

CRIA 2016 Board of Trustees

Alan Saltzstein - President

Alan has lived in Pagosa Springs for the past seven years. He and his wife, Grace, moved here from Southern California to enjoy the mountains, clean air, and less man made craziness and to be closer to family members in Albuquerque. He is a retired Professor of Political Science from California State University, Fullerton.

Alan's teaching and research emphasized urban politics and management and Public Administration. He developed and, for many years, headed a Masters program in Public Administration. He served as Chair of the Political Science Department in his last few years at Fullerton and as Chair of the Division of Politics Administration and Justice. That position included oversight and coordination of programs in Political Science, Public Administration, and Criminal Justice. He also wrote two books and several professional publications.

Alan loves being a tour guide at Chimney Rock. He finds it a wonderful experience for an ex teacher because it includes the best features of teaching; learning new things, meeting people and explaining sometimes difficult concepts; and none of the negative features; no papers to grade, no students who really don't want to be there, and no musty classrooms!!

Susan Fischer - Vice President

Susan grew up in Bethesda, MD and, after obtaining a PhD from the University of Wyoming, moved first to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and then became a faculty member in the Department of Molecular Carcinogenesis at the Univ. of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. There she carried out research on the role of inflammation in the development and progression of skin and pancreatic cancer and was involved in teaching and training graduate students. She recently retired and is now a full-time Pagosa Springs resident.

Susan also has a long-standing interest in archeology and spent many Sunday mornings working on a dig in central Texas (archaic hunting camp). She has always loved the southwest, especially its canyons and archeological sites, which is one of the reasons she is a tour guide at Chimney Rock. She feels it is very important that the public appreciates and understands what Native Americans have contributed to our history and culture.

John Harris - Secretary

John grew up in rural western Ohio and, after graduating from The Ohio State Univ., served four years on active duty as a US Naval Officer. Until his retirement in 2000, John worked as a civilian Special Agent with the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). In retirement, John has worked as an investigator with the US Office of Diplomatic Security (State Department) and as an investigative consultant with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Team ADAM). John's past volunteer service has included training with the US Army in Germany as a domestic violence victims advocate and with the American Red Cross. For the past two years, John has worked with the National Audubon Society's Four Mile Ranch

Elementary School Education Program as a volunteer child educator and most recently as a tour guide and Kiva interpretive host with CRIA. John's focus as a CRIA Board member is on maintaining the highest quality interpretive and educational programs in a way that accurately reflects and respects the views of the present day descendants of the Ancestral Puebloan People.

Jonnae Benzel - Treasurer

Jonnae was born in California, but travelled the country as a child of a career Navy man. She earned a BS in psychology at the University of Illinois in Urban and a MA in the teaching of reading, also at University of Illinois. For 37 years, Jonnae taught as a reading specialist in grades K-12.

Her interests have always been travel, reading, music and theater (as an observer), and anthropology. She still has her Junior Natural History Magazines from the Natural History Museum in New York. Since retiring, she also has become interested in crafts such as knitting, weaving, and beading.

Gloria Bissmeyer - Trustee At Large

Bio (To Be Supplied)

Bear (Barron) Haley - Trustee At Large

Bear taught at West Valley College in Saratoga, CA for 33 years. Upon retiring, he and his wife, Ruth, moved to Las Vegas, NV where Bear got involved with Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area. There he was asked to chair the Cultural Resources committee. The committee was tasked to record/document rock art sites in the Conservation area. Bear joined the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, Nevada Rock Art Federation, the American Rock Art Association, and Utah Rock Art Association. In 2007, Bear & Ruth moved to Rio Rancho, NM where Bear did recording for the Rio Puerco BLM office and the Albuquerque Archaeological Association. A year ago, another move led the Haleys to Pagosa Springs and Chimney Rock.

Kristi Nolan - Trustee At Large

Born in Queens, NY and raised in New Jersey, Kristi went to college in Kansas. At the College of Emporia, she earned a BA in Sociology. Working at minor jobs and raising children, she moved to Texas when her husband was offered a job promotion there. While in Texas, along with working at a private elementary school, she volunteered at the local humane society for several years. After moving to Pagosa Springs, Kristi worked at the local animal shelter for almost 2 years before retiring. She remains active at the shelter, as a volunteer and as a member of the Humane Society board.

This past year Kristi joined the many volunteers at Chimney Rock. She is a cabin host, helped with the Full Moon program, and end of season cleanup/inventory of the cabin. In addition to learning and then sharing information about Chimney Rock with visitors, Kristi enjoys meeting folks from the US and around the world.

