

2011 PDGA State/Province Coordinator Candidate Statements

Alabama - Chris Pierce #24826

Alberta - Craig Burrows-Johnson #10658

During the last 10 years in Alberta I have organized and acted as TD for at least one major event every year on the Alberta Disc Golf Tour, which has been fun and rewarding, but as I mentioned during my closing remarks at last year's Alberta Open, it is now time for a new generation of younger TDs to step up and take on this responsibility. I will continue to assist Alberta TDs, especially if they are willing to sanction their event with the PDGA, but I will no longer act as a TD in Alberta.

We have a large problem in Alberta disc golf, which is also an opportunity, which can be best characterized as a lack of political development. Although there has been some notable progress in this area in the last two years, in particular with the re-establishment of a Calgary Disc Golf Club, if re-elected I will have two specific goals.

The first goal will be to assist and mentor the development of new local clubs (along with assisting and improving the operation and governance of our existing disc golf clubs), using best practices long established in the not for profit sector.

The second goal will be to establish, also along not for profit lines, a new province wide disc golf organization which will seek official recognition and funding for disc golf from the Province of Alberta, with specific emphasis on establishing disc golf as an official sport for the Alberta Summer Games.

Please give me your support as we move forward together to make disc golf Alberta's Sport of the Future!

Arkansas - Evan McKee #28702

California (North) - Jennifer Knisley #13273

I am the current Northern California PDGA State Coordinator and I would like to serve another two years. I have been involved with the PDGA and running disc golf tournaments since 1998. As the sport continues to grow and become popular, the need for a state coordinator increases. Working closely with the PDGA and tournament directors to avoid scheduling conflicts is a must. I have spent countless hours helping coordinate PDGA A and B tier events Northern California along with many charity events. I got involved with the sport because of my husband who has played for almost 25 years, but I continue to volunteer because I enjoy giving back to the disc golf community and helping disc golfer's have the best experience possible.

People need an affordable place to go, enjoy nature, exercise, hang with friends, and play disc golf. My goal for Northern California is to keep working towards more courses, not only to have new courses, but to help relieve the pressure of existing courses.

I feel I am qualified for this position and I hope you will re-elect me.

Colorado - John Bird #387

Delaware - Tony Mastrangelo #7129

Georgia - Keith Johnson #10444

I would like the opportunity to continue to be your State Coordinator in Georgia and to help facilitate the flow of information about Events and the scheduling of PDGA Sanctioned as well as other Events in the state and surrounding areas.

I would also like to help foster the continued growth of PDGA Membership in the state. I appreciate the opportunity given to me 4 years ago, and I would like the chance to keep helping Disc Golf grow in the state.

Please vote for the candidate of your choice when you receive your ballot, and I would like the opportunity to be your candidate of choice if you have been happy with the ways things have gone the last 4 years.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Idaho - Derek Ford #1929

Indiana - John Cavaletto #19070

Kansas - Chris Smith #19983

I will once again be running for the position of Kansas State Coordinator. I have held the title for the last several years. I currently make the schedule for the Kansas Disc Golf Association every year. Holding both positions really makes the job of scheduling non-PDGA and PDGA events without conflict pretty simple.

Louisiana - Brian Harrison #1714

To Louisiana PDGA members,

As a former PDGA rep, I have found disc golf in LA to have great potential. Thirty years ago, Louisiana held several top money events in the sport and was poised to be a leader in its growth. However, due to the lack of coordination, the sport here has fallen far behind compared to other states. I feel that I have the experience to help solve some of our problems. As a current touring pro I've had a chance to listen to your concerns and ideas. As your PDGA coordinator I will begin my term with these goals in mind:

- Work with local clubs and course pros to increase number and tier-level of state PDGA events.
- Promote the installation of new courses by working with State, Parish and local parks departments.
- Reduce PDGA-related player fees through aggressive canvassing of corporate sponsors.
- Increase Louisiana's regional presence on PDGA Tour by strengthening ties to neighboring states of Texas, Mississippi and Arkansas, as well as other states in our region.
- Actively perform all duties demanded of a PDGA coordinator.

I look forward to working with you and hope you will consider electing me as your PDGA Coordinator.

Manitoba - Darin Watson #40333

Minnesota - Mike Snelson #9537

As State Coordinator I will reach more individuals and groups looking to get more involved with the PDGA My past experiences, club memberships, and volunteer work will continue to foster goodwill, as I have for over seventeen years in the disc golf industry;

As your State Coordinator I will continue to work with the various tournament directors and clubs within Minnesota to ensure that there are no conflicts relating to scheduling within the state of Minnesota;

As your State Coordinator I will work with the various course designers to assure that courses are listed and evaluated. Being a course designer I know the importance of accurate information for the course directory. Course evaluation is also one aspect I will strive to accomplish;

As your State Coordinator I will continue to promote the EDGE and Disc Golf Foundation programs within the State;

As your State Coordinator I will provide feedback on the annual Tour Standards to the PDGA Tour Manager, coordinate state qualification for events such as the USDGC, USADGC, and other qualified entry tournaments, be active in voting for and recommending candidates for select annual PDGA Awards as well as perform other duties as determined by the State Coordinators, PDGA Board and staff.

Missouri - Billy Nelson #13448

Missouri - Fred Smith #20578

I am running for the position of State Coordinator for Missouri because I feel it is my time to be able to give back to the sport and organization that I love. My life is steering me away from being able to play as many tournaments as I would like and I feel taking the coordinator position would fill that void as well as give me the opportunity to give back. I understand the duties expected as the coordinator and welcome the responsibility should I be elected. I feel that I have talents to give and hope that those Missourians I have encountered thru my travels will entrust me with the honor of representing their interests and/or concerns they may have that involve the PDGA.

Nebraska - No Candidates

New Hampshire - Rob Feeney #33565

It has been my pleasure to represent the state of New Hampshire with the PDGA and to serve the many great people in disc golf over the last two years. I once again ask for your vote to be the PDGA representative for the state of New Hampshire.

Since the last election, I have been working to bring PDGA events back to New Hampshire, and to promote the growth of disc golf. I had the great honor to TD the first ever Ice Bowl in the granite state with the Bellamy Park Ice Bowl. I continue to run a tag league at Bellamy Park, with the proceeds being used for course improvement projects.

I plan to use my position to bring more PDGA sanctioned events to New Hampshire, and to support the growth of this great sport of disc golf for the next 2 years as your PDGA representative. If you should have any questions you would like me to answer before you cast your vote, please feel free to send an email to feeney_rob@yahoo.com and I will answer you promptly. Thanks for your support and consideration!

New Mexico - Bill Leslie #14073

I will continue to promote disc golf and the PDGA for all levels of players in New Mexico and wherever travel takes me. I want to provide a venue for all players who have questions about the game. I also want to encourage newer players to get more active in the PDGA.

New Mexico - Sean Duggins #38803

2011 is shaping up to be a banner year for our beloved sport. Not only has the PDGA put some solid changes into the books, as in revised rules and also clearer definitions of what it means to be a member of the professional side of disc golf. They are changing the visage of our sport in a way to better the image of disc golf

players to folks that haven't yet joined our ranks. I feel this is very important and that the changes this year has seen will have a very positive echo in our sport for years to come. Here in New Mexico 2011 is the cusp of a major breakthrough for our sport. Municipalities are seeing the benefits to the community that our sport brings and we are slowly building up a more positive image to the powers that be.

Many more municipalities have given disc golf a chance and have seen it flourish in those areas. There are a few new courses in as of the beginning of the year and many more courses in the works already.

This year NMDGC has seen a rebirth of sorts, where newer players, myself included have been stepping up and creating new tournaments, clubs and possibilities for progression. This has been amazing to see and also to be a part of. There will be a state wide bag tag underway soon and the start of a state tour tournament series. There has already been a southern tour and bag tags and the northern tags were just produced and have become available for purchase. This will allow among other things, increased camaraderie, better turn outs to all tourneys and many more opportunities for sanctioned tourneys here in NM. There are many positive and progressive things happening and this is all due to hard work and grass roots efforts of many players in NM.

Our DG community is becoming stronger through open and positive communication as well the flourishing of new ideas, embracing our personal differences and the coming together of many different people working toward a shared vision. A part of what has changed and will continue to change is a level of professionalism and respect throughout our community. In the future we as a cohesive unit plan on leaving some parts of the past behind and work together to create better days for our sport and for players of all levels. Many players here would love to see more local sanctioned tournaments New Mexico and many players are making them possible. I recognize the need for them as many serious players have to travel to other states to go to a good tournament or to have a rating that is somewhat accurate. In the relatively recent past I personally would have liked to see tourneys fill up, have good player packages and greater pay outs for most of the tourneys I have been to in NM. I have experienced many tourneys in other states where Disc Golf is much stronger and I believe that may have a lot to do with how players are treated and cared for. I will continue to work hard toward the goal of treating the players, spectators and our sport with very high regard. I see the need for our states coordinator to be a representative of our state and its players, a positive example of our total community. I look forward to being able to assist Tournament Directors with putting on and also creating new sanctioned tournaments in our beautiful state. I don't see this position as anything other than a greater focus for the hard work already underway and a greater ability for me to invest in ourselves as New Mexico Disc Golfers. I am privileged to have been asked to help with some of these things and I look forward to working hard for the establishment of these current realities and future possibilities. I am thankful that I have been encouraged by my peers and also that I have been given the opportunity to run for the New Mexico's State Coordinator for the Professional Disc Golf Association. I look forward to spreading the sport we love in the land that we love. Thank you for all the fun we have had, the love that we share. Let's continue working towards the blossoming of our future and thank you for considering me for the honor of being New Mexico's next State Coordinator.

North Carolina - Todd Gillihan #3355

I have been a member of the PDGA since 1986 and the owner of Knotty Pines, a private disc golf course since 1992. Over the years, I have directed many successful PDGA events, including the State Games of North Carolina, The Horizons Park Classic, and The Yadkin Open. Currently, I serve as the Treasurer of the Forsyth County Disc Golf Club. If elected, I hope to do my best to serve the PDGA Members in the Great State of North Carolina.

North Carolina - Robert Leonard #21676

North Carolina is in a time of transition. For years, we have relied on some of the best volunteers our sport has to offer to be our state coordinator. Following people like Alan Beaver, Kirk Yoo and Mike Norris is not an easy task, but I feel I am the perfect choice as a leader as we enter a new generation of North Carolina Disc Golf.

I feel I am qualified for this for multiple reasons. First off, I have passion for our sport. While my passion for competing has undoubtedly diminished, my passion of the sport and growing the sport is as strong as ever. Secondly, anyone who has played an event I have served as tournament director for should have an idea of not only this passion, but the vision I have for disc golf. The Raleigh Winter Jam consistently raises over \$1,000 for the North Carolina Food Bank and the Midtown Chiropractic Raleigh Disc Golf Championship has had overall

the best B tier payout in our state thanks to securing a major sponsor of the event. And finally, overall my goals for our state will improve the status of North Carolina Disc Golf, I feel, and will reward those who compete in our state.

Past candidates have focused on revamping the calendar to make way for non-PDGA events and I am here to say that it is not needed. With 50 plus PDGA events this past year in this state, it's simply not possible to make way for unsanctioned events. One thing I have always felt is amazing about the disc golf scene in North Carolina is the freedom of choice. Allowing both sanctioned events and non sanctioned events to occur at the same time not only allows more people to compete at one time, it doesn't force someone into an atmosphere they don't want to be in. If there is anything that doesn't need fixing in this state, it's the calendar.

However there are things that do. The North Carolina Series is basically gone and there is no incentive to play North Carolina events other than the reward of the experience and or payout of that single event. Financially supporting not only events but the towns these events play in increases the chances of the event improving in the future. It's easier for a tournament director to sell the idea of sponsorship for future events if the current event has more players in attendance. Revamping the series is the first step in this to create that incentive to travel and attend events.

Within the series will come a per player fee. In the past, TD's have failed to provide money for this. My solution is a signed contract between the TD and the series. The funds will be used to revamp the website so players can track standings and a yearend payout for the highest finishers in the divisions. I also would like to add the intermediate field into the NC Series.

Disc golf is as strong as ever, currently, and I want to make it even stronger. While none of the ideas I've presented are things that haven't been done in the past, it does recreate something that worked. I love when I see North Carolina golfers traveling out of state but it pains me when it occurs at the expense of another North Carolina event. Let's keep our golfers inside our borders and make our events attractive so other states are coming here. I believe that the key to this is improving our events and improving our series. I can't promise you I will be the best state coordinator we have ever had but I can promise pride and a better experience for you – the North Carolina Disc Golfer.

Ohio - Paul Jay #10227

My name is Paul Jay, PDGA # 10227. I have been playing disc golf for over 15 years, PDGA member for 12 years, and I am the President of The Columbus Flyers Disc Golf Club, Inc. I have also designed courses in Ohio.

I am seeking re-election to the Ohio state coordinator position. I like the interaction with all the Ohio tournament directors, I have a good knowledge of the history behind most tournaments in Ohio, therefore I can make sure tournaments with history of being on certain dates get the dates they want as well as advise others on the best dates possible for their events. I enjoy promoting our sport through education as well; this position opens doors to allow me to do that. If re-elected, I will continue to work closely with the PDGA and all our Ohio players and tournament directors to provide information and answers to your questions and concerns as well as work towards improving those things which need it. Thank you for your time in reading this. I look forward to serving you in 2012-13.

Ontario - Kim Scott-Wood #19777

Pennsylvania - Chas Ford #12850

My goal as our state coordinator is to promote the future of disc golf in the state of Pennsylvania. I will work with the TDs to generate a state schedule. We will have a web site and or a user group where disc golfers and TDs can access information and communicate about upcoming events.

Quebec - Peter Lizotte #9189

Rhode Island - Greg Wintrob #23857

Saskatchewan - Murray Gordon #19521

South Dakota - Scott Caesar #10282

South Dakota - Brady Laue #32860

Texas - Mitch Justice #15022

Vermont - Christopher Young #24381

Washington - Mike Rideout #25724

As Washington State Coordinator for the PDGA I will focus on: smooth & complimentary scheduling, the development of more advanced/structured courses in areas with strong clubs & and strong community ties, and the introduction of friendly courses in areas that are not well represented by the disc golf community. I thank Eric Edgerton for his years of service and I hope to help Washington State Disc Golf grow from what he has helped establish.

Wisconsin - Terry Miller #10738

I have proudly served as the WI State Coordinator since the inception of the program nearly 11 years ago. I am continually strengthening bonds with the PDGA, tournament directors, manufacturers, and the parks departments. With excitement, enthusiasm, and countless hours of dedication I have watched Wisconsin emerge as one of the best places in the Country for playing disc golf. We currently rank in the top five in a number of categories including number of courses available to play!

I had the lead role as Tournament Director for the 2007 Amateur World Championships in Milwaukee. It was very successful with nearly 550 competitors from all over globe. The incredible complex at Highbridge hosted the Professional World Championships just one week later in Northern Wisconsin. These extraordinary events are a testament that the PDGA knows just how strong the Wisconsin disc golf community truly is. I am honored to help lead the way in 2011 and beyond.

We are very spoiled when it comes to the Wisconsin disc golf scene and I intend to keep it that way!
