

REBECCA MIKEL, President

I have served on the NFSS Board since December of 2006, when I began as Executive Secretary. I was elected President in 2013 and have continued in that position since that time. In my time on the Board, I've served on several committees, worked on various projects including elections, financial audits, document creation, by law revisions, and various other general responsibilities. I also serve on the Board for the National Bird Show, am a member of Michigan Society of Canary and Finch Breeders, participate in the NFSS Census each year, and occasionally contribute articles for the Journal. I work as Operations Manager for a firm in Elkhart, Indiana; and reside in SW Michigan. I keep Finches and Softbills and a few smaller Hookbills. I support local and national shows as an exhibitor, Show Secretary, ribbon hanger or whatever needs done. I would appreciate your vote for President.

SALLY HUNTINGTON – 1st Vice-President (Regional Vice-Presidents, Education)

I have served on the NFSS BOD as President and most recently as Vice President. I am MAP certified (model aviculture program), a life member of AFA, a charter member of Nat'l Avian Welfare Alliance, participate in Finch Save, member of Aviculture Society of American, and current President and life member of the Finch Society of San Diego County FSSDC). I have kept many types of Finches (Australian, Societies, Mannikins, Waxbills, Parrot finches, African) and softbills (White Ear Bulbuls, Pekin Robins, Mesias, Yhinas, Mousebirds, Brazilian Cardinals and Fruit Doves). I have published avian related articles and chapters (AFA Watchbird, NFSS Journal, Bird Talk Magazine, Just Finches and Softbills Magazine). I am the sponsor and coordinator of NFSS's and FSSDC'S annual Afternoon of Aviculture, consisting of speaker presentation on subjects of aviculture interest. I work as a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in La Jolla, California .

SALLY PORTER, 3rd Vice-President (Finch Save/Census)

I'm Sally Porter, and I'm running for 3rd VP/FinchSave Director. I kept finches in the 1970's when there was little information available, Gouldians were considered too delicate for the average breeder, and I'd never heard of a bird club or show. Once I retired in 2005, I had time to get back into this hobby. I've always been fascinated with finches, especially the waxbills. The tiny size of many of them, along with beautiful colors and charming songs, captured my heart. Unfortunately, many of the species that we used to have in the U.S. are no longer being imported, and we have no guarantee that there will not be a complete shutdown of imports one day. We need to work with the species that are still available to us. It would be wonderful to reach the point where African waxbills, along with many other species, are as domesticated as the Australian species!

Laura Tinker, NFSS Panel Judge; 4th VP/ Judge's Panel, Standards, Research)

I've been keeping and breeding birds for over 30 years. I've been a certified judge with NFSS for 14 years, and a judge for NCS and SPBE each for 5 years. I have gained valuable experience judging for these 3 organizations that I will continue to use if re-elected.

I've judged finches and softbills at the National Cage Bird Show, the Canadian National, and at various shows around the US, Canada and Puerto Rico. I am also a successful exhibitor having won the Higgins Award for Best Finch/Softbill at NCBS. A true aviculturist at heart, I've had breeding success with several species of psittacines, passerines and columbiformes. I am currently breeding zebra finch mutations, five canaries and diamond doves.

I have been serving NFSS as the Judge's Panel Director since March 2017. In just a short time I have participated in 2 NFSS board meetings, interfaced with NCBS regarding affiliation; improved our show classification system; lead our judge's panel in matters pertaining to judging; tracked exhibitor points; and started updating the judge's handbook. I also have experience in working on standards committees for NFSS and other organizations, and past leadership experience running local organizations and shows.

I appreciate your continued support of me as of Judge's Panel Director/ 4th VP. I hope to be able to continue to serve the membership, the Judge's Panel, and the NFSS Board of Directors in this role.

Susan Stieve Biography-Region 3 Vice-President (Mid-Central)

I've kept and bred finches for a number of years and started showing them in 2011 at the Bluegrass Bird Breeders show in Louisville, KY...with some moderate success I was hooked! I've been a member of NFSS since 2011, have earned Champion Exhibitor and Exhibitor of Excellence awards. I work with a number of different species, primarily Australians such as Lady Gouldians, zebras, masked grassfinches, shafttails, and chestnut-breasted mannikins. I've also had success with African silverbills, societies and green singing finches. One of the most satisfying aspects of exhibiting finches is winning a show with a bird I've bred myself, which I've been fortunate to do several times.

In addition to finches, I also breed and exhibit many species of hookbills. I'm on the Board of Directors for the American Federation of Aviculture, National Cockatiel Society, and the North American Parrot Society. I have a full-time job at The Ohio State University in Columbus where I've worked as Curator since 2001 at the Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center conserving flower seeds. I travel around the U.S. collecting wildflower seeds, use bumblebees and other pollinators to produce more seeds, and ship seeds around the world for use in research and education, always something new and exciting to do!

If you have any questions or would like any additional information please feel free to give me a call, 614.205.3755, jot me an e-mail (smstieve@gmail.com), or find me on Facebook. Thank you for your consideration!

CHERYL BURNS, Region 4 Vice-President (Midwest)

I have been a pet bird owner and hobby breeder for over 20 years and active in bird clubs and organizations for most of that time - serving as a board member or other officer for most of these organizations. I have been a speaker for many bird clubs and have published articles in BirdTalk, Watchbird as well as society journals. I've shown birds in the Parrot and Finch divisions and my birds have placed best in division and on top bench several times over the years. I have been most dedicated to showing finches with the NFSS and have earned Champion Exhibitor, Exhibitor of Excellence, High Point Flighted/Unflighted and also have champion birds with my American self society finches. I currently serve as Region 4 Vice President for NFSS. I keep several species of parrots and show-quality Society Finches. I've previously kept Cuban Melodious Finches, Saffron finches, Chinese Button quail and Diamond Doves. I work as a Learning and Development Professional and have over 20 years of training experience with a specialization in instructional design. I earned a BA degree in Public Relations from Abilene Christian University with a minor in Spanish. When not cleaning the aviary and taking care of birds, I enjoy photography and doing things in the great outdoors.

DOUG WHITE, Region 5 Vice-President (Mountain)

I am married with 3 daughters, the oldest two help me with the care of the birds, we also breed and show Scottish Fold and British Shorthair cats. I am a retired US Navy Chief Petty Officer and currently work as a Senior Recruiter for Allstate Insurance at the NW Regional Office where I look for individuals to be Agent/Owners.

I have owned and bred birds off and on for nearly 30 years. I currently have zebras, societies and Fife canaries. I have shown many types of birds and enjoy attending the shows and talking to people about the birds they own. I take time to discuss with the non NFSS members the benefits of becoming a member of our great organization.

I feel the greatest challenge facing the NFSS and ANY organization that is involved with birds/cats/dogs/poultry/etc is getting new people involved in the hobby, let's all work together over the next several years to get more people involved.

I have enjoyed the past several years as your regional VP and would very much like to continue in this position.

LAURA BEWLEY, Awards and Affiliations

I ask for your vote to continue my support of the National Finch and Softbill Society. I have been a member of National Finch and Softbill Society since the mid 80's and a NFSS Panel Judge since the late 80's, I am currently serving as Awards and Affiliations Chairman. I also serve on the BOD for the National Cage Bird Show and on the board of my local club. Thank you for your vote.

PAULA HANSEN, Band Secretary

I am a native New Yorker, residing in Oregon the past 35 yrs. For 28 yrs I have been a member of the National Finch and Softbill Society (NFSS) and 15 of those yrs NFSS Band Secretary and Board of Directors. In 2011 I received the prestigious NFSS National Aviculturalist Recognition Award (NARA) for my breeding of the Red Siskins. 2013 appointed Specie Captain and moderate the NFSS and FSS Red Siskin Cooperative on Facebook and NFSS Webmaster. I am a member of the Columbia Canary (Oregon), Cascade Canary Club (Washington) and West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show (California).

Sara Roberts, Treasurer

I have served as the NFSS Treasurer for the past two years.

I have raised a variety of birds throughout my life including chickens, pigeons and finches. Most recently in 2010 I started breeding finches. I joined NFSS in 2015, wanting to support education for maintaining and breeding of finch species. Now I enjoy maintaining over 12 species of finches with breeding of Gouldians, and soon, hopefully, Purple Grenadiers and Strawberry babies.

I am retired and enjoy my finches, bicycling, sailing with my Partner and time with my son's families with 6 grandchildren

Amber Kincheloe, Executive Secretary

My name is Amber Kincheloe and I am your Executive Secretary. I spent my first year on the NFSS Board as your Advertising Manager. I am also the owner of Blue Ribbon Finches. I specialize in Society Finches, Zebra Finches, Java Sparrows and Lady Gouldian Finches. I also have Fife Canaries, Button Quail, a Cockatiel and an African Ringneck. As far as my non-avian friends go we have three dogs, a cat, a flock of chickens and a Ball Python. I have a wonderful husband named David that puts up with all of my pets and our daughter. My daughter Alizay lives here with David and I. She is 17 years old and is very active in the high school band, point ballet classes, ballroom classes and she also shares my interests in the bird hobby. Alizay is a Junior Member of the NFSS and enjoys helping with the breeding and every day care of our finches. I am so happy to be working for the betterment of the NFSS as your Executive Secretary!

LAURA WATKINS – Membership

My bird journey started when I was a child, thanks to my mom. After the typical childhood budgie, and then a cockatiel, I acquired a pair of Green Singing Finch which raised babies in my dining room! Then came an Aviary, and then several Aviaries...and you can probably guess the rest!

Along the way, I joined several bird clubs, including the NFSS, and became a Panel Judge in 2013. Earlier this year, I dramatically downsized my flock and retired to Spokane Valley, WA. I hope to use my career experience as an Office Manager and familiarity with data management, to ensure smooth sailing for the Society as their Membership Director. Thank you for considering me!