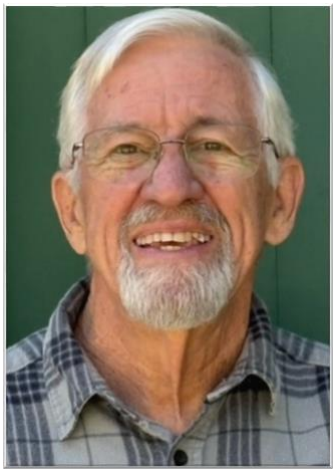
Allyssa Borich*
Allyssa has a lifelong love of parklands, and truly enjoyed working behind the scenes of three beautiful State Parks in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. She grew up visiting State and National Parks on road trips, and was delighted to find a job in interpretation fresh out of college. Working at the Parks let her blend her biology and anthropology degrees to share her passion about the unique beauty of each Park with the visitors. Today, Allyssa furthers her interest in stewardship by being an active member of the Sierra Gold Parks Foundation.

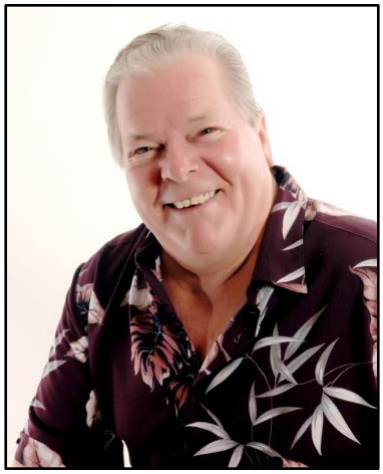
Syd Brown, President
Syd had a dream career, as the geologist for California State Parks, and worked to protect and manage the full spectrum of mountains, beaches, rivers and watersheds from Angel Island State Park to Zmudowski State Beach. After commuting to her Sacramento HQ office for more than 30 years, Syd retired in late 2012, and began to immerse herself in community activities volunteering for arts non-profits, SYRCL, BYLT, and State Parks. She currently serves on SYRCL's Board of Directors in addition to leading the Sierra Gold Parks Foundation.

Robert Coats, Treasurer
Although a fifth generation Californian, Robert spent most of his working career based in Chicago. Growing up in Central Valley, his family spent much time exploring the foothills and the Sierras. Following retirement, he and his wife relocated to Nevada City. Shortly after arriving in Nevada City, they began volunteering with State Parks and that led to him becoming involved with South Yuba River Park Association and then Sierra Gold Parks Foundation to better serve the three parks in Western Nevada County.

Mary Ann Colemen, Vice President Mary Ann became a State Parks volunteer in 2017, having newly moved to Grass Valley when she retired. She has always been interested in plants, nature, ecology and meeting people. The South Yuba River State Park Visitor Center and activities like trail work on the Independence Trail were a good match for her. In November 2024 she joined the Sierra Gold Parks Foundation Board of Directors.	
Tarry Nelson* Tarry grew up in Santa Barbara foothills spending a good deal of time exploring nature. Camping, hiking, and backpacking fed his soul and stimulated his curiosity. As an ordained minister I have served as a Chaplain with multiple hospices. He moved to Nevada City in 2021 and has been a volunteer at the State Parks for the past 3+ years. His greatest joy is in sharing with others the treasures we have in the Sierra Gold Sector of State Parks.	
Steve Ruble Steve was born and raised in the San Francisco area. He worked as a Chief Engineer and was an avid cave explorer and burning man burner. Upon retirement he and his wife moved to Grass Valley where they both started volunteering at the Empire Mine. Steve was a past board member for EMPA. He is also a current docent at the North Star Powerhouse Museum.	

Steve Sanchez

Steve became involved with the parks in 2015 as a docent at Empire Mine State Historic Park. The highlight of his volunteering has been the receipt of the Parks Volunteer Medallion for Superior Achievement in 2024. Steve has a passion for our parks and for serving our visiting public.



Emily Scott*

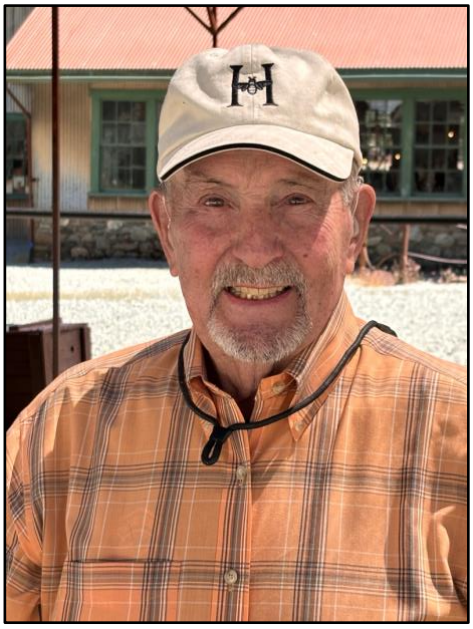
A fourth-generation resident, born and raised in Nevada County, Emily's childhood was shaped by experiences along the Yuba River and Nevada County’s historic landscape —fostering a lasting appreciation for Nevada County's environmental and cultural significance. Bringing a professional background in culinary arts and event management, along with a strong commitment to community engagement and conservation it's her honor to serve on the Board of Directors for the Sierra Gold Parks Foundation.

William Silva

Will has been volunteering at Empire Mine since 2013. He completed Blacksmith training in 2014, and is an active blacksmith volunteer. He joined the SGPF Board in 2024.He serves on the SGPF Events Committee. William also volunteers for a number of non-profits in the area.

Gaylene Tompkins*

Gaylene is a native Californian, an active community volunteer, nonprofit advocate, and supporter of the arts and the environment. Her Sierra Gold Parks Foundation journey is powered by the belief that State parks provide enormous climate and economic benefits to Californians and must be properly stewarded for future generations. She is passionate about advocating for and preserving California's natural and cultural resources. Gaylene is CSU Sacramento Journalism/Business Administration graduate with more than 30 years' experience in program and project management, public affairs, nonprofit fundraising, and administrative leadership in State and local government as well as nonprofits like the Center for the Arts and the Galt Ag Boosters.

Hank Weston

Hank Weston has lived and worked in Nevada County since 1988. After 36 years with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 9 years with the City of Grass Valley Fire and 12 years as a County Supervisor, he saw that Parks are an important economic driver and enhancements to our quality of life. He was involved with the Save Our Parks movement, helped secure funding for the restoration of the Bridgeport Covered Bridge and the solar system at Malakoff Diggins SHP. He has served on the SGPF Board for 6 years and can attest to hard work and dedication the Foundation provides to the citizens and visitors at the State Paks in Nevada County.