

Elizabeth 'Schatzi' Wood Nomination

Fran Long

Nominated by:
Mike Sanford
Steve Coxen

Years of Service: 2005-2007.

Fran Long has served on the FWSA Board of Directors the last two years as the President of Central Council and the last year as VP of Council Services. She was originally elected Council President in 2003, with a self-appointed task of reinvigorating Central Council and making it into an active, participating and vibrant Council. She has not only succeeded, she has outperformed even the most optimistic expectations.

After initially re-organizing the Council, she proceeded to recruit a full and active Board of Directors. She followed that by enlarging the participation of member clubs by planning week long ski trips, weekend ski trips and summer float trips. This enabled her to recruit 5 clubs back into the council. This led to the need to develop a website, linking the council site to each club site, FWSA, and NCSF, which was accomplished and active beginning in 2005. In 2006 this activity became fruitful when she successfully recruited Santa Barbara Ski & Sports Club and Fresno Ski Club back into Central Council.

Her next target was to establish a more active participation by Central Council in FWSA activities. She accomplished that with flying colors and now Central is participating in the annual FWSA Conventions, Ski Weeks, Newsletter and Website competitions and Council's Man and Woman of the Year competitions. Personally, she began active participation on BOD activities, including becoming a driving force in FWSA's committee to increase member family and youth involvement. In late 2006 she began the process of reinstating racing in Central Council and is looking forward to double digit participation in the 2008 season.

In late 2005 Fran really stepped up to the plate in a truly difficult situation FWSA faced when Michael German, VP for Council Services, was diagnosed with a serious illness. Fran stepped in as acting VP and, with the sage counsel of Michael, they jointly enlarged programs serving Councils, developed a Quick Sheet of Roles and Responsibilities of Council Presidents to provide all new council president's with updated job descriptions, action deadlines and more clarity in what the president's "ought to be doing". They also improved inter-council communications and materially improved performance and participation by several Councils.

In 2006 Fran organized and lead the Leadership Forum at FWSA Convention and then enthusiastically took on additional responsibilities, stepping in for the Far West VP Communications to organize newsletter and website competition materials and present awards during that same convention.

All this effort led to a realization of her invaluable service, resulting in her election to the position of VP for Council Services in 2006, where she is currently serving (while still Central Council President). Above all, Fran is a pleasure to work with, combining enthusiasm and hard work to bring her ideas to fruition for the benefit of all FWSA members.



photo courtesy Catherine Ohl