

Paul M. Clayton
2513-C Miller Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

February 14, 2001

Reese Lukei
1046 Azalea Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Dear Reese:

I understand that you are chairing the Honorary Life Membership Committee for the upcoming biennial event. Please allow me to place in nomination the name of Parthena Martin.

Parthena has devoted many years of service to the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club, the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers and the Appalachian Trail Conference. She is currently the president of PATH, is a former president of ODATC, and a former member of the Board of Managers of the ATC.

During an earlier term as PATH president, Parthena provided the driving force behind the construction of the Partnership Shelter, an innovative experiment in cooperation between the Park Service, Forest Service, ATC, PATH and private donors. Parthena demonstrated her motivational abilities by making the four-hour drive up to Virginia weekend after weekend, and cajoling, coercing and arm-twisting a large contingent of club members into doing the same. All the while she kept multiple agencies, organizations and individuals reading off the same page. The result is a unique facility that has enhanced the experience for thousands of long-distance hikers, while serving the needs of the Forest Service to get the campers off the porch! Completing this project left the club with enormous confidence and enthusiasm, which has served us well in subsequent projects.

After completing her work on the Partnership Shelter, Parthena had little time to rest, for she was immediately called to work on the Radford '99 project. When Collins Chew had to resign the chairmanship due to his wife's illness, Parthena was the natural choice to take his place. She pulled all the area clubs together, parceled out work in a fair and inclusive manner, and handled much of the difficult and sensitive negotiations with the University herself. To many hikers, Maine is the promised land, and I think many people expected a let-down at the next biennial meeting. Due to Parthena's inspirational leadership, there was none, and the meeting was a great success.

Parthena is probably one of the few people to have served as president of two ATC Class A members - the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club and the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers. Please see the enclosed letter from long-time ODATC member Mac Taylor for information on her services to that club. Parthena served as president of PATH from 1995 through 1997, and has accepted another term starting 2001.

I believe Parthena meets all the qualifications for honorary life membership. She has provided innovative and inspirational leadership. She has served a broad constituency, on the club and the conference level. She has given close to two decades of service to the trail and remains as committed as ever.

If there is any other information needed to consider this nomination, please let me know. I can be contacted at the address above, or by phone at 336-723-5470, or by e-mail at pmclayt@attglobal.net.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Clayton