

Mike Piccardo

Candidate for At-Large Member Pacific Swimming BOD

Like many of you, I got started in swimming when my daughter's friends joined a local swim club and my daughter decided she wanted to join also. Of course, her little 8-year-old brother, not to be outdone, wanted to swim for the club also. Boy were those meets painful – long periods of boredom punctuated by brief flurries of activity. I became a timer – hey, they offered free food! A co-worker friend and stroke and turn judge kept seeing me at meets at which he officiated and kept bugging me to take the stroke and turn class. Mostly to get him off my back, I took the class in about 1992 and most of you know the rest of the story. I was not really active initially since I was an active ultra-marathoner until 2003 and that takes a lot of long weekend runs to get in shape so I limited the swim meets I worked at. I was a member of the St. Lawrence Swim Team board during this period in various capacities including club representative at Z1S board meetings. In 2003, now with bad knees from all the running, I became much more active as an official and added starter and deck ref to the resume. Now my kids are 35 and 38, and, though unattached, I'm still very actively involved in the sport of swimming locally.

As an official I got to know other officials in Z1S and was asked if I would accept nomination as Z1S Board chair around 2006. I said OK, not realizing I was the only candidate. Hmmm! Terms were one year long then and I served two terms – the limit. Terms eventually became two years long but still limited to two terms and I was once again asked to be nominated for Z1S Board chair in 2012 but now I knew what that meant. I finished my last term as Z1S BOD chair on Aug. 31, 2016. Along the way I added meet ref and admin ref to my resume. I also started officiating at college meets at San Jose State and UC Santa Cruz and helped at a few high school meets here and there. I've also served on the Governance Committee and the Executive Committee and am currently a member of the Investment Committee and Finance Committee as well as being Treasurer of Z1S.

As George Cleveland's carpool buddy, I've been attending Pacific BOD meetings for quite some time now, which began when those meetings were located at the church hall in San Leandro. Attendance at these many meetings gave me a good view of Pacific Swimming from a totally different perspective than the pool deck. I believe strongly in the support that Pacific Swimming provides to our clubs and swimmers and enjoy attending BOD meetings for the view of the inner workings of Pacific one gets from these meetings.

I am asking for your vote so that I can work with other members of Pacific Swimming to complete existing projects and tackle new ones in the future. Thank you for your consideration.