CCB Board Candidate Bios

**Rose Kaczmarowski**

Rose grew up in a cycling family. Her father was a civil engineer and avid bicycle commuter. He tinkered and maintained his 3-speed Schwinn every winter, built bikes for the kids, and focused annual family vacations around camping and cycling on the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail. In 2010 Rose became a regular volunteer at The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign (TBP) and soon thereafter a member of the steering committee. Amidst the shop volunteering and community rides, she was part of the grant writing team that initially expanded the services of the Campus Bike Project (now UIUC Campus Bike Center) to include student workers, and facilitated co-management meetings between TBP and the university. In 2013 Rose moved to Lafayette Indiana and quickly became involved in Bicycle Lafayette. Here she gained experience making connections with municipal and county officials, including engineers, planners, and mayors. The city of Lafayette and Purdue campus were in the midst of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure planning initiatives, Rose played an integral role in connecting planners with the needs of the bicycling community. In 2018 Rose moved back to Urbana, taking a job with the UIUC Theatre Department to be a member of the costume program faculty. While learning the responsibilities of the new position, Rose did not immediately take up her bicycle activism. In 2018, she and Anna Barnes organized the first annual Santa Rampage. Also, that year, thanks to Jeff Yockey, she read *Bicycle/Race* by Adonia Lugo. The book opened her eyes to new ways of organizing for active transportation and her previously unrecognized privileged position. After 4 years in our community, she is ready to join CCB with an interest in recognizing, advocating, and supporting the use of the bicycle as safe transportation and a tool for change.

**Leo Covis**

Hello, Champaign County Bikes. I moved to Urbana in 2015 and one of the first things I did was join Champaign County Bikes. I remember being impressed that there was a bike route on my street and I was excited to join an organization for cyclists. Since then, I've been involved in putting on bike summits in town, teaching a summer camp bicycling course for kids, and helping to staff a whole bunch of bike-to-work days. Champaign County is a great place to be a bicyclist, but there is still so much untapped potential. If we can get more people to decide to engage in active transportation, be it walking, biking, or taking public transportation, we can make our communities an example for the state and even the whole US. We have a lot of work to do to educate our public officials and reach out to underserved and overlooked populations in our neighborhoods. I look forward to rejoining the board to continue the effort.

**Audrey Ishii**

Champaign County Bikes is about removing the barriers to bicycling for all ages and all reasons. My interest in serving on the board is to promote safety through application of science, art, and legal structures.

1. Science means collecting and analyzing data and widely disseminating the results through education and advocacy. To this end, I support Vision Zero through my activities on the Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission.
2. Art means creating the culture that envisions cycling as safe, fun, popular, and fully compatible with the County car culture with whom cycling must share the political and physical space.  
3. Legal structures mean closely monitoring and influencing the judicial, legislative, and engineering infrastructures that impact how our shared environment is managed and experienced.

Currently, I believe that the perception of risk is the number one obstacle to cycling, followed by discomforts of weather and poor bicycle fit. These concerns are expressed through the lack of demand for maintained and well-fitted bicycles and cycling gear which creates a self-perpetuating cycle. Freedom from this cycle can be offered in many creative ways--from cycling seminars and events to equipment and gear marketing to built infrastructure. Champaign County Bikes does an amazing job in being the "tip of the iceberg" representing the aspirations of legions of cyclists in the County. For sustainability, funding should be sought that can increase its value to the County transportation and recreational ecosystem.

Charlie Smyth

As a member, board member and current chair, and former elected official, I've worked to promote bicycling in Urbana-Champaign via CCB since its inception. As a commuter and long distance cyclist, I don't remember bicycling not being part of my daily life and now that I’m retired, it is what I most enjoy doing. I have been involved in bike month activities, fundraisers, the Market Bike Table, bike summits, rides, and the Champaign-Urbana bike map, the last iterations which I managed. It's time to redo the map bringing it up to current standards as our signature work. More importantly, it is time to take CCB to another level of advocacy and involvement with our local institutions to support safe, active transportation for all.

Jeff Yockey

I started delivering papers on my bike when I was 8 years old and kept my route through high school. I rode that one-speed, balloon-tired, red Vista bike with twin metal baskets on the back a conservative 15,000 miles in my small town of Shelbyville. I did some bike touring in college and used a bike for commuting to work after that so was never far from my biking roots. I returned to Champaign-Urbana in 2009 and ran into a few cyclists who invited me to a Champaign County Bikes meeting in early 2010. I’ve been storing CCB stuff in my basement ever since.

Volunteering with CCB has taught me much about the role of being an advocate in our community, given me a great group of friends, helped make Champaign-Urbana more bike friendly, and gives me more reasons to ride a bike.