

2009 PDGA Election – Board of Directors Candidate Statements

Todd Andrews #13590 (Incumbent)

City, State: Portland, Oregon

E-mail Address: todd.andrews@orsdiscgolf.com

Birth Date: 07-03-62

Gender: Male

Education: Associates Degree in General Studies from Portland Community College. Numerous certificates and professional certifications related to computer hardware and software programs.

Occupation: PC Support Technician

Professional Experience: I worked in the restaurant business for 30 years in numerous positions including dishwasher, sous chef, bartender and assistant manager. I have been the CAD draftsman and IT manager for numerous small to medium sized architectural and landscape architecture firms since 1991 and I am now a support technician for a large multi-state architectural firm in Portland, Oregon. I specialize in the troubleshooting, upgrade and repair of computer hardware and operating systems.

Disc Golf Experience: I first became acquainted with the sport in 1980 in Southern California, and played many of the courses available in the area at that time. After moving to Oregon, I was made aware that people actually played in competitive events for cash and prizes, so in 1994 I played in my first tournament and joined the PDGA in 1996. I became a TD in 1998 and have run numerous tournaments for the Northwest Series and Oregon Series. This eventually led to my becoming an Oregon Series Coordinator in 2003 with Cris and Teresa Bellinger. In this capacity I was one of the core team members that ran the Beaver State Fling National Tour events until 2009. In 2004 and 2005 I helped create the maps for the PDGA Course Directory with Cliff Towne and Theo Pozzy. In 2005 then Commissioner Theo Pozzy asked me to join the PDGA Disciplinary Committee and I have diligently and dutifully performed those duties since that time. In 2007 the Oregon Series Coordinators formed a not for profit corporation for the promotion of the sport in the Northwest region and performed the duties as Board President until the dissolution of the Series in 2009. I was elected to the PDGA Board of Directors in September of 2007 and I am currently the Treasurer of the PDGA.

Candidate Statement:

Dear PDGA members, Thank you for electing me to the Board of Directors in 2007. It seemed like it took almost a year to get up to speed and comprehend the nuances of what it means to be on the Board of Directors. During the first year I concentrated on bringing the office computer systems into the twenty-first century and voting on issues that were in the best interest of all of the membership. Once I understood the complexity of the job, I was able to bring forward initiatives that I felt would move the sport forward by working with my fellow Board members to identify important issues. We accomplished many things together over the last two years, but there are many things that still need to be worked on. Therefore, I hereby ask that you reelect me to another two year position in order to accomplish these goals.

The highlight of my achievements so far has been the design, installation and configuration of the new office network. This has allowed the office staff to work smarter and accomplish more in a shorter period of time. It has also allowed the fulfillment house to interact more efficiently with the PDGA database. This alone has allowed us to speed up the process of membership mailings, tournament registration and more. Additional improvements to the online experience should be coming in the near future like allowing us to take the officials test and sanction tournaments online.

While a lot has been accomplished, there is still much more to be done. Some of the things I think should be changed include:

- Developing and enumerating the rights and responsibilities of players and Tournament Directors and documenting a code of conduct to follow both on and off the field.
- Creating a Tournament Directors handbook and developing a test that must be passed, in addition to the officials test, before someone can run a higher tier event.
- Developing software tools for Tournament Directors to use to expedite repetitive tasks such as producing score cards, determining payout and printing scrip and checks.
- Expanding and clarifying the Competition Manual and Rules of Disc Golf so that they include only the sections pertinent to each. The Rules govern all of disc golf while the Competition Manual should only cover tournament play.
- A new emphasis should be made promoting “The Spirit of the Game” as is the case in the Rules of Golf. “The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.”
- The Rules should be rewritten to be fair to all players at the same time and not just the individual player. This would include rewriting or removing the unplayable lie rule which is rife with abuse.
- It should be mandatory for all professional players to be certified officials.

As you can see, there are many issues before us that need attention and I have enumerated only a few of the matters that are foremost in my mind at this time. One of the things I find sorely lacking is input from the membership on what we all feel are the most important issues. We have the ability to conduct online polls and surveys and I will push for the increased use of the tools available to accomplish this. We really do want to hear what you have to say!

In conclusion, I was elected to the Board of Directors in 2007 by showing that I had the experience and dedication needed to move our sport forward by working for consensus between all of the varied factions within our community. Over the last two years the Board has had to deal with many challenging issues, but by working together we have overcome the obstacles and have made the Association stronger and better able to move into the future. The current Board has shown that we can work together to solve the issues before us and I ask that you reelect all of us so that we can continue to make the Association stronger and better.

Regards,

Todd Andrews
PDGA #13590

Ron Convers, Jr. #9648 (Incumbent)

City, State: Blackwell, OK

E-mail address: ronconversjr@yahoo.com

Birth Date: 08-01-1962

Gender: male

Education: Some college no degree, several management certificates

Occupation: lead on a manufacturing crew (Industrial multi-zone heat and air units)

Professional Experience: Industrial Salesman, Cook, Delivery Driver, Retail clerk, Retail Store Manager, Welder, Industrial Assembly, National Guard

Disc Golf Experience: Began playing with friends in the spring of 1981, Started competing in 1991, currently a

member of Team Discraft playing in the open division

Candidate Statement:

Hello! My name is Ron Convers Jr. I am a longtime promoter and player of disc golf and I would like to represent you as a member of the PDGA board of directors.

I was introduced to disc golf in 1981. Since then I have improved my game to the point where I am competitive in the Open division. I have had a number of noteworthy tournament finishes and I am currently a sponsored Discraft competitor. In addition, I was a co-author of the article "Mastering The Wind" published in the Disc Golf Magazine and listed at www.Discraft.com.

Off the field of play, I am a father to 5 adult children and have 16 grandchildren (three of whom my wife and I are raising). Professionally, I have worked as a Store Manager for a large retail chain, a welder, a cook, and currently am employed building multi-zone heat and air units. Although I have several years of college, I have never completed my degree.

In my "spare time", I have worked with our local club and city park officials to promote Disc Golf. Among the projects accomplished are the renovation and expansion of our original course, the installation of a 7000ft competition quality course at Lake Ponca, and two more courses within a fifteen-mile radius of the original course. Three more courses are currently in the planning stages. I have also acted as an expert advisor on course design and held many clinics. Finally, in 2006, I was recognized by the Kansas Disc Golf Association as an Ambassador to the sport.

In short, I believe that I understand the viewpoint of both the seasoned pro player as well as that of the amateur and recreational players that form the foundation of our sport. I believe that I can make a contribution to the growth of the Game we all love.

In the past two years I have been an active board member. I proposed and instrumented the creation of the PDGA Youth committee to:

- 1.) Create, develop, improve and maintain programs designed to increase youth involvement in Disc Golf and the PDGA.
- 2.) Insure continuity in dealing with youth programs.
- 3.) Monitor, guide, and assist in promoting youth age-based division play.
- 4.) Coordinate with other PDGA committees and departments including education and marketing.

This program is successful and continues to improve.

As a Board member my duties include Youth Committee liaison, current chairperson of the NT Committee and NT liaison, and Ratings Committee liaison. I believe that I have done a good job in representing you and I look forward to serving you for another term. I appreciate your vote. Please contact me if I can help in any way,

Thanks,
Ron Convers, Jr.

Robert W. Decker, CPA #17745 (Incumbent)

City, State: Wichita, KS

E-mail address: rdecker@pdga.com

Birth Date: 11/21/1954

Gender: Male

Education: I have a Bachelors of Science degree with an emphasis in accounting from Wichita State University. I took 9 credits hours towards my Masters degree but ceased that effort once I found that I passed the

CPA exam on my first try. I have been required to have at least 40 class room hours of continuing education each year since I received my permit to practice in approximately 1978.

Occupation: I am a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in private practice.

Professional Experience: I have nearly 34 years of experience as a practicing CPA in public practice providing tax, auditing and advisory services to a wide variety of clients. I am currently the majority shareholder of our firm. As a business owner (www.hiebertcpa.com) and Certified Public Accountant with substantial experience in dealing with the business needs of various types of nonprofit and for-profit entities, I have a set of professional skills and knowledge that is valuable to the PDGA. In addition, my years as a practicing CPA and years of serving on various management teams have provided me with the ability to listen to all sides of a discussion and to formulate ideas and actions that incorporate the best of all opinions.

Disc Golf Experience: I am a Disc Golfer that loves to play the game, run tournaments (most of the time) and assist with the growth of the sport.

I have served on the PDGA board of directors since December 2004. This currently makes me the longest continually serving member of the board. During the last two years, I have served as President. Previously, I served as financial director and treasurer. During this nearly 5 years of service, I have gained valuable insight into the complex operations of the PDGA and the varying needs of its members and the sport of disc golf.

I am an Ace Club member and have participated in 5 of the last 6 Am Worlds and was also invited to the 2006 Pro Worlds. In addition, I have been the president or treasurer of the Air Capital Disc Golf Club in Wichita Kansas since 2001 and have been instrumental in negotiating with the city to expand our courses. Finally, I have run a multitude of local "club nights" as well as most of our Ice Bowls and PDGA sanctioned tournaments since 2000.

Candidate Statement:

I have served on the PDGA board of directors since December 2004. This currently makes me the longest continually serving member of the board. During the last two years, I have served as your President. Previously, I served as your financial director and treasurer. During this nearly 5 years of service, I have gained valuable insight into the complex operations of the PDGA and the varying needs of its members and the sport of disc golf. I hope to use this knowledge and insight to assist our very capable board of directors in guiding our organization and the sport of disc golf into the future.

As a business owner (www.hiebertcpa.com) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with substantial experience in dealing with the business needs of various types of nonprofit and for-profit entities, I provide the PDGA board with a valuable set of professional skills and knowledge. In addition, my nearly 34 years as a practicing CPA and years of serving on various management teams have provided me with the ability to listen to all sides of a discussion and to formulate ideas and actions that incorporate the best of all opinions. This ability has helped me work in a positive way with the various different beliefs and approaches brought to the board by its other members.

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I hope that this information has convinced you that allowing me to continue serving you as one of your PDGA board members will benefit you as a member, the PDGA as an organization and the sport in general. **I would appreciate your vote.**

If you would like further information about me, or my business, please visit my business website at www.hiebertcpa.com or e-mail me at rdecker@pdga.com.

Again, thank you for your vote.

David Feldberg #12626

City, State: Springfield, Oregon

E-mail address: davefeldberg@hotmail.com

Birth Date: 04/06/77

Gender: Male

Education: B/A East Asian Studies/a focus in Japanese, Minor: Business Administration GPA 3.51

Occupation: Professional Disc Golfer, teacher, and promoter.

Professional Experience: State Coordinator Oregon 4 years, PDGA Tournament Director, National Tour Committee Member, Owned Multiple Small Businesses Disc Golf and non disc golf, Taught at University of Oregon (Disc golf) 2 years, Coach of the University of Oregon disc golf club, Internship Davenport college, Michigan (business administration), Employed By Innova Champion Discs - 1 year, Employed by the university of Oregon (math department) 3years, Employed by the Community Internship Program (marketing director) 2 years.

Disc Golf Experience: Played in 10 countries, 2008 World Champion, On tour full time since 1999, First player to win all majors, Designer of disc golf courses, Taught over 100 clinics, Vice president of the Eugene Disc Golf Club - 1 year.

Candidate Statement:

Hi, I am David Feldberg and I have been playing disc golf since 1997. I have taken my tournament play to the top level, and now that I have dabbled in many different aspects of the sport I would like to pursue a more of the behind the scenes involvement of the PDGA. I am excited about having the opportunity to offer my help and experience to the PDGA. I have played all over the world and all I hear is players complaining about change, so I think it is time for experienced players like myself to step up and help resolve these issues. I have been involved with all facets of the game from the grassroots to high competitive play. The sport has treated me well and I would love to give back to the membership by volunteering for a board position. As many of you know I am a determined person, and I am motivated to see this sport blossom. I have tried to do this by becoming a world class player, teacher, and promoter. But time is passing by, so I want to try and get involved with the organizational side and give it all I have as I have done in the PDGA competition.

Juliana Korver #7438 (Incumbent)

City, State: Bowling Green, KY

E-mail address: jbkorver@yahoo.com

Birth Date: 01-19-71

Gender: Female

Education:

- 1993 B.S. from University of Northern Iowa with a triple major in Mathematics, Computer Science and Earth Science.
- 1995 M.S. from Iowa State University in Computer Science.

Occupation: Self Employed;

- Co-owner and Developer (with husband, Shawn Sinclair) at Peyton Designs a full-service web development company.
- Co-owner and Software Engineer (with Mother and Brother) at Jubon a web-based service dedicated to helping small communities create a web presence.

Disc Golf Experience: I've played hundreds of events in nearly every state and multiple countries. I've designed or help to design at least a dozen courses. I've been involved in the administrative side of both clubs and tournaments. I have served as a PDGA Marshal at both Pro and Am World Championships as well as the USDGC. In 1994 I created the 3rd ever disc golf website and have continually worked to disseminate information with respect to disc golf and the web. For the last 9 months I have served on the board of directors as a replacement board of director.

Candidate Statement:

I don't believe it is an exaggeration to say that disc golf has had more influence on my adult life than anything else. I've been involved with the sport for over 16 years. During that time, my involvement has of course waxed and waned, but my dedication to its growth and my belief in its potential has not wavered.

Last year I was asked to fill a vacancy on the board. I agreed to fill the seat and have thus begun to learn what it means to be a board member. After some consideration, I have decided that I want to put that knowledge to good use and would like to run for my own elected position on the board.

Last year, to the obvious delight of the other board members, I offered to fill the position of secretary. This means that it is my responsibility to take notes during all of our meetings. I enjoy this duty and would be happy to fill the position again if given the chance. By the way, I encourage all of you to follow the board minutes at <http://www.pdga.com/board-minutes> to stay informed.

I am not seeking a position on the board in an attempt to push any particular issues, but rather to hopefully be a voice of reason and experience. However, I understand that if I'm asking to represent you in the sport, then you should know where I stand on at least a few issues.

Women's issues – The growth of women in our sport has been stagnant and unfortunately I do not have any answers. It is clear that a few women's events a year have proven to be very successful and I am proud that La Vie en Rose was able to continue this trend. Over the years, I have tried a number of different ways to get more women involved such as a website for women in the sport, email alerts to women regarding "women-friendly" events, women's clinics, women's leagues, and an online "bulletin board" for women to find free places to stay around the country with other female disc golfers in an attempt to make tournament costs more reasonable. Although I haven't found any magic way yet, I do feel that I can both identify good ideas when they are presented as well as speak for many of the women who are currently in our sport. I have tried to make it very clear to the women that they can come to me with their suggestions and concerns.

Disciplinary measures – As we work to push our sport more and more into the spot light, I believe that we must also take discipline issues more seriously. We need to protect our image and create a level playing field for everyone. At some of our larger events, we do have Marshals, but it is impossible for them to see everything that occurs during an event. Therefore it is critical that players begin to take a roll in this responsibility. We need to overcome any stigma associated with giving a warning to another player during the round. Now it is not my hope that warnings become a common occurrence during a round. Rather I would hope that as players become more consciences about behavior and rules, there will be much less need for warnings and far fewer mistakes in play. As a player, you have no right to complain about an infraction after the fact if you did not try to address an issue that you saw firsthand.

Similarly, I believe it is immensely important for every player to have a good grasp of the rules of play. Over the years, I've heard some crazy beliefs with regards to particular rules (which might make for an amusing article for the Disc Golfer). I ask that players become more familiar with rules for their own benefit. Misconceptions about rules can be extremely detrimental to a player. Ultimately I would like to require that all players take the officials' exam or something similar before they are allowed to play in a professional division. I would hope that a better knowledge of the rules would then trickle down to the other divisions.

I'm not sure if this idea will be a popular one or not, but ever since my second year of touring, I've been a firm believer in the every-other-year theory. That is, I would like to see emphasis put on different events every other

year and I would go so far as to encourage larger tournaments to only hold their events every other year. This, of course doesn't apply to Worlds, USDGC or Women's Nationals, but I think that all NT's and even some A tiers would benefit from this concept. For one it allows the hosting team to have a little down time and to stay fresh and excited about their event. For the players it keeps the tour interesting and new. For the country as a whole, it allows focus to go to some of the more remote or isolated locations. Though I wasn't going to announce this until much later, I feel that if I am encouraging this I need to address it with regard to my own event, La Vie en Rose. I feel that our inaugural year was a big success and I want to run with that momentum to create another great event that is very well attended in 2010, but after that we plan to take a year off and begin an every other year format for the event.

Juliana Korver

<http://julianakorver.net>

jbkorver@yahoo.com