



AMERICAN POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION

Elections 2016 **Candidate Information**

PRESIDENT (you will vote for one)

Wade Liner



My name is Wade Liner, and I am running for President of the American Polocrosse Association. I have held an array of positions within my club and the APA throughout the years which has allowed me to gain experience and see the various perspectives from many angles. This experience has ranged from player to administrator. As a member of the Carolina Polocrosse Club, I have served as Selector, Vice President and President. I have also served as a Zone Representative on the APA Board, and I have served the APA Board as the Player Development Chair. It was during my time as the Player Development Chair that the number of youth participants increased greatly. During my final year as chair, all 41 participants in the Youth Development Program were involved in either an outbound international tour experience or an inbound international tour experience. That year also saw the organization of a very successful Mid-Level Adult Inbound Tour that featured players from the US, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

My hope for the future of the APA is simple. We need to increase our numbers and our foot print. There is room in our organization for all players with various goals and abilities. We need to provide opportunities:

- for the young player to safely have fun
- for the young player to challenge themselves with an eye to future international experiences
- for the adult that wants a fair and competitive environment

- for the adult that is more interested in the social aspects and safety at the lower levels
- for those that have World Cup aspirations and want as many highly competitive events as possible.

As a group, we can help provide all of those opportunities if we consider changing our approach slightly. Open minds will open doors to new opportunities and new players and members for the APA. The APA has great bones and is a great sport with great people, so there isn't a need to reinvent ourselves. We just need to pause, look around us and dedicate our positive energies in a direction that will benefit everyone in all zones and areas of the country.

Charles Saussy



Having just started playing polocrosse in 2013, I am what some may consider a “newbie” to the sport. However, over the last three years my devotion to the sport has grown immensely, so it's for that reason, I am very honored to be nominated for the role of APA President.

Due to our excitement for the sport of polocrosse, my wife, Karen, and I have quickly immersed ourselves in the polocrosse community. We have found that polocrosse offers several unique benefits that are hard to find in any other equine sport. I love that polocrosse is such a friendly sport and can be played with family members, because it is not exclusive to age, skill or economic background. It is a very affordable sport as well; coming from the world of competitive reining, we would often spend over \$1000 a weekend to compete against horses that cost \$30,000-\$50,000. I think it is amazing that you can compete and win on horses of all types of sizes, ages, breeds and cost.

Lastly and most importantly, I enjoy the incredible people that are a part of this sport. I have made friendships on the local, national and international level. The opportunities that we have to travel and connect with people across the world through polocrosse is invaluable. Some of the friendships I have made will last a lifetime. Karen and I have a 3-year-old son, Parker, who we enjoy bringing to polocrosse practices, tournaments and club functions. We have several friends that do the same with their children. This offers the opportunity to teach him invaluable lessons

as he grows up from, sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, horsemanship and enjoying the game that we all love.

Professionally, I am the founder/CEO of a commercial construction company since 2007, which serves southern Mississippi and Louisiana and employees 18 full-time staff. I served in the United States Marine Corps from 2002-2006. I served in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" in 2005, where I led 15 marines in the city of Fallujah, Iraq. I received an honorable discharge as a Sergeant. In 2015, I served as Vice President for the Grand Bay Polocrosse Club and I am currently the President of this steadily growing club.

My reason for accepting this nomination for President is simply because I love this sport and all the people that make it great. I want to see it grow in a positive way. From E-Grade to World Cup, we can make it better for all players of all skill levels.

Thank you for considering me when you vote.

TREASURER

Arleen Strider



I'm currently the treasurer of APA and hope to be re-elected. I earned my bachelor's degree in accounting from Hood College and I'm a member of the Sugarloaf Mountain Polocrosse Club in Maryland.

I am the Finance Manager for Historic Sotterley, a nonprofit organization in southern Maryland. I have been working there for the past 20 years. I served on the board of De La Brooke Foxhounds, our local foxhunt and was the treasurer for 6 years. I no longer ride with the hunt, but we're still members. I was also the treasurer of Bay Area Polocrosse Club for 9 years.

I was introduced to polocrosse in 1999 when my son Ryan learned about the sport through pony club. He is still playing and loves the sport. He says he wouldn't be riding if it weren't for

polocrosse. Also my 2 granddaughters, Emma and Erin, play. I enjoy watching the game and love the fact that it's a family sport. I especially enjoy the camaraderie at the tournaments.

I am honored to have been nominated and, if re-elected, I will accept the responsibility afforded the treasurer and will continue to work with the Board to maintain good accounting principles. I also would like to help promote polocrosse and see it grow and succeed.

BOARD AT LARGE (you will vote for two)

Angelina Hood



My name is Angelina Hood. I'm a wife and mother of four. Like many other little girls, I had a dream of being a nurse and owning my very own horse. Later on in life that dream became one between a husband and a wife. As life would have it that did not happen right away and, four children later, I was knee deep in homeschool, team mom, and a club leader of every sport and group known to man or woman. After eight years as a stay at home mom and the children were a little older, we had a family meeting to discuss hopes and dreams; shortly after, I enrolled in nursing school, where I was peer-elected class president. Just before graduating in 2010, we moved from our suburban home to our first farm.

I currently work for Loving Care Family Services as a Nurse Coordinator for the Developmentally Disabled--a job that has its own set of frustrations but tends to be very rewarding on two fronts: giving back to families in need, and allowing me the flexibility to be involved in a personally fulfilling career while still homeschooling my children.

In February 2010, we bought our first horse. Within four months we were introduced to Polocrosse. From there on our hobbies have never looked the same. I reflect back and see more dreams accomplished than what I expected or asked for. Whether I'm mom/wife support on the sidelines or playing "E" when my younger ones have needed a player, polocrosse has

brought my family together with much enjoyment and fellowship, as it has done for many others. Being a part of our club, we often reach out to the community and underprivileged children. I think the things we do in this life we should do with excellence and we should be compassionate participants in all we do. I know many times you've heard, "If it's not broken don't fix it." Well, that's not really my motto or how I feel; I tend to step out in faith and reach for the dream, the dream that Polocrosse can make further impact as a sport and past time that we all enjoy, that we can grow this sport making connections with families and individuals, and that we can elevate individuals and the clubs. Our sport can be known not just for people that are well off as horse people tend to get labeled but that we are a family friendly sport with well-meaning people.

Katelyn James



When I started playing polocrosse in 2014 I never thought I would get so hooked. I tell my non-polocrosse friends that I have been riding since I was 6 years old and I have never had so much fun riding horses before! The polocrosse community is so welcoming and supportive - everyone on the field and off are there to help you develop as a player, rider, and team member. This sport and organization is truly something that I love and enjoy devoting myself to. I was elected president of Bay Area Polocrosse last year and with the support of the other officers and amazing club members we had a tremendously successful year.

As an engineer by trade, I have had many years of experience managing projects, ensuring that both timelines and budgets are met while still accomplishing the end goal. Over the past year, I have taken my professional experiences and used them for the benefit of my club by focusing on new player recruiting, fundraising, our tournament, and the development of public polocrosse fields at our local horse parks.

The APA has provided me with an incredible community and I would like to make it part of my job to help foster the future development of that community. If elected as a Board at Large representative I intend to emphasize recruiting and fundraising, as these elements could benefit

the APA in huge ways. 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.

Prissy Rumel



I began playing Polocrosse in 1989 with my two brothers Paul and Steve Johnson and my sister Martha. I am currently serving as president of the Lone Star Polocrosse Club (and have been for several years).

This past year I volunteered to finish Stephanie Shuttles term on the board and have realized the value of having someone on the board that has been involved with Polocrosse for a long time. There are numerous discussions and decisions as a board and I feel strongly that being familiar and actively involved with the sport over three decades is an important asset. I believe that is what I bring to the APA board and I feel that having that experience on the board is crucial. During board discussions and/or making decisions I am not only speaking as an experienced player, a parent of two children that have grown up in the sport, a coach, a manager, an umpire, a clinician, a board member, a tournament organizer but also just a member with the success of this sport as my priority.

Some of my experiences during my 27 years involved in this sport:

Taken two teams to NSW Australia as a coach (U16 2013) and coach/manager (U21 1998)

Traveled to Uruguay to promote Polocrosse and play with the local club (2000)

Traveled to Zimbabwe as an invited group from the US and played with their clubs (1991)

Represented the USA as a player in test matches against the UK (2002) and Ireland (2006)

Organized and coached day and week-long clinics around the country

Been a Certified Umpire since at 1994

Helped write the new rulebook and had involvement in past rulebooks and rule change discussions

Been fortunate enough to train and play on some of the best Polocrosse horses in our country

Competed with and have shared knowledge with some of the world's best Polocrosse players, breeders and trainers

Hosted individuals and families from all over the world to play or promote the sport here

Helped host Lone Star's annual tournament as well as several past Nationals over the years
Served on the APA board as Zone Rep plus served as International Liaison and Ratings Chair for many years

Won the A grade National Championships 8 times as well as many Best horse and player awards

Played in the 1st and only Zone National Championship in 2000 in Lexington, KY., winning the Open Division. (I was one of the proponents of this type of Nationals)

Raised two kids that grew up in this sport and represented the USA on several occasions but also traveled and stayed with families in Australia and South Africa on their own.

I am happy to serve the American Polocrosse Association as a board member at large. I will offer experienced insight to anything that has to do with the activities that I just listed. I know that many people want growth in this sport and so do I! For years I have argued that we need to make sure we are keeping our current members interested and participating. As an organization we need to find out what it takes to achieve this and to make changes to assure that we don't continue to lose our player and member base. I firmly believe that by focusing on that we will attract new players.

CENTRAL ZONE REPRESENTATIVE (only Central Zone will vote)

Peter Kearns



I am a member of the Tennessee Valley Polocrosse Club. I played for my last 2 years of high school, in South Africa, in a club comprising 8 or 9 members in South Africa. In our second year of existence, we won the C-Grade National Championship which was an incredible thrill.

National service then stepped in and stopped me playing, as did university and loans to pay back – for 30 yrs. When I first arrived in Huntsville, TVPC was the only club in Alabama - it stayed that way for many years. We now have 3 clubs in the state and the south east is starting to take off, but it is a slow process - one that I would like to try and help accelerate – it is time to give back.

When the club started, like most clubs, we could only field 2 or 3 sections in the D & C-Grades in our first 2 or 3 tournaments. Our goal was to field a B-Grade section, which we did after a few years. We now have members in every grade from E to A and can field 6 person teams...

and some of our A-Grade players have represented the USA in test matches and the 2015 World Cup. Achieving this took a fair amount of dedication, persistence and a lot of luck. It is a process that takes time.

My goals for the Central Zone Rep are to support & represent our Central Zone members in the APA by addressing the following points:

1. Grow the sport in our zone. We have several states in the Central Zone that are very horsey (Tennessee & Kentucky immediately come to mind) and our challenge must be to start a club in each of them.
2. We need to ensure that our existing players (young and old) get opportunities to have fun and grow in the sport, so we will try to find new ways (or old ways, where they work) to achieve this.
3. Finally, “no horse, no polocrosse” and “no extra horses, no visitors” from far distant lands to provide us with competition and help us improve! We need to find ways to develop our horse pool - something that will stand us in good stead as an association for visiting international teams and when we finally host a World Cup.

EASTERN ZONE REPRESENTATIVE (only Eastern Zone will vote)

Jamie Zito



I am a licensed Electrical Contractor and own my own AC and Electrical Business. I am currently working in Florida and New York. I have been in business most of my life. I married Deb eight years ago. I started playing polocrosse ten years ago, and have played and won in all grades. We have sponsored numerous polocrosse tours and events. We have loaned horses to players in need many times. We have introduced many good polocrosse horses to the game and continue to supply horses to players that are looking for trained horses.

I hope to unite members to build polocrosse back to where it was several years ago. I would like to develop tours that would help unite the zones. I look forward to working for all the Eastern Zone polocrosse players and clubs. I hope to also benefit the clubs in all the APA.