



## President's Message



Later this month, I will be stepping down as President of the EPA Alumni Association, and the Board will be voting on a new President. I want to thank all of you for your support and engagement since my term in office began four years ago.

These have been challenging years as we navigated the covid pandemic and the post pandemic years. I am very proud of the way this organization pivoted to virtual programs which gave all of us the opportunity to keep in touch with our former colleagues from across the country in ways we could not do pre-pandemic.

The Teach-In Program Committee ably led by John Bachmann provided environmental programs information and history to students across the country. The Committee on Recruiting Assistance for EPA has been working with Minority Serving Institutions and other colleges and universities to engage students and recent grads so they understand our passion for public service and environmental protection as well as the types of experience and expertise that EPA needs. Committee Members have also been helping EPA with virtual jobs webinars. Helping to



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**New Members  
August through  
November 2**

recruit the next generation of staff at EPA has been so rewarding. Thanks so much to these committee members!

I am probably proudest of the work of the EPA Alumni Association Academy. The Committee started working in 2020, and it hosted its first program, “Renewal of EPA’s Public Health Protections and Regulations” in February 2021. Since then, they have hosted close to 30 Academy sessions on a wide range of topics. Let us know if you want to help put on a program; the Committee will welcome your ideas and help.

Again, thanks again for your support and engagement! And thanks for not giving me too hard a time about declaring COVID over more than a year and a half early!



**DAVID MENOTTI**  
**PRESIDENT**

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Eric Stern  
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Brian Symmes  
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Gregory Wall



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

To be prepared for a government shutdown (in either November or January 2024), the EPA Alumni Association is continuing its contingency planning to ensure we can support Agency staff and EPA SEE enrollees in accordance with federal ethics requirements. (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.

In 2019, 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 meeting with EPA, developing Fact Sheets, procedures, and a web site with links for potential Alumni donors and EPA staff and EPA SEE enrollees to sign up. The web site will be operational the day after the shutdown begins, and the link **will be** [www.epaalumni.com/shutdown](http://www.epaalumni.com/shutdown).

We are anxious to identify members ahead of time who are willing to be in the initial group of donors to send gift cards to needy EPA employees, should a prolonged shutdown occur. Almost 40 of you have already signed up, but we would like to have a larger group of initial donors. If you believe you will be able to help, please click the link below.

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

We are also asking our Members to help us get the word out to current EPA staff. We want to give both moral and financial support during this time of uncertainty, but we need your help to do that! Stay Tuned!

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, Albertsons, Walgreens, 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.

## **EPA EV's Video Prize Challenge is Officially Live!**

EPA is sharing some exciting news that may be of interest to our Members. EPA is pleased to announce the launch of EPA's "My

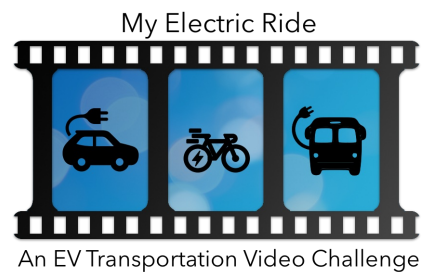
**Electric Ride: An EV Transportation Video Prize Challenge.”** We are offering cash prizes up to \$3,000 for the top videos across three multimodal categories. The EV video prize challenge hopes to both shrink the knowledge gap and increase the comfort level with making the switch to electric transportation through 1- to 2-minute videos. Entries are due by January 23, 2024.

### **EV Video Prize Challenge details:**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes across each of 3 categories:

- Micromobility (E-Bikes & E-Scooters)
- Electric Cars, Trucks, and SUVs
- Electric Buses (school/transit buses)

More details, including terms and conditions, can be found at the challenge website: [www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/ev-video-challenge](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/ev-video-challenge). We very much appreciate your support as well as the amplification of our messaging amongst your networks. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like us to share additional promotional materials.



## **Job Center**

Did you know that Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions posted a vacancy for an Executive Director? The posting is closing on November 10th.

And the Acta Group and the affiliated law firm Bergeson and Campbell PC is seeking a regulatory scientist and QA specialist. The posting closes December 26th.

Several years ago, the Alumni Association established the EPA Alumni Job Center which is designed to provide employment opportunities suited for current and former EPA employees. We have a number of new Members since the Job Center was launched, and we want to make sure that our new Members and their organizations know they can post environmental job vacancies on our web site. The link is [Job Center](#) (You may need to set up a new ID and password to post a job).

In addition, we want to continue to work to make sure that our Job Resources page is up-to-date. We have identified an extensive list of

different environmental organizations with links to their web sites. The link is [Job Resources](#).

Please get back to us at [epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com) if you know of an organization that needs to be added.

### **The EPA Alumni Association Academy**

We do not have any Academy programs scheduled for the rest of the calendar year. When we schedule our next program, we will post the information on the front page of our website with a registration link and send out an email invitation to our Members. So, check the front page of our web site if you want to know what special program is coming up!

If you missed any of our EPA Alumni Association Academy sessions, please check [VIDEOS](#) to catch up.

## **Many Thanks for Supporting the Alumni Association!**

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

The Association is kicking off its Fall Fundraising efforts this month. You will be receiving a letter in your mailbox by the end of November. The Alumni Association is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and we are most grateful for donations of any size.

If don't want to wait until you receive your letter from the Association, please consider donating now. [Click Here](#) to make a secure online donation now. If you prefer to send a check, please send to:

EPA Alumni Association  
c/o Board Member Caren Madsen  
1918 Locust Grove Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

We want to thank these Members who donated from August 10th through November 3rd.

Mike Barry  
Tai Chang  
John Rogers  
Robert Sanchez

Edward Watters  
Michaelle Wilson  
Catherine Winer

## 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 August 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.

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Guanita "Nita" Reiter Boardman  
Michael Burke  
Linda Combs  
Robert Currie  
Ridgway Hall

Michael A. Hamlin, Sr.  
James Joseph Kohanek  
Philip Metzger  
Patrick David Saieh  
Avis Collins Robinson

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### 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.



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