



Bios of ANS Board Members-Elect

Rebecca Lemos-Otero

As a young person growing up in Washington DC Rebecca Lemos-Otero began a volunteer gardening program in her neighborhood that would evolve into City Blossoms, a high-functioning, creative organization dedicated to supporting kid-driven, community engaging green spaces. Through her role as Executive Director, as well as her other endeavors, Rebecca has amassed over twenty years of non-profit design, leadership and management experience. She has first-hand knowledge about the challenges and rewards of being an entrepreneur and leader of color in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors. Since retiring from City Blossoms, Rebecca combines her passions for community development, environmental justice and the creative arts as a consultant, helping others bring a lens of awareness and nuance to their own work and organizations. Rebecca received much of her initial education and training from a fierce and diverse collective of social justice activists mentors and added to that a B.A. from Fordham University, and a M.F.A from the Maryland Institute College of Arts. Rebecca has been honored as an ANS Environmental Champion at our Naturally Latinos Conference and has been a panel moderator for Naturally Latinos as well.

Chanceé Lundy

Chanceé Lundy is co-owner and Principal of Nspiregreen, a firm that combines engineering and urban planning with community organizing to fulfill a vision that facilitates the empowerment and transformation of every community on the planet through community, multimodal transportation and environmental planning. She is a community-conscious engineer and Selma, Alabama native who uses her passion for eradicating inequities as fuel to provide technical competence and adept communication on environmental and transportation projects. At Nspiregreen, she is responsible for the management of environmental projects such as stormwater, energy, environmental policy, solid waste, air quality, and sustainability planning. Chanceé received her Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from Florida State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. She has partnered with ANS as a panelist at our Taking Nature Black Conference. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband Dwight Russell and her rambunctious little boy, Amari.

Shanita Rasheed

Shanita Rasheed coordinates all communications for American Forests' urban forestry programs using a Tree Equity lens, which ensures equitable access to the benefits trees provide. She is from South West Philadelphia, PA and now calls Maryland her second home. She has a Bachelors in

Environmental Studies from Ursinus College and a certification in Climate Change and Health from Yale University. In various capacities she has worked with local and national stakeholders in both the environmental and public health fields to lead strategic planning and training initiatives, and foster relationships with grassroots environmental justice organizations. Organizations she has worked for include Chesapeake Bay Program, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Rodia, LLC and Children's Environmental Health Network. Shanita has a wide array of experience in environmental health, racial and social equity, relationship building and communications. She has an affinity for building relationships, listening versus speaking and is passionate about depicting holistic stories. Shanita served as a consultant on the ANS IDEA Task Force and as a volunteer on the Climate and Conservation Task Force.

Alan Spears

Alan Spears is Senior Director for Cultural Resources at the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Alan uses real-life stories and a conversational style to connect with his audiences to promote NPCA's advocacy and the critical role the National Park Service plays in protecting, interpreting, and managing this nation's historic and cultural resources. A veteran advocate and member of the Government Affairs department, Alan's recent victories include joining with NPCA colleagues, partners and allies to win the designation of the Fort Monroe, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad, Colonel Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers, Pullman, and Birmingham Civil Rights National Monuments. Alan currently manages NPCA's defense of the Park Service's National Heritage Area program and serve as NPCA's lead lobbyist for the campaign to establish a Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools national park site. Alan remains the only NPCA staff member to ever be rescued from a tidal marsh by a U.S. Park Police helicopter. He was an original member of the Woodend 2065 Council that helped create an inclusive Woodend 2065 Master Plan, has been honored as an ANS Environmental Champion at our Taking Nature Black Conference, and currently serves on the ANS Woodend 2065 Committee.

Willie Woode

Wilfred Quasie-Woode (Willie Woode) hails from Freetown, Sierra Leone. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, and a Master of Science in Environmental Technology from the University of Maryland Global Campus. He is a Virginia State Certified Conservation Planner, Nutrient Management Planner, and Erosion and Sediment Control Planner and Inspector. Mr. Quasie-Woode is currently, Senior Conservation Specialist at the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), in charge of the agricultural component of Fairfax County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation program. He represents NVSWCD at various regional, state, and local level environmental committees, dealing with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Among other extracurricular activities, Mr. Quasie-Woode is a member of the Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend 2065 Committee. He regularly volunteers with a "Prescribed Burn" program designed to suppress non-native invasive plants, establish native meadows, and enhance wildlife habitat opportunities. Willie and his wife Phylinda are happily married with three children. They live in the suburbia of Maryland, in Prince George's County. He enjoys gardening, nurturing native plants, and enhancing habitats for birds and other wildlife at their property.