

Jay Rowland

Candidate for At-Large Board Member

I'm Jay Rowland and I would appreciate your vote to be one of the at-large members of the Pacific Swimming board. I am relatively new to swimming as a volunteer and would like to take a few moments to introduce myself to those who don't know me.

The usual story applies for how I became involved: our daughter Anya started swimming with the Brentwood SeaWolves in 2011. By the summer of 2012 both Cindy and I were volunteering informally for the team, doing things like crafting video presentations and helping organize the year-end banquet. By the next summer I was ready to be done with timing and playing AV / computer guy and decided to take on a more formal role.

I have represented the Brentwood SeaWolves on the Zone 2 board of directors and at the Pacific House of Delegates for almost four years now. During that time the club has become an active participant in Zone & LSC activities and is now a regular host of both short and long course meets. If you haven't been to a meet in Brentwood you should certainly consider joining us -- just beware that the long-course meets fill fast!

I started working as an official in October 2013 and have been enjoying that ever since. In my experience the camaraderie of the Pacific Swimming officials team is a great thing and it is what keeps many officials involved long after the kids have stopped swimming and are off at college. I'm a firm believer in learning to do things the right way and have been slowly working my way through the various positions as an official. Most recently I probably saw many of you while working as Assistant Chief Judge at the spring JOs and Far Westerns. These LSC meets are a great way to meet officials and coaches from other zones and LSCs and to refine our skills and teamwork.

This past September I attended the U.S. Aquatic Sports convention in Atlanta as a "first timer" and found it to be a very informative and rewarding experience. While there I got to spend time with our LSC and national leadership and learned a lot about our sport and the issues facing us. The experience of sitting in the various committee meetings, Western Zone and USA-S HOD meetings was quite interesting and the dynamics between the different LSCs and types of participants was not something I had really considered prior to attending. I heartily recommend attending the convention if you can make the time available.

Compared to many here, I *am* relatively new to this organization but one thing I have heard at recent HOD meetings is a desire to involve more "new blood" in the process. I feel that I now have the necessary background to make a positive contribution to LSC governance and an at-large seat on the board seems like a good way forward. I currently work in a "big data" area of the video games industry and have a lot of technical insight into topics that are surprisingly similar to athlete protection, safe sport, time standards and even fundraising. I think that I can play a valuable part in Pacific and look forward to the opportunity.

Thanks again for your consideration!