

2025–2027

UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELECTION**

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES, VOTING PROCEDURES AND BALLOT

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AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO USPA MEMBERS REGARDING

A STATEMENT OF PROXY



Following are photographs, candidate profiles and biographies for those who have offered to serve a three-year term on USPA's Board of Directors beginning in March 2025. It is your responsibility as a USPA member to vote for those you feel are best qualified to represent you.

Candidates were required to complete a standard biographical form and were invited to submit personal statements (limited to 250 words) describing their qualifications and their intentions if elected. These statements are printed along with the candidates' photographs and skydiving histories, as provided by them. Statements concluding with "- - -" were truncated to meet the 250-word limit.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

USPA's Board has 22 elected members, eight of whom are national directors elected by the entire USPA membership, and 14 of whom are regional directors, elected by the members from the regions where they reside. When seated on the board, regional and national directors have equal authority.

National Director Nominees. You may vote for up to eight nominees for national director. You may vote for those whose names appear on the official ballot, or you may write in a candidate or candidates who do not appear on the ballot. The eight persons receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as national directors for the 2025-2027 term.

Regional Director Nominees. You may vote for one regional director candidate, and he or she must reside in your region, as established by your address on file at USPA. A regional director is the direct representative of the USPA members in that particular region. Some regions may have only one candidate, however, you may cast a write-in vote for someone who does not appear on the ballot, as long as he or she resides in your region.

USPA members who maintain an address outside of the United States may vote for any one eligible person as a regional director in any region.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Please read the information about each candidate carefully and study the instructions for voting.

Only current, regular members (annual and lifetime members, but not temporary members) are eligible to vote. Ballots must be in the approved format and received on or before the deadline. You may vote either by paper ballot or electronically.

Electronic Voting. Beginning October 1, members may visit uspa.org/election to view the online ballot and vote.

Also around October 1, current members with a valid email address on file at USPA Headquarters should receive an email from USPA. To ensure delivery, members are encouraged to add uspa.org to their list of approved contacts (sometimes referred to as a whitelist). The email will provide instructions on how to record your vote. There will be occasional email reminders from USPA until a vote is recorded or until the end of the election.

If you are a current member but do not receive an email, you may still log in to your USPA profile, use the provided *Parachutist* ballot or the downloadable ballot from uspa.org/ballot.

Paper Ballot Voting. Fill out the information on the ballot that appears on page 43, or download one from uspa.org/ballot. Ballots containing more than eight national director votes or more than one regional director vote will be disqualified. Ballots are valid only if they are individually marked and signed in the voter's original handwriting. Faxed or emailed ballots are not acceptable. You may vote any time after receipt of your ballot by detaching it from the magazine, indicating your selections and following the instructions for its return.

Members may vote one time only. If more than one ballot is cast, the first ballot received (by any method) will be the one counted. USPA Headquarters must receive all paper ballots or electronic votes no later than 5 p.m. EDT, Thursday, October 31, 2024.

New directors will be seated at the first board meeting of 2025, to be held March 15-17 in Daytona Beach, Florida. New USPA officers for the 2025-2027 term will be elected by the full board at this meeting.

ACRONYMS

RATINGS AND APPOINTMENTS			
AFF	Accelerated Freefall	ERC	Examiner Rating Course
IAD	Instructor-Assisted Deployment	PRO	Professional Exhibition Rating
SL	Static-Line	S&TA	Safety and Training Advisor
T	Tandem	CE	Coach Examiner
I=Instructor, E=Examiner (e.g., SLI=Static-Line Instructor, TE=Tandem Examiner)			
JUDGES			
AE	Artistic Events	SP	Speed Skydiving
AL	Accuracy Landing	ST	Freefall Style
CF	Canopy Formation	WS	Wingsuit Flying
CP	Canopy Piloting	JE	Judge Examiner
FS	Formation Skydiving		
R=Regional, N=National, I=International (e.g., AE-N=Artistic Events National Judge)			
AWARDS			
CCR	Canopy Crest Recipient	CCS	Canopy Crest Soloist



NATIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



ANGIE ARAGON (incumbent)
Lake Elsinore, California

"My name is Angie Aragon. A devoted skydiver since 2006, instructor since 2010, examiner since 2017 and proud to be your national director since July of 2023. As a traveling examiner, visiting 15-20 Group Member drop zones each year, I understand the needs of large, midsize, and small drop zones, both nationally and internationally.

Since taking office, I've driven initiatives such as collaborating on a canopy-education program for new tandem instructors. As part of the Canopy Task Force, I helped with updates to the A- and B-license-canopy-proficiency cards. We developed canopy-flight emergency procedures to enhance life-saving skills from canopy-control check to landing. I'm also engaged in the SIM rewrite and will continue contributing to these efforts with the IRM rewrite.

I actively serve and will continue to work on multiple committees and working groups, including the Safety & Training, Group Membership and Finance Committees, the Canopy Task Force, the Tandem Examiner Working Group and the USPA/Tandem Manufacturer Cooperation Subcommittee. My involvement in the International Liaison Working Group further demonstrates my commitment to sustaining our leadership internationally in the fields of safety and training and competition.

My passion is in continuing to improve training standards and ensuring that our rating holders and Group Member drop zones are well-represented. I believe in a board of directors that works as a team, embraces compromise and finds solutions with our members' best interests in mind above all else. I am seeking re-election to continue my work and hope to have your support!"

Age: 45
Profession: Skydive instructor/examiner
Year Joined: 2006
Total Jumps: 7,500
Jumps Past Year: 200
Licenses: A-50146, B-29633, D-30898
Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, TE
Awards: Not reported



EDWARD SCOTT (incumbent)
Taylors, South Carolina

"I campaigned last time on the idea of reducing the number of board members and cutting board expenses. Apart from Luke Aikins, the idea received no support among the board and was dismissed. So, I turned my attention to increasing board transparency and membership engagement. I proposed two motions, which were both adopted. One requires the Executive Committee, which can make decisions in between board meetings, to fully disseminate their decisions within seven days instead of at the next board meeting. The other is to solicit board agenda items 60 days in advance, including from among the membership, and to publish the board agenda earlier (30 days instead of just two weeks), allowing more preparation.

I ask for your vote so I can apply my 24 years of experience working for USPA (11 as director of government relations and 13 as executive director) to the most consequential challenge we face. The FAA Reauthorization Bill that became law now requires the FAA to form a working group to consider imposing more regulations on skydiving aircraft and on jump pilots. While we should always focus on these areas, the greatly improved jump-plane-accident record argues against more burdensome and costly FAA requirements. I can help guide USPA's response to these threats and ensure we avoid costs that will increase the price of jumps, while maintaining our impressive level of safety.

If elected, this will be my last term on the board, as I intend to term limit myself."

Age: 68
Profession: Not reported
Year Joined: 1980
Total Jumps: 1,200-plus
Jumps Past Year: Not reported
Licenses: C-13389, D-13532
Ratings and Appointments: Not reported
Awards: Not reported



SCOTTY WOOD
San Tan Valley, Arizona

"If I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet, my name is Scotty Wood. I'm a father of three, and I'm a full-time freefall instructor/examiner. I'm a 20 year retired member of the U.S. Army, where I proudly served as a Special Forces Weapons NCO, non-commissioned officer, within 5th SFG(A), ODA 5214 formerly (544).

I fell from my first aircraft in 2005, and I've been instructing for more than a decade. I love to jump, teach and grow the community in a positive way. I believe in structured development but have a disdain for micro-management. The skydiving world is ever-evolving, and it takes an open mind and helping hand to continue guiding us all forward. I would love the opportunity to further assist in that growth if you will let me."

Age: 43
Profession: Instructor/examiner
Year Joined: 2012
Total Jumps: 12,000-plus
Jumps Past Year: 600
Licenses: B-36572, C-41433, D-33396
Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, IADI, PRO, SLI, TE
Awards: Not reported



MELISSA NELSON (incumbent)
Grand Junction, Colorado

"I've had the honor of serving the last four years as your national director, and my campaign remains the same: connect, support and represent! I've traveled to 40-plus DZs from small, mid to large DZs, connecting and jumping with members with the sole purpose to be transparent and accessible. I run a private Facebook group for current members in good standing to continue the conversation, share agenda items for feedback, share updates, safety tips, etc. that brings a lot of value!

Age: 47
Profession: Professional skydiver/marketer
Year Joined: 1996
Total Jumps: 12,100
Jumps Past Year: 400
Licenses: A-26287, D-20224
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, PRO, S&TA
Awards: 10,000-Jump Wings

In the last four years:

- Written SIM 6-12 with members of our community
- Advocated for a sexual harassment and assault policy
- Started and chair the Sport Promo Subcommittee
- Run a personal Facebook group for members
- Worked with Canopy Task Force

I sit on the following committees:

- Membership Services
- Competition
- Sport Promo Subcommittee
- Governance
- Compliance Group

I am an active skydiver with 26 world records, am involved in demo jumping, freeflying, AFF instruction, have recently learned to angle fly and canopy flock and am a former freestyle and CP competitor. I was also the first female USPA Nationals Meet Director (honored!) and will meet-direct nationals and worlds this fall.

Future Board Projects:

- I support an alternative to the tandem medical
- Working on processes to improve nationals for hosts and competitors
- Support improving/updating license requirements

I'm willing to listen to members, tackle hard topics, show up, and be a team player with other board members so I/we can - - -"



SHERRY BUTCHER (incumbent)
Polk, Ohio

"Like everyone reading this, I love skydiving! It is who I am. My first jump was May 24, 1993. In the years that followed, I became a static-line and tandem instructor, Skydive University Coach, a master rigger, coach and AFF examiner and a DZO.

Age: 58
Profession: DZO/real estate broker
Year Joined: 1993
Total Jumps: 10,550
Jumps Past Year: 450
Licenses: A-17370, B-16700, C-24182, D-16988
Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, PRO, FS-N
Awards: Not reported

I love working at a drop zone because it is a happy place for individuals to get outside of their comfort zones and grow. Skydiving is transformational, builds self-esteem, self-confidence and a sense of belonging. These benefits in people's lives are hard to measure, and I love sharing them with tandem and AFF students.

After many years on the board, this past term has been one of the most exciting! The teamwork behind the scenes of USPA members, board members and staff has been impressive. Training initiatives, like the SIM rewrite, are necessary in order to improve skydiving education and canopy proficiency. As lead of the Canopy Task Force, our mission is to update all aspects of canopy training in the SIM and IRM. Our first step was to add canopy drills and canopy-flight emergency procedures (CEPs) to both the student progression and licensed-jumper training in the 2025 SIM and IRM. A full review and rewrite of the IRM is coming up next!

What we do today matters for the future of our sport, and I am just as dedicated to this incredible life now as ever. I am asking for your vote to continue as a USPA National Director."



AMY CHMELECKI
Eloy, Arizona

"From the moment I first heard about skydiving, I was captivated. I began jumping in 1995 at the age of 18, and my passion for the sport has only grown since. In my 20s, I worked tirelessly, bartending at Skydive Arizona in the evenings and skydiving as much as possible during the day. My dedication led to securing sponsors and various roles within the sport. Eventually, skydiving became my full-time career, where I took on diverse jobs to sustain myself.

Age: 47
Profession: Skydiver
Year Joined: 1995
Total Jumps: 20,000
Jumps Past Year: 500
Licenses: A-24950, D-24579
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, PRO
Awards: Not reported

I've had the privilege of gaining experience in event management, marketing, instructing, organizing, demo jumping and as a stunt performer. I've also been fortunate to compete and medal in freefly, freestyle and vertical formation skydiving. Additionally, I've helped plan and execute many world records.

As a demonstration jumper with the Red Bull Air Force Team and Highlight Pro Skydiving Team, I've had the honor of showcasing our sport to wider audiences. Training both military and civilian students has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career. My love for skydiving and varied experiences have inspired me to run for a national director position.

I am eager to bring my background and perspective to this leadership role, contributing to the sport in a meaningful way. I am committed to using my knowledge and experience to help guide and shape the future of skydiving, ensuring it continues to thrive and inspire new generations."



MATTHEW YOUNT
Chicago, Illinois

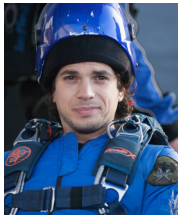
"With over 26 years in the sport, including roles as a full-time jumper, tandem instructor and tandem examiner, I bring extensive experience and a global perspective to this position. I have traveled to drop zones across the United States and five continents, participating in remarkable events and helping to expand skydiving interest in places like Iceland and Egypt. In 2023, I worked with the Bahamian government to establish their first skydiving regulations.

Age: 46
Profession: Skydiver
Year Joined: 1999
Total Jumps: 17,000-plus
Jumps Past Year: 500-plus
Licenses: A-33207, C-32510, D-27920
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, IADE, SLI, TE
Awards: Chesley H. Judy Safety Award

If elected as your national director, I will focus on three key areas:

1. Amplifying the Voice of International USPA Members: Nearly 25% of USPA members reside outside the U.S. I propose creating regional representatives to ensure better communication and support for international members, providing them with localized contacts and improving the flow of information.
2. Expanding Medical Options for Tandem Instructors (TIs): The current third-class medical requirements can disqualify TIs for non-impactful reasons. I will advocate for alternative medical options that allow TIs to continue working safely without being hindered by past medical issues.
3. Relocating USPA Headquarters to Florida: Moving from Fredericksburg, Virginia, one of the most expensive towns in the U.S., to Florida will reduce administrative costs. This relocation will also place USPA closer to a significant skydiving community, enhancing transparency and operational efficiency while potentially lowering membership dues.

I am committed to improving the USPA's global reach, operational effectiveness and furthering the conversation around the TI medical issue. I respectfully ask for your vote and support to bring these changes to fruition."



DANIELE "TANK" TANCREDI
League City, Texas

"I was born in Italy on March 5th, 1984. I have been skydiving since 2013 and have anywhere between 4,000 and 5,000 jumps. Who's counting, right? By now, a solid 90-plus% of those are hop and pops, and I haven't been in freefall in years. I'd like to keep it that way, thanks. I am also an aerospace engineer and when I'm not swooping, with alternating results, I am working toward putting mankind back on the moon. I might become a good swooper before then.

I am running for USPA National Director mostly because it started as a meme, but at this point I feel committed toward the community. I will probably try to work as hard as the next guy to, at least, not suck completely ... and worse comes worst, I'll just ask Melissa.

The three points of my campaign are:

1) Parachutist needs a 'meme' section. The stuffy magazine everyone loves to have but no one loves to read, needs to be modernized with a meme section. But, Daniele, you'll object, this is what the U.S. Fun Jumper page is for. I know. But I love redundancy, and I love that you get to send your best meme to the editorial staff for it to be published.

2) We need an official USPA Therapist. Someone like Dr. Phil, or those bogus therapists answering your letters online. We need a personality that will read your letters and give you unqualified (psychology is all make-believe anyway) and condescending advice ---"

Age: 40
Profession: Aerospace engineer
Year Joined: 2013
Total Jumps: 4,000 to 5,000
Jumps Past Year: 400
Licenses: A-68711, B-40531, C-42151, D-34840
Ratings and Appointments: Not reported
Awards: Not reported



JEANNIE BARTHOLOMEW (incumbent)
DeLand, Florida

"As an AFFI, canopy coach and owner of The Alter Ego Project, I have the privilege of traveling the world and interacting with jumpers of all experience levels. I have actively listened to their concerns, criticisms and praises in their respective associations. I am committed to utilizing my background as a competitive canopy pilot and owner of the USCPA, which provides me with unique expertise in the competitive aspect of our sport. I bring a wealth of knowledge from both a business and competitive standpoint, this will continue to be an invaluable asset to the board. I am dedicated to improving our current systems, developing new ones and making a tangible difference. It is my passion for the sport and my desire to give back that drives me to continue serving the skydiving community.

Above all, I want to be your voice on the board. Your input and ideas are crucial in shaping the future of our sport.

The BOD should serve as a vital link between members and the rules governing our community. I am committed to taking your suggestions and concerns to the board, championing the changes you wish to see.

I would love your support and vote. Together we can bring fresh ideas to the table and continue to grow, adapt and evolve the sport we all love so much! I am running for you, and I promise to work tirelessly to represent your interests and aspirations. Thank you for your trust and consideration."

Age: 43
Profession: Professional skydiver
Year Joined: 2006
Total Jumps: 11,000
Jumps Past Year: 600
Licenses: B-29620, D-30638
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, PRO
Awards: Not reported



SHAWN HILL
Casa Grande, Arizona

"The Hill family, with Skydive Arizona, has dedicated their lives to the sport of skydiving. Larry Hill has attended every USPA board meeting since 1987 and has served on the board of directors since 1999. This will be his last term, as he is not seeking reelection.

With that, I would like to ask for your support in continuing the legacy by voting for Shawn Hill as national director. I have spent my entire life dedicated to advancing our sport while prioritizing safety. I made my first AFF jump in September 1989 and attained my D license in December 1989. At the age of 17, I earned my private single-engine and multi-engine pilot licenses, as well as a DC-3 type rating. I continued pursuing my aviation career, attaining my commercial, multiengine, instrument rating, and ATP. During this time, I also acquired my A&P mechanics certificate.

My career in aviation has been strictly geared toward flying skydivers and maintaining a large fleet of aircraft. Averaging over 6,000 loads and 120,000 skydives a year, with our busiest year being over 190,000 skydives. In addition, I oversee one of the largest schools, producing on average 345 A licenses a year.

My experience in the sport ranges from pilot training to developing procedures that integrate all aspects of skydiving with safe operations. Some of my most memorable experiences include coordinating aircraft operations and flying for world records such as the 300-way (14 aircraft), most jumps in 24 hours (flying 219 loads in 24 hours) ---"

Age: 50
Profession: Not reported
Year Joined: 1989
Total Jumps: 1,000
Jumps Past Year: Not reported
Licenses: D-13986
Ratings and Appointments: Not reported
Awards: Not reported



NIKKO MAMALLO
Seattle, Washington

"I fell in love with skydiving 11 years ago because it brought me into a vibrant community of diverse backgrounds, pushed me to learn and grow constantly and filled my life with unparalleled joy. Kapowsin Air Sports is my home DZ, but I love traveling to other DZs to meet and jump with my extended sky family. It's been incredible getting to know and learn from everyone at the 41 DZs and eight USPA regions that I've visited.

As a former USPA staff member, I have a deep understanding of the organization. This experience has honed my skills in effective communication and collaboration with both USPA headquarters staff and the board of directors.

I'm a regular attendee of the USPA Board of Directors Meeting, USPA General Membership Meeting, Parachute Industry Association Symposium and FAI Skydiving Commission Meeting. These experiences, combined with my tenure as a USPA staff member, have provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the sport and its intricate dynamics. As a result of my involvement with USPA and expertise regarding wingsuit flying, I contributed to rewriting SIM Section 6-9—Wingsuit.

As your advocate and representative, I am committed to championing the interests of our sport and vibrant community. Through active engagement on social media, connecting with diverse groups and staying involved in various initiatives, I strive to work with members to advance the future of skydiving. Vote for me as your national director, and I will ensure that our collective voice is heard.

<https://nikko.mamallo.com>"

Age: 38
Profession: Software engineer
Year Joined: 2013
Total Jumps: 3,273
Jumps Past Year: 290
Licenses: D-34272
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, PRO
Awards: Chesley H. Judy Safety Award, 84-Hour Freefall Badge, 3,000-Jump Wings



BETH MERRILL
Jacksonville, Florida

"Being an outsider, I know I'm going to do the best I can using the people that I'll work with and the resources at hand to better the USPA and its members, find solutions to difficult problems and bring a sense of humility and better purpose to the organization. I believe I can bring something completely new to the table, never having held a leadership position in the USPA before, and find creative ideas and solutions and adapt to the oddest of situations and communicate to come up with solutions for anything. I'm a level-headed person and like to keep it even-keeled. I've been in customer service my whole life, so I'd say I'm good with people. I'll bring beer!"

Age: 28
Profession: Retail
Year Joined: 2022
Total Jumps: 251
Jumps Past Year: Not reported
Licenses:
 A-103249, B-57146,
 C-53028
Ratings and Appointments:
 Not reported
Awards: Not reported



MICHAEL MULLINS (incumbent)
Whiteville, Tennessee

"I have earned USPA AFF and SL Instructor ratings, and UPT TI. FAA ratings include ATP with type ratings in DC-3, Lear Jet, Boeing 727, 737 and Airbus A300. Helicopter and Glider Commercial and Senior Parachute Rigger.

I have over 35,000 hours of flight time, much of it in heavy jet aircraft, and have flown more than 46,000 flights dropping jumpers.

I am actively involved in HAP (high-altitude parachuting) jumps, have flown jumps as high as 42,038 feet, and on these jumps over 30 various altitude and distance records were set, including USPA National and State, FAI World and Continental and Guinness World Records.

As a member of the Safety & Training and chair of the Group Membership Committees, my expertise is valuable in matters pertaining to the FAA, airspace and jump aircraft.

Skydiving is egalitarian, and my experience at the DZ is that no one cares who you are, the only criteria is that you are a skydiver. I believe that USPA is fundamentally fair to all, but we must not lose sight that our core values are keeping skydivers safe and in the air. USPA should not become a social-justice warrior, and in any adverse action that USPA considers against a member, I believe in compliance over discipline.

Over many years, I have helped USPA members with problems concerning aircraft, airspace, DZs and disciplinary issues. I am always available to our members at (901) 355-2629; you can call me anytime with any questions."

Age: 77
Profession: Pilot
Year Joined: 1964
Total Jumps: 4,256
Jumps Past Year: 6
Licenses: C-2442,
 D-1643
Ratings and Appointments:
 S&TA
Awards: 4,000-Jump Wings,
 48-Hour Freefall Badge



MICHAEL MCGOWAN (incumbent)
Eloy, Arizona

"I humbly request your support and vote for my reelection as your USPA National Director. I understand the gravity of this request and recognize that you have several worthy candidates to consider. Rest assured, if reelected, I will dedicate myself to serving you with integrity and always with the best interests of the membership in mind.

I am not one to boast about myself, but I feel compelled to share why I believe you should choose me for this role. Perhaps the most crucial qualification for this position is motive. Mine is simple: Skydiving and the incredible individuals who comprise this sport have, quite literally, saved my life. For those familiar with my story, this statement holds deep truth. I am driven by a profound desire to give back to this sport that has given me so much. Representing you as a national director is the perfect avenue for fulfilling that purpose.

Through my work in skydiving photography, I have had the privilege of meeting and communicating with many USPA members across various disciplines. As a result, I am acutely aware of your needs and concerns. Once again, I ask for your trust and confidence in electing me to a position where I can best serve you.

*Peace, Friendship, Skydive.
 Mike McGowan"*

Age: 77
Profession: Photographer
Year Joined: 1965
Total Jumps: 15,000-plus
Jumps Past Year: 0
Licenses: B-4618,
 D-5709
Ratings and Appointments:
 Not reported
Awards: Gold Medal for Meritorious Service



REGIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



DAVID GRABOWSKI (incumbent)
Eastern Region
Jersey City, New Jersey

"As an AFF student, I never imagined that 'incumbent regional director' would appear after my name, and that goes for 'competitor,' 'instructor,' 'judge' and 'rigger,' too. Of all those roles, regional director is the one of which I'm proudest. I've loved working for and representing the Eastern Region this past year, and my role has enabled me to do a bunch of fun things: attending and presenting at five different Safety Days; visiting a bunch of DZs; approving PRO ratings, Group Members and wings and badges; appointing new S&TAs; and answering your phone calls, texts, Facebook messages and emails.

On the board, I joined the Competition Committee as a voting member and regularly attended meetings of three other committees—listening and asking questions like any of us would. Staying engaged with committees, the board and the membership has enabled me to advocate for our region's and sport's best interests and then communicate the outcomes to you.

Next term, with your support, I will continue my service. I plan to remain on the Competition Committee and secure seats on other committees. I'll continue traveling throughout the region, meeting members I've only communicated with remotely. I will continue to be accessible, offering help where I can and seeking assistance when needed. My goal is to continue improving and protecting our sport, and with your vote, I'll do precisely that.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you and for your support in this election.
www.fourwayskydiving.com

Age: 52
Profession: Not reported
Year Joined: 1997
Total Jumps: 5,727
Jumps Past Year: 152
Licenses: A-29389, D-23648
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, FS-N
Awards: Not reported



CHARLES CRINKLAW (incumbent)
Central Region
Bellevue, Nebraska

"It has been my privilege to serve as the Central Regional Director for the USPA for the last two terms.

I currently serve as an advisor on the Safety & Training Committee. I also serve on the Group Membership Committee and have participated on various other committees within the board of directors.

During my time as Central Regional Director, I have had the privilege of visiting various drop zones, attending events and Safety Days. Meeting individuals during my time with the USPA has been an asset in developing my knowledge for each DZ and their needs.

I have held online meetings with the regions' S&TAs; we were able to share concerns and ideas with each other. We came together as team and was able to focus on shared goals.

My mission continues to be to develop and promote interests in the sport of skydiving. To maintain the highest standards of safety and training in the skydiving industry, to safeguard skydiving's rightful boundaries on airports and in airspace and to apply and embrace the moral standards and working actions established by the United States Parachute Association.

I would be honored to be re-elected and continue to serve as your USPA Central Region Director."

Age: 59
Profession: Senior building engineer
Year Joined: 1999
Total Jumps: 7,300-plus
Jumps Past Year: 439
Licenses: A-34354, B-26096, D-27666
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, TI
Awards: Not reported



RICHARD WINSTOCK
Eastern Region
Vernon Township, New Jersey

"Skydiving is slowly becoming mainstream for a variety of reasons. I attribute it to the media, GoPros, YouTube, television commercials, movies, competition and much more. With that being said, the sport has been developing at record pace with new disciplines popping up at every turn. I feel it is imperative that not only we represent the sport accordingly but we have an obligation to stay ahead of the growth from a safety perspective.

I started jumping in 1991 and since have accumulated 15,480 jumps. I am an S&TA, AFFE, TE, CE and PRO-rated skydiver. I was fortunate enough to represent the USPA as a national director for five years, giving my attention to the sport nationally, as the chairman of the Safety & Training Committee. During which time, I was able to meet the most amazing iconic people in the industry. I was able to include IEs, S&TAs and DZOs in many of the decisions we made on the Safety & Training Committee. I approached decisions by talking with the members who had their finger on the pulse of the sport.

I am hoping to take the same approach and dedicate myself to assisting and representing the Eastern division."

Age: 56
Profession: Drop zone owner and commercial pilot
Year Joined: 1991
Total Jumps: 15,480
Jumps Past Year: 48
Licenses: A-22549, C-26355, D-19054
Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, PRO, TE
Awards: 2,000-Jump Wings, 24-Hour Freefall Badge



CHUCK AKERS (incumbent)
Gulf Region
Tomball, Texas

"As I finish my third term on the USPA Board, I am as excited for the opportunity to represent our Gulf Region members as I have ever been. I have lived, worked and jumped in the region for more than 35 years, so representing our family here is very personal for me. I am all in.

In addition to my responsibilities as regional director, I have had the honor for the past two terms to serve as USPA President. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the very useful lessons I have learned along the way.

Serving the organization as an officer of the board is challenging and fulfilling, but the most important and satisfying aspect of being a director for me is providing excellent service and representation to our Gulf Region members. From managing the region's Safety and Training Advisor program to dealing with a variety of issues faced by our members and drop zone operators, it is my responsibility to assist in navigating the system for a positive outcome. I take that and all my responsibilities very seriously.

It is my sincere desire to continue serving my Gulf Region family and our organization. I thank you for your support and humbly ask for your vote."

Age: 63

Profession: Radio air personality

Year Joined: 1986

Total Jumps: 7,400

Jumps Past Year: 50

Licenses: A-8838, D-10855

Ratings and Appointments: FS-R

Awards: 1,000-Jump Wings, 24-Hour Freefall Badge



SHAUNA FINLEY
Mid-Atlantic Region
New Market, Virginia

"I'm Shauna Finley, and I'm excited to announce that I'm running for USPA Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic Region. I've had the privilege of meeting many of you over the past few years, and it's been amazing to see how you've helped me grow, not just as a former director, but also as a jumper, an instructor, and now a DZO.

A little about me: I started skydiving in 2013 and have made just over 2,700 jumps. I'm a coach examiner, AFFI, FAA Master Rigger and Private Pilot. I first ran for the board of directors in the Eastern Region and was honored to serve for 7.5 years before moving to this wonderful region.

During my time on the BOD, I was an active member of the Safety & Training, Budget & Finance and Membership Services Committees. I always made it a point to speak my mind and represent the beliefs and needs of my region.

Now, I'm eager to bring that same dedication to the Mid-Atlantic Region. I believe in transparency and want to ensure that every member has access to the information and support they need. Whether through regular town hall meetings or drop zone visits, my door is always open. Let's connect, share ideas and make our community even stronger."

Age: 44

Profession: Self-employed

Year Joined: 2013

Total Jumps: 2,700

Jumps Past Year: 100

Licenses: A-68347, B-39673, C-42387, D-34907

Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, IADI

Awards: Not reported



ROBERT MEHL
Mid-Atlantic Region
York, South Carolina

"I made my first jump in 1970 and two years later, attended airborne training. I've been a member of the USPA since 1974 and later got a lifetime membership. I'm a current examiner and an S&TA in the Mid-Atlantic Region. I've owned two drop zones and have been a full-time skydiver since 2007. I have an FAA Master Rigger and a Commercial Pilot Certificate and currently flying and jumping at Skydive Coastal Carolinas. I assisted Dave DeWolf with his rigger training school for 40-plus years.

I'm an advocate for safety and training and strongly believe in re-education over discipline. I will advocate for our members and drop zones of the Mid-Atlantic Region your ideals and concerns. As your regional director, I will always be available for your concerns. We all want skydiving to be safe and enjoyable so that we can come back and skydive another day. I would like to help make sure that this happens for you.

USPA needs to continue to look into the future and grow our membership both in the U.S. and internationally. What this means for us is more influence on keeping laws from our government that could make our sport almost impossible to participate in. USPA must continue to be transparent to our members as team works between USPA, members and our drop zones is critical.

I humbly ask for your support and look forward to this opportunity to represent your best interest with my knowledge and experience as your regional director."

Age: 69

Profession: Skydiving

Year Joined: 1974

Total Jumps: 14,452

Jumps Past Year: 105

Licenses: C-13451, D-8849

Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, IADE, SLE, TE, S&TA

Awards: 6,000-Jump Wings



DERRECK SFACHIOS FISCHER
Mid-Atlantic Region
Lillington, North Carolina

"Please consider me to be the next regional director for Mid-Atlantic Region. I want to help from within and be the bridge needed between skydivers and the board of directors. I believe I can be the support needed to address concerns, opinions, ideas of our community, and work to convey it to the board of directors. I believe I can help continue the path of safety within the community and sport of skydiving.

I attended the last board meeting as a USPA member and I saw how the board meetings are run. I witnessed first hand that the board does attempt to address concerns and evolve with the sport. I have a unique insight as a jumper. I started my jumping career in the military, obtained all my ratings while focusing on military jumping and then shifted focus to the sport-side of jumping. I do have the added advantage of working with both civilian and military communities so I am able to lean on the experiences of myself and many within. I can witness firsthand the ever-evolving aspect of all things jumping and look forward to its continued growth.

I look forward to your support, and I look forward to the continued growth and evolution within our community."

Age: 42

Profession: Retired military, instructor, advisor

Year Joined: 2005

Total Jumps: 4,000-plus

Jumps Past Year: Not reported

Licenses: D-30973

Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, PRO, TI, S&TA

Awards: Not reported



RANDALL ALLISON (incumbent)
Mid-Eastern Region
 Ray, Michigan

"USPA is the reason we can keep doing what we love. It's our government relations, safety and training, membership services and competition activities that make this organization a consistent, credible and respected leader in the United States and the world. We have a qualified board of directors and an outstanding headquarters staff that make that happen.

The organization needs constant maintenance to keep it a high level of performance. This happens through the decisions and direction provided by the board of directors and through the guidance and accomplishments of the staff. I have had the privilege of serving on the board of directors for 13 years, and for 12 of those I have been elected by my peers on the board to serve on the USPA Executive Committee as either the vice president or the chairman of the board. I am told by my colleagues that my most important contributions to this organization are judgement, guidance and insight that help in tangible ways to keep our organization on track.

I have been consistent, accessible and even-handed in supporting our sport within the Mid-eastern Region and nationally when it comes to activities involving USPA. As a skydiver for over 40 years, I know the sport and its complexities and challenges. As a DZO for 24 years and an owner of both turbine and piston jump aircraft, I have skin in the game.

I ask for your vote for one more term serving you and USPA."

Age: 64

Profession:
 Engineering manager, DZO

Year Joined: 1984

Total Jumps:
 6,000

Jumps Past Year:
 5

Licenses: A-8438,
 B-13305, C-17689,
 D-11112

Ratings and Appointments:
 Not reported

Awards: Not reported



RAY LALLO (incumbent)
Mountain Region
 Laporte, Colorado

"What a great past three years we've had in the Mountain Region despite the challenges we faced! As I traveled to drop zones, I congratulated competitors, presented awards and kept members informed. We not only met but exceeded our goals!

Throughout my term, I've prioritized quick responses and clear communication to your needs. While traveling the region conducting rating courses, demonstration jumps and load organizing, I was able to stay connected to your concerns and addressed them at board meetings. Serving you, the members, has always been my top priority.

So where do we go from here? My approach remains focused on education rather than regulation to address safety. This means that continuing to develop and implement training programs takes priority over creating a new BSR, and I believe the first step of discipline is compliance through education.

As your regional director for the next three years, I commit again to being accessible, dependable and accountable. I will continue to travel the region conducting rating courses, performing demos and jumping with the best skydivers in the U.S.! Having served as both your Mountain Regional Director and USPA Secretary, I humbly I ask that you vote for me to serve another term and allow me to represent you again."

Age: 61

Profession:
 Airline pilot

Year Joined: 1985

Total Jumps:
 16,052

Jumps Past Year:
 400-plus

Licenses: C-17729,
 D-11400

Ratings and Appointments:
 IADI, CE, AFPE,
 TE, PRO, FS-R

Awards: 14,000-Jump Wings,
 144-Hour Freefall Badge, CCR



PAUL DYER
New England Region
 Glenburn, Maine

"I have enjoyed being a part of the USPA and the skydiving community for three decades and feel I can now give back with my time and abilities. I've been the silent partner in a small DZ and have been on several working boards during my career in tax and finance industries, as well as currently owning a cloud and cloud-security company. In total, I have started four successful U.S. corporations, three regional and one national, that are all still in operation to this day and have managed national IT platform. Being an enrolled agent (EA) with the IRS and a licensed wealth manager of a family office, I have a deep understanding of tax and finance topics, as well.

I would like to give back to the sport that has done so much for me! I'm a blessed man for sure, my wife of 30 years and I reside in Maine and soon will start snow birding in Florida so I can keep jumping in the winter. I have two great kids but no grands yet.

I'll be jumping a 20x40 American flag with the Blue Angels circling me as the opener for the Maine Air Show this weekend, I love this sport and America!

Blue skies!

Paul Dyer, Pro Demo D-20886"

Age: 60

Profession:
 Business builder and wealth manager

Year Joined: 1994

Total Jumps:
 3,500

Jumps Past Year:
 100

Licenses: A-22213,
 B-18767, C-26058,
 D-20886

Ratings and Appointments:
 PRO

Awards: Not reported



JIM REES (incumbent)
New England Region
 Nottingham, New Hampshire

"Yes, my jumping has slowed to a trickle since 2019—which is when I first was seated on the BOD. My past teams probably don't matter much to you. My judging isn't really relevant either. I haven't been an Instructor since 1996, and I couldn't tell you anything about the modern progression methods. I have great S&TAs to do that for me.

What I care about is serving the membership, and I work my butt off doing so. I am now completing one full term as the Competition Committee Chair and ISC Delegate. I am also into my second term as one of the ISC Bureau Vice Presidents.

I also care about safety and I hope we see a zero-fatality year in my lifetime. I do not want a competitor or record-setter to have to choose between making a safe skydive and being competitive or setting a record. I will continue to pursue policies with that goal in mind.

I have always considered 'New England' to be my home DZ, and I recently added CPI to the list of clubs where I hold a lifetime membership. We have a rich history and outstanding professionals running each DZ. I feel very privileged to have served New England for six years and ask your support to continue my work."

Age: 57

Profession: Self-employed

Year Joined: 1987

Total Jumps:
 9,500

Jumps Past Year:
 12

Licenses: A-9923,
 C-20350, D-13359

Ratings and Appointments:
 FS-I, CP-I, AL-N,
 CF-N, AE-N, JE-FS

Awards: Not reported



MICHAEL WADKINS (incumbent)
North Central Region
 Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

"It has been my privilege and honor to have served as the N.C. Regional Director for the last 10 years. During the previous terms as your regional director and S&T Chairman, we were successful in strengthening and standardizing the examiner program, adding online modules and a 'code of conduct,' implementing critical items to the BSRs, adding relevant information to SIM Sections 5 and 6, as well as improving the IRM to reflect current and relevant information for today's skydivers.

I have always been a vocal and steadfast advocate for increasing safety measures industry-wide, enhancing training methodologies and helping standardize all the USPA's instructor-training programs. My steadfast goal is to keep striving to improve and update all our training programs to align with current teaching and training philosophies by producing better courseware, a user-friendly SIM, better online resources, implementing distance learning modules and having quality resources for our membership, students and instructors.

I hope that you will once again allow me to continue to serve our region and voice the opinions of our drop zones and the skydivers that make our region great!"

Age: 58

Profession: USPA Examiner

Year Joined: 1993

Total Jumps: 15,000

Jumps Past Year: 475

Licenses: A-18908, B-17528, C-24506, D-18691

Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, IADE, PRO, SLE, TE

Awards: 156-Hour Freefall Badge, 14,000-Jump Wings



LUKE AIKINS (incumbent)
Northwest Region
 Shelton, Washington

"PNW is home; I understand what we need and want. You want to be left alone, but when you call me and need help you expect it. I always deliver. I first joined the board to keep the USPA age limit at 16; that was the first battle I lost. The first term, I was unable to find my voice and found the bureaucracy and infighting to be mind-numbing and a waste of time. Since then, there has been a slow, steady change for the better on the board. The last two terms, I have been on the Executive Committee serving as the member at large. Last term, the entire EC was unanimously reelected to our positions; that has never happened before and shows the board is working as one now. I have been able to fight from the inside for skydivers and have learned how to do it. I almost never lose now when I fight for you. Unlike some board members that say their job is to protect the organization, I feel my job is to protect the members. Those two things do not always go together. I have a little unfinished business on the board. In this next term, I will continue to fight adding silly rules, support efforts to fight outside oversight and work to correct our outdated and complicated disciplinary system. This will be my final term running for the board. This term looks exciting with some great new national directors in the mix."

Age: 50

Profession: Skydiver/stuntman/aerial coordinator

Year Joined: 1990

Total Jumps: 20,000

Jumps Past Year: 300

Licenses: C-21188, D-21189

Ratings and Appointments: AFFE, CE, PRO, TI

Awards: Not reported



BRETT MARTIN
Northwest Region
 Toledo, Washington

"Aloha USPA members, I am running for Northwest Regional Director, and I want your vote.

I started skydiving in 1976 in Toledo, Washington. My father, Mike, was my instructor. My son, Jarrett, and my daughter, Samantha, are also active in the sport. Along with several other family members. You could say that skydiving has been my life.

I am active in the sport and the industry to this day. I've been doing for a living since 1988. Former drop zone owner. Current senior rigger, AFF instructor and S&TA. I was the Pacific Region Director for two years. Based in Hawaii and then Monterey, California. I own and operate Bad Bones Parachutes in Toledo, Washington. Full circle back to where I started.

My goals are simple: Be a responsive regional director serving the members first. It is a member-driven organization.

Beyond that ... I want to get the age for skydiving back to its traditional 16 years of age (with parental consent) and implement a two-tiered tandem instructor rating system.

Luke Aikins is a longtime friend of mine. Known him since he was a teenager. I served with him on the board. He is an effective and upfront director. What I can add is a fresh yet old-school point of view. And I will engage with the members and the drop zones in the Pacific Northwest as I did in my previous service on the board.

I ask for your vote."

Age: 65

Profession: Skydiver/rigger

Year Joined: 1987

Total Jumps: 18,000-plus

Jumps Past Year: 100-plus

Licenses: C-19112, D-12823

Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach

Awards: 1,000-Jump Wings



BRIAN NAIMAN (incumbent)
Pacific Region
 Woodland, California

"I'm proud to have served as your Pacific Regional Director since summer 2020. As an active fun jumper, tandem instructor, AFF instructor and demo jumper, I understand the importance of staying current in our sport. Regularly jumping with other fun jumpers and continuing to teach students helps me stay connected with members and ensure that the organization best serves members' needs.

My focus will remain on USPA's mission statement: to promote safe skydiving through training, licensing, and instructor qualification programs; to ensure skydiving's rightful place on airports and in the airspace system; to promote competition and record-setting programs.

By prioritizing these core values, careful consideration before creating new BSRs and avoiding impulsive decisions, we can create an environment where fun jumpers are empowered to thrive, to push their own boundaries and expand the boundaries of our sport.

Skydiving is not only my job and my hobby, but my passion, my way of life and my family. I ask for your vote so that I may continue giving back to the sport and community that has so enriched my life."

Age: 38

Profession: Skydiver

Year Joined: 2011

Total Jumps: 4,300

Jumps Past Year: 450

Licenses: A-61364, D-34489

Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, PRO, TI

Awards: Chesley H. Judy Safety Award



ERICK KINNEY
Southeast Region
 Orlando, Florida

"Erick R. Kinney embodies a legacy forged in the skies, an unwavering commitment to excellence and an insatiable passion for pushing boundaries. For over two decades, Erick served as a parachute rigger in the military, carving a path adorned with numerous military accolades and civilian commendations within the parachuting community. His expertise and skill became a beacon, leading him to the United States Air Force as a distinguished military freefall jumpmaster instructor—one of a select triumvirate certified by U.S. Special Operations Command to mentor the USAF course.

Fueled by an unyielding dedication to advancing aerial expertise, Erick transitioned to bolster the prowess of an elite Guardian Angel reserve unit at Davis-Monthan AFB. Here, he orchestrated intricate air operations and delivered high-level military freefall training to qualified military jump personnel, elevating their capabilities to new heights.

In 2020, Erick's trajectory took a pioneering turn as he assumed the mantle of plant and operations Manager at a parachute manufacturing facility. His tenure was defined by tireless research, development, testing and evaluation of safety products spanning diverse aerospace realms—from sport/experimental aircraft to cutting-edge urban/advanced aerial mobility, electric propulsion, interplanetary, tandem, emergency bailout and unmanned aerial systems.

A testament to unwavering dedication, Erick seamlessly transitioned to oversee day-to-day operations in Orlando over Strong Enterprises, now Paradigm Parachute & Defense. Beyond his professional feats, Erick's steadfastness finds harmony in his personal life. For 17 years, he and his wife have navigated life's journey, nurturing a family blessed with four children.

Age: 41
Profession: Plant manager
Year Joined: 2014
Total Jumps: 3,000-plus
Jumps Past Year: Not reported
Licenses: A-70536, B-40707, C-43208, D-36998
Ratings and Appointments: Coach, TI
Awards: Not reported



BRANDON RADCLIFF (incumbent)
Southeast Region
 Jupiter, Florida

"Dear Southeast Region Skydivers, Over the past three years, I have remained steadfast in my commitment to our campaign issues. As your representative for the Southeast Region, I hope I have demonstrated my dedication and earned your trust. I've tirelessly traveled throughout the region, advocating on your behalf to the USPA.

During my tenure, I've focused on four key priorities:

1. **Advocating for You:** I've worked tirelessly to understand your needs and concerns, ensuring that your voices are heard at the highest levels.
2. **Accessibility:** I am available to answer your questions and provide assistance through phone calls, text messages, emails and social media.
3. **Managing Regulations:** I've championed reasonable regulations that balance safety and freedom, allowing our sport to thrive.
4. **Promoting Education:** Education is the cornerstone of progress. I've actively supported initiatives to enhance knowledge and skills within our community.

If re-elected, I pledge to maintain this unwavering dedication. I will continue to be accessible, working diligently to address your concerns and bring innovative ideas to the board.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you over the last three years. With your continued support, I look forward to another term of effective representation."

Age: 54
Profession: Small business owner
Year Joined: 2009
Total Jumps: 3,000-plus
Jumps Past Year: 323
Licenses: A-57467, B-34191, C-38963, D-31962
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, CE, PRO, S&TA
Awards: 2,000-Jump Wings, 24-Hour Freefall Badge, 2018 Regional Achievement Award-Southeast Region



MICHAEL BRATCHER
Southern Region
 Elizabethtown, Kentucky

"I love this sport and want to be your Southern Region representative. I am an active TI, AFFI, SL/IADI, Coach/SL/IAD examiner, S&TA at large, senior rigger, commercial pilot and graduate of Jumpers Away course, now flying skydivers as well as teaching this wonderful sport. I will take this position seriously and bring your concerns, suggestions and grievances to the USPA. I respect and appreciate the USPA for everything they have done and will continue to do to make this sport safe and promote it positively in the public's eye. Feel free to contact me with questions regarding issues you have. I am actively involved in this sport. I had the pleasure of working with my home DZ breaking the Kentucky state record, accomplishing 100 jumps in a day raising over \$3,600 for local charities. I am an Air Force retired veteran with decades of experience supervising/managing personnel and property, as well as reading, writing, interpreting policy, rules and regulations. This trait will be a valuable asset dealing with the FAA and local governments who wish to shut down operations and to communicate with other subject-matter experts to help the USPA write policy that contributes to certifying instructional staff that will produce safe and professional skydivers. I believe in enforcement of current rules and regulations rather than introducing new mandates that do not necessarily address the root of the issue. Please vote! Whether it's for me or another candidate—make your voice heard through the power of your vote!"

Age: 61
Profession: Government
Year Joined: 1988
Total Jumps: 4,000-plus
Jumps Past Year: 122
Licenses: A-10679, B-17646, D-20664
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, CE, IADE, SLE, TI
Awards: 36-Hour Freefall Badge, 3,000-Jump Wings



JOHN CROCE
Southern Region
 Rossville, Tennessee

"I'm excited to announce my candidacy for the USPA Southern Regional Director. Through 18 seasons of skydiving, I have gained the necessary experience to best represent the current and future generation of USPA skydivers in the region. As a tandem and AFF instructor that has been turning loads on weekends for the past 15 years, I've had the opportunity to see the sport change and progress immensely. With the rapid acceleration of young student jumpers in recent years, I believe it is imperative to elect someone relatable and well versed in almost all disciplines of skydiving. I am extremely fortunate to have been surrounded by great mentors to help me kickstart my skydiving journey from a young age when the available resources were far less than what the USPA has now. With the development of the Integrated Student Program and ability for jumpers to progress quickly, it's important that we continue to enhance the curriculum to allow students to progress as rapidly and safely as possible. The focus on prioritizing canopy coaching to prevent injuries that are forcing low-jump-number skydivers out of the sport is also something I hope to help address. I strongly believe in educating each skydiver on available resources based on their learning style and goals in the sport, rather than focusing on jump numbers, licenses and rules. Through my experience as an instructor, currency and relationships, I would be an extremely valuable resource to any member in the region. Thank you for your consideration."

Age: 35
Profession: Risk management
Year Joined: 2006
Total Jumps: 4,250
Jumps Past Year: 300
Licenses: A-49806, C-36032, D-30072
Ratings and Appointments: AFFI, Coach, TI
Awards: Not reported



PAUL GHOLSON (incumbent)
Southern Region
Oxford, Mississippi

"Others may tell you what they plan to do, want to do or try to do if they get elected, but I will tell you that as Southern Regional Director for the last six years I have verified 679 license and rating renewals; certified over 35 wings and freefall awards; visited most every DZ; met hundreds of jumpers; sent over 235 emails assisting members; devoted over 2,100 unpaid hours of my personal time dealing with USPA issues; attended 48 Zoom calls dealing with USPA issues; attended 12 USPA Board meetings all across the country; sat as a voting member of the Safety & Training, Governance and Group Membership Committees; and am currently Chairman of the Regional Directors Committee.

I have developed trusted relationships with this region's FAA FSDOs and have been instrumental, on numerous occasions, in intervening in FAA investigations, thus saving jumpers and pilots from adverse actions from the FAA, which could have resulted in fines for the jumpers and loss of license for jump pilots.

Along with the S&TAs, which I appoint, we have made the Southern Region into one of the safest and trouble-free regions in the country.

I have a proven track record of performance and accomplishments, I am at the DZ every weekend, and I am a very active AFF instructor, S&TA and coach examiner.

My goal is to continue to improve the safety culture through mentoring, education, and to serve my region's members whether through celebrating their accomplishments or helping with problems."

Age: 71

Profession:

Skydiving instructor

Year Joined: 1999

Total Jumps:

5,500-plus

Jumps Past Year:

Approximately 50-75

Licenses: A-18337, B-16933, C-24190, D-17101

Ratings and Appointments:

AFFI, CE, PRO, S&TA, AFFDE

Awards:

60-Hour Freefall Badge, 5,000-Jump Wings, 20-Year USPA Membership Certificate



PETER LUTZ
Southwest Region
Seminole, Texas

"I am seeking the Southwest Regional Director seat on the BOD of the USPA. I feel there are some very specific challenges we are facing and need to be met. Unfortunately, I'm not seeing too many recognizing it and, worse yet, not a single plan to face them. Here's a short list:

The museum needs to get done. Fifty-three years and nothing is ridiculous. We deserve better. With some support, that project can be completed and put on a sustainable path within 18-24 months. With no more donations than what they already have.

Become much more efficient. Lots of costs that can be reduced. No more fighting frivolous lawsuits that get lost and require big payouts.

We're seeing a large number of both fun jumpers and instructors leaving the sport. The number of folks selling because it isn't enjoyable is higher than I have ever seen. Needs to change.

There's a lot more, but you get the picture. If you feel like I do and want to get some things done before we are all gone, join me and let's right this ship.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. Time to get this done ..."

Age: 66

Profession:

Professional toilet scrubber

Year Joined: 1995

Total Jumps:

17,000-plus

Jumps Past Year:

464

Licenses: A-22317, D-22837

Ratings and Appointments:

Not reported

Awards: Not reported



JACK PYLAND (incumbent)
Southwest Region
Dallas, Texas

"I am a commercial pilot with single and multiengine land, instrument airplane, rotorcraft-helicopter endorsements and over 13,000-plus hours that has been transformed to a skydiver. As a jump pilot for 20-plus years, I decided to try just one jump to see why everyone wanted to jump from my airplane. After one jump, I was hooked. Now after 10,700-plus jumps with 5,000-plus as a tandem instructor, I want to give back to the sport I love so much. I ask for your vote as Southwest Regional Director for the coming term. As a regional director, I want to keep focus on training and safety to continue the downward trend of injuries and fatalities. This can be done without overbearing rules or policies but with education and implantation of successful results. Likewise, as regional director I will support USPA efforts to be a strong watchdog of federal, state and local governments trying to limit our access to airspace, airports and aircraft. Last, as a regional director I can also help the growth of startup DZs with coordination of information available from USPA to help increase interest in the sport and membership."

Age: 76

Profession: CEO

Year Joined: 1990

Total Jumps:

10,700-plus

Jumps Past Year:

450

Licenses: C-21131, D-17377

Ratings and Appointments:

CE, PRO

Awards: 10,000-Jump Wings



JOSHUA HALL (incumbent)
Western Region
Pasadena, California

"This is my unofficial announcement to run for USPA Western Regional Director position. Obviously, it's because I have nothing better to do and have lots of free time. Mostly though, it's because how well we get paid to do it.

I have on occasion felt that I did some good things for the organization and helped improve our sport. For the members in my region, I try to be as responsive as possible, help members in need, answer questions and take suggestions for USPA. My favorite part is that I get to deal with other people's lovely drama.

In case you didn't know this about me, I've been jumping well over half my life. I actually still log my jumps, compete once in a while doing extreme patty-cake, sometimes do a student instructional jump, trying to fly like a squirrel again after 20-something years, first cutaway was doing CRW, flew in wind tunnel when there was really only one, I'm the forever reigning national champion in sport accuracy, sometimes like to land off airport in front of a crowd, and my day job is a zookeeper.

There's a really good chance this will be my last election unless, of course, my memory loss accelerates. Just in case, remind me in three years.

I challenge anyone to the same pain and suffering and see if you still love this sport. Your vote for me is either a blessing or a curse. Thank you for your consideration.

Members always first!"

Age: 45

Profession:

Skydiver

Year Joined: 1999

Total Jumps:

15,690

Jumps Past Year:

243

Licenses: A-34782, B-23802, D-24093

Ratings and Appointments:

AFFI, Coach, PRO

Awards: Not reported

Elections for the 2025-2027

USPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On the following page is an official ballot for the election of the 2025-2027 USPA Board of Directors. In this election, the USPA membership will elect 22 directors who will serve for three years.

Only current, regular members (annual and lifetime members, but not temporary members) are eligible to vote, and each member may vote only once. USPA members who do not reside in the U.S. may vote for any one eligible person as a regional director and up to eight national directors.

HOW TO VOTE

National Director—You may vote for as many as eight USPA National Director candidates by marking your ballot with an “X” in the column next to the name of each candidate chosen. You may vote for fewer than eight candidates, but voting for more than eight will invalidate that section of your ballot. You may also write in the names of any candidate(s) not listed, but each write-in vote counts as one of the eight allowed.

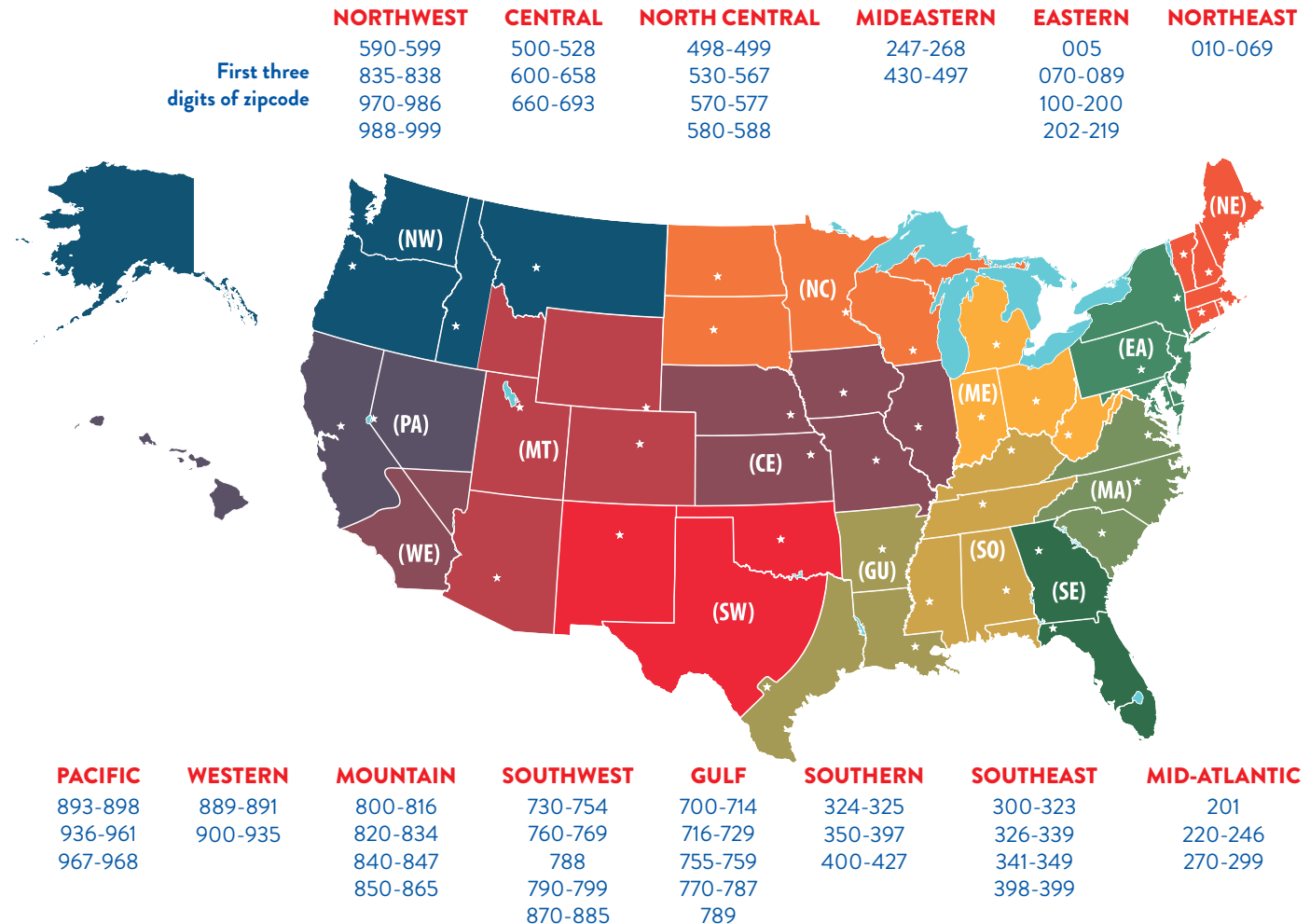
Regional Director—You may vote for only one USPA Regional Director candidate, and he or she must reside in your region, as established by your address on file at USPA. The map below shows a regional breakdown by the first three digits of each zip code. Mark your ballot with an “X” in the column next to the

candidate’s name. You may also write in the name of any candidate for regional director not listed on the ballot, but that person must reside in your region. Voting for more than one candidate or voting for candidates outside of your region will invalidate that section of your ballot. Mark your selection clearly, and be sure the name of any write-in candidate is legible and spelled correctly.

THE DEADLINE

Paper ballots must be received at USPA Headquarters, 5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22407, no later than 5 p.m. EDT October 31, 2024. Any ballots received after this date will be marked invalid.

Each paper ballot must be marked and signed by the voter in original handwriting. Although photocopies of this ballot are acceptable, each must still be marked and signed by the voting member. Paper ballots that are faxed, electronically transmitted or pre-marked will be declared invalid. Mail your ballot in today. Be counted. Vote!



2025-2027 USPA ELECTIONS

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT USPA HEADQUARTERS NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31, 2024, 5 P.M. EDT.

Mark an "X" in the box next to the name of each candidate you choose or write the name(s) in the provided space(s).

(SAMPLE VOTE) JOE SKYDIVER

NATIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

(Vote for **UP TO** eight candidates)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Edward Scott
<input type="checkbox"/>	Angie Aragon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scotty Wood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Nelson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Chmelecki
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sherry Butcher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew Yount
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniele "Tank" Tancredi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Bartholomew
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Hill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nikko Mamallo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Merrill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Mullins
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael McGowan

Use this space if you wish to write in the name(s) of another National Director candidate(s). Please print.

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

REMINDER: It is a violation of New York not-for-profit law to receive compensation in any form for a vote. In other words, it is unlawful to sell a vote (which by association suggests it is unlawful to buy a vote).

REGIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

(Vote for **ONE** candidate from your region of residence only)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles Crinklaw	Central
<input type="checkbox"/>	David Grabowski	Eastern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Winstock	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chuck Akers	Gulf
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shauna Finley	Mid-Atlantic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Mehl	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Derreck Sfachios Fischer	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Randall Allison	Mid-Eastern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ray Lallo	Mountain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Dyer	New England
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Rees	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Wadkins	North Central
<input type="checkbox"/>	Luke Aikins	Northwest
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brett Martin	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Naiman	Pacific
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erick Kinney	Southeast
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brandon Radcliff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Bratcher	Southern
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Croce	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Gholson	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Lutz	Southwest
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack Pyland	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joshua Hall	Western

Use this space if you wish to write in the name of a Regional Director candidate instead of the one(s) listed from your region. Please print.

SIGNATURE (This ballot **MUST** be signed in original handwriting to be valid)

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BELOW.

Name (Printed) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Current USPA Membership or License Number _____

**This ballot will not be used by USPA as an address change notice.*

CAREFULLY CUT ALONG THIS LINE

STATEMENT OF PROXY

The undersigned regular member of the United States Parachute Association (USPA) hereby assigns a proxy to the USPA Secretary in the name of the undersigned at the USPA General Membership Meeting on March 13, 2025, and at any and all adjournments thereof on the specific bylaw amendments below:

Proposal: Amend Article V Section 4 of the USPA Governance Manual to read, "Candidates for USPA Regional Director who have met all requirements listed in the Election Section will be placed on the ballot. No limitation is placed on the number of candidates in any one region. However, members may vote for only one USPA Regional Director candidate. Members may not vote for a USPA Regional Director candidate outside the voting member's region. The candidate in each region receiving the largest number of votes shall be certified as USPA Regional Director for the ensuing three years."

Yes No Abstain
(Please check one)

Proposal: Amend Section 3-1.3A of the USPA Governance Manual to include, "3. a U.S. Citizen or reside in the U.S." as a candidate qualification for consideration as a potential candidate for election to the board.

Yes No Abstain
(Please check one)

Name (Printed)

Current USPA Membership or License Number

SIGNATURE (This ballot **MUST** be signed in original handwriting to be valid)

The undersigned hereby revokes any other proxy given by him or her with respect to his or her membership in USPA. The proxy may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise at the annual meeting by executing subsequent proxy by written notice to the USPA Secretary or by voting in person at the annual meeting.

This proxy may be faxed to USPA at (540) 604-9741, scanned and emailed to USPA at uspa@uspa.org or mailed and delivered to USPA at 5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22407

PROXIES MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE MEETING

CAREFULLY CUT ALONG THIS LINE

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO USPA MEMBERS REGARDING ASSIGNING A PROXY

A Call for the Meeting and a Notice to Amend

On Thursday, March 13 at the Hilton Daytona Beach Ocean Front Resort, 100 N. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118, USPA will hold an annual general membership meeting. All members in good standing are invited and urged to attend. On the agenda are two questions, one regarding voting rights in regional director elections and the other requiring those running for the board to have U.S. citizenship or residency. If you cannot attend, you are urged to have a proxy represent you at the meeting.

Like all associations, USPA has a set of self-developed bylaws that codify certain aspects of how the association runs and how it conducts elections, including who can vote on or run for seats on the board. As is also common, certain parts of USPA's bylaws are subject to change by a two-thirds majority of the board, while other parts, specifically items dealing with board elections, require a quorum of the membership at the general membership meeting to make changes. Getting a quorum of USPA members (specified by the bylaws as 10% of the membership) at the meetings is nearly impossible without a proxy effort.

To meet the quorum requirement of 10%, approximately 4,200 members will need to be present or represented by proxy. A proxy is not technically a vote. Rather, it is an authorization a member gives to another member to vote on their behalf. A member may assign their proxy to any member in good standing who will be present at the meeting. Typically, in proxy solicitations, the proxy is given to an officer of the corporation in order to facilitate the validating and counting of proxies. For this meeting, the secretary of the USPA Board of Directors has been selected as the person named on the proposed proxy statement.

PROCEDURE

October 1-31, members may visit uspa.org/election, which will take them to both the USPA Board of Directors election ballot and the proxy statement containing two questions. Around October 1, members with a valid email address on file will also receive an email from USPA that will provide instructions on how to record board votes and submit the proxy. To submit a proxy electronically and have that proxy count toward the quorum, a member may choose yes, no or abstain on the proxy form. A member may also choose to submit their proxy later (in person at the meeting or by mail, fax or email) or decline submitting a proxy by choosing "skip this proxy vote."

From now until any time prior to the meeting, members may also submit their proxy statements by mail, email or fax by

filling out the statement on the previous page of this issue or downloading it from uspa.org/proxy. Members may also revoke a proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the annual meeting by executing a subsequent proxy in writing and sending it to USPA by mail, email or fax or by voting in person at the annual meeting. Written proxies are valid only if they are individually marked and signed in the member's original handwriting and sent to USPA by mail to 5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407; by fax to (540) 604-9741; or by scanning and emailing to uspa@uspa.org.

Members may submit proxies at any time but they must be received prior to the meeting. For the proxy to be valid, the person signing the statement or submitting it electronically must be an individual regular member (annual or lifetime member but not temporary member) of USPA on the date of record, which is established as March 12, 2024.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Voting in Regional Director Elections

This bylaw change would adjust voting rights in regional director elections. Currently, members who reside outside the U.S. are permitted to vote for any one regional director. Regional directors are intended to represent and be voted in by members who reside in that region. This change would remove the ability for members who reside outside the U.S. from voting for a USPA Regional Director and influencing an election in a region in which they do not reside. Members residing outside the U.S. will continue to have voting eligibility for all national director seats.

Over recent years, USPA has seen growth in the volume of USPA members residing outside the U.S. USPA has and intends to continue working with federations, drop zones and skydivers outside the U.S. in order to make memberships, licensing, credentials and other USPA benefits available to those outside the U.S. in an effort to grow the sport of skydiving worldwide. However, USPA's priority must maintain its domestic efforts and ensure that residents of a region elect their regional representation.

Board Candidate Qualifications

This proxy vote would require those running for positions on the USPA Board to hold a U.S. citizenship or reside in the U.S. One of USPA's core functions is working to ensure skydiving's rightful place on airports and in the U.S. airspace system. Passage of this bylaw change would ensure the USPA Board makeup consists of those who have direct ties to domestic interests in the U.S.