

Township of Eagles Nest- Township Candidate Bios for 2020 Election

Skip Carlson Position Running for: Township Supervisor (4 year term)

My name is Skip Carlson and I am interested in running for a third term as an Eagles Nest Township Supervisor. I would like to state my family has owned property on Armstrong Lake since 1960. In 2009 my wife Donna (whom I have been married to for 52 years) and I became permanent residents on the lake. Before becoming residents of the lake, we raised two daughters, Tracy and Angel, and also have three grandchildren. Through the years, the importance of living in pristine wilderness has been a priority and maintaining the environment is just as important

I am a graduate of the Aurora - Hoyt Lakes School and a graduate of Staples Area Technical School where I received my degree as a Machinist. My roots have always been in this region albeit a short stint from 1967-1970 during the Vietnam War when I worked at Numeric Machine in Minneapolis as a machinist for the government. However, the city life was not for me and I returned to the Iron Range and made Aurora my home.

I worked at Erie Mining in Hoyt Lakes where I completed the apprentice program for the Heavy Equipment Diesel Mechanic and then was offered a position at Arcler Mittler Minorca Mine in Virginia where I remained for thirty-one years as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic Technician.

In reference to civic work, I was member of the Aurora-Hoyt Lakes School Board for (4) years, where my main achievement was working with the districts to consolidate A-HL and Biwabik Schools into the Mesabi East School District. Along with my board duties, I was a volunteer firefighter in Aurora for 21 years including being trained as an EMT and first responder; plus, I served as a councilman for the City of Aurora for eight years. My experiences in the public sector shows the dedication I have to the community. In these settings, it important to maintain transparent communication, be a critical thinker, observe facts and details surrounding a variety of situations, offer concise decisions on a variety of topics, and problem solve while all the time working within a team setting.

I appreciate my current community as much as my last which is why I wish to spend another term as supervisor. Welcoming new ideas while at the same time maintaining traditions of the land, I appreciate the opportunity to serve our community once again.

Sincerely,

Skip Carlson

Frank Sherman- Position Running for: Township Supervisor (4 year term)

I began yearly visits to Eagles Nest with my wife, Valerie Myntti, over 30 years ago, staying at the cabin on Lake 3 that had been in her family for three generations. I learned to enjoy our sauna from Valerie's father, Don Myntti, who had helped to build it. When our daughter Rebekah was three months old, she began spending her childhood summers here. When Valerie and I were both retired in 2017, after careers on the East Coast, we chose to make this our year-round home. Our love for this community has only grown since we have been able to be here full-time.

I am old enough to have listened to President Kennedy say to all of us to ask what we can do for our country. I believe in public service. It is why I served for 39 years as a federal prosecutor, in Philadelphia, New York City, Miami and Rochester, New York, working in each community to fight political corruption, violent crime and health care fraud. It is why I volunteered last year to become a member of the Eagles Nest Fire Department as an emergency medical responder. It is why, when I heard a vacancy was opening up in Eagles Nest on the Board of Supervisors, I put my name on the ballot.

Government is not a problem, but it does take work and the participation of good people to maintain it as a helpful source of support for our community. I think Eagles Nest has been well-governed. I hope to be able to contribute to continuing that tradition and I would appreciate your vote.

Kurt Soderberg- Position Running for: Township Supervisor (2 year term)

I was born and raised in Ely, went to Vermillion Community College, the U of M, and UMD, receiving a Master's Degree in Psychology. My wife, Barb, and I spent our working careers in Duluth, but have had a cabin, now our home on the Trygg Road since 1983. We have been in Eagles Nest Township full-time since 2008 and during that time I have participated in three Township task forces, including one about the assessment process, another about township roads, and living around bears. I retired as the Executive Director from the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District in 2008. Locally, I served on the Ely Utility Commission and the Board of the Ely Golf Club, in addition to being the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Ely and the Board of the Ely Regional Community Complex.

I am familiar with township government both locally and from my work career where I dealt with multiple townships around Duluth and Cloquet. I volunteered to fill in for the absence on the Town Board and have decided to try to fill the remainder of that two-year term. I am familiar with how the Board does its work and I think that I can be helpful to the Board and our community.

Keely Drange- Position Running for: Township Clerk (4 year Term)

My name is Keely Drange and I am running for Eagles Nest Township Clerk. I'm originally from Duluth and have lived in Ely since 2006, when I moved here to attend Vermillion Community College. I briefly left Ely to attend college in Wisconsin, earning a Bachelor's of Science in Forest Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I have been living in Eagles Nest Township since 2012 with my husband Andy and son Tanner. I am a silvicultural forester with the US Forest Service and for the past year I been serving as deputy township clerk in Eagles Nest. In addition to deputy clerk, I am on the Eagles Nest Committee for Emergency Preparedness and serve as road ambassador for my road system. I look forward to serving my community as your township clerk.