

Greetings Fellow Fletcher Folk!

I'm writing to introduce myself as I've put my name in the running for one of the select board seats. Having grown up just down the road on Bartlett Hill in Cambridge, and moving here from the wilds of Lamoille county, this summer will make nine years that I've lived in our great little town. The second time I've run for the select board, I'm hoping to offer the benefit of my experience and expertise, as well as offer a more diverse and balanced perspective to the issues set before the board.

My background and work experience fall heavily in the customer service realm, having worked decades in food service at my family's restaurant and bakery, as well as at various local dining establishments (pre-Covid).

For a number of years, I worked in healthcare as a Sleep Technologist (helping patients get diagnosed and treated for things like Obstructive Sleep Apnea and other sleep disorders) at UVMHC and Copley Hospital. While a Registered Technologist, I was helpful in rolling out the Electronic Medical Records system for our department as well as serving as the Union Steward, participating in hospital contract negotiations between Hospital Administration and Healthcare Professionals.

For a time, I was a labor organizer, working to improve wages and get some of the same benefits enjoyed by other professions for hard-working caring professionals, such as child care workers and home hospice and health care workers. Through my work with Labor, state, and national organizations, I became the Fletcher Town and Franklin County Chair of the Progressive Party and sat on the advisory board - the coordinating committee - of the Vermont Progressive Party.

I've worked for environmental movements combating climate change through peaceful protests, organizing, and fundraising for environmental causes and organizations like 350.org and vpirg. I've attended and facilitated trainings and workshops around confronting White Supremacy in social justice movements, learning from the Catalyst Project's (Anti-Racism For Collective Liberation) Anne Braden Program. I've consulted and worked with various entrepreneurs in Vermont's new Cannabis industry, working to empower Vermonters to access and grow their own medicine and a successfully burgeoning market.

While juggling the disparate demands of Pandemic life (working where and when I am able, helping family and friends with CoV safe and challenging tasks, just like all of you!) I've been working on building an online mentoring business in order to support myself through helping others. I'm working on utilizing the wealth of experience and resources already at my disposal to do good work for my community.

I'm interested in cooperation, collaboration, communication, and community; helping people help themselves so that as we do better individually, we can all do better collectively. I have excellent listening and communication skills, am compassionate and diplomatic, and am welcoming of the opportunity to contribute and give back to Fletcher in a positive and meaningful way.

I hope you will consider me as a potential new board member! I wish those running good luck and good health for everyone!

<https://fletchervt.net>