



AMERICAN POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION

Elections 2020

Current Seniors:

The following positions are up for election this year: President, Treasurer, 2 Board At Large positions, Central Zone Representative and Eastern Zone Representative. You will vote for the Zone Rep only if you live in that zone.

Candidate info is emailed to all current Seniors that we have emails for. Candidate information will be posted on the APA website on the home page (www.americanpolocrosse.org) and a notice of this will be posted on Facebook.

All voting will be done online; a code will be sent to you in an email from heliosvoting.org. Voting will be open on Monday, November 23rd at 8 AM EASTERN time and will close Wednesday, midnight December 23rd EASTERN time. If you have a family membership and your spouse does not get an email with the codes to use from Helios, it means the APA was not given an email when you signed up. Please have them contact me and I can add them in during the 30 days given for voting. If you have trouble, please email Laura Humphreys at: lsshumphreys@gmail.com

The email from Helios Voting should send you the code to use and how to vote.

Candidate info starts next page

PRESIDENT

Katelyn James



As President the last two years, we have had an interesting term. Despite the challenges that COVID presented to us, I believe that we were able to successfully improve our standing as a National organization. While we were not able to achieve all of our original goals, we have updated the sanctioning process, adjusted membership rates to a modern pricing system, and established a better online presence.

Going forward, I intend to continue emphasis on APA relations with local clubs, player development, recruiting, and fundraising. Most importantly I would like to uphold the standards of the sport of polocrosse while continuing to grow the APA's presence amongst the greater horse industry. Further develop a streamlined process for reporting tournament results and incidents, increase use of modern technology for communication methods, and continue to develop a national marketing strategy that would appeal to new members and national sponsorships.

As I have said before, this sport and organization is truly something that I love and enjoy devoting myself to. Serving as President again would be a privilege and honor.

Al True



Hello, my name is Alvin True and I am running for APA president. I have been playing polocrosse for 22 years and my excitement for this horse community and sport grows bigger every year. I have served on the board

in past years and have appreciated and enjoyed the hard work from all those that have preceded me. Many have given to this wonderful organization and are passionate for this sport.

As APA President:

- I would like to put a lot of energy into building our member base. We must increase our numbers.
- It is my goal to support and improve player and umpire programs in order to build enthusiasm and knowledge of our sport while growing our membership.
- I would like to make it easier to sanction tournaments by building a database of forms online where players could upload information such as Coggins, liability release forms, and other online information.
- I would like to get to know my polocrosse family and friends by adding contact and photo information online. This would help improve communication across our membership.
- I would also like to hear your ideas and be a sounding board for what can make our organization even better.

As polocrosse players, we are blessed to have companionship with our horses. They are such beautiful creatures and we develop incredible relationships that benefit us in multiple ways. Thank you for your vote and let's have some fun in the new year!

TREASURER

Eunice Doelz



Polocrosse entered our lives in 2017 at a Pony Club playday hosted by MN Polocrosse. The first couple years we were fair weather fans, going to practice when we had time and playing only in the MN tournament. 2020 will go down in the record books as a memorable year. For me, more so because it is the year when all three of us (Paul, Eli and me) were stuck at home staring at each other but it is also the year we increased our Polocrosse involvement. Paul and I made it to most of the practices (unless the hay was down), Eli started playing in August and as a family we doubled our tournament attendance (Woohoo MN & NE).

I am passionate about programs that support horses and families, more so when there is the opportunity to combine the two. I am a Canterbury Pony Club (CPC) HorseMaster (D2-Dressage) and will be serving my 4th

year as the CPC Treasurer. 2020 provided unique challenges for Pony Club and while USPC and the Region clubs cancelled most of their events, CPC went out of our way to sponsor, organize and host member activities during the summer and fall. As an active member of the CPC Board I participated in developing protocols that would keep members safe, while continuing to maintain a fiscally healthy organization.

I have over 20 years of accounting, finance and project management experience. I have spent the last 10 yrs working in a “virtual” environment, managing and motivating a highly diverse group of colleagues and employees throughout North America and the U.K. I have earned a B.S in Accounting, MBA in Systems Automation and maintain a current Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. I am known for being highly organized, very efficient and am often the one to “say it like it is”, even when the conversation is difficult.

2020 has stretched the comfort zone of horse enthusiasts and our families, we’ve had to get comfortable with being uncomfortable and balancing safety while pursuing the activities we love. I’m running for APA Treasurer because I feel I can provide unique perspectives on how the APA can continue to grow as an organization while remaining fiscally sound, providing members a path forward to successfully pursue opportunities and their passion, even during these challenging and dynamically changing times.

BOARD AT LARGE (you will vote for two)

Alex Guzman



My name is Alex, I play with and run most of Charlie Horse polocrosse down in Florida. I am currently going to school at the University of Central Florida, getting a degree in business. I have been playing polocrosse for 13 years, but a few of those years I had not been very active due to my heavy involvement in US Pentathlon, but I can honestly say even when doing other things I was always thinking about playing polocrosse. I am glad to be back and hope to contribute to the APA with the skills I have learned from not just polocrosse but my outside experience in other sports as well.

Hopefully I can give back to the sport that has given me so much.

Thank you.
Alex

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Ryan Murphy



In the past two years, I've been fortunate to serve the APA as a board member. Starting this year, I took on the role of PDP Chair. I'd really like to continue having an impact on this great organization alongside a proactive board if given the opportunity. Let me tell you what's been happening as well as my plans for the next two years.

Coaching Accreditation Program:

In 2019, I spearheaded the creation and launch of the Coaching Accreditation Program, successfully certifying seventeen coaches. In 2020, we added two more to this esteemed list. These Certified coaches were then deployed to not only conduct their own clinics, but also were used at this year's Central Zone Mega Clinic. Notably, Rob Shuttles, an APA Certified Coach, was named the 2023 US World Cup Team Coach. The future holds these initiatives:

1. Drill Book
2. Level 2 Certification
3. More Level 1 Certified Coaches

Domestic Development:

The Central Zone Mega Clinic just went off successfully in early November. I pushed to bring back this concept from years ago. Along with the help of a tremendous host Stacy Upshaw and club and the organization of President Katelyn James, we could learn from this experience to duplicate what works in the future. We will be absorbing the feedback from the attendees and making plans to host at least one Mega Clinic in each zone for 2021. With the right coaches in place, organization and facility, I see no reason that this concept can't continue to provide tremendous education in the future. Very importantly, these coaches were more than compensated for their expenses and will also be compensated for their time. Great coaches make great clinics!

International Tour Program:

Many tours opportunities were received and acted upon by the PDP. This year, we had a plan to send juniors to New South Wales as well as an adult team to the UK for a Northern Hemisphere Quadrangular. Both have been postponed for the future. All international opportunities related to the World Cup Team 2023 development will be handled by the World Cup Committee.

Other Initiatives:

In addition to these programs, I developed the PDP Fitness Group on Facebook this year. This group supports and encourages an active personal fitness community in polocrosse. My wife and I participate by posting our workouts (in time lapse form) to the group.

I also was the creator of the six episodes entitled: APA's Polocrosse Will Return. This not only provided information for our APA fellow members, but also attempted to keep spirits up during the tough spring we faced.

One of my proudest accomplishments was my initiative to partner with the Hylofit company to conduct research into the effects of polocrosse on our horses. We successfully secured seven units from the company and plan on organizing structured opportunities to gather information that could help improve the welfare of our horses. Doesn't it make sense to teach our membership how to keep track of resting and corresponding active heart rates for game preparation purposes? Would it make sense to understand how a horse is effected throughout a weekend of polocrosse?

I ask for you to give me the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board at Large by being a key contributor and creative visionary for the future.

Sincerely, Ryan Murphy

Megan Waggener Swift



I've been playing polocrosse since late 2009 and have been a member of Bay Area, Sugarloaf, and currently, Tennessee Valley polocrosse club. I've played on 3 USA teams overseas and played a full season in Queensland, Australia.

During the week I can be found assisting in surgery at a small animal hospital in Franklin, Tn. Weekends that I'm not playing polocrosse, I enjoy kayaking, fox hunting, trail riding and hiking with our three dogs.

I am running for Board At Large because I feel as though I would be a strong voice for the membership.

Char Svaldi



Hi! My name is Charlotte Svaldi. I have been participating in polocrosse for fourteen years now and I have been riding horses since I was about three years old. Polocrosse has always been a sport that I have had the most passion for.

I currently live in my own apartment and coach gymnastics and basketball. My family owns twelve horses. I ride about three to four times a week during the winter months and every day in the summer. I would love the opportunity to better the sport of polocrosse to benefit the players and the horses.

Thank you,
Charlotte Svaldi

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Summer Pollinger Weldon



I am Summer Weldon, formerly known as Summer Pollinger (Recently married polocrosse player Zach Weldon). I was first introduced to polocrosse at the end of 2011 after I met Zach. I started playing in 2012, and polocrosse became my life quickly. All I wanted to do was eat, sleep and play. In 2015, I was able to represent the USA on the APA U21 team where we traveled to Ireland. That was a trip of a lifetime! Unfortunately, since 2016 I have been dealing with some health issues off and on, so I have not played consistently. If I am not playing, I still follow the APA family. I have gone to tournaments just to watch, cheer everyone on, and help where need be. When I do play, I love every minute of it!

At the end of 2019, I started a polocrosse club named Sassafras River Polocrosse. I love sharing the sport, as well as helping players better themselves and their horses, so I became an APA certified coach. Polocrosse has given me so much, causing me to want to give back as much as I can. I want to see the sport grow and give players and families those great opportunities that I was given. If elected on the APA Board, I will always be here to listen to what our members have to say. We cannot grow if our members are not in tune and happy with what is going on. We all put a lot of time and effort into this sport, so let's make it the best it can be!

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CENTRAL ZONE REP

Emma Strider



My family and I have been in the APA for as long as I can remember. I will never forget sitting at the computer watching my grandmother working on the APA finances and thinking it was the coolest thing. This sport has given me more than I could ever ask for and now it is time for me to do my part!

I will be very attentive to all of the central zone needs and to growing our great sport of polocrosse. Everyone knows that the future of polocrosse is in the youth of our sport which is something I have so much passion for. We need to continue to build the youth up and showcase them through coaching and offering amazing opportunities available for them.

My goals for the Central Zone are endless. Central Zone has plenty of amazing facilities that will make it possible to host many mega clinics, playdays, and inbound tours for all playing levels. One of the most exciting things of all is Regionals! We now have access to an amazing facility that I have the pleasure of running here in Texas. Being fairly close to everyone here makes it possible to be a largely attended event with people coming from eastern and mountain zones.

I have had an amazing opportunity to co-manage an equestrian center, owned by Bernie Uechtritz, which has many perks to the job. One of my duties is to host amazing events here at the equestrian center. This year we have been getting settled in and getting things up and running. But this coming year we have lots of exciting events in the making.

I will be very excited to work with the current initiatives to help them grow. Such as the CAP and PDP programs. I am a current member of the CAP program. The more we can make the PDP grow the more tours we can make happen for all ages. Additionally I am a current member on the Pony Club Polocrosse Committee. Pony Club has brought in numerous players over the years. I feel it will be very beneficial to be

working alongside them to help promote our sport and increase the playing numbers. Then we could make it possible to have a wider variety of age groups such as U16, U18, U21 and U25. This will give more opportunities for coaching and players at all levels. In doing this more people will have a chance to be a part of Social and Competitive tours.

I would love the opportunity to work closely with the APA to help promote the great sport of Polocrosse to increase our numbers, create more opportunities/events, and build up the Central Zone!

Michelena Zalopany



Hello!! My name is Michélena and for those that don't know me, I am a member of Grand Bay Polocrosse and have been playing Polocrosse since 2013. I motivated to serve as the CZ Representative due to my love for Polocrosse and its continued success and development.

My organizational skills, knowledge of the sport, and past experience as the APA rater makes me a great candidate. I have a well-established network, both within my zone and across the APA. I am knowledgeable about our unique needs within the APA. I have experience leading clubs and practices so I would be effective in helping any new clubs that want to start.

EASTERN ZONE REP

Holly Beth Hatcher



I am not a polocrosse player. I am a groom, chauffeur, and entry payer. There are two players that call me mom, Ashby and Bean. We have been playing for 5 years and came in via Pony Club. Our family has absolutely fallen in love with the sport and surrounding culture of polocrosse. I believe I have heard (and used) the word 'obsessed' about us and polocrosse, but is that a bad thing?! We have been members of both Sugarloaf Mountain (MD) and Heartland (VA) Polocrosse Clubs. We have also traveled to many tournaments over the years and really enjoyed scrambling onto teams and getting to know "everybody".

The EZ is really growing right now and we're excited. Nothing could be better than more clubs, more fields, more players, and more horses! I am eager to help them in any way they need. I'd like to see all the clubs in EZ talking and supporting each other. I hope I can help facilitate that communication.

This year coming up, hopefully, won't be as unexpected as 2020 has been, but it will still not be the same as all the other years. I think each club will have their own issues to deal with as each location will have their state mandated guidelines. I'd like to see us all work together to keep the ball rolling. And there are so many good ideas coming from APA that we can implement, like the mega clinics, coaching accreditation, and umpiring training. I'm sure there will be other PDP opportunities, especially if there is limited international travel in 2021.

Our whole family is committed to this sport and its growth, and to the people and horses that make that happen. If we can make it through this year, we can do anything!!

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Jamie Zito



My name is Jamie Zito. I've been playing polocrosse for about 15 years. I have brought dozens of horses into the sport and have helped run Charlie Horse Polocrosse Club.

I have recently been the APA Rater and I have been the Eastern Zone Representative for numerous terms. I have always thought first of the members on decisions and voting and will continue to do so. Thanks for the opportunity to serve again in 2021.