

Director Candidates: 2023-2024 Term

Candidates are presented alphabetically – click a candidate for more information – (I) Incumbent

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Charles Allen



Randee Azzar



Sean Blanton



Dale Covington



Nick Greece



David Hanning



Bill Hughes (I)



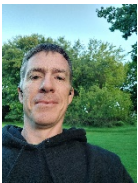
Patrick Kessler



Tiki Mashy (I)



Stephan Mentler



Thomas Schray



Jamie Shelden



Lucas Soler




Matt Taber (I)



Paul Voight (I)

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	68422	
NAME	Charles Allen	
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	5 CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI	
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	4 years	
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	<p>I'm running for the USHPA board to ensure our passion for free flight not only survives for generations but grows and prospers. I'm deeply concerned about the limited growth of new young hang glider pilots and USHPA's weak balance sheet, affecting both PG and HG pilots. My professional experience and proven track record of building consensus around creative solutions and getting things done are what's needed to break the status quo and implement change.</p> <p>Together with other likeminded candidates, specifically Nick Greece and Stephan Mentler, we want to execute a transparent plan comprised of three key components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. lower barriers to entry for free flight, 2. strengthen USHPA's balance sheet, and 3. drive renewed interest and increase membership. <p>In addition to making the details of our plan available online (https://qrco.de/StrategyPlan), we also plan to make ourselves available for group video calls to share our ideas and listen to members' concerns so that we may better serve you if elected. You can schedule a time by clicking on this link (https://calendly.com/callen_btcs/ushpa-candidate-meeting).</p>	
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No	

Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING? 26 years

HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR? Over 40

WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY? Hang Glider

WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT? Flying on the Delmarva Peninsula is one of my favorite areas to fly and the closest to home. The gentle thermals and abundant landing fields make it an ideal location for safe XC tasks. Moreover, on a good day you can fly the 90+ km and land on Rehoboth or Indian beach.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT? I grew up in New York City and, before reaching my tenth birthday, would sneak out at night to finish building model airplanes while dreaming of flying. This passion to fly evolved, and in 1996 while studying engineering at Lehigh University, my feet finally left the ground at a small training hill in Chester, PA. Before graduating in 1999, I earned my H4 and have subsequently logged over a thousand hours, flown in 35+ competitions, including the 2007 worlds, organized, hosted, and scored numerous competitions, opened a new hang gliding site, flown all over the country, and encouraged and mentored many pilots. I also have my private pilot and glider licenses and am the father of two girls, Catherine and Helen, aged 6 and 9.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

After receiving my MBA in 2005 I spent the last 17 years of my professional career advising and/or operating companies. I've been a Managing Director at multiple investment banks in New York City, focused on advising and raising capital for public and private companies. In 2013, I joined BTCS Inc. as the CEO and Chairman of the board. While at the helm of Nasdaq-listed BTCS, I've raised over \$45 million and led the company through many creative initiatives. I believe this experience makes me qualified to not only run an organization but steer the USHPA in a positive direction.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

While I have not previously served on USHPA's board I have listened to numerous USHPA board meetings as an observer and if elected believe I can be a valuable asset to the board.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS? Yes, I have been the CEO and Chairman of the board of Nasdaq-listed BTCS Inc. for the last 8 years. I've also served on the board of numerous other private and public companies, including Global Bit Ventures Inc., Pantheon China Acquisition Corp II & III, ADI Logistics Corp., and RK Equity Investments Corp. to name a few.

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE? I've advised and devoted substantial time to non-profit organizations with a focus on their fundraising efforts and strategic initiatives including serving as a member of the alumni council for Allen-Stevenson School, Indian Mountain School, and The Gunnery school as well as advising the Grovesnor Neighborhood House in New York city.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING? In my current capacity as CEO of a public company, I'm responsible for analyzing and making hard strategic decisions on a near daily basis.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS? I currently oversee policy and direction, including the evaluation of key performance indicators, and work to create a positive environment for all employees and stakeholders to improve operations.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING? Over the last 10 years I've served as the CFO of both public and private companies and have experience preparing financial statements in accordance with the United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("U.S. GAAP"), managing public company audit processes, and drafting and filing quarterly and annual reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES? Distilling and communicating not only sensitive but complex information in a clear manner is core to my current and past roles.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH. I have worked on many projects requiring me to collaborate on strategy and build consensus among diverse groups often with conflicting interests where compromise is required. However, if a process takes longer than 6 months it's likely being poorly executed or lacks urgency and there is tremendous room for improvement. In 2008 I was managing the execution of an IPO for a copper wire manufacturer which spanned the financial crisis. While we managed to successfully list the company on the Nasdaq we were unable to raise as much capital as originally desired and the process required changing our partner underwriting bank, complex accounting issues, and hard-fought negotiations with investors in a difficult market.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.	In addition to earning a BA in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University in 1999 I also earned an M.B.A. in 2005 from the College of William & Mary with a focus on finance.
WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?	While my passion for free flight is not unique among USHPA members, my determination to make flying accessible and promote the sport by leveraging my professional experience is. Your vote matters: please take the time to vote, and if you like our plan and want to make your passion our mission, please vote for Nick, Stephan, and I.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	75103
NAME	Randee Azzar
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	2 No-CA, NV, UT
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	20 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	To learn more.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	30 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	100
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Rancho Tehama, CA. The mountain 70 mile route we created. And also the time I get to learn from Bobby Bailey how to make an assembled dragonfly.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	Air born in a Hang Glider at the 1993 world meet in the Owens Valley, White Mountain launch

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

Enthusiasm, Piloting experience.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

Not that I know of.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?

I was president of WOR Bay area's largest flying club.

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

I have volunteered approximately 30 Hang Gliding meets. And one Paragliding meet in Chelan.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

Reading the weather, Assessing risk with task community.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

Dragonfly pit crew, I've worked the flightline at many hang gliding comps. Foot launch and towing.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

Flight log book.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

I've talked with the accident committee and given statement to accidents I observed while on the flightline.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

Getting ready for international world meets.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

Hospitality specialist. Marketer. Owner and operator of Azzar Ariel Adventurers. Some ground breaking Drone work.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

I love Flying!!!!

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	97614
NAME	Sean Blanton
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	4 AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	My entire life
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	I see change and growth of the sport as necessary. I want to help make that happen.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	6.5 Years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	100
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Hang Glider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Mt. Yonah and Flying camp. Mt Yonah is hike n fly. I maintain the trail for the United States forest service. I have brought others there and shared my knowledge. I love Sequatchie Valley. Hands down best most consistent flying on the East Coast.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	Vice President of Southern Parapilots, flown over 100 launches, helped many P2s on new site intros / guidance, I speed fly, I skydive, I have established and built new hike n fly launches and I have gotten over 20 non pilots into the sport who now fly.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?	I have served as Vice President of my local USHPA club, Southern Parapilots. I own my own business, serve on the board for some local nonprofits and have flown all over the world.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?	No
HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?	I have not
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?	Southern Parapilots Vice President
WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?	I do 200-300 hours a year of tool in hand trail maintenance. In which I clear hiking trails with power tools for state parks, the USFS and cities.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?	I have built my company from the ground up. It's been running strong for 11 years now.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?	Again running my company and putting on 12 big scale events a year. I manage everything from logo designs, to finish line arches, to designs of running courses to volunteers to communications etc etc.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?	I pay someone else to do that for me to be honest. I use my strengths to help me and delegate what I am not good at.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?	We have had a lot of issues over the years of people stalking folks, changing genders etc etc and we handle all of that with the upmost sensitivity.
DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.	I put on 100 mile trail running races that are a logistical nightmare. I have 1 person who works full time and 1 person part time. We have 14 aid stations, some times no cell service and so many moving parts, for 11 years now we are the largest trail running race company East of the Mississippi with close to 7,000 people a year registering for our events.
DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.	Learned to fly with cloud 9. Flown in the alps with the schools.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?

Don't fly for today... be safe and fly forever.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	55248
NAME	Dale Covington
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	2 No-CA, NV, UT
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	24 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	I would like to give back to the community and the organization, and I think I have knowledge and experience that I can share.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	34 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	@100
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Point of the Mountain, I love the community of pilots here.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I have been involved with APPI since its inception, Was member #214 of APA, the organization that was later incorporated into USHGA in 1991 and have been a USHGA/USHPA member ever since. I have been an Instructor administrator for over 12 years. Still learning.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?	Small business owner for 32 years, Involved with both USHPA and APPI management.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?	Currently on USHPA's Training and Certification committee.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?	I was on USHPA board for 2021.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?	I currently serve on APPI's pedagogical and disciplinary committees.
WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?	Does being a father count?
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?	Managing outdoor retail stores for a number of years, small business owner for 32 years
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?	Managing outdoor retail stores and small business owner for 32 years.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?	I have 4 small businesses that I run. You'd think I'd be better at it.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?	Teaching Paragliding for 32 years, organizing and hosting instructor Clinics, Time on USHPA Board and APPI committees.
DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.	I have been developing a syllabus for instructor clinics in conjunction with Greg Kelley over the past few years, and we are constantly evolving and refining the content, incorporating participant feedback and our experience into the material. Still not finished, but I guess it never will be.
DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.	32 years teaching and learning Paragliding, Equipment importer, quite a few years in the Outdoor industry, General Contractor

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?**

I have some ideas of the direction I'd like to see USHPA going, but on the board I want to represent the membership, So I'm hoping to get feedback from all y'all.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	77944
NAME	Nick Greece
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	2 No-CA, NV, UT
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	7 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	For the past 20 years, paragliding and hang gliding have been a guiding force in my life, and I want to continue working with a great group of free flight pilots to ensure our national organization works in the right direction for its membership. I believe USHPA is an incredible organization made up of impassioned pilots. I also believe USHPA could be doing more to serve its members' goals, both current and future, and think we have a good opportunity to guide the organization into the future in a way that will not only preserve our sites and encourage growth but also, perhaps even more importantly, improve our focus on all of our members in good standing!
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	21 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	150
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Chelan, Washington is where I fly the most these days as I help run a few events there but technically my home site would be Slide Mountain. I love the large expanses and technical flying that both afford.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?

I have been an advanced instructor and a tandem instructor for 15 years. In the past, I have worked at schools and big tandem operations such as Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, and Pokhara, Nepal. I am currently doing advanced thermal guiding and spearheading the mentoring for our biggest mentoring comp in Chelan, Washington for the last two years. This year I was proud to teach up-and-coming pilots for the Ozone Open and then win the Chelan US Nationals the week after. I've been a member of the US Paragliding team, a 2 x USHPA national champion, and have traveled extensively to compete. I was North American Editor for XC Magazine and am sponsored by Ozone Paragliders which is the largest PG manufacturer in the world. I am deeply connected to the international competition pilots which allow me to tap into the knowledge bases of other national free flight organizations.

I love traveling abroad with other pilots, probably my favorite way to spend time with friends and my wing. I've had limited flying experience abroad... I've flown in Spain, Colombia, and in Mexico.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

As the editor of the USHPA Magazine for ten years, I attended approximately 20 USHPA board meetings. I will be able to hit the ground running with a background of institutional knowledge from a decade of working with USHPA boards. I'm currently consulting for the RRRG, as well as serving as the Executive Director for the Foundation for Free Flight, affording me the ability to liaise between the three organizations and increase transparency and awareness when needed. I will, of course, recuse myself from any voting/ influence regarding these organizations and place a real emphasis on best serving the membership free of conflict.

During my time at USHPA, I implemented the Free Flight Film Festival in a Box, PR Kit for all schools, chapters, and instructors to utilize, and enrolled our membership in Expert Voice, which allows pilots rated P2, H2-and-above to get up to 60 percent off merchandise from top outdoor brands. These examples arose from trying to determine what our organization could do for our members to add value to their lives, without asking for anything in return. I think the organization should focus less on running itself and more on what it can do for its members.

From a PR perspective, I created dozens of national spotlight promotional pieces for both hang gliding and paragliding. I would like to volunteer to continue this promotion of membership- benefits-first thinking and help guide an

organization that I truly believe in and sports that have given so much to me.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

Yes. As the editor of the USHPA magazine, I sat on numerous committees for 10 years.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

No. I have been pretty busy flying but feel it is time for our generation to step up and dedicate some time to national policy. I am grateful for all those who allowed us to get to this place in the evolution of the sport and organization and hope more of my contemporaries will become more involved on a national level now that we have been in the sport for decades.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?

Yes. I was President of the Cloudbase Foundation for 4 years and Vice President for 2 years.

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

I volunteer for numerous non-profits and work as Executive Director of the Foundation for Free Flight.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

I have been witness to a decade of strategic decision-making at USHPA. I also have been part of the free flight industry for 20 years and have helped develop the most influential mentoring competition in the US with a great team.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

I have managed teams of contractors for productions ranging from 30,000 to 1 million dollars.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

Not a lot.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

I was the Public Relations Coordinator for USHPA for 7 years. I have more experience professionally managing free flight messaging on a national level than anyone in the country. I currently also work with the RRRG attempting to distill down complicated insurance policies to something instructors can understand easily.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

I directed a major motion picture paragliding scene with a complete safety success rate, I also worked with a team to onboard close to a million dollars and distribute it in Nepal over a 5 year period through paragliding connections.

**DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
AND EXPERIENCE.**

I have a major in Sociology and a deep background in public relations, communications, content creation, stunt coordination, and production.

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?**

I am excited to work with like-minded candidates such as Charles Allen and Stephan Mentler to work to unify strategies and national policy surrounding free flight and remove barriers that separate hang gliding and paragliding locally and nationally. I believe we can have a unified board that works hand in hand in good faith for all USHPA pilots simultaneously. Join us as we break new ground and work to push the organization to refocus on what members need!

Nick Greece
P4 T3 H1

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	75076	
NAME	David Hanning	
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	4 AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV	
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	9 years	
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	<p>I have experienced USHPA and it's many changes for a long time giving me great insight into where we need support and help to stride into the future. I know the details and players that have long held position of power within our org. I have stood up for myself and our sport. The last 5 years in particular have created significant understanding of the insurance issues and the politically charged actions that have created many of our current problems. I know my insight and historical knowledge plus my time as a pilot of the sport and for the sport will benefit the membership. We need to improve the course we are on currently and work towards an increasing membership and growing the list of sites we have access to. Not enough has been done to bring the ORG into the future to keep pace with the growth of flying as a sport within the rapidly changing environment of the USA. My competition experience is helpful and while I am not a top pilot, I have been lucky to participate in PWC events as well as host, run and direct many successful competitions. I know I can and will help USHPA grow into the organization we all wish it to be.</p>	
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	<p>Yes - in 2018 I received a revocation of my paragliding administrative privileges based on politically charged and motivated individuals trying to stop me from having a successful paragliding business in Tennessee. The actions against me are without merit or honor and have generated massive angst and issues within the community we continue to grow and love. As a result, I became land owner of the two best launches in the SE USA to ensure I would not go away. We operate independently as JUSTFLY-SVS Flight Parks and are insured by XINSURANCE, and have grown the paragliding</p>	

business in the SE USA independent of USHPA, proving that there is more to my suspension then is reported by USHPA and it's representatives. I am happy to share all the knowledge because I know it will help us avoid such cancel culture in the future.

Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING? 20+ years

HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR? I stopped keeping track

WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY? Paraglider

WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT? My home site is JustFly-SVS Flight Parks (Henson Gap and Whitwell) located in SE Tennessee. I am the owner of these two fantastic flying sites where we enjoy an annual competiton and flying all year long, primarily as a thermal xc sites, but also as a special place for soaring winds.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT? In my short time as a paraglider pilot I have been lucky to enjoy participation in the Red Bull X-Alps as supporter x4 for Team USA as well as travel around the world guiding adventure flying. I have been lucky to see all aspects of flying in a variety of locations creating lasting memories and friends around the world. My dedication to the sport is complete and as an old school individual I am obligated to give back thru education, events and support of community and organization. My business enables me to share my connections within the industry and world wide community with everyone helping to grow our membership thru pilot creation and training them to be our next competitors and flying friends.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION? I understand the insurance equation due to extensive work with the insurance industry since 2018. I have a strong guiding and teaching back ground to help elevate our community thru educational advancements and I have a worldly perspective about our sport of flying and the growth needed to create a positive force in the USA for our sport and community. I have a strong legal understanding of the issues that impact our community, flying sites and businesses. These past several years have provided me with the experiences and insight that

qualifies me more than others to help the organization run successfully.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS? Yes

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

I have volunteered myself and services many times in my 52 yrs with proud moments as a Big Brother, writing grants and as a humanitarian aid worker.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

As owner of a large paragliding school in the SE USA for the past 8 yrs I have immediate practice in strategic decision making for the survival and growth of this business in a hostile environment. I have experience participating in creating and growing community and sport within paragliding and Climbing. In my past I enjoyed being a part of the team that created small business for climbing gyms across the USA and as a mountain guide I planned and lead expeditions to large mountains in AK, S.A. and Asia.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

My experience as owner of a small business, a life long mountain expedition guide and a current tour operator lend me extensive experience in understanding and applying proper protocols that ensure excellence and success in all aspects of operations.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

I am forced to be good at book keeping to manage my many business that currently enjoy growth and success within our community and sport.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

I am an excellent communicator because i call it like it is and I am unafraid to say what i really think and want for the sport and community, however, I also have the skill set to maintain discretion and use a sensitive approach to managing and dealing with issues that are sensitive and delicate for sport and person without lying or cheating the membership or those involved in the issue at hand. You will always get the truth when it is possible to share information without jeopardizing individuals or operations.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

During my time with Nicros inc., we created at many locations new construction builds for climbing gym installations. My current business is in constant flux to adjust to the market, ensuring it's survivability in the face of hostility and aggression from competitors. And as a construction manager I have been over seer of the build process on several major projects from planning to finish. I have also been successful in writing and obtaining grants for work done in the outdoors with youth at risk. In my time guiding big mountains around the world I know it takes a team. In all of the aspects of my life I consider Collaboration to be the key if you plan to succeed.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

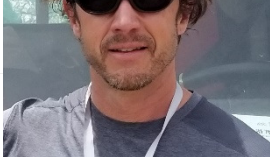
I am formally educated in Experiential Education practices at the U of Minnesota. After college I was trained as a climbing guide working rock, ice and mountain climbing expeditions across the North America, South America and Asia. My 20+ yrs of being active as a pilot, competitor and guide/instructor have given me incredible opportunities for personal and professional growth thru the many challenges that occur day to day as I pursue the life of my dreams.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

I know that I have insight and knowledge that is very useful to the management and future administration of USHPA. My extensive time as a pilot of the sport and from the sport have given me connections and mentor relationships that have helped craft my direction and desire to give back to the org that has already been so cruel to me, because I care about our sport and where the org will be next year in support of our events, competitions and flying sites i am capable and wiling to look beyond the actions of the org against me to the betterment of our sport, community and org. I know I can positively impact the direction that USHPA is going because of the experiences I have had these past many years. I know we can bring joy and pride back into the organization we all need for the future of our sport. Help me win a seat on the USHPA BOD and I promise you the changes we all need to move forward with integrity, honor and the clarity that is expected from a great organization that represents our sport of flying.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	69868	
NAME	Bill Hughes	
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	1 AK, HI, IA, ID, MN, MT, ND, NE, OR, SD, WA, WY	
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	23 years	
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	I want to do what I can to give back to the sport that has been such a positive aspect of my life, and hopefully improve it for others.	
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No	

Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	23 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	~300
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Tiger Mountain. My friends fly here! Also, this is a convenient and reasonably consistent (for the Pacific NW) site that is great for XC training.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I also do scorekeeping for many of the competitions in the USA.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?	I've been the Chief Operating Officer for several software companies.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?	I'm the chairperson for the competition committee and the finance committee, and serve as USHPA's treasurer.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?	I'm currently on the board.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?	I'm the chairperson for the competition committee and the finance committee, and serve as USHPA's treasurer.
WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?	I've volunteered for various community organizations.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?	I have over 20 years of senior leadership experience at software development companies where I was responsible for developing and executing strategy for product development, customer support, operations, finance, professional services, and many other aspects of the business.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?	I was Chief Operating Officer at several software companies.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?	Part of my responsibilities as a COO was knowledge management for the company, including financial and HR data.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?	My jobs have often required working on very sensitive issues related to HR, as well as occasionally communicating difficult topics to customers, investors, and employees.
DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.	I was hired to assess and revitalize a software company that was losing money and that was late on several product deliveries to customers. I collaborated with the existing management team, replaced some that were underperforming, and hired new staff. We set new product direction, changed our pricing strategy, and enhanced the morale and autonomy of the entire team. In about 2 years, we had become profitable, dramatically increased customer satisfaction, and created a highly motivated and cohesive team.
DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.	I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Computer Science.

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?**

It would be my honor to continue serving you as a member of the board. If there is ever any question I can answer or if you have any ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	98334
NAME	Patrick Kessler
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	5 CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	2 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	To serve the underrepresented side of the sport.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	7 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	2 hours
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Makapu'u, endless refills
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I would like to see speed flyers and mini wing pilots, those transitioning from other air sports being represented.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

Clear concise communication across the table and the ability to adapt and debate with all sides of the sport.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?

No

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

None

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

As a competition canopy pilot, I have strategically had to compete and train to ensure scoring the most points in competition. I have also had to make strategic decisions when teaching others how to pilot canopies, as to limit risk and coach pilots on safety while building speed.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

Dropzone Management- operations manager of Cleveland Skydiving Center

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

Meticulous record count of jumps, hours, and any flight time, as a tester for research and development team for parachutes, including standard work canopies and competition canopies.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

None

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

My teammate and I worked with a parachute company to receive a specific canopy with dye sublimation characteristics on it. Over the course of 3 years we had to not only create a plan of how many jumps the canopy would last, and work with the manufacturer to make adjustments in the artwork along the way. The project is still on going.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

- Skydiving
 - o 9,300+ Jump Total
 - o 6,000+ Camera
 - o 750+ AFF Instructor
 - o 750+ Competition
 - o 500+ Tandem

- 2020-2022 United Parachute Technologies Mutant (Supine) Harness Field Tester
- Performance Designs Prototype Field Tester- 71 Project
- United States Parachute Association National Director Candidate
- High Performance Canopy Coach/Educator
- Paragliding/Speedflying
 - o 214 hours total
 - o Specialties: turbo soaring and speedriding

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

n/a

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	32484
NAME	Tiki Mashy
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	4 AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	9 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	Because I believe my experience and longevity is what is necessary to keep this organization from repeating the mistakes of the past and as a flight school owner, I am invested in its future.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	42 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	I run a HG school - we aerotow
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Hang Glider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	My HG school is near Houston, TX - in the town of Wharton, TX
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	<p>As a long time advocate for free flight and this organization, I have seen the good, bad and the ugly. I know the pitfalls and where most of the bodies are buried:-) that's definitely part of the "ugly."</p> <p>Nonetheless, I possess a unique prospective since I came into this sport as a young teenage girl who grew up rallying around</p>

this Free Flight community. I have the folly and innovation of my youthful days and the maturity and appreciation of a life devoted to Free Flight. Yeah, yeah, que the violins and mood lighting already.

From my early days in the mountains of Southern California, to the flats of Florida, to the wild west of Wyoming, and now in Texas, it has been a free flight journey like no other.

I started Cowboy Up Hang Gliding in 2003 and it has grown bigger and better each year. It's fantastic to introduce the free flight experience to everyone from young, old, male, female and everyone in between.

Anyway, y'all know me, heck, I'm "one of a kind" in our sport, and I've met so many of you. But in best of all y'all know my heart and that I have been here fighting for you and our sports for a very long time; and I will keep trying to make this organization so much better.

You've heard me say this before, but I truly believe our best days are coming. Hang in there with me.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

I have run a successful flight school since 2003. Prior to that I worked at Wallaby Ranch from 1999 to 2003. I've seen where this organization has been and I know where it needs to go.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

Yes, many.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

Yes

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?

No

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

HHPA (Houston Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association) Local Club Officer.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

My background before Wallaby Ranch (2003) was a Paralegal. Working in Corporate Law, Civil Litigation & Family Law in the fast past of Los Angeles. Additionally, I have managed legal offices.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

I currently own and manage my hang gliding flight school which includes four other instructors, two tow planes, tandem gliders and trike operations.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

Managing my school with students, lessons, etc., since 2003.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

I am not a newby to this Board, I have proven that I have the experience to handle sensitive materials and delicate situations.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

Go Long in Texas - personal best event - 30-35 participants
XC Bohl - cross-country event 20-30 participants
Wallaby Open - Competition with 100 participants
Annual Valle de Bravo Trip - coordinate flying trip for 12-18 people to Mexico annually

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

Master Rating / Hang V
Tandem Administrator
Tandem Instructor
Advanced Instructor
AT Tow Examiner
PL/ST Observer
Instructor Administrator
FAA Private Pilot - Airplane SEL
FAA Private Pilot - WSC (trike) SEL
FAA CFI - Sport Pilot WSC

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

So I have never been a fan of the Diversity Matrix, not because one year I got the second highest votes and still lost as director. It is because the Diversity Matrix disenfranchises the membership by taking the voting power away from our members and putting it in the hands of an algorithm, which by design, cannot pick a Board that can meet the needs of the organization.

Using the word "Diversity" may seem to be politically correct - but I believe we should trust our members to pick a proper Board for their organization.

During my term I did try to dispense with the Diversity Matrix, however my proposal lost in Committee, so it never reached the Board. Few people seem to truly understand the DM, which, in and of itself, should raise some red flags.

Lastly, I have always been honest the membership. You have always known where I stand. I have always made time to talk with folks and returned calls. I embrace the whole of the Free

Flight community, members and non-members alike. I would appreciate your vote.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	82648
NAME	Stephan Mentler
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	4 AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	7 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	I'm running for a position on the Board of Directors with the goal of proposing and leading initiatives focused on growing our sport. I believe that we must engage our membership, clubs, hang gliding and paragliding businesses, and instructors to find innovative ways to collaborate with all stakeholders in growing the sport. This means lowering the barriers to entry, strengthening USHPA financially, and driving renewed interest among our current membership. Together with progressive candidates Charles Allen and Nick Greece, I believe that we can drive change, not just to save the sport, but to expand it.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	16 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	40
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Hang Glider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	My primary flying site is Wiltree Park in Groveland, Florida. It's Florida with year-round flying, what's not to love.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?

I have been an organizer and meet director for several National Series Hang Gliding Championships.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

I possess more than 20 years of experience in leadership and management. My experience is derived from my employment in the corporate world, my ownership and operation of a small business (Areli Solutions), and the military.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

No

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS? No

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

My volunteer experience is centered around the community that I live in. This includes short-term efforts from participation in food drives to supporting military families, like my own.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

I am responsible for strategic decision making on regular basis. This comprises business specific decision making - as small business owners and customer specific decisions - I advise in the preparedness and security arenas. I am responsible for making consequential strategic decisions that span myriad disciplines and that have broad impacts.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

My career necessitates managing complex efforts. Providing oversight of operations is key to this. Specific to our sport, I have been both the organizer and meet director for several National Series Hang Gliding Championships.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

In my professional capacity, record keeping is essential. The nature of my work, generally means that outcomes, the process used to achieve the outcomes, and the inputs that drove the process are scrutinized by private and public sector partners, as well as governmental stakeholders.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

As with many of the templated questions, distilling and communicating sensitive issues is an everyday function of the work that I do.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

My career has required me to collaborate with federal, state, regional coalitions, local governments, and private sector partners - who often have had conflicting interests - to accomplish preparedness and security related tasks. Collaborating across myriad entities and agencies is required to be successful in the work that I do.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

I have a diverse background in demanding professions within the private and public sectors. I have been a Police Officer, a Market Maker on the trading desk of an equity firm, an entrepreneur, a Senior Scout on a Long Range Surveillance (LRS) team in the Texas National Guard, and a platoon leader in Dismounted Reconnaissance Troop in Virginia National Guard. Currently, I am principal / owner of my own business - Areli Solutions.

I have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in political science and I am currently working on my MBA

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

Vote! Please vote for Nick Greece, Charles Allen, and I. See the plan - learn more here at <https://qrco.de/StrategyPlan>.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	96350
NAME	Thomas Schray
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	5 CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	6 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	I've enjoyed the perks of those that proceed me. Now it's time for me to step up and continue that service.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	13 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	45
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Little Gap in PA. I love that it's a few minutes from home.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I think that free flight is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and for all we hear about leave no trace, I'd like to think Flying is one of the best ways to do that.

Experience


WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?	None. It's a scary prospect.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?	No
HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?	No
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?	At my home, my wife provides room and board. I am a roomer and boarder there (? if that counts ?)
WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?	None. I'm basically a working stiff. I've always been self employed, which means I work 12 hrs a day, 6 days a week.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?	As a still poor, self employed person, I'd say "Very Little".
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?	Did I mention I'm self employed? I run a small home services company, 15 employees. What I can say is we have very little turnover. People like to work at our company.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?	None. That's the beauty of the radio. Someone else keeps the records, and in exchange, I listen to a few commercials for the privilege of listening to their records.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?	Not my strong suit. I prefer direct, unvarnished feedback. I think that is the beauty of flying. I've stood on the ground cursing the sky many times. I've noticed the sky rarely responds to my demands.
DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.	When I took over my current company, I had a manager who did not agree with the new direction of the company. 1yr later, after countless shouting matches, he came to see the benefits of my viewpoint. We've increased our sales 30% every year for 5yrs since. He is my greatest ally and a constant thorn in my side.
DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.	I was accepted into Hard Knocks University in 1998. My studies have included starting two business, one language school, a kindergarten and currently run a home services company. I also started a paragliding school help educate people about the benefits of qualified instruction. Visit my website at https://paraglidinglicense.com/ for great insights.

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?**

I think the fact that we transform into birds using cloth, rope
and metallic alloys is pretty darn cool. Let's work to keep it up.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	57000	
NAME	Jamie Sheldon	
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	2 No-CA, NV, UT	
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	30 years	
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	Volunteering a great deal of time to serve on the USHPA is something of a thankless job. But, I believe we all owe it to USHPA to be involved, participate and serve the flying community.	
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No	

Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	32 years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	100
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Hang Glider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Crestline - perhaps the most consistent year round hang gliding and paragliding site in the country!
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I learned to fly hang gliders in 1991 and it is the single thing I am most passionate about in life. After competing around the world for many years I started organizing competitions about 20 years ago. Although I am a lawyer by profession, I am dedicated to growing our sports. I have served as the US delegate to CIVL and worked as the CIVL Vice President and Hang Gliding Committee Chair for the past 10+ years. I also serve as a steward and juror at Category 1 hang gliding and

paragliding events around the world. I feel I have my finger on the pulse of the US and worldwide competition scene which has a huge impact on growth and development of our sports.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

I've been doing this for more than 20 years - competing, organizing competitions and volunteering at the national and international levels.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

I have served on the Competition Committee for more than 15 years.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

Yes, I have been on the USHPA board for the past 15+ years in one capacity or another.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?

I am currently the CIVL Vice President and chair of the CIVL Hang Gliding Committee.

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

CIVL Bureau, US Delegate to CIVL, CIVL Competition Committee Chair

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

I have 20+ years experience in strategic decision making for both the USHPA and CIVL.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

I have 20+ years experience in oversight of operations for both the USHPA and CIVL as well as organization of high level hang gliding and paragliding competitions.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

I have 20+ years experience in record keeping for both the USHPA and CIVL as well as organization of high level hang gliding and paragliding competitions. I am also currently serving as the USHPA Secretary.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

I have 20+ years experience in distilling and communicating sensitive issues for both the USHPA and CIVL.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

I have 20+ years experience with both the USHPA and CIVL as well as 20 years of experience organizing high level hang gliding events requiring strategy, collaboration and adjustments over an entire year leading up the events.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
AND EXPERIENCE.


I have been a member of the State Bar of California since 1996.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?

n/a

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	94799	
NAME	Lucas Soler	
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	4 AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV	
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	5 years	
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	Serving as a national leader in our sport is a privilege I don't take lightly. I'd like to further promote instruction and ensuring we have places to launch and land. This last part being one of the greatest threats to free flight in my region.	
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No	

Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	8
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	35
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Paraglider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	Tater Hill near Boone, North Carolina, is one of my favorite nearby sites. Tater is home to a yearly super fun comp where friends from all over converge to share great times. It has a vast ridge and a deep valley that makes it a great place to fly. It can be a bit spicy too, so I call it "Valle de Boone".
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I admire the adventurism and pure guts that early hang gliders had in the early 1970's. I'm frankly in awe at the type of stuff those people flew back then. We owe them so much. When I

get slightly spooked up in the air, I just have to think of the bravery these men and women displayed.

I love traveling abroad with other pilots, probably my favorite way to spend time with friends and my wing. I've had limited flying experience abroad... I've flown in Spain, Colombia, and in Mexico.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

The combination of professional and pilot leadership in my local area, together make up a great foundation to be of value with USHPA. Professionally, I've been running large multi-million dollar projects for companies for over 20 years. Re flying, I'm one of the most active pilot leaders in my area: a playmaker when it comes to getting stuff done and making things happen.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

No, have not yet served.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

I haven't had the privilege to serve yet.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?

No, have not yet served.

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

I've participated in numerous volunteering events organized by the companies that I've worked for. The two most memorable were building houses with Habitat for Humanity, and serving as an interpreter for the Spain Committee for Olympic Games, as part of the Olympic Games in 1996. I was born in Barcelona, Spain, so I know a word or two in Spanish, enough to make me dangerous and make real cultural blunders!

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

All the experience I have in strategic decision making is from leading projects for multi-billion dollar companies, both in selection of strategic projects, and in the execution of these large, complex, and consequential projects.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

I've managed large project implementation projects, often made up of 75 team members or more.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

Limited.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

The projects that I've led have all required the ability to recognize, manage, and communicate sensitive issues. In one situation, a contractor that I hired included a transgender individual, that no longer identified as being male. We were operating in business offices managed by a local college, and I received a complaint the people were not comfortable using the ladies room when this individual was also using it. Certainly new territory for me, and a very important concern for everyone. I'll leave it there, other than to say that it was pleasantly resolved to everyone's satisfaction, and without any lawsuits! Resolve issues with respect and open communication has always been my forte.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

All the projects I've managed in my professional career have involved many people and an average of 12+ months to complete. But corporate stuff is boring, so I rather give an example involving the dream business my wife and I started a few years ago at the height of the pandemic in October 2020. We had planned the startup for about two years: defining the strategy, the business value, costs, competition, all the things people do before the start a business. The final step was traveling to the largest olive oil producing region in the world (Jaen, Spain), and visiting many local farmers to select our first sourcing farm. Without a sourcing farm, the idea was only that. Then COVID happened and all travel was stopped. With an immense drive to keep the dream moving, I travelled to the region using my Spanish passport (traveling back home was allowed), and visited, inspected, and tasted scores of different world-class olive oils. Being among 66 million olive trees (one of the the largest person-made forests in the world) was a dream of mine that I got to realize through hard work and an unwillingness to give up.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

I graduated from Georgia Tech with an engineering degree, and have worked as a project manager all of my career. In the last two years, my wife and I started an olive oil and vinegar business, where we import some of the world's finest olive oil from Spain and bring it to the smiling faces of North Carolinians and the rest of the US.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

I didn't nominate myself. I was nominated by a few local pilots that believe I can make a difference nationally.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	27294
NAME	Matt Taber
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	4 AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	42 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	To help shape our future and provide feedback from my experience as a flight park operator. To help our organization focus on pilot growth of both wing types. Help focus on the need to make USHPA an organization that pilots and instructors want to belong to and support rather than have to belong to for insurance reasons or to be able to issue ratings.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	45 Years
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	Injury has prevented me from flying - I am just now cleared to resume flying activities.
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Hang Glider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	<p>Lookout Mountain Flight Park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the community 2) the long ridges in the area 3) the convenience of aerotow 4) the great flying 5) unmatched facilities 6) Quick and easy paved top to bottom turn around

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?

Most of my life has been spent in the pursuit of free flight and the improvement of all aspects of free flight, teaching techniques, better instructor materials, development of aero tow and aero tow gear, wing design, better facilities and general striving for improvement in all aspects of free flight including safety. I have been dedicated to furthering free flight in all areas.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?

My business, Lookout Mountain Flight Park is similar in annual revenue to USHPA and many of the same issues that affect my business also affect USHPA. I am well versed in the workings of USHPA. I have the training and experience in a lot of important areas.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?

Yes, I have served as chair for membership and development and am currently active with tandem committee, training and certification, towing as well as strategic planning and am chair for hang glide renaissance.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?

Yes, I have served on the USHGA and USHPA board continually since 1987 and am currently serving as vice president.

HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS? Yes

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?

At our home site our pilot group has volunteered to keep a section of road clean from trash. Work with Make a wish foundation, we built a hang glider with a character for the Erlanger children's hospital. Toys for tots at Christmas and just about anything the Dade co. Sheriff's department needs our help with we volunteer in our effort to give back to our community.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?

I have built one of the most successful and amazing hang gliding and paragliding flight parks on the planet. Critical and strategic decision making, strategic planning, hard work and a lot of effort from many folks help shape and create Lookout Mountain Flight Park (LMFP).

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?

My 42 years as manager of LMFP required huge operational oversight to remain solvent.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?

Record keeping is a big part in our business, everything from student records to keeping track of equipment hours and maintenance as well as employee records and tax records.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?

Besides my time on the USHPA board my business requires the distilling and communicating in many sensitive issues regularly.

DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.

I have built a hang glider tow plane from scratch, my own design, I have built 4 prototype glider designs, wrote the book Hang Gliding for the Beginner Pilot with Peter Cheney and published the book. I managed the building of our flying village around our flying site with over 35 cabins numerous houses, an RV park, clubhouse, bath house and swimming pool.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

OJT -- on the job experience and the success and proven track record of what I have accomplished have provided an excellent education with all aspects of business operation. Besides the flight park I have had a successful watersports business, dive shop, rental housing operation, RV park and have built and renovated several houses.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S MEMBERS TO KNOW?

I have spent the majority of my life in the quest of creating, caring for and facilitating pilots. I have a somewhat unique perspective that few on the board have and I would like to share that perspective when needed when making important decisions. I manage a large pilot base and have constant contact with many USHPA members, students, pilots and instructors; I get a good measure of how many members feel about a given USHPA issue. I have personal knowledge of the history of USHPA and can offer a perspective of how to proceed, how to avoid making the same mistakes - what worked and what didn't when looking for a solution on a situation that we have addressed in the past. I am also open minded and pro change for the benefit of improvement.

USHPA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General

USHPA #	28366
NAME	Paul Voight
WHAT REGION DO YOU LIVE IN?	5 CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING THERE (AS A PILOT)?	42 years
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON USHPA'S BOARD?	I think I have a lot of experience to offer. I want to help the sports grow. I have had a lot of history with being an active board member, and hope to continue. I want to help steer the ship in the right direction! (not always easy)
HAVE YOU HAD ANY USHPA SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS?	No



Flying

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?	50 (I started very young!)
HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU FLY LAST YEAR?	20
WHICH WING TYPE IS YOUR PRIMARY?	Hang Glider
WHAT FLYING SITE DO YOU CALL HOME AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?	My home site is Ellenville Mountain, NY. Because it is the site I have flown the most... the number of great (and wild) experiences I've enjoyed here... are priceless. It is a very challenging thermal site with great wonder winds in the evenings.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPORT OF FREE FLIGHT?	I am dedicated to growing sports, and helping them avoid extinction.

Experience

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU QUALIFIED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION?	I have experience on the USHPA Board, and the boards of the Southern New York Hang Glider and Paraglider Pilot's Association, and the Hudson Valley Free Flyers association....and I managed my own Flight school for many years.
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY USHPA COMMITTEES?	Tandem, Safety and Training, Membership Developement, Ethics, Awards, and Financial Re-distribution...
HAVE YOU SERVED ON USHPA'S BOARD IN THE PAST?	Yes
HAVE YOU SERVED ON ANY OTHER BOARDS?	Yes
WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?	I coach a myriad of youth sports.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING?	I lived to be as old as I am.....
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS?	I ran my own flight school for many years. I started my local town's High School Ice Hockey program, and managed that for 12 years. I also co-managed the entire High school hockey league.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN RECORD KEEPING?	I have years of keeping immaculate records. I'm detail oriented, and a perfectionist, and know how to use excel extensively.
WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN DISTILLING AND COMMUNICATING SENSITIVE ISSUES?	I have lots of experience in this area... and consider myself diplomatic, and polite. I prefer phone calls, rather than emails and texts....
DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED A STRATEGY, ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY, AND TOOK AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS TO FINISH.	An ongoing project I'm involved in currently, (for 2 + years) is the re-organization of our local Flying club, and working out the details of purchasing our site(s). LOTS of work involved.
DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.	8 years of college....and multiple sessions with organization facilitators in USHPA meetings.... among others.

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT USHPA'S
MEMBERS TO KNOW?**

To be useful on this board, you have to be willing to do real work. I finish anything I start :-)