

2018 Nominations to the Mountaineering Ireland Board of Directors

Nominated by the Board for the position of President

Paul Kellagher

Paul has served on the Board of Mountaineering Ireland as President for the past two years. He is involved in all aspects of mountaineering and holds the Mountaineering Instructors Award, Winter Mountain Leader Awards and works part time as a Mountaineering instructor. Paul has a passion for involving young people and inclusive access. Professionally Paul is a Registered Social Worker and has acted in the capacity of National Children's Officer for the last six years. Paul regularly coaches a youth climbing program in his local club and has volunteered on many Mountaineering Ireland programs over the last 15 years.

Nominated by the Board for the position of Honorary Secretary

Clare O'Connor

Clare was co-opted to the board last Autumn to fill a casual vacancy. She has a background in governance and strategy development. She has a strong interest in the out of doors which started in her teens and continued when she joined Scouting Ireland where she was a Scout Leader and then a District Commissioner for many years. She has been a member of the Irish Mountaineering Club involved in rock climbing and hiking. She continues her interest in the outdoors through hiking and also organises a running group in Dun Laoghaire.

Nominated by the Board for the position of Honorary Treasurer

Paul Barron

Paul has chaired the Board of Mountaineering Ireland for the last two years. He is an avid hillwalker, an Individual Member of Mountaineering Ireland and he holds the Mountain Leader Award. He is also a member of the National Hill Skills Training Team in Scouting Ireland. Paul previously worked at a senior management level in the Department of Health.

Nominated for Ordinary Member positions:

Imelda Buckley – nominated by Dal Riada Climbing Club

Imelda is involved in supporting the Climbing Committee and especially the area of Talent Development with particular focus on supporting the various competitions held annually around the country. She is a qualified accountant by profession and has experience in Finance, Financial Risk, Corporate Governance.

Trish Kane - nominated by Clare outdoor Club

Trish is a keen hillwalker and holds an ML award and also has a particular interest in access and conservation matters. Trish is a qualified professional in child and youth welfare/health, including 15+ years working at a senior management level. Trish also has

extensive experience working with voluntary boards and possesses a sound understanding of Governance matters. Trish previously volunteered with Mountaineering Ireland in; Strategic Planning 2004, Women with Altitude, Code of Ethics in Sport and the 'Girls Outside' project.

Colette Mahon – nominated by Wexford Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club

Colette has been a member of the Wexford Hillwalking Mountaineering club since 1996 and has been a committee member, in different roles including chair. She is a keen hillwalker, mountaineer, scrambler and rock climber (both indoor and outdoor). Colette has been a member of BOS, is a Provider and has run numerous Mountain Skills courses for her club and support the Women with Altitude initiative.

Michael Maunsell - nominated by the Board, Mid Tipp Hillwalking Club, Greg Kenny, Máire Ní Mhurchú, Lorcan McDonnell, Orla Prendergast, Helen Donoghue and Simon Sweeney
Michael is the outgoing Chair of the Access & Conservation Committee. He is Ireland's representative to the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission. Michael is a lecturer in Conservation and Mountain ecosystems, he has worked as a mountaineer and researcher in mountain environments in Ireland and abroad for 40 years. He established and runs Mountain Research Ireland.

Gráinne McLaughlin - nominated by Irish Ramblers Club

Gráinne is a long time member of The Irish Ramblers Club and has served on various committees over the years. She has an in-depth knowledge of all things connected to hillwalking. In recent years she acted as New Members Secretary and also as Training Officer working closely with the Mountaineering Ireland Training Officer. Gráinne was a member of the Ramblers committee that was instrumental in bringing our club back under the umbrella of Mountaineering Ireland seven years ago.

Irene Sorohan - nominated by the Board.

Irene Sorohan is an avid hillwalker in both Ireland and abroad. An engineer by training, she runs a small Executive Search agency focused on the technology and life-sciences sectors. Irene has been a member of the Board of Mountaineering Ireland for 5 years. Last year she qualified as a Chartered Director, having completed a Diploma in Company Direction.

Geoff Thomas – nominated by Dal Riada Climbing Club

Geoff is an Alpine climber, with over 23 seasons to his credit and is also a Climbing Coach. He is a member of the Alpine Club. Professionally, Geoff is an experienced consultant working with large corporate firms in the area of financial control for small business. He is an ecology graduate, with expertise in mountain ecosystems and is passionate about conserving Irish uplands.