC including updating documentation for financial filings, and tax-exempt status. The council *launched its brand new website* – very fun, upbeat and up-to-date. She also conducted a review of the *Articles of Incorporation*. She was the *LAC Trip Leader* for the Far West Ski Week to Sun Valley for 2021. While there, she assisted David Krupp, on behalf of the *Far West Ski Foundation*, to get donations, which she has done annually for a number of years. She ran the *FWSF Auction* again at the 2022 Far West Ski Week to Aspen / Snowmass.

Long interested in travel programs, she has been the *LAC Trip Leader to Far West Ski Weeks* over the years, and became a member of the *FWSA Travel Committee* last year. Sandy has attended FWSA Conventions for many years, and consistently volunteers to be a key member of the *Accounting Team for the Silent Auction*, which she is doing again this year for our FWSA Convention in Portland. As the LAC President, Sandy also attends FWSA Board Meetings and is an active contributor to the discussions and voting.

In 2021, Sandy was elected as a *Trustee for the Far West Ski Foundation*, where she has done an outstanding job in submitting legal documents as required by the state of California. With her background working for a law firm, she has been a great asset for the Foundation.

Sandy's hard work, enthusiasm, and ability to overcome obstacles has certainly benefited snowsport organizations in which she is involved. She made a personal pledge to be sure that the Los Angeles Council remain as a viable and active council in the FWSA organization, and she achieved her goal. She is indeed deserving of the *Elizabeth “Schatzi” Wood Award*, presented to a woman who has made a decisive contribution to skiing in the past two years or a prior year.

