



2017 SEIC Discipline Committee Elections

Every two years, the ACA's Safety Education & Instruction Council (SEIC) Board as well as the SEIC's Discipline Committees request nominations and elect voting members who are committed to volunteering their skills and expertise to the continued development of ACA's education and instructional programs.

During the fall of 2017, the ACA National Office collected nominations and is now conducting a formal vote for the committees listed below; those elected to these positions will serve for the 2018-2019 term (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019).

The deadline to vote online is December 22nd.

Adaptive Paddling Committee – Page 2

Canoe Touring / Freestyle Canoe Committee – Page 4

Coastal Kayaking Committee – Page 9

Rafting Committee – Page 15

River Canoe Committee – Page 18

River Kayaking Committee – Page 21

Prone Paddling Committee – Page 23

Safety & Rescue Committee – Page 24

Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) Committee – Page 29

Surf Kayak Committee – Page 31

Surfski Committee – Page 33

At-Large Members – Page 34

International Representatives – Page 37



Adaptive Paddling Committee

The Adaptive Paddling Committee (APC) is responsible for the Adaptive Paddling Workshop (APW) course content and endorsement criteria as well the Adaptive Paddling Certification of Completion. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Larry Gioia – Pittsburgh, PA

Larry Gioia is an entrepreneur, a community builder, and an advocate for people with disabilities. Over the past four years, Larry has successfully merged his passion for the outdoors, teaching, community building, and entrepreneurship as he continues to help shape the adaptive sports and recreation community in Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond. Larry's primary focus is adaptive paddling and he is the Founder of Dynamic Paddlers, the region's only paddling school to offer private instruction for youth and adults of all abilities. He is regularly called upon to share his expertise in adaptive paddling, disability inclusion, and adaptive sports. He has led/co-led over a dozen Adaptive Paddling Workshops around the US and abroad. Larry holds an ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer (APIT) certification and Level 3 Coastal Instructor certifications.

John MacDonald – Hudson, OH

I am an Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer Educator (ITE), a Kayaking Instructor Trainer, and have been involved in the ACA's Adaptive Paddling program since 2004. I am the University Recreation Director and instructor at The University of Akron, a state higher education institution of 25,000 students with a nationally ranked recreation department and facility. My goal as an Adaptive Paddling Committee member would be to grow and refine the Adaptive Paddling program and build the adaptive paddling community.

Charles "Joe" Moore – Charleston, SC

Active AP IT. Chair of AP Committee since 2015. Staff liaison to AP committee 2013 & 2014.

Elaine Mravetz – Sharon Center, OH

ITE in Adaptive Paddling and L3 FreeStyle Canoe. Former Chair of Adaptive Paddling Committee; Ohio Penn Division Rep for FreeStyle / Touring Canoe Committee and Adaptive Paddling Committee for over 16 years. Multiyear National Gold Medalist in Womens' Solo and Tandem Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe. Coordinator for Midwest Canoe Symposium annual event since 2000; Former SEIC Secretary for 2 terms. Many years' experience working with paddlers with disabilities. Began the Ohio APW in 1995 that continues to current year; Many years' experience professionally as an educator and administrator, in Canoeing working with curriculum, administrative duties, organizing events, training and mentoring new Instructors and ITs in both disciplines-Touring / Freestyle Canoe and Adaptive Paddling. Canoeing Instructor Volunteer for Ohio Division of Watercraft.

Julia Neal – Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Been involved with APWs since 2006; I have been an AP IT since 2013.

Lance Sharp – Fredericksburg, VA

As a Veteran, an ACA Level 1 Instructor with an Adaptive Paddling Endorsement, and the Mid Atlantic Regional Area Coordinator for the Non-Profit Team River Runner, I believe I would be a good candidate for this committee.



Crystal Skahan – Barrington, NH

As a Recreation Therapist and Adaptive Paddling IT, I have been teaching the Adaptive Paddling curriculum for a number of years, and am committed to its continued development and growth. I feel my complimentary professional skill-set aligns well with service on this committee.

John Tatro – Galion, OH

I have been paddling for over 40 years. I am currently an ACA Level 4 Coastal Kayak Instructor. I have worked several places doing adaptive paddling including adults and adolescents. I am currently in process of becoming IT.

Nancy Uschold – Marquette, MI

Nancy has been instructing individuals with disabilities in paddle sports for over 20 years. At the time she bought her first kayak, Bay Cliff Health Camp - a therapeutic and recreational camp for children and adults with disabilities - wanted to start a kayaking program. This paired easily with her background as a Physical Therapist - teaching people how to use their bodies more efficiently and adapting equipment when necessary. Thus began the learning process for kayaking - personal skills development, instructor courses, the APW - eventually becoming an Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer. She has firsthand experience with the ACA's Adaptive Paddling program since it's early years in the 90's and would like to contribute to its continued development.



Canoe Touring / Freestyle Canoe Committee

The Canoe Touring (Freestyle Canoeing) Committee is responsible for all Level 2 and higher Canoe Touring/Freestyle Canoeing curriculum and instructor criteria. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Ivan Bartha – St. Cloud, MN

Currently, I am one of only 2 Instructor Trainers for L2 Canoe Touring in the 11 State Midwest Division. I would like to serve on the discipline committee for Canoe Touring in order to help keep the discipline relevant and assist in the review of the current curriculum. My background is as a professional outdoor educator running a university outdoor recreation program for the last 11 years. I have served on numerous committees, working groups and non-profit boards throughout my career and know the value of volunteer led organizations. I am a lifetime member of the ACA and would like to ensure that canoe touring be seen as a broad spectrum discipline with outstanding leadership at the committee level. I look forward to serving and hope you will consider my nomination. We have a deep history with the canoe touring discipline and can move the committee forward with regards to curriculum, relevance and credibility among the larger paddlesports community.

James Bradbury – Troy, NY

Currently I am the Assistant Director of Recreation and Outdoor Programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. I hold ACA L2 certifications in Coastal Kayaking and Touring Canoe. I bring value both through academic and practical guiding experience. At RPI, I create and develop curriculum and technical outdoor programs focusing on outdoor leadership and risk management and assessment. Prior to RPI, I was an instructor at Ohio University where I taught didactic courses in the Outdoor Recreation and Education undergraduate core curriculum, as well as skill-based recreation courses. With my academic background in program development and complementing focus in technical instruction, as well as an extensive resume of trip leading, I will bring a unique perspective and insight into program development of the Touring Canoe curriculum. I will add value to the team having numerous collaborative sources of insight where curriculum, skill progression and assessment is being implemented. SOLO Wilderness First Aid Instructor SOLO Wilderness First Responder Five year's professional guiding experience in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks.

Lynn Dominguez – Weidman, MI

I have over 30 years of experience instructing canoeing. As a Freestyle canoe instructor and an Instructor Trainer for Essentials of Canoe Touring I have a solid background in instruction. I also have extensive experience with curriculum design and development through my regular job as a university professor. I am a professor at Central Michigan University in the Outdoor and Environmental Recreation program. I am currently certified through the ACA as a Level 3: Freestyle Canoe instructor (solo/tandem); a Level 2: Essentials of Canoe Touring Instructor Trainer. I'm also certified in coastal kayaking and SUP and I hold a Canoe Camping Endorsement and an Adaptive Paddling Endorsement. In addition to my paddlesports certifications I'm a Master Educator for Leave No Trace and a Level 2 Archery instructor.

Tom Fink – Washington, NC

FS Level 3 Instructor for many years. FS Videographer for many years producing many videos on DVD and Blu Ray of Freestyle events in Ohio, Adirondacks, Louisiana, Florida, Wisconsin, and New Jersey Pine Barrens. Currently producing



FS instructional videos for solo, with plans for tandem. On Touring FS Canoe Comm. past two years. Extensive Sea kayaking experience as well. Extensive canoe touring/camping experience.

Molly Gurien – Athens, OH

I currently serve as the Chair of the Freestyle Canoe Touring Committee. I am a L1 IT, L3 Instructor, and L3 IT Candidate. I serve on the Freestyle competition subcommittee and am a two time medalist in the National Freestyle Interpretive Competition. I am committed to river conservation, stewardship and promoting safe and responsible paddling, serving as Chair of the Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association and Watershed group in SE Ohio. I have received two Ohio Boating Safety and Education grants for L1 Canoe Instruction and Water Trail Development. For my day job I am employed as a faculty member at Ohio University teaching ecology and aquatic biology. This combined experience makes me well qualified to continue to serve the SEIC on the Freestyle Canoe Touring Committee. Thank you for your support.

Joshua Hall – Charleston, SC

Joshua has been paddling and teaching for over 20 years for Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission, an American Canoe Association Pro School, where he serves as the agency's Outdoor Program Manager. Joshua is most happy when he is teaching in the outdoors and sharing his knowledge with both youth and adult. His Coaching adventures have taken him all over the continental US, Hawaii, Europe and Japan. Josh's Credentials include: American Canoe Association (ACA) L5 Advanced Open Water Instructor Trainer Educator, ACA L2 SUP Instructor Trainer Educator, ACA L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor, L-2 Touring Canoe Instructor Trainer, and is endorsed as an ACA Traditional Skills and Adaptive Paddling Instructor. In 2012 Joshua was awarded the ACA's Excellence in Instruction award for his teaching and curriculum development contributions. In addition, Joshua has served as a Board of Director for the American Canoe Association (ACA) and chair of the ACA's Coastal Kayak committee. Joshua was the first ACA SUP ITE and is credited with authoring the first curriculum adopted by the ACA. He now serves as Chair of the committee and with many other talented trainers has helped the program grow leaps and bounds. As the current chair of East Coast Paddlesports Symposium & Outdoor Festival, he has continued the tradition of establishing this event as the premier paddlesport event, not only on the east coast but the country as a whole.

Tracy Hunt – Elmhurst, IL

Currently serve on this committee and wish to continue. ACA certs: L3 FreeStyle solo & tandem instructor; L3 River solo and tandem instructor.

Laura Liebel – Williamsville, NY

Are you interested in a stronger developmental path for Touring Canoe paddlers, Instructors and ITs? Would you like to be able to deliver more programs including Assessments, and Trip Leader programs? Do you want a more robust Touring Canoe Curriculum that is in alignment with other disciplines? As a Multi Discipline Instructor Trainer, I am committed to working with the Safety and Education Instruction Committee (SEIC), the Touring Canoe Committee, and YOU, to act on several initiatives for Touring Canoe. Why me? A lifelong educator, degree in education, experience as a Corporate Trainer, PSIA and ACA Certifications, Management Consultant and Computer Geek. Canoe, Kayak and SUP enthusiast. Willing to do the work. Multi Discipline Instructor Trainer (IT) L3 Touring/Freestyle Canoe, L2 Kayak Touring. Wekanu Paddling School: est. 2001 (www.wekanu.com) SEIC Instruction Committee: Member IPC, Touring Canoe Representative: Working with River Canoe Committee on L1 Intro Canoe Curriculum Panelist: Challenges of Evaluating Instructor



Candidates Consistently, ACA IT Conference Contributing Author (ACA) Outdoor Adventures: Canoeing and Kayaking
PSIA: Level 2 Alpine Ski Instructor B.S. Education

Robyn Lowenthal – Teaneck, NJ

I am a Freestyle instructor, the event organizer for the Adirondack Canoe Symposium, and an avid fan of freestyle canoeing.

Jennifer Miller – Groton, NY

My Background: Before I started my own paddle-sports business and got involved with the American Canoe Association, I worked at Cornell University and had a career as an instructional designer. I developed Online learning courses. I loved what I did, although, sitting at a computer for up to 10 hours a day was no longer fun. I grew up in a canoe and wanted to get back outdoors! My father used to take me on many adventures in our old Grumman. This memory is the spark that made me want to get back outside. At the age of 36, I quit my career in online learning, went back to school and earned my master's in outdoor and environmental education, which lead me to start my own paddle-sports business. It has been an awesome journey since. Seven years ago, I started my own outdoor recreation and paddle sports business in the Finger Lakes Region of New York called Paddle-N-More. Through this journey, I became a multi-disciplined paddle-sports American Canoe Association instructor in kayaking, canoeing, and standup paddleboarding. This process eventually lead me down the path of earning my Instructor Trainer Certification for L1 Standup Paddleboarding. Through my paddle-sports business it has been my goal over the years to make the Finger Lakes region synonymous with paddle sports. Although, I knew I could not do this alone. Building a paddle sports empire can only be done by hiring a strong crew of employees to assist with this process. As an employer of over 25 individuals on a seasonal basis over the past seven years, both area college students and high school students want to work for Paddle-N-More. Not only do we have fun and play hard, we work hard. Because one of my goals is to only offer excellence in paddle-sports instruction and service, all employees are required to go through extensive paddle-sports training. Many returning employees end up attending and earning an ACA instructor certification in one or two disciplines because the training they receive from PnM is that high-end. Over the years, Instructor Trainers have come to state that PnM employees are some of the better instructor candidates out there, because of their extensive training and paddle sports experience through PnM. Since the inception of PnM in 2011, with the help of my team, I have expanded and now have three rental shop locations on Cayuga Lake; run a highly popular youth water-sports camp; run a multi-disciplinary lesson program that focuses on increasing paddle sports skills and safety awareness to area paddlers; and we offer and lead guided sunset paddles, full-moon tours, and other fun excursions that introduce many new individuals to the world of paddle-sports. Not only are we a gateway to introducing new people to the paddle-sport industry, we encourage skill development and safety through our instructional program. But, it doesn't just stop there. When the season is not in session, I teach at two area colleges as an adjunct professor. It is my passion to teach our future recreation professionals. Through my courses, I teach theory and provide real-world experience in the field of recreation and outdoor leadership. Through some of my courses, students learn about risk management, trip planning, camp skills, leadership, and group management. They then take these skills and put them to practice when we go on week-long kayaking and canoe trips. Between my experience in the Online learning industry and my 6-year teaching experience as an adjunct professor at SUNY Cortland and Ithaca College, I have vast experience in curriculum development, preparation, and teaching various age groups. These skills, in combination with my experience as business owner, and as multi-disciplinary paddle-sports instructor with the ACA, provides a diverse set of skills and experience that have a lot to offer as a committee member.



Elaine Mravetz – Sharon Center, OH

ITE in Adaptive Paddling and L3 FreeStyle Canoe. Former Chair of Adaptive Paddling Committee; Ohio Penn Division Rep for FreeStyle / Touring Canoe Committee and Adaptive Paddling Committee for over 16 years. Multiyear National Gold Medalist in Womens' Solo and Tandem Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe. Coordinator for Midwest Canoe Symposium annual event since 2000; Former SEIC Secretary for 2 terms. Many years' experience working with paddlers with disabilities. Began the Ohio APW in 1995 that continues to current year; Many years' experience professionally as an educator and administrator, in Canoeing working with curriculum, administrative duties, organizing events, training and mentoring new Instructors and ITs in both disciplines-Touring / Freestyle Canoe and Adaptive Paddling. Canoeing Instructor Volunteer for Ohio Division of Watercraft.

Marc Ornstein – Honeoye Falls, NY

FS Instructor. Past competitor. Current and past event coordinator, current member of the FS/Touring Committee.

Don Pendergrast – Fairbanks, AK

Eagle Scout. 45 years of canoeing experience. Instructor Canoe Touring L2, River Canoeing L3, Adaptive Paddling Endorsement. Twenty years of arctic expedition paddling experience. Co-owner Alaska + Canoe School. I am committed to advancing high quality instruction and paddling safety to Alaska.

Connie Perry – Inlet, NY

With a BA in Elementary and Early Secondary Education, and MS in Recreation with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation, I spent 17 years working with people with disabilities in NY. I then pursued a greater focus on the outdoors at an alternative school for kids in Montana for 2 years, which I greatly enjoyed. Upon my return to the east, I took a "summer position" at a paddlesports shop in the Adirondacks which quickly evolved into a management position as the business grew dramatically. After 10 years, I started my own shop, Frisky Otter Tours, in Inlet NY in the summer of 2007, offering instruction, tours and kayak and canoe rentals. It has expanded to include sales as well, but the emphasis has always remained on customer service through education, skill development and safety training. At a time when many retailers provide little guidance to adequately prepare their customers for effective and safe paddling, it is imperative that that we as instructors and responsible paddlesports industry members lead the way to better educate paddlers before they get on the water to insure their safety and to enhance their enjoyment of paddling.

Chris Raab – Galloway, NJ

I bring to the committee multi-disciplinary experience in touring and river canoe, Coastal kayak and SUP as an educator, business owner, Guide, Instructor and Instructor Trainer. By adopting the best practices of each discipline and bringing teaching experience from other fields, I offer the committee effective support in curriculum development, safety, education, and community development. As a Conservation Biologist, I have provided formal and docent educational opportunities to diverse groups through the USFWS. The educator training I have received in this field included interpretive guide certification and master educator training, and inquiry based teaching techniques. The focuses of these teaching methods are to help individuals develop a person connection to the content and the learning process. By combining these methods with modern and traditional coaching, mentoring, and instructing methods for skill development, I have a record of success in developing differentiated learning opportunities that focus on individuals interest and current skills to help them progress through an established curriculum. As an ACA trainer I have worked hard to help develop effective instructors who have modern tools to create student centered learning opportunities for traditional and contemporary content. My hope is join the Canoe Committee to help grow interest in this paddle sport



ACA | Canoe – Kayak – SUP – Raft – Rescue
503 Sophia Street, Suite 100
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone: (540) 907-4460
Fax: (888) 229-3792

discipline. I think identifying new ways to effectively communicate with the public as an educational organization is one step toward that goal. I can contribute as a team member in this effort. Thank you for the opportunity!



Coastal Kayaking Committee

The Coastal Kayak Committee (CKC) is responsible for all Level 2 and higher Coastal/Touring Kayaking curriculum, Instructor Criteria, and the Coastal Kayak Camping, Coastal Kayak Traditional Skills, Level 2 and higher Coastal Kayak Trip Leading, and Kayak Rolling programs. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Mike Aronoff – Reston, VA

Long time ITE in WW Canoe, River Kayak, Coastal Kayak and IT in River Rescue. Current Chair of River Kayak, past Chair of Coastal, past co-chair of River Canoe. Prior Vice Chair SEIC, prior Treasurer of ACA BOD, owner CKAPCO, teaches at UMD, UNC, George Mason etc.

Michael Bowersox – Portland, OR

I am a multi-discipline paddle sports instructor from the Pacific Northwest with a particular passion for coastal kayaking. The diversity of paddling and instruction has brought a nuanced and greater connection between disciplines the overall developments of the SEIC. Additionally, my work diversity in different roles within the professional paddlesports and outdoor industry has brought depth to committee discussions, and my recent academic pursuit of education will continue to support the development of coastal kayak instruction (and instructor training). I am passionate and eager to keep helping the ACA Coastal Kayak Committee grown the effectiveness and professionalism of our certifications, and to increasing the inclusivity of the sport for all paddlers. My hope is to keep growing myself as an educator, and bring that growth to support the sport I love. Instructor Trainer Level 3 Coastal; Level 4 Coastal Instructor; Level 2 SUP Instructor (Continued Level 3); Level 2 River Kayak Instructor (Continued Level 3); Adaptive Paddling Instructor; UKCC Coach Level 2 (BCU); BCU 4* Sea Leader; 5* Advanced Sea Leader Trainee; 4* Open Canoe Leader Trainee; Teacher Candidate for Masters in Education, SPED and Social Studies.

George Brousard – Madison, SD

ACA L2 sea kayak instructor. L3 aspirant (need ICE) Working toward honing my personal paddling skills along with the educational component. Believe I have ideas to share in regards to improving quality of kayak experience.

Ashley Brown – Charleston, SC

“Passion for Coastal Kayaking creates a dedication to the sport's success. If it is fun and accessible, paddlers fall in love and carry that passion forward to protecting access and promoting kayaking. I plan to help keep it accessible and fun, after all its recreation!” Ashley is one of the few ACA Level 5: Advanced Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructors; she is also an ACA SUP Instructor, holds the Adaptive Paddling Endorsement, and is a Level 2: Essentials of Kayak Touring Instructor Trainer. Within her work at the College of Charleston, she has the opportunity to design and refine curriculum to serve the up and coming generation of paddlesports instructors and leaders in her region.

John Browning – Milwaukee, WI

I have been sea kayaking for 27 years, and have been instructing/coaching for 19 years, first in the the BCU (1998) and then ACA in 2002. I am currently a Level 4: Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor Trainer. I also hold certifications in Adaptive Paddling (endorsement), L2 River Canoe (Tandem) and River Kayak. I became a member of the Coastal Kayak Committee, as an affiliate member, in 2012, voting member in 2013, Secretary in 2014, Chair in 2015. I believe in the work of the CKC, I have enjoyed being a member, and being the chair of the CKC. The work is important and I would like



to continue with it. The CKC requires someone who is willing to make the sacrifices necessary to do it. I have been and am willing to continue to do so, there is a lot of work to do.

John Chase – Bolingbrook, IL

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered to represent the paddling community as a member of the Coastal Kayak Discipline Committee. I believe that I would be an excellent ambassador for the community. I am certified in multiple paddling disciplines which helps me see and consider different perspectives. I earned my first certification in 2013. While some may see having only 5 years' experience as a limitation, I feel it is an advantage as I am not entrenched in the 'we have always done it that way' mindset. I have been an instructor at the Door County Sea Kayak Symposium since 2013, along with other Midwest symposia. Teaching at these events has exposed me to many instructors at various levels, allowing me to see what works and what does not work. I bring experience managing a livery operation for the previous three years which has helped me understand the needs of livery staff and how we can help them create positive experiences. I have more than 25 years of business management experience, engaging critical thinking, budget management, project management, and communication skills. In the past five years, I have proven myself as a professional, responsible, and committed member of the instructor community and paddling community at-large. I believe my wide-ranging experience would benefit the committee and I hope to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity. L3 Coastal Kayak Instructor, Coastal Kayak IT Candidate, L2 River Kayak Instructor, L2 SUP Instructor, Recipient, USCG Sustainable Paddlesports Education for Underserved Communities Grant, Training Coordinator-Prairie State Canoeists, General Manager-Naperville Kayak, Author-Power to the Paddle: Exercises to Improve your Canoe and Kayak Paddling, Medic First Aid Level 3 CPR/AED Instructor, NASM Certified Personal Trainer, Starguard Lifeguard, Speaker, Canoecopia, Superintendent of Facilities, Bolingbrook Park District

Henry Davies – Au Train, MI

I am an L4 Instructor with the Traditional Paddling and Adaptive endorsements. I have been instructing coastal kayaking, primarily at symposiums in the Great Lakes, since 2004. I am also a guide along the Pictured Rocks on Lake Superior where I have trained guides for two of the local guiding companies. I have been on the Coastal Kayak committee as a non-voting member and on the subcommittee defining updates to the Traditional Skills endorsement and use of Traditional paddles in other aspects of ACA training (including IDW and ICE). I am also on the subcommittee defining/updating the guide training and assessment processes.

Lance Elzie – Brevard, NC

I have been actively involved in paddlesports instruction and outdoor education since 2004 and have experience with the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, and New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education as well as Master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. My academic focus in graduate school was outdoor education. I have a knowledge in a wide range of paddlesports disciplines which allows me to bring a holistic approach and view issues from several different lenses. Professionally, I take an evidence based approach to education and instruction. Wilderness EMT NOLS Wilderness Medicine Instructor Leave No Trace Master Educator.

Jeffrey Forseth –Eden Prairie, MN

I have a strong desire to support the ACA as well as enable an environment of growth of skills and safety for members. As past president (4 years) and other positions as a board member of a large Midwest kayak club, and ACA instructor, I



have come to appreciate serving members. I feel this is the right time for me to dedicate more time and energy to the Sport and the ACA.

Nate Hanson – Ellsworth, ME

Member of CKC since 2014, L5 Instructor, L3 IT, owner of Pinniped Kayak in Downeast Maine, River Kayak L3.

Steven Henkind – Tampa, FL

I have been an avid paddler (and boater) for most of my life. Current ACA certifications include L4 Instructor (Open Water Coastal Kayaking), L4 Skills (Whitewater), and L3 Skills (River Safety and Rescue). I am also certified as a BCU 3* Sea Kayaker and Rescue 3 River Rescue Technician. I recently became certified as a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and am a licensed physician (M.D.). For the past 13 years, I have also been extensively involved with the United States Coast Guard/Auxiliary where I have achieved numerous qualifications including Coxswain, Vessel Examiner, and Instructor. For the past 11 years I have served as a Navigator/Navigation Instructor on board the Coast Guards training ship USCGC EAGLE. This summer, I was appointed to the position of National Branch Chief, Paddlecraft Safety Underway by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am eager to share my knowledge and experience as a member of the SEICs Coastal Kayak Committee.

Paula Hubbard – Chestertown, MD

I started paddling canoes many many years ago then started sea kayaking about 15 years ago when I lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. I became interested in coaching through the local kayak club, was certified in 2008 and turned loose on unsuspecting future kayakers through California Canoe and Kayak. I moved to Maryland in 2010 and continue to instruct as frequently as possible. I am currently an ACA Certified L4 coastal Kayaking Instructor with a rolling endorsement. Most of my classes are offered through Cross Currents Sea Kayaking. In the past 10 years I've had the opportunity to coach many different levels in many different environments. This has given me perspective on many aspects of coastal kayaking. I still participate in several events every year to continue to develop my own skills and volunteer with my local paddling club. Since I am now retired from my 'real job' I am looking to get more involved in the ACA. This organization has a lot to offer and would like to be part of it.

Jackie Matthews, Gainesville, FL

University recreation department/outdoor recreation coordinator; instruction of coastal kayak, and other outdoor skills, to college students and campus community of the University of Florida. Current L3 Instructor. I am interested in teaching curriculum, and have experience using current ACA methods, as well as some of my own. Generally interested in training younger adults/college students to be excited about paddlesports, and to be great instructors/leaders.

Sean Morley – Fairfax, CA

I am currently a voting member of the CKC. I believe I have been able to add a west coast perspective to the committee. I am interested in joining the Surfski, SUP, and Surf Kayak committees for the same reason. ACA L5 AOWCK Instructor, L4 OWCK Instructor Trainer, L3 Surfski Instructor, L3 Surf Kayak Instructor, L3 Coastal and Surf SUP Instructor.

Whitney Olesen – Quincy, MA



I grew up coastal kayaking on the Great Lakes, and that eventually led to working with different organizations as a coastal kayak instructor and expedition guide, most notably with Outward Bound. I have been working for Thompson Island Outward Bound in Boston, MA since 2009, first as a sea kayaking instructor, and now as the Director of Expedition Programs. I have been an ACA certified Level III Coastal Kayaking Instructor since 2009.

Chris Raab – Galloway, NJ

I would like to continue to participate on the committee as a representative of the New York Metropolitan area in order to both keep our community informed of changes at the ACA and to represent the concerns of this region in policymaking. I bring more than 30 years of paddling experience with certifications in coastal kayak, canoe and SUP as well as a wilderness guide and urban youth education. My hope is to continue to help the coastal kayak committee develop programs that meet the paddling community's needs and interests while improving the quality of available instruction and upholding safe practices.

Trey Rouss – Lansing, MI

1) Openness to learning - I continuously travel throughout the country looking to deepen my teaching, personal paddling and perspective of the sport. 2) Variety of teaching experiences - As the owner of The Power of Water, I get to see the retail side of both short term and long term paddler development. We also run the paddling program for the School of Kinesiology at Michigan State. And, I am the organizer for The Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium. ACA L5 AOWCK Instructor, L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor, L2 SUP Instructor Trainer, L3 CK Instructor Trainer Candidate and BC Coach One. 3) Commitment to excellence - My guiding philosophy whether we are a person, a paddler or an institution...is that we must first truly know where we are, determine where we want to go and then embrace the process with joy and humility.

Roger Schumann – Boulder Creek, CA

I am an L5: AOW ITE for Coastal and have been a voting member on the CKC for 5 years. I'd also be open to becoming a non-voting member if there is need to make space for new blood. For SUP I've been an L2 IT for 5 years, an L3 Surf SUP instructor and recently became a provisional IT for L3 Coastal SUP.

John Tatro – Galion, OH

I have been paddling for over 40 years. I am currently an ACA Level 4 Coastal Kayak Instructor. I have worked a several places doing adaptive paddling including adults and adolescents. I am currently in process of becoming IT.

John Traendly – Smyrna, GA

John Traendly has been paddling for 11 years and is an ACA L5 Advanced Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor and a BCU 4 Star Sea Leader. His recent focus has been on coaching in the Outdoor Recreation program at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also the founder of the Collegiate Paddlesports Association which focuses on introducing college students to paddlesports. John is a past ACA Director for the State of Georgia, the Secretary of the Coastal Kayaking Committee and a member of the ACA Instructional Committee. He has paddled throughout the Southeastern U.S., but he has also led and participated on trips to Scotland, Wales, Iceland, Greenland, Chile, New Zealand, Russia,



Norway, Yukon Territories, Mexico, Alaska, Maine and British Columbia. John received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Industrial Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps prior to beginning his business career in logistics and information technology as an executive with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture), Ryder Systems and Federal Express. His experience in large corporations was followed by the founding, growth and acquisition of three companies focused on logistics and information technology. When the time came to pick a second, fun career, his choice was paddling.

Deb Volturno – Port Angeles, WA

ITE CKL5 - ITE SKL4

Greg Weiss – Cornucopia, WI

I have been involved with the ACA since 1992, first getting my "moving water" river kayak certification. After that I received instructor certs in whitewater kayak, whitewater canoe, and more recently stand up paddleboarding. I have been a coastal kayak IT for about 12 years and have served on the coastal kayak committee as an associate member. (non-voting) I'd like to get involved as a coastal kayak committee member as a way to give back to the profession, and to be involved with great people and paddlers. After 25 years of teaching I still love it, and look for ways to simplify the process of learning for my students.

Rick Wiebush – Baltimore, MD

I would be interested and honored to contribute my knowledge, experience and vision to the ACA generally and the Coastal Kayak Committee specifically. I have been an instructor for about 10 years (four at L3; six at L4) and an L3 IT for the past four years. I am a very active instructor, teaching approximately 20 classes per year and organizing and leading about 10 multi-day trips each year. People say (and I think) that my biggest strengths are: 1) creativity in instructional programming (developer of the Unconscious Competence program and co-developer of the Coach Enhancement series); 2) my organizational ability (developer and administrator of the Kiptopeke Sea Kayaking Symposium for the past seven years); and 3) my high standards for certifying ACA instructors at the L2 and L3 levels. I have the time, energy and interest to spend a significant amount of time on Committee matters.

Dale Williams – Tybee Island, GA

L5 Coastal ITE

Helen Wilson – Lander, WY

Helen Wilson is running for the SEIC Coastal Kayak Committee as a representative of Qajaq USA and its mission. Qajaq USA is a nonprofit membership organization that is officially recognized by Qaannat Kattuffiat (The Greenland Kayaking Association). It is committed to supporting Qaannat Kattuffiat and their efforts to preserve, study and promote the traditions and techniques of Greenland kayaking while seeking to further the appreciation and development of Greenland-style kayaking in the United States. Helen Wilson is the owner and founder of Greenland or Bust. She is internationally known for her rolling and traditional skills instruction. Helen performs rolling demonstrations, presentations and instructs at events worldwide. She is the organizer of the US Storm Gathering Symposium. Helen has



two DVDs, Simplifying the Roll with Helen Wilson and Yoga for Outdoor People, and has written skills articles for several publications; including Sea Kayaker Magazine, The Masik, Ocean Paddler Magazine and Canoe & Kayak. She is on the Board of Directors and the Secretary of Qajaq USA. She is also the Editor of Qajaq USAs publication, The Masik. Helen is an ISKGA Coastal Guide and an ACA Instructor with an ACA Rolling Endorsement. She holds the DGI Certification (Denmark coach certification) and is a registered yoga teacher (RYT) and a Wilderness First Responder. She is also the Curriculum Publications Managing Editor and a Field Instructor for NOLS.

Jennifer Yearly – San Jose, CA

Absolutely passionate about sea kayaking and about teaching and learning in the coastal environment. Just passed my Level 5 Advanced Open Water instructor certification exam (IT - Ronnie Kemp). Paperwork likely not to have gone through yet. Am also a British Canoeing Advanced Sea Kayak Leader (BCU 5 Star) and recently was approved as an ITC, now working toward L4 instructor trainer certification. I teach with the River and Ocean Paddlesports Coaching Collective.



Rafting Committee

The Rafting Committee is responsible for the Level 2 and higher Rafting curriculum (both paddle and oar), Instructor Criteria, and assessment criteria. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Tom Burroughs – Winslow, AR

I would like to continue serving on the ACA's Rafting Committee because I still have many ideas and experience to offer, which I think will assist in the ongoing projects within this great group.

Dave Childers – Eugene, OR

David is originally from Farmington, NM and has been an active paddler and member of the local paddling clubs. Recently relocated to Eugene, OR he is employed as a paddling instructor by the City of Eugene. He holds multiple ACA instructor certifications in WW Rafting, WW Kayaking, Coastal Kayaking, SUP, Surf Kayaking, Adaptive Paddling, and Swiftwater Rescue. David obtained a 2 Year Degree in Outdoor Leadership, Education and Recreation followed by a full bachelor's in Recreation Management from Idaho State University. He recently completed a Master's Degree in Experiential Education from the University of Minnesota. In addition to his paddling pursuits, David also holds instructor certifications in rock climbing from the AMGA.

Blair Corson - Index, WA

Blair is a lifetime adventure-enthusiast who is at his best when sharing an outdoor adventure experience with others. The oldest of four kids, he has accompanied his family on countless adventure trips and developed his love of the water at a young age. Some of his first paddling experiences were on the front of his dad's surfboard on the California Coast wearing an Oneill toddler wetsuit! In his teens he began training as a river rafting guide, and has been commercially raft guiding since the age of 18. His family owns and operates Outdoor Adventure Center which offers beginner to advanced paddlesports training and adventure programs from their base locations in Index, Washington and on Lopez Island in the San Juan Islands. These locations afford numerous opportunities for adventure recreation, and Blair enjoys planning custom activities and programs for adventure-seeking individuals and groups. A natural teacher, he has learned many strategies to help you get the most from your outdoor experience whether it is whitewater rafting an exciting class V section of the Skykomish River, teaching a private kayak rolling session, certifying coastal kayak instructors, or leading a youth camp activity his enthusiasm for outdoor adventure is contagious! Blair is the lead instructor for Outdoor Adventure Center, and oversees the training of commercial guides and recreational paddlers in several disciplines. He is an instructor trainer in coastal kayaking and rafting, a whitewater kayak instructor, a standup paddleboard instructor, a canoe instructor, a swiftwater rescue instructor, adaptive paddling instructor, and a wilderness first aid instructor. He also serves as the volunteer Washington State Director of Youth for the American Canoe Association, and has donated countless hours promoting recreation among youth and families through after-school programs, coaching, and paddlesports instruction. His experience includes organizing and leading youth adventure camps, school field trips, church youth group activities, family adventures, youth and teen leadership programs, instructor certification courses, corporate retreats, custom guide training experiences, and expedition trips throughout the Northwest. His goals are to further his education in kinesiology and leadership, while continuing to champion access to recreational opportunities and water safety training for individuals and groups of all ages and experience levels. Blair lives and adventures in the Pacific Northwest with his wife and 2 young children.



Bill Corson – Index, WA

An avid adventurer and instructor, Bill has a lifetime of experience leading adventure trips and organizing expeditions and events for teens and adults throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Originally from California, Bill led many surfing and hiking excursions along the California coast before moving to the Seattle area in the early 90s. Since that time the Washington coast and inland waterways have been his playground, and he and his family have taken thousands of youth and families on sea kayaking, rafting, paddleboarding, and hiking adventures. Bill is also a respected medical, rescue, and paddling instructor offering training programs for businesses, schools, individuals, and the military.

Elisha McArthur – Salida, CO

Elisha McArthur has been in Love with Rivers her entire life. Having grown up in a family of private boaters, from the age of three Elisha spent her summer vacations rafting rivers like the San Juan, the Salmon and the Chama. Life circumstances changed though and when Elisha was about twelve, her family gave up boating. The young Elisha found the River's absence in her life to be a profound loss, but within a year she had found her own way back onto the River through a dear friend and a local rafting company. By the age of fifteen, Elisha knew without a doubt that she wanted to spend her life on the river and began pursuing a career as a guide. With the help of Steve Harris, owner of Far Flung Adventures in Taos NM, Elisha was able to realize that dream, and in 1999, the summer she turned 18 years old, Elisha began guiding commercial trips on the Rio Grande in NM. Elisha has since guided on rivers across the west and in Scotland. She spent five years as a head boatman, managing small rafting companies on the Arkansas River in CO, but she has always enjoyed training new guides and found the most joy in helping others to learn a love of the river, so her switch from guiding to teaching was quite a natural one and Canyon River Instruction is the culmination of both her passion and her skills. When Elisha is not on the river she is busy homeschooling her daughter Charlotte, being a 'ski race mom,' teaching violin, performing her music, repping Tuff River Stuff river gear and enjoying a fun filled busy life!

Josh Oberleas – Aurora, CO

Whitewater Kayaking IT, Raft IT Candidate – Current Chair of the Rafting Committee seeking to continue working with the committee to enhance ongoing programs and events.

Aaron Peeler – Charlotte, NC

Safety and Rescue Committee - I have been an active member of the Safety and Rescue Committee since 2012. I have 20 years' experience in the whitewater world, most of that done guiding professionally for outfitters all over the country. My time on the water allowed me to gain a lot of experience in real rescues - from unpinning boats to doing body recoveries. Full-time, I am the Director of the Outdoor School at the U.S. National Whitewater Center where I developed, train and manage all swiftwater rescue programs. We train 200 to 300 rescue personnel (fire, rescue, and military) each year in a variety of swiftwater courses. I am also the owner of H2O Rescue Gear where we develop/sell some of the most durable and practical rescue gear you can find. I also help design gear for other major gear manufacturers. I am a L:5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer. My passion, experience, and dedication to this discipline is vital to the continued success and future growth. Rafting Committee - I have been a part of the Rafting Committee since is rebuild back in 2007 or 2008. I have also helped with the development of the rafting curriculum. I have 20 years' experience guiding rafts commercially. During my time as a guide I ran numerous guide training programs. In 2006 I was hired to develop, train and manage the raft operations for the U.S. National Whitewater Center (USNWC). My guide training program, at the USNWC, successfully trained an average of 200 guides per year to meet our staffing needs. Now I primarily train rescue personnel in the use of rafts (oar and paddle) and



guiding. I am a L:4 Raft (Oar and Paddle) Instructor Trainer. My passion, experience, and dedication to this discipline is vital to the continued success and future growth. L:5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue IT L:4 Raft (Paddle and Oar) IT ASHI First Aid and CPR IT Chair of the 2017 ACA Swiftwater Rescue Conference 3 time presenter at the ACA Swiftwater Rescue Conference 4 time presenter at the International Water Rescue Conference 4 time presenter at the NY State Technical Rescue Conference

Travis Reid – Bend, OR

Travis is a high-performing rescue training professional with 18+ years of guiding, guide training and agency experience. Due to Travis' in depth knowledge of water and remote rescue operations at all levels and experience managing a successful tourism and guiding corporation, Travis leads the staffing, training and development, budgeting and program management at Riverstone Adventures. Travis has trained extensively in the disciplines of Water Rescue and Technical Rope Rescue with very positive feedback from students. Owner River Stone Adventures and Oregon Rescue.

Brent Roth – Bremerton, WA

I retired as a Navy Chief in 2014 after 20 years of service. My last four years in the Navy was as a lead instructor at Trident Training Facility in Bangor, WA. While there I obtained my Master Training Specialist (MTS) certification. MTS is a 2-year program focusing on instructional methodology, adult learning fundamentals and curriculum development. This program gave me direction and structure in something I was very passionate about, teaching. I have carried over those same instructional skills into my other passion, whitewater. I started rafting in 2007 on the Hells Canyon section of the Snake River. Since then my river adventures have taken me from the Grand Canyon, to the Rio Marañon in Peru and many rivers in the Pacific Northwest. I am an established oarsman, but my true skill is in R2ing a small boat in class VI and V whitewater. In addition to organizing and leading many private multiday rafting trips, I have also instructed several students in multiple SWR and rafting classes, as well as, developed and implemented a rafting guide training program for Western Washington University to support their Wilderness Outdoor Orientation Trips (WOOT). Goals for the ACA: 1. Provide a more structured curriculum format for an instructor to teach from 2. Create an instructor development program for instructors to continue to improve after an IDW 3. Develop more courses/clinics to improve boater safety and awareness.

Karl Schmidt – Richmond, VA

Hailing from the Midwest, Karl has guided, instructed, patrolled, and coached whitewater throughout Appalachia, the Rocky Mountains, the Pacific Northwest, and Norway. Certified as a L4 WW Kayak and L4 Swiftwater Rescue instructor within the ACA, Karl has also instructed swiftwater rescue with Rescue 3 International, and wilderness medical courses for SOLO School of Wilderness Medicine. Karl has worked with organizations such as the Northwest Outward Bound School, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Nantahala Outdoor Center, in a variety of capacities ranging from instructor trainer to river ranger. Karl currently serves as the Outdoor Adventure Program Coordinator at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. At VCU Karl oversees +40 students, running multiple weekly whitewater kayak and rafting programs, multiple weekend whitewater trips each semester, an annual raft guide training, an annual swiftwater rescue training, and inner-university academic programs that pair with the River Management Societies River Leadership Certificate Program. Overall, Karl would bring a wide range of experience and creative perspective to the ACA's Rafting, River Kayak, and Safety & Rescue Committees.



River Canoe Committee

The River Canoe Committee (RCC) is responsible for all Level 2 and higher River Canoeing curriculum, Instructor Criteria, and the River Canoe Day Trip Leading, River Canoe Camping, and Canoe Rolling programs. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Mike Aronoff – Reston, VA

Long time ITE in WW Canoe, River Kayak, Coastal Kayak and IT in River Rescue. Current Chair of River Kayak, past Chair of Coastal, past co-chair of River Canoe. Prior Vice Chair SEIC, prior Treasurer of ACA BOD, owner CKAPCO, teaches at UMD, UNC, George Mason etc.

Lance Elzie – Brevard, NC

I have been actively involved in paddlesports instruction and outdoor education since 2004 and have experience with the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, and New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education as well as Master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. My academic focus in graduate school was outdoor education. I have a knowledge in a wide range of paddlesports disciplines which allows me to bring a holistic approach and view issues from several different lenses. Professionally, I take an evidence based approach to education and instruction. Wilderness EMT NOLS Wilderness Medicine Instructor Leave No Trace Master Educator.

Brendan Fitzpatrick – Falls Church, VA

L4 IT whitewater canoe candidate, L4 Whitewater Kayak, L2 Coastal Kayak, L4 SWR.

R.J. Forth – Joplin, MO

I have been an ACA instructor since 2003 in Canoeing and an Instructor in L4 Swiftwater rescue since 2004. In the spring of 2017 I completed my instructor trainer certification in L4 Swiftwater rescue. In the Spring of 2018 I will have my lead teach to become an L4 whitewater canoe instructor trainer. I have a passion for teaching and working in the outdoor environment. Working with people to achieve their goals in the river environment is a lifelong goal of mine and I truly enjoy representing the ACA in a professional manner.

Sam Fowlkes – Sylva, NC

Sam Fowlkes has been a leader in paddlesport for over 30 years. His involvement with the American Canoe Association began in 1977 when certified as a whitewater kayak instructor while working at Nantahala Outdoor Center as a guide and instructor. He has been an ACA whitewater canoe Instructor Trainer since 1981. He is presently an Instructor Trainer Educator in Level 5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue and Level 4 Whitewater Canoe for the ACA. In addition Sam is an Instructor Trainer for Rescue 3 International and a NOLS Wilderness EMT. For the last 20 years his focus has been on swiftwater rescue instruction and instructor trainer training. Sam's interests lie in innovative instruction and in making rescue techniques adaptable and relevant to paddlers. Advanced mechanical advantage systems are one of his rescue specialties. Sam's other ACA leadership positions include: 12 years as Dixie Division Divisional Instruction Facilitator, 4



years as SEIC Vice Chair and Chair. He is currently serving the chair of the ACA Safety + Rescue Committee. He would like to continue moving the rescue discipline forward as the cutting edge of innovative techniques. In higher education for 30 years, Sam is on the adjunct teaching faculty of Western Carolina University schooling students in water-based sports education. He takes a special interest in providing a multi-level educational experience. Providing professional level training for colleges, universities, outfitters, summer camps and clubs for 30 years. He also enjoys rowing an oar rig, stand up paddleboarding and canoeing with his Newfoundland dog “Lexi.”

Stan Mortimer – Albuquerque, NM

1. I am a good writer/editor. I wrote specs and technical documents in my career. I worked as a statistician and can do data analysis/presentation. 2. I have been canoeing since 1969, starting with canoe tripping as a teenager in Northern Ontario.

Ben Morton – Locust Grove, VA

Active Instructor Trainer (Educator) in several disciplines with a wide variety of experiences working with instructors from other paddlesport educational associations.

Fritz Orr – Landrum, SC

L-5 River Canoe IT – I am actively interested in lending my time and expertise to the continued growth of the ACA’s River Canoeing Programs.

Tracie Pendergrast – Fairbanks, AK

My canoeing passion is multi-day remote trips. I am a partner in the Alaska Canoe School. We are dedicated to helping others learn how to safely explore the Alaskan wilderness. I believe ACA instruction offers the best opportunity to accomplish this goal. I served on the River Canoe Committee last year as secretary. I would like to continue to help promote high quality instruction and safety through this committee. Instructor Certifications: Canoe Touring L2 Tandem, River Canoeing L3 Tandem, River Canoeing L2 Solo, Adaptive Paddling Endorsement.

John Wiederstein - Konztanz, Germany

River Canoe Paddling is my passion!

Elizabeth Wiegandt – Daleville, VA

I have been an active member of the River Canoe Committee for the past 15 years, RCC chair for the past 6 years. I enjoy the discussions and projects we have had regarding curriculum and policies as well as working with other disciplines and the Intro to Paddling Committee. I am an L4 WWC IT, and L2 ERK IT, L3 RK I, L3 RSR I, and L2 SUP I. I feel I have represented the desires of the RCC well over the past years in the SEIC and look forward to continuing the projects that are on the table now.



Greg Wolfe – Blanchester, OH

I am currently active as River Canoe Committee Past Chair and RC IT. Having served as SEIC Secretary, ITE, and served on the Board of Directors I have a good grasp on the past and future of the ACA.



River Kayaking Committee

The River Kayak Committee (RKC) is responsible for all Level 2 and higher River Kayaking curriculum, Instructor Criteria, and the River Kayak Day Trip Leading, River Kayak Camping, River Kayak Fishing, and Kayak Rolling programs. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Mike Aronoff – Reston, VA

Long time ITE in WW Canoe, River Kayak, Coastal Kayak and IT in River Rescue. Current Chair of River Kayak, past Chair of Coastal, past co-chair of River Canoe. Prior Vice Chair SEIC, prior Treasurer of ACA BOD, owner CKAPCO, teaches at UMD, UNC, George Mason etc.

Lance Elzie – Brevard, NC

I have been actively involved in paddlesports instruction and outdoor education since 2004 and have experience with the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, and New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education as well as Master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. My academic focus in graduate school was outdoor education. I have a knowledge in a wide range of paddlesports disciplines which allows me to bring a holistic approach and view issues from several different lenses. Professionally, I take an evidence based approach to education and instruction. Wilderness EMT NOLS Wilderness Medicine Instructor Leave No Trace Master Educator.

Brendan Fitzpatrick – Falls Church, VA

L4 IT whitewater canoe candidate, L4 Whitewater Kayak, L2 Coastal Kayak, L4 SWR.

Jeff Laxier – Fort Bragg, CA

First is the RKC, currently a member at large. I bring an unbiased look into the committee and keep it simple, safe, and educational. Second I would like to be considered for the Surf Kayak Committee as I teach kayak surfing often and bring a wealth of knowledge, I have grown up in the surf both teaching and recreating with kayaks and surfboards. I will be working with Deb V this Spring (2018).

Ben Morton – Locust Grove, VA

Active Instructor Trainer (Educator) in several disciplines with a wide variety of experiences working with instructors from other paddlesport educational associations.

Peggy Phillips – Estero, FL

ACA Ceertified L2 Kayak Imstructor, ACA President's Award 2016 for stewardship along rivers in FL, ACA State Director of the Year 2016, Race Director for Calusa Palooza - annual ACA sanctioned paddle race, current kayak instructor and river guide.



Karl Schmidt – Richmond, VA

Hailing from the Midwest, Karl has guided, instructed, patrolled, and coached whitewater throughout Appalachia, the Rocky Mountains, the Pacific Northwest, and Norway. Certified as a L4 WW Kayak and L4 Swiftwater Rescue instructor within the ACA, Karl has also instructed swiftwater rescue with Rescue 3 International, and wilderness medical courses for SOLO School of Wilderness Medicine. Karl has worked with organizations such as the Northwest Outward Bound School, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Nantahala Outdoor Center, in a variety of capacities ranging from instructor trainer to river ranger. Karl currently serves as the Outdoor Adventure Program Coordinator at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. At VCU Karl oversees +40 students, running multiple weekly whitewater kayak and rafting programs, multiple weekend whitewater trips each semester, an annual raft guide training, an annual swiftwater rescue training, and inner-university academic programs that pair with the River Management Societies River Leadership Certificate Program. Overall, Karl would bring a wide range of experience and creative perspective to the ACA's Rafting, River Kayak, and Safety & Rescue Committees.

Sami Spiezio – Minerva Park, OH

Aside from being an ACA Certified Instructor, I have over 40 years of paddling experience under my belt, including founding and running The Ohio River Rat Society, and have guided nearly 400 river trips since 2/2013. Additionally, I am the President of the American Kayaking Association and one of our main focus is education. John MacDonald can vouch for me.

Stefanie Spannard – Forest Hills, NY

ACA Level 2 kayak and SUP instructor. Lead SUP guide for Brooklyn Kayak Guides.

Kyle Thomas – Seattle, WA

Former ACA State Director of South Carolina and North Carolina. ACA Level 5 Adv WWK Instructor. ACA Level 4 WWK IT in Training. Jackson Kayak Exploration Team Member. Accent Paddles Pro Team Member.

Helen Todd – Hoover, AL

L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor (2003); L3 River Kayak Instructor Trainer (2015); Adaptive Paddling Endorsement. Second term as President of the Birmingham Canoe Club, been boating for almost 18 years, served as Alabama's first ACA State Director, teach locally for Birmingham Canoe Club and as adjunct professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Have served this past year as secretary of the River Kayak Committee. I believe I bring to the committee the local club perspective when it comes to boating and instruction. In addition, I'm an accredited Public Relations professional and have more than 25 years in the communications business and would like to put those skills to work for the committee.

Chris Wing – Saluda, NC

Served on RKC for two terms, and I'd enjoy the opportunity to continue lending my energy and expertise to this committee. Owner/Director of H2O Dreams Paddling School.

Lydia Wing – Saluda, NC

H2o Dreams Paddling School, Managing Partner; L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor since 2014; L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor Trainer Candidate .



Prone Paddling Committee

The Prone Paddling Committee is responsible for the Level 2 and higher Prone River Paddling curriculum, Instructor Criteria, and assessment criteria. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Lance Elzie – Brevard, NC

I have been actively involved in paddlesports instruction and outdoor education since 2004 and have experience with the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, and New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education as well as Master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. My academic focus in graduate school was outdoor education. I have a knowledge in a wide range of paddlesports disciplines which allows me to bring a holistic approach and view issues from several different lenses. Professionally, I take an evidence based approach to education and instruction. Wilderness EMT NOLS Wilderness Medicine Instructor Leave No Trace Master Educator.

Jamie MacLeod – Asheville, NC

Prone instructor, teach with Adam, second best prone instructor in the world.

Adam Masters – Asheville, NC

Founder of prone whitewater paddling, developer of curriculum.

David Pope – Sylva, NC

ACA level 3 prone paddling instructor, ACA level 2 kayak instructor. Kayak, Canoe, Whitewater, and Bellyak instructor for Camp Daniel Boone. Starred in the BSA/ACA/USCG paddle safety video with Chris Stec, Robin Pope, and Sam Fowlkes. Over 15 years' experience on the water.

Robin Pope – Sylva, NC

I helped develop the Prone Paddling curriculum, helped ensure its approval as a new discipline within ACA, and have served on the Prone Paddling committee since its formation. I hope to help continue strengthening ACA's Prone Paddling program. I have served as chair of SEIC, president and secretary of ACA's Board of Directors, and chair and secretary of the Safety and Rescue Committee. I currently represent ACA on the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Education Standards Panel and on the US Coast Guard's National On-Water Standards panel.

Chris Wing – Saluda, NC

I am a Level 3: Prone River Paddling instructor and I'd enjoy the opportunity to continue lending my energy and expertise to this committee. Owner/Director of H2O Dreams Paddling School.



Safety & Rescue Committee

The Safety & Rescue Committee is responsible for the Level 2 and higher River Safety & Rescue curriculum, Instructor Criteria, and assessment criteria. Additionally, this committee organizes the bi-annual ACA Swiftwater Rescue Conference. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Tom Burroughs – Winslow, AR

I would like to continue serving on the ACA's Safety & Rescue Committee because I still have many ideas and experience to offer, which I think will assist in the ongoing projects within this great group.

Sarah Beth Dinwiddie – Roanoke, VA

I am the trauma outreach coordinator at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke Virginia. As our community outdoor recreation especially local water sports, we have increased our involvement in injury prevention in the wilderness setting. We currently a variety of wilderness courses including wilderness medicine programs and water safety courses. Our focus is developing skills so that outdoor enthusiast are prepared for the unplanned. I am a Level 3 ACA Safety and Rescue instructor and would love the opportunity to be more involved in the development the ACA's programs, especially in regards to safety and injury prevention.

Charles Duffy – Vienna, VA

Member since 2008, also served on the Standards Committee for 4 years.

Lance Elzie – Brevard, NC

I have been actively involved in paddlesports instruction and outdoor education since 2004 and have experience with the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, and New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education as well as Master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. My academic focus in graduate school was outdoor education. I have a knowledge in a wide range of paddlesports disciplines which allows me to bring a holistic approach and view issues from several different lenses. Professionally, I take an evidence based approach to education and instruction. Wilderness EMT NOLS Wilderness Medicine Instructor Leave No Trace Master Educator.

Walter Felton – El Dorado, AR

I am an active whitewater boater in both canoe and raft which demand that I keep my rescue skills sharp. Teaching others along with continued experience on the water and participating in this committee are the three prong approach to accomplishing that goal. Sharing knowledge and passion for rescue (teaching) keeps the use of proper technique and practiced skills in the foreground. Experience and time on the water employees and expands the real world implementation of the techniques. Lastly being a part of this committee allows me to help push the rescue discipline (ie skills, techniques and ideas) forward and expand what the ACA offers to boaters. I am a level 5 ASWR Instructor Trainer Educator.



R.J. Forth – Joplin, MO

I have been an ACA instructor since 2003 in Canoeing and an Instructor in L4 Swiftwater rescue since 2004. In the spring of 2017 I completed my instructor trainer certification in L4 Swiftwater rescue. In the Spring of 2018 I will have my lead teach to become an L4 whitewater canoe instructor trainer. I have a passion for teaching and working in the outdoor environment. Working with people to achieve their goals in the river environment is a lifelong goal of mine and I truly enjoy representing the ACA in a professional manner.

Sam Fowlkes – Sylva, NC

Sam Fowlkes has been a leader in paddlesport for over 30 years. His involvement with the American Canoe Association began in 1977 when certified as a whitewater kayak instructor while working at Nantahala Outdoor Center as a guide and instructor. He has been an ACA whitewater canoe Instructor Trainer since 1981. He is presently an Instructor Trainer Educator in Level 5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue and Level 4 Whitewater Canoe for the ACA. In addition Sam is an Instructor Trainer for Rescue 3 International and a NOLS Wilderness EMT. For the last 20 years his focus has been on swiftwater rescue instruction and instructor trainer training. Sam's interests lie in innovative instruction and in making rescue techniques adaptable and relevant to paddlers. Advanced mechanical advantage systems are one of his rescue specialties. Sam's other ACA leadership positions include: 12 years as Dixie Division Divisional Instruction Facilitator, 4 years as SEIC Vice Chair and Chair. He is currently serving the chair of the ACA Safety + Rescue Committee. He would like to continue moving the rescue discipline forward as the cutting edge of innovative techniques. In higher education for 30 years, Sam is on the adjunct teaching faculty of Western Carolina University schooling students in water-based sports education. He takes a special interest in providing a multi-level educational experience. Providing professional level training for colleges, universities, outfitters, summer camps and clubs for 30 years. He also enjoys rowing an oar rig, stand up paddleboarding and canoeing with his Newfoundland dog "Lexi."

Patrick Frehner – St. Gallen, Switzerland

I'm the ACA represent in Switzerland since several years. As multiple Instructor and River Canoe IT I think I do have a good way to address a lot of people. Here in Switzerland, I train the rescue squads and police in river rescue.

Mike Mather – East Greenwich, RI

Long time ACA Instructor. Currently ACA ITE.

Julie Munger – Truckee, CA

Relevant background includes: 40 years as passionate river runner, 25 year Instructor and Instructor Trainer for Rescue 3 International, CA Level 5 Instructor for more than 5 years, Technical Rescue Instruction Degree University of Central Lancashire, CEO of Sierra Rescue, Inc. Co-Author of River Rescue Workbook and Waterproof Whitewater and River Rescue Field Guide, Curriculum Development Committees including Steering Council for Rescue 3 International, Passionate ACA Supporter. Very passionate river runner with experience in international exploratories, river boarding,



kayaking, rafting. Commercial river guide, outfitter, manager, and now a new bellyacker. Passionate about Safety and Rescue.

Nathan Ostis – McCall, ID

I've appreciated the opportunity to serve on the SWR committee the past couple years, have enjoyed the process, and would be happy to continue doing so. Big thanks to the SEI department for all the support you give us committees throughout the years. What a great thing we got here.

Aaron Peeler – Charlotte, NC

Safety and Rescue Committee - I have been an active member of the Safety and Rescue Committee since 2012. I have 20 years' experience in the whitewater world, most of that done guiding professionally for outfitters all over the country. My time on the water allowed me to gain a lot of experience in real rescues - from unpinning boats to doing body recoveries. Full-time, I am the Director of the Outdoor School at the U.S. National Whitewater Center where I developed, train and manage all swiftwater rescue programs. We train 200 to 300 rescue personnel (fire, rescue, and military) each year in a variety of swiftwater courses. I am also the owner of H2O Rescue Gear where we develop/sell some of the most durable and practical rescue gear you can find. I also help design gear for other major gear manufacturers. I am a L:5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer. My passion, experience, and dedication to this discipline is vital to the continued success and future growth. Rafting Committee - I have been a part of the Rafting Committee since is rebuild back in 2007 or 2008. I have also helped with the development of the rafting curriculum. I have 20 years' experience guiding rafts commercially. During my time as a guide I ran numerous guide training programs. In 2006 I was hired to develop, train and manage the raft operations for the U.S. National Whitewater Center (USNWC). My guide training program, at the USNWC, successfully trained an average of 200 guides per year to meet our staffing needs. Now I primarily train rescue personnel in the use of rafts (oar and paddle) and guiding. I am a L:4 Raft (Oar and Paddle) Instructor Trainer. My passion, experience, and dedication to this discipline is vital to the continued success and future growth. L:5 Advanced Swifwater Rescue IT L:4 Raft (Paddle and Oar) IT ASHI First Aid and CPR IT Chair of the 2017 ACA Swiftwater Rescue Conference 3 time presenter at the ACA Swiftwater Rescue Conference 4 time presenter at the International Water Rescue Conference 4 time presenter at the NY State Technical Rescue Conference

Robin Pope – Sylva, NC

I currently serve as secretary of the Safety and Rescue committee, after serving as co-chair for more than 5 years. I helped develop the current SWR curriculum. I also co-chaired the 2013 and 2015 SWR conferences. I hope to continue strengthening ACA's SWR program. I'm currently certified as an ITE in level 5 SWR and river kayak, and level 3 prone paddling. I have served as chair of SEIC, and president and secretary of ACA's Board of Directors. I'm currently an at-large Board member, and represent the ACA to both the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Education Standards Panel and the US Coast Guard's National On-Water Standards Panel. Finally, I serve as the national paddle sport specialist for BSA's Sea Scout program.

Travis Reid – Bend, OR

Travis is a high-performing rescue training professional with 18+ years of guiding, guide training and agency experience. Due to Travis' in depth knowledge of water and remote rescue operations at all levels and experience managing a successful tourism and guiding corporation, Travis leads the staffing, training and development, budgeting and program



management at Riverstone Adventures. Travis has trained extensively in the disciplines of Water Rescue and Technical Rope Rescue with very positive feedback from students. Owner River Stone Adventures and Oregon Rescue.

Brent Roth – Bremerton, WA

I retired as a Navy Chief in 2014 after 20 years of service. My last four years in the Navy was as a lead instructor at Trident Training Facility in Bangor, WA. While there I obtained my Master Training Specialist (MTS) certification. MTS is a 2-year program focusing on instructional methodology, adult learning fundamentals and curriculum development. This program gave me direction and structure in something I was very passionate about, teaching. I have carried over those same instructional skills into my other passion, whitewater. I started rafting in 2007 on the Hells Canyon section of the Snake River. Since then my river adventures have taken me from the Grand Canyon, to the Rio Maranon in Peru and many rivers in the Pacific Northwest. I am an established oarsman, but my true skill is in R2ing a small boat in class VI and V whitewater. In addition to organizing and leading many private multiday rafting trips, I have also instructed several students in multiple SWR and rafting classes, as well as, developed and implemented a rafting guide training program for Western Washington University to support their Wilderness Outdoor Orientation Trips (WOOT). Goals for the ACA: 1. Provide a more structured curriculum format for an instructor to teach from 2. Create an instructor development program for instructors to continue to improve after an IDW 3. Develop more courses/clinics to improve boater safety and awareness.

Karl Schmidt – Richmond, VA

Hailing from the Midwest, Karl has guided, instructed, patrolled, and coached whitewater throughout Appalachia, the Rocky Mountains, the Pacific Northwest, and Norway. Certified as a L4 WW Kayak and L4 Swiftwater Rescue instructor within the ACA, Karl has also instructed swiftwater rescue with Rescue 3 International, and wilderness medical courses for SOLO School of Wilderness Medicine. Karl has worked with organizations such as the Northwest Outward Bound School, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Nantahala Outdoor Center, in a variety of capacities ranging from instructor trainer to river ranger. Karl currently serves as the Outdoor Adventure Program Coordinator at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. At VCU Karl oversees +40 students, running multiple weekly whitewater kayak and rafting programs, multiple weekend whitewater trips each semester, an annual raft guide training, an annual swiftwater rescue training, and inner-university academic programs that pair with the River Management Societies River Leadership Certificate Program. Overall, Karl would bring a wide range of experience and creative perspective to the ACA's Rafting, River Kayak, and Safety & Rescue Committees.

Mike Sharp – Oak Hill, WV

Michael is a Level 4: Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer from Oak Hill, WV. He has provided SWR training for hundreds upon hundreds of commercial raft guides, rescue squads, and local paddlers in this region full of challenging rivers and an incredible commercial rafting industry. Mike is pursuing his IT certification in Whitewater Rafting, and has also been a valuable contributor to the ACA's Swiftwater Rescue Conferences.

Michael Schillinger – Chattanooga, TN

ACA L-4 SWR Instructor (Current & Qualified), 10+ years - Safety Chairperson - Tennessee Valley Canoe Club (2017 ACA Stroke of Achievement Award Winner), 20+ years' experience as a trainer (US Army, Lieutenant Colonel) - training troops for life & death situations in Iraq and Afghanistan; willing to travel; skills in MS Office; excellent planner and team builder



Sami Spiezio – Minerva Park, OH

Aside from being an ACA Certified Instructor, I have over 40 years of paddling experience under my belt, including founding and running The Ohio River Rat Society, and have guided nearly 400 river trips since 2/2013. Additionally, I am the President of the American Kayaking Association and one of our main focus is education. John MacDonald can vouch for me.

Charlie Walbridge – Bruceton Mills, WV

I want to continue serving on the ACA's S&R Committee.

Jacqueline Whitaker – Tampa, FL

Level 2 sea kayak instructor certification; paddling for 5 years and love to do rescues.

Charles "C.C." Williams – Rock Hill, SC

Charles "C.C." Williams, a native of Fort Mill S.C., is passionate about teaching and learning through the outdoors. C.C. began his paddling career in the Youghiogheny River valley while getting his Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Parks Management with a concentration in Adventure Sports (2005) and Masters of Education (2008) from Frostburg State University. He is currently the Active Learning & Living (A.L.L.) Outdoors Supervisor for the City of Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department. He has spent the past six years teaching and guiding students of all levels as they discover the waterways of South Carolina. During this time has taught kayaking and safety and rescue courses for 2,000+ students and has been the lead ACA Instructor and Instructor Trainer for the City of Rock Hill Fire Department Swiftwater Rescue Team. Current and Past ACA Involvement, Awards, and Certifications: Secretary, Safety Education and Instruction Council (SEIC), 2017 - present Founder and Chair, Level 1 & Level 2 Instructor Update and Symposium, 2016 & 2018 Affiliate Member, Introduction to Paddling Committee, 2017 - present Voting Member, Safety & Rescue Committee, 2016 - present Dixie Division Instruction Facilitator, 2016 Appalachia & Catawba Regional Representative on the South Carolina Executive Committee, 2015-2016 Presidents Award Recipient, 2016 Kokatat Instructor of the Month, March 2015 Level 3: River Safety & Rescue Instructor Trainer, 2016 - present Level 2: Essentials of River Kayaking Instructor Trainer, 2015 - present Level 4: Swiftwater Rescue Instructor, 2010 - present Level 4: Whitewater Kayaking Instructor, 2006 - present

Chris Wing – Saluda, NC

Served on RKC for two terms, and I'd enjoy the opportunity to continue lending my energy and expertise to the S&R committee. Owner/Director of H2O Dreams Paddling School. L4 River Kayak IT, L3 Prone, L5 Safety and Rescue.



Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) Committee

The SUP Committee (SUPC) is responsible for the Level 2 and higher Stand Up and Paddleboarding curriculum, Instructor Criteria, Assessment criteria, SUP Yoga, and SUP Day Trip Leading programs. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Lance Elzie – Brevard, NC

I have been actively involved in paddlesports instruction and outdoor education since 2004 and have experience with the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, and New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. I have a Bachelor's degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education as well as Master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. My academic focus in graduate school was outdoor education. I have a knowledge in a wide range of paddlesports disciplines which allows me to bring a holistic approach and view issues from several different lenses. Professionally, I take an evidence based approach to education and instruction. Wilderness EMT NOLS Wilderness Medicine Instructor Leave No Trace Master Educator.

Joshua Hall – Charleston, SC

Joshua has been paddling and teaching for over 20 years for Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission, an American Canoe Association Pro School, where he serves as the agency's Outdoor Program Manager. Joshua is most happy when he is teaching in the outdoors and sharing his knowledge with both youth and adult. His Coaching adventures have taken him all over the continental US, Hawaii, Europe and Japan. Josh's Credentials include: American Canoe Association (ACA) L5 Advanced Open Water Instructor Trainer Educator, ACA L2 SUP Instructor Trainer Educator, ACA L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor, L-2 Touring Canoe Instructor Trainer, and is endorsed as an ACA Traditional Skills and Adaptive Paddling Instructor. In 2012 Joshua was awarded the ACA's Excellence in Instruction award for his teaching and curriculum development contributions. In addition, Joshua has served as a Board of Director for the American Canoe Association (ACA) and chair of the ACA's Coastal Kayak committee. Joshua was the first ACA SUP ITE and is credited with authoring the first curriculum adopted by the ACA. He now serves as Chair of the committee and with many other talented trainers has helped the program grow leaps and bounds. As the current chair of East Coast Paddlesports Symposium & Outdoor Festival, he has continued the tradition of establishing this event as the premier paddlesport event, not only on the east coast but the country as a whole.

Trey Knight – Knoxville, TN

Currently I serve as the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator for University of Tennessee's Rec Sports Department. For the past 3 years I have helped college student learn about the outdoors and develop a passion for outdoor adventure. Before my time at UT I was the Kayak & SUP Program Manager at the U.S. National Whitewater Center. In this role I was responsible for the operation of kayak and SUP instruction as well as kayak and SUP rentals both in flatwater and whitewater. My program served over 100,000 guests annually in this capacity. Previously to these roles I was the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the ACA working with clubs, instructors, organizational partners, and regulatory bodies to help everyone learn about how the ACA is working to make the world a better place to paddle. While in graduate school, studying outdoor recreation management, I was the Assistant Outdoor Adventure Director for a prominent high adventure boys summer camp. The experiences I have had in the past 12 years took me to all corners of the outdoor recreation industry. This background has allowed me to see different perspectives and get to know many different stakeholders in moving outdoor recreation, paddlesports, and the ACA forward. Through these experiences I have been able to garner information that has helped me success in working with the ACA Safety, Education, & Instruction Council (SEIC). I have been involved with the SEIC since 2010 when I worked for the ACA. Since that time I



have served as vice chair of the SUP committee & chair of the SUP committee. Currently I serve as the past chair of the SUP in addition to serving as the vice chair of the SEIC and chair of the Instructional Committee. In my time with the SUP committee I have helped us write and pass the Level 3 Coastal SUP curriculum, the SUP Day Trip Leader Assessment, and update the Level 3 and Level 4 whitewater curricula. Additionally, while chair I added affiliate members to the SUP committee to allow for more involvement from different sectors of the SUP industry and more diversity from more regions of the country and globe. I have also helped the SUP committee transition its communication to a more efficient system and started the use of video chat to help conference calls be more personal and meaningful. What I have learned in my experience on the SUP committee and the SEIC is how to listen. Listen to the needs of instructors to identify trends in the industry so the SUP committee can help the ACA give the SUP industry what it needs, both now and looking forward. Additionally, I have learned that it takes time and a willingness to give. Working on a committee is a big time commitment and my previous experience has allowed me to learn how to make time for the things that the committee, the ACA, and paddlesports have needed. My certifications: Level 4 Advanced Whitewater SUP Instructor Trainer Level 4 Whitewater Paddle Raft Instructor Trainer Level 5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Presenter Relations Committee - Association for Outdoor Recreation & Education.

Raphael Kuner – Grenzach, Germany

My Name is Raphael and I am the current chair of the ACA SUP Committee. I am a multi-discipline ITE and IT. In SUP I am certified as ITE L2 and IT L3 WWSUP. Networking and teaching is my passion and my profession. Every year I spend a good amount of time in US, trying to be a European voice and make sure that the ACA stays as international as possible :-). It would be a pleasure for me to stay as active member of the SUP committee and the SEIC. Mein Name ist Raphael Kuner und ich bin der aktuelle Vorsitzende des SUP Komitee. Als ITE und IT in verschiedenen Disziplinen bin ich jedes Jahr ein einige Tage in den USA unterwegs und versuche die europäische Stimme zu sein und die ACA so international wie möglich zu halten. Netzwerken, unterrichten und Projekte vorantreiben ist meine Leidenschaft. Ich würde mich sehr freuen, wenn ich wieder als aktives Mitglied ins SUP Komitee und in das SEIC gewählt werden würde.

Charlie MacArthur – Snowmass Village, CO

Charlie has been certifying and coaching students and instructors in the art of river running, freestyle and racing techniques since 1990. He has coached a junior world champion and many other budding superstars. Compiling a solid competitive background in downriver racing (Gore Canyon class five classic three time winner), adventure races (Eco Challenge 7th place in Fiji '02, and SUP events). Charlie has served as a valuable member of both the River Kayak and SUP Committees, and is one of the only two ACA Level 4: Advanced Whitewater SUP Instructor Trainers in the nation.

Sean Morley – Fairfax, CA

I am currently a voting member of the CKC. I believe I have been able to add a west coast perspective to the committee. I am interested in joining the Surfski, SUP, and Surf Kayak committees for the same reason. ACA L5 AOWCK Instructor, L4 OWCK Instructor Trainer, L3 Surfski Instructor, L3 Surf Kayak Instructor, L3 Coastal and Surf SUP Instructor.

Erin O'Malley – Laguna Niguel, CA

SUP Committee Member for 2016-2017 – I'd like to continue serving.



Roger Schumann – Boulder Creek, CA

I am an L5: AOW ITE for Coastal and have been a voting member on the CKC for 5 years. I'd also be open to becoming a non-voting member if there is need to make space for new blood. For SUP I've been an L2 IT for 5 years, an L3 Surf SUP instructor and recently became a provisional IT for L3 Coastal SUP.

Stefanie Spannard – Forest Hills, NY

ACA Level 2 kayak and SUP instructor. Lead SUP guide for Brooklyn Kayak Guides.

Surf Kayak Committee

The Surf Kayak Committee (SKC) is responsible for all Level 2 and higher Sit-On-Top and Sit-In Surf Kayaking curriculum and Instructor Criteria. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Hamp All – Port Townsend, WA

Surf Kayak L4 / Sea Kayak L4 / Surf Kayak L2/3 IT (working on L4 IT Surf) / 20 year + Surf Kayak Competition participant / 30+ years of military and civilian aviation instruction / evaluation and curriculum development. Jefferson County WA Mountain Search and Rescue / Wilderness First Aid / CPR / Organizer Hobuck Hoedown Paddle Surf Festival.

Linda Beltz – Gig Harbor, WA

Level 4 Surf Instructor

Kelly Henry – Mountain View, CA

I believe that my positive energy and enthusiasm for surf kayaking encourages both new and existing paddlers to take to the surf. My commitment to the discipline is demonstrated by my active involvement in the surf kayak community. I teach surf kayak classes and multi-day clinics through California Canoe & Kayak, River & Ocean, and the California Womens Watersport Collective. In 2016, I developed the Bodega Bay Bash Expression Session (BBB) to share my love of surf kayaking with the local whitewater and sea kayak communities. The BBB is now an annual event that takes place each fall. In addition to encouraging more paddlers into the recreational surf kayak scene, I am an active participant in both local and international competitions. I recently returned from the 2017 World Surf Kayak Championships in Portrush, Northern Ireland. This experience really illustrated the need for a comprehensive surf kayak curriculum and youth development program here in the United States. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Surf Kayak Committee. My current instructor certifications include L4 Coastal Kayak, L3 Surf Kayak, and L2 SUP.

Steven Jones – Seattle, WA

L4 Coastal Kayak IT, L5 Coastal Kayak Instructor, L3 Surf Instructor - Many years coaching experience to include competitive Olympic disciplines. An avid surf kayaker in the PNW.

Jeff Laxier – Fort Bragg, CA



First is the RKC, currently a member at large. I bring an unbiased look into the committee and keep it simple, safe, and educational. Second I would like to be considered for the Surf Kayak Committee as I teach kayak surfing often and bring a wealth of knowledge, I have grown up in the surf both teaching and recreating with kayaks and surfboards. I will be working with Deb V this Spring (2018).

Sean Morley – Fairfax, CA

I am currently a voting member of the CKC. I believe I have been able to add a west coast perspective to the committee. I am interested in joining the Surfski, SUP, and Surf Kayak committees for the same reason. ACA L5 AOWCK Instructor, L4 OWCK Instructor Trainer, L3 Surfski Instructor, L3 Surf Kayak Instructor, L3 Coastal and Surf SUP Instructor.

Deb Volturno – Port Angeles, WA

ITE CKL5 - ITE SKL4



Surfski Committee

The Surfski Committee is responsible for the Level 2 and higher Surfski curriculum, Instructor Criteria, and assessment criteria. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Chuck Conley – Virginia Beach, VA

L3 surf kayak, L4 coastal kayak, L1 SUP, L2 Surfski, own Virginia Beach Paddlesports, Chapter Coordinator of Team River Runner-Virginia Beach, 20 plus years' experience racing primarily ski but also outrigger, sea kayak, marathon canoe, sprint kayak and SUP.

Ben Lawry – Folsom, CA

I have been involved in setting up this discipline as well as others. I would like to stay involved in the process. I have over 25 years in Surf Skis both nationally and internationally and have been teaching in them for over 20 years. I believe I have a lot to offer the ACA, instructors and clients in this discipline.

http://www.benlawry.net/Ben_Lawry/Bens_Bio.html

Sean Morley – Fairfax, CA

I am currently a voting member of the CKC. I believe I have been able to add a west coast perspective to the committee. I am interested in joining the Surfski, SUP, and Surf Kayak committees for the same reason. ACA L5 AOWCK Instructor, L4 OWCK Instructor Trainer, L3 Surfski Instructor, L3 Surf Kayak Instructor, L3 Coastal and Surf SUP Instructor.

Rik Pauli – Hayward, WI

I am an avid surfski paddler since the early 1990's. I have been active in surfski promotion, education, safety linked to the industry and of course a part of the original founding of the committee.



At-Large SEIC Members

At-large voting members of the SEIC are elected to represent a holistic perspective of all ACA instructional disciplines, rather than one discipline/craft. Only currently certified ACA Instructors, Trainers and Educators are eligible for this category. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Jeff Atkins – Charleston, SC

Jeff possesses those qualities of leadership and mentorship demanded of this position to properly represent the American Canoe Association. A certified Open Water Coastal Kayak and SUP instructor, master naturalist and master Leave No Trace instructor, he serves as a role model on and off the water for the paddle sports community. As the State Director for South Carolina, he has placed an emphasis on outreach to the public to ensure that the theme of safe and enjoyable recreation is at the forefront to bring greater numbers to our sport. He has worked closely with retail agencies, clubs, and the outdoor tourism industry to create safe memorable events for those seeking an opportunity to explore kayaking and SUP across different environments. A well respected coach and instructor, Jeff is sought after for formal and informal events to share his passion for the outdoors and kayaking. A natural leader with tremendous personal rapport, he is fun to be around and people gravitate towards his easy going approachable style. Jeff's leadership and professional acumen coupled with his experience as a State Park Ranger and County Park Manager lends him to be a great fit for this position. His selection will yield tremendous dividends for the sport and the American Canoe Association.

Sarah Beth Dinwiddie – Roanoke, VA

I am the trauma outreach coordinator at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke Virginia. As our community outdoor recreation especially local water sports, we have increased our involvement in injury prevention in the wilderness setting. We currently offer a variety of wilderness courses including wilderness medicine programs and water safety courses. Our focus is developing skills so that outdoor enthusiasts are prepared for the unplanned. I am a Level 3 ACA Safety and Rescue instructor and would love the opportunity to be more involved in the development of the ACA's programs, especially in regards to safety and injury prevention.

Joshua Hall – Charleston, SC

Joshua has been paddling and teaching for over 20 years for Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission, an American Canoe Association Pro School, where he serves as the agencies Outdoor Program Manager. Joshua is most happy when he is teaching in the outdoors and sharing his knowledge with both youth and adult. His Coaching adventures have taken him all over the continental US, Hawaii, Europe and Japan. Josh's Credentials include: American Canoe Association (ACA) L5 Advanced Open Water Instructor Trainer Educator, ACA L2 SUP Instructor Trainer Educator, ACA L4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor, L-2 Touring Canoe Instructor Trainer, and is endorsed as an ACA Traditional Skills and Adaptive Paddling Instructor. In 2012 Joshua was awarded the ACA's Excellence in Instruction award for his teaching and curriculum development contributions. In addition, Joshua has served as a Board of Director for the American Canoe Association (ACA) and chair of the ACA's Coastal Kayak committee. Joshua was the first ACA SUP ITE and is credited with authoring the first curriculum adopted by the ACA. He now serves as Chair of the committee and with many other talented trainers has helped the program grow leaps and bounds. As the current chair of East Coast Paddlesports Symposium & Outdoor Festival, he has continued the tradition of establishing this event as the premier paddlesport event, not only on the east coast but the country as a whole.



Jeff Liebel – Williamsville, NY

In the role of an At-Large member, I will be committed to the overall welfare of all SEIC disciplines and the instructors and I am willing to invest the time and effort required. As a Canoe and Kayak IT and SUP enthusiast I am very aware of the challenges instructors face, especially at the lower levels where the market is the largest, and perhaps most difficult to engage. Building on common foundations and frameworks throughout the disciplines will benefit instructors, their skill and knowledge base development and the paddling public. Using my background in market research and team development, I approach situations by listening to understand what is important to others, and then work cooperatively in developing solutions that matter. I look forward to the opportunity to serve. Multi Discipline IT - L3 Touring/Freestyle Canoe, L2 Kayak Touring Level 2 River Canoe and River Kayak Instructor Wekanu Paddling School: est 2001 Panelist: Challenges of Evaluating Instructor Candidates Consistently, ACA IT Conference – Extensive experience in the outdoor industry including: o Running nationally branded apparel accessories manufacturing company o Advising paddle craft manufacturers on market strategy Developer of Strategic Leadership and Organizational Innovation Programs Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper current board member and chair ACA Board of Directors former member, board chair, chair of Strategic Planning Committee Northern Forest Canoe Trail Board of Directors former member, board chair, chair of Strategic Planning Committee

Charlie MacArthur – Snowmass Village, CO

Charlie has been certifying and coaching students and instructors in the art of river running, freestyle and racing techniques since 1990. He has coached a junior world champion and many other budding superstars. Compiling a solid competitive background in downriver racing (Gore Canyon class five classic three time winner), adventure races (Eco Challenge 7th place in Fiji '02, and SUP events). Charlie has served as a valuable member of both the River Kayak and SUP Committees, and is one of the only two ACA Level 4: Advanced Whitewater SUP Instructor Trainers in the nation.

Mark Tozer – Lander, WY

Mark Tozer originates from the UK but has now made Lander, Wyoming his home. Mark was introduced to the outdoor life through rock climbing amongst the Peak District outcrops near Sheffield, England and a school trip to North Wales in 1983 began his passion for sea kayaking and mountaineering. These opportunities also inspired his career choice to become a qualified mountain instructor, paddle sports coach, and outdoor education teacher. Mark currently works for NOLS as a member the Wilderness Medicine Program Team. As a result of those early days on the water, Mark has been messing around in all kinds of boats in all kinds of waters as an active paddler and coach for over 25 years, with sea kayaking being his specialism. In particular, Mark has made the most of the tide races and overfalls of Anglesey for his personal paddling as well as his classroom. Mark has also been fortunate to travel the globe, teaching alongside his wife, Helen Wilson. Along the way, Mark has gained a number of British Canoe Union awards including the coveted Level 5 Coach (Sea). He is a coach trainer and assessor as well as a BCU Star Award examiner. Having explored Greenland on five occasions, Mark has come to recognize that modern paddling skills owe much to our Greenlandic cultural heritage of yesterday. He enjoys the blend of teaching traditional skills using contemporary coaching processes and puts his students at the center of the experience. More recently, Mark has worked with Roger Schumann to make the transition to becoming an instructor with the ACA. Mark has participated in and lead a number of overseas expeditions to such places as Alaska, Baja, Norway, Greenland, Morocco, Tanzania, Kenya and Ecuador as well as completing a doctorate (PhD) in expedition leadership. Mark and Helen will be leading their second commercial expedition to Greenland in July 2014. He is happy to share his experiences and advise people on expedition matters. Mark has contributed to numerous



symposium and events around the world, as well as written articles for publications such as Ocean Paddler and Canoe Focus, along with the Journal for Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning.

John Traendly – Smyrna, GA

John Traendly has been paddling for 11 years and is an ACA L5 Advanced Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor and a BCU 4 Star Sea Leader. His recent focus has been on coaching in the Outdoor Recreation program at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also the founder of the Collegiate Paddlesports Association which focuses on introducing college students to paddlesports. John is a past ACA Director for the State of Georgia, the Secretary of the Coastal Kayaking Committee and a member of the ACA Instructional Committee. He has paddled throughout the Southeastern U.S., but he has also led and participated on trips to Scotland, Wales, Iceland, Greenland, Chile, New Zealand, Russia, Norway, Yukon Territories, Mexico, Alaska, Maine and British Columbia. John received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Industrial Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps prior to beginning his business career in logistics and information technology as an executive with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture), Ryder Systems and Federal Express. His experience in large corporations was followed by the founding, growth and acquisition of three companies focused on logistics and information technology. When the time came to pick a second, fun career, his choice was paddling.

Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder – Derby, NY

As an At Large member, I believe my skills and experience as an educator and community development manager could be of benefit. I have former board experience and extensive grant writing skills linked to community learning. I am passionate about quality education and as a result of the kayaking boom here in Western NY have represented the ACA at numerous events in an effort to promote safe practices on the water. To achieve this, I have worked with the local meet-up and other outdoor groups to help raise awareness by running reduced rate safety training. I also work in partnership with NY State parks to deliver fundamentals aka 'basics' training at Wear It on the Water (WOW) events in the summer. In addition to performing safety demos for the wider paddling community. My company was successful in gaining a Grassroots Grant from the Safer Boating Council this past year to help with our safety efforts locally, resources were distributed to the general public and the banners will continue to be used to educate and inform. I am one of Mike Cavanaugh's Executive board members for NYState and we are working to develop new initiatives to further educate the big box bucket paddlers as a direct result of a 'real live' rescue which took place on July 4,. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Dale Williams – Tybee Island, GA

Past SEIC vice chair, Past Coastal Kayaking Committee chair, current Coastal Kayaking Committee vice chair.

International Representatives

SEIC is also electing International Representatives to represent the wide diversity of ACA members, instructors, clubs, and paddling communities in non-US countries. Nominees must be current ACA Members in good standing and reside outside of the United States to be eligible for this position, however all current ACA certified Instructors, Trainers and Educators are eligible to vote for this category. Below are brief bios, submitted by each nominee:

Roberto Aguilar – Chile

I have a tourism agency and rent kayaks; I work with people who want to have a good time sailing in kayak. I really enjoy to sail in kayak.

Diego Allolio – Argentina

<http://www.magellanicatrips.com/allolio.html>

Claudia Arancibia – Chile

I think I would be a good candidate since I practice kayaking in different modalities more than 30 years ago. I am a national champion of Pan-American medalist in this same modality. I am also a professor at a prestigious university in my country (Andreas Bello University) where I teach classes, courses and workshops related to kayaking. For which I have the sporting experience as well as the experience in teaching.

Alvaro Diogo Bado Walendowsky – Brazil

Due I am passionate by sea kayak and I've taken very seriously the profession to be Instructor and very honored to carrying the ACA logo on back of me!

Enzo Rodrigo (Gigo) Castillo Ojeda – Chile

Chile need ACA and this is a big step for us, I'm the president of the Rafting Guide Association in Pucon and I'm local raft guide Instructor, local Hidrospeed Instructor, Swiftwater Rescue Instructor and a Kayak Instructor, 25 years as river guide, I'm a member and kayak Instructor of ACA since 2016, and a proud father :)

Jim Coffey – Quebec, Canada

Member of Rescue and Safety Committee and L5 ASWR IT Candidate who is dedicated to creating international partnerships and furthering research and development for safety & rescue techniques for paddlers everywhere.

Patrick Frehner – Switzerland

ACA Switzerland representative, Organizer of Symposiums in Switzerland, giving the ACA support in solving insurance and other questions in Europe, SEIC OC member.

Christian Fuchs – Brazil

L4 Coastal Kayak instructor since 2008, the only coastal kayak IT in South America since 2012, SUP and Surf kayak instructor, took part in the certification of almost all coastal kayak instructors in Argentina, Brazil and Chile (around 50), Spanish translation of the instructor manual. I work full time since 2005 with instruction and sea kayak trips and also owner of a sea and surf kayak brand in Brazil.

Lucas Gandulfo – Argentina

Practico kayak hace 10 anos, y mi mayor preocupacin siempre es la seguridad de las personas, suelo estar muy atento a todo el grupo, he realizado varios rescates en travesias grupales, y siempre soy una de las personas designadas para la seguridad.

I practice kayaking 10 years ago, and my biggest concern is always the safety of people, I am very attentive to the whole group, I have made several rescue trips in groups, and I am always one of the people designated for safety.



Mladen Hanzir – Croatia

To Whom It May Concern: Honoured, Thank you for taking your time to read my background and for this opportunity. I'm an ACA instructor (L3 Coastal + L3 CKTL) since 2014. and I'm from Croatia where I started to run my own sea kayak company this year. Sea kayaking is my life since 2012. and since then I've been working as a day trip guide and as a sea kayaking instructor for an Outward Bound expeditions in New England, US, waters. I've done my ACA courses with Mr. Carl Ladd and still today I'm cooperating closely with him. Living and working in Croatia, one of the top destinations for a sea kayaking, I've realized that we have a huge potential to educate recreational and professional paddlers as sea kayaking is rapidly growing and is taking bigger and bigger part in tourism. Beside ACA certification, I'm a holder of WFA cert, Mountain bike guide license and Skipper license, and through my business I established solid relationship with gear suppliers and other participants in this industry around Europe. International experience gave me broad picture of diverse markets and needs so I strongly believe that I can contribute a lot to ACA world wide.

Keisuke (KC) Koshijima – Japan

Sea kayaking for last 16 years. Paddled in the USA, Scotland, Norway and Japan. Qualifications: ACA Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor BCU 4 Star Sea Kayak Leader BCU Coach Level 2 Education: BE (Architecture), University of Tokyo MBA, Stanford University Professional: Senior Executive Officer, Kajima Corporation Family: Wife and four sons Residence: Tokyo, Japan

Rafael Munoz – Ecuador

I am the president and founder of the USFQ Kayak Club, first undergraduate Kayak Club in Ecuador. It belongs to the best university in Ecuador (Universidad San Francisco de Quito) and we are really interested in teaching kayak under the ACA guidelines and curriculum. I am also the sports coordinator of the Student's Council so I have influence within my University and also in the other universities from Ecuador. As a Kayaker, I am an L4 Instructor and since there aren't many kayakers in Ecuador, I practically know almost all of them. I also work for Kayak Ecuador, a company committed to make kayaking bigger in the country.

Josh Oberleas – Aurora, CO and Chile

Have worked in Chile since 2008 and also have been doing ACA ICW certifications in Chile and Brazil for the last 3 years. I feel I can be a great representative of South America because of my ability to speak the language and transfer perfectly what the ACA is looking for.

Fabio Oliveira – Brazil

I have been training sea kayak instructors since 2005 (when I did my first IDW-ICW as a L4 coastal instructor. I have remained active and current as a top Brazilian sea kayak coach since then. I am one of the top trainers and assessors for Sea Kayaking of other reputable organizations - NOLS and Outward Bound Brasil. I understand training and assessment very well, I have firsthand experience with things that work and things that don't work - both from an instructor perspective and from a program manager perspective.

Lopez Pachon – Spain

I offer to be an ACA representative in Spain. I am one of only two certified ACA Instructors in Spain. I have organized the first ACA course that has been done in Spain (May 2017). I have organized the first ACA course for Instructors ICW L3 in Spain that will be done in Feb 2018. I will create before the 2018 the first pro school ACA in Spain.



Ge Wu – China

ACA Coastal Kayak, River Kayak and SUP instructor, Coastal Kayak ITC. Teacher and paddlesports coach at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. Member of the USA kayak polo team and ICF canoe polo coach. I travel extensively in China every year to host ACA instruction courses, I also help train kayak instructors with the Chinese Canoeing Association. Outside of China, I have the opportunities every year to travel to Europe, Asia and the Americas every year for trainings and competitions. Wherever I go, I try to bring the ACA philosophy to the local paddling communities and encourage people to learn more about the ACA programs.