

**John G. Dyer**  
**Summary of Biographical History**

**A. Dragon Boat Related Experience**

**Dragonheart Vermont (2004-present)**

- Co-Founder. Head Coach & V.P. since 2004.
- Co-Founder and Race Director - Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival; now in its 12th year; raised more than \$1.8 million for local cancer-related charities.
- DHVT has 200+members; 10 competitive crews; 15 CCWC bids; 3 medals at CCWC.
- Supervise DHVT coaching staff of 14. All have taken Level II certification course (DBC).
- Dragonheart Vermont has developed an endowment in excess of \$600K.

**Space Coast Dragon Boat Club (2013-present)**

- Founded SCDBC in Melbourne, FL in 2013. 66 members.
- Assist in managing Jim Farintosh's Space Coast/Bow Wave Dragon Boat Training Camp (Melbourne, FL). More than 500 paddlers annually. Six years on the coaching staff.

**Team USA (2015-2016)**

- Senior C Open Coach for the 2014/15) cycle. Crew earned a silver and two bronzes at Welland

**ERDBA (2012-2016)**

- Chair of the ERDBA Festival Committee. The Committee adopted 14 standards for Festivals to qualify as an ERDBA Festival.

**B. Coaching/Collegiate Administrative Experience**

**Vermont Technical College (2003-2013)**

- **Head Men's Basketball Coach 2003-2013:** Took over a program that was winless in three seasons. Created winning tradition: 3 conference championships; 7 bids to post season tournament; 2 Final Four appearances; 11 All Americans.
- **Athletic Director 2005-2012:** Supervised 11 intercollegiate athletic programs

**C. Business, Judicial and Legal Career Related Experience**

**Car-A-Van Transport, Inc. (1981-2002)**

- Founded and served as President of a specialty transport company (60+ employees) that catered to the needs of the handicapped and elderly.

**Wooding Technologies/EcoFiber, Inc. (1998-2003)**

- VP/House Counsel (Governmental Compliance)
- Raised \$9 million in investment capital for high tech materials (basalt fiber) company with patented, environmentally conscious furnace design.

**Legal Career (1976-2002)**

- Served as Municipal Court Judge in six municipalities from 1979-2001. Managed six different court staffs (5-6 employees each).
- Private Practice Attorney (1976-2001). Managing Partner at Eleuteri, Wilkins & Dyer (1981-1985) and Dyer & Harrington (1985-2001).
- President, Burlington County Bar Association 1987
- Named "Peoples Choice--Best Lawyer" in Burlington County Times Reader Poll 1998 and 2000.
- Areas of specialty: Education Law; Employment Law; Civil Rights Law

Andrew Szymanski – President

I grew up in the small Northeastern town of Topsfield, Massachusetts. After high school, I moved south to Atlanta to attend the University of Georgia, where I received a degree in Communications. Upon graduation, I decided to pursue my interest in nonprofits by serving in the AmeriCorps VISTA program, placing me in Montgomery, AL. I served as program director for Bridge Builders Alabama, an organization that develops leadership skills and civic engagement practices in high school students. During my year of service, I quickly realized that the biggest impediment to nonprofits doing great work was access to funding and the development of strategic partnerships with local businesses and government entities.

My introduction to dragon boating came early in 2010, through a conversation with non-profit acquaintances who had heard of an event in Chattanooga. It was new and exciting, and I determined it would be a unique fundraising tool for local Montgomery nonprofit agencies. The Montgomery Dragon Boat Festival was incorporated in 2010 and since then I have served as its Executive Director. From its inaugural year, it has grown to be one of Montgomery's largest events with an annual attendance of over 10,000 people and participation of 60-70 teams. Over the past 7 years I have overseen the distribution of over \$250,000 in grant money to my organization's beneficiaries.

In 2012 I joined the Southeast Regional Dragon Boat Association as a state representative for Alabama. Two years later I was elected President, in which capacity I still serve after re-election this past year. I have also served on the Board of Directors for the United States Dragon Boat Federation since 2014. At the 2016 Annual General Meeting I lobbied for the creation of an Ethics Committee and have served as its Chairperson throughout the past year.

The past 3 years of service to the USDBF has allowed me to develop relationships with people outside of my region and has been instrumental in understanding the competitive portion of our sport. With this, I am excited to announce my candidacy for President of the United States Dragon Boat Federation. I will work to create a healthy and productive organization that will develop the sport of dragon boating in the country through the creation of recruitment programs. For the first time in the USDBF I will implement a

development and strategic partnership committee to procure sponsorship for Team USA and other initiatives. My ability to delegate will allow me to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of others in order to learn while also letting me focus on areas I am strong in. I understand and value the importance of negotiation and compromise as a part of a healthy organization with diverse interests and have successfully resolved conflicts with these in mind. Throughout my service as President of the SRDBA, I have been able to work with other regions to discuss and advocate for programs that will benefit all participants.

Thank you for your consideration.

## 2017 Candidate for USDBF 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

I am a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Medical College of South Carolina. I had a 36 year career as an Army Officer. The first nine years was in Special Operations (Rangers and Special Forces) with three combat tours in Vietnam. The remaining 27 years was as a physician. During that time I was a residency program director at a major teaching hospital, was responsible for the oversight of all military unique research, and spent my last three years as management and deployment of all Army physicians in Southwest Asia (Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait).

My coaching experience is as follows: Collegiate cycling coach at West Point (Eastern and National champions), Assistant Senior C coach, Szeged, Hungary, 2013, and Welland, Canada, 2015. I have the Level One Dragon Boat Canada coaches certification, and have completed the USDBF Officials course.

I am currently president of the Grandmasters Dragon Boat Club in The Villages, FL (300+ members). I steered for our crew in the CCWC in Ravenna, Italy in 2014. I am taking three crews to the Pan American Club Crew Championships in Puerto Rico this March.

I consider myself a level headed, even tempered, fair, and unbiased leader and manager. I feel confident I have the experience and managerial ability to function as an officer within the USDBF organization. Dragon Boating is a passion of mine and has my highest priority of time and energy to make it a better sport.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert E. Ricks, Jr. MD

N. KEITH TAYLOR, MCP, CSM

P.O. Box 41014  
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Dear USDBF,

As a highly experienced dragon boater, I am pleased to present my credentials for your consideration of me for the position of **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**.

With my professional experience in executive management, production optimization and process improvements I offer significant ability in solving difficult challenges and setting and meeting quotas and deadlines. Recognized as a change leader, I am eager to bring my efficiency improving skills to whatever challenge I undertake. My expertise includes team building and leadership, skilled analysis, exceptional planning and engineering, technology architecture and integration, operations optimization, cost reduction and increased productivity. My core strengths include leadership, resourcefulness, implementation and results.

My commitment to integrity, combined with excellent communication, problem-solving, and process-thinking skills, translates into a history of creating a unified vision of developing successful plans, and ensuring successful team communication and cooperation.

Listed below is just a sampling of contributions representing the absolute value I can offer:

- Over 10 years in dragon boating
- Current working towards my USDBF Race Official Certification
- 4 Years on the AZDBA Board that has over 140 members
  - 3 of those years were in an officer position, 2 as President
- Made significant changes to the AZDBA
  - Purchased 12 dragon boats
  - Improved our infrastructure to maintain our existing boats and store our new boats.
  - **Automated the AZDBA membership by building membership website**
  - Built and maintain the AZDBA Festival site
- Represented the AZDBA with presentations to corporate and community venues
- Professionally managed over 70 software development engineers while living in Europe

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me so we may further discover ways in which I can make a positive impact and find out more about your objectives and goals.

Sincerely,

N. Keith Taylor, MCP, CSM

Patsy Zick

Treasure Island, FL 33706



My name is Patsy Zick and I have been in the world of dragon boating for 13 years. I have raced with the best and coach the newest. I represented TEAM USA at Worlds in 2011, 2013 and 2015 steering for Senior A Mixed, Open and women. I will once again represent TEAM USA again in 2017. My home teams are with TECO Tan Anou and Florida Tarpons as well as worked with recreational crews.

I have 3 children either graduating or just graduated college. I graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and minor in Economics. I am currently working with JP Morgan and held various positions during my tenure with the bank. I just celebrated by 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the bank this past august. My present position is Vice President, Control & Risk for Third Party Oversight (i.e. monitoring risk with vendors that the bank has business relationships with.)

I am applying for the USDBF Treasurer position and know I am a good fit for this position. Besides my rich background in finance and operations, I have spend countless volunteer hours in the non-profit organizations:

- Served as a board member with the Tamp Bay Dragon boat Association
- Started the Tampa Bay Paddling Club including its 501©3 designation
  - Served as President of the Club for two years.
- Completed 501©3 submission/designation for South Regional Dragon Boat Association (worked closely with Penny Behling).
- Recent elected Treasurer for SRDBA.

To the Executive Board of the USDBF,

My name is Genevieve Copeland and I would like to be considered for the role of Treasurer for USDBF. I am a current member of the idb Seadogs from New York City (former Gotham Thunder member having merged with the Seadogs in 2016). I have been involved in Dragon Boat since 2007 as a paddler at the club and national level, and more recently as a club level coach (USDBF level 1 certified). I have stood on the board of my team as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I have held the role of Treasurer for 6 of the eight years I have served on the board. As Treasurer I have successfully performed all of the duties that would be required in this role.

I have held positions as General Cashier handling large amounts of cash, I am experienced working with large, complex budgets, having been responsible for my previous company's \$2.2M operating budget. I have been bonded in the past. I am comfortable working with all levels of leadership and with many software programs including excel and quickbooks. I am extremely organized and detailed in my record keeping.

I welcome the opportunity to serve this board and its constituents.

Regards,

Genevieve Copeland

**Debbie Schelmety (Incumbent USDBF Treasurer)**

Bachelor's Degree - Business

Business Owner - Treasure Coast Dragon Boats, LLC

Business Owner - Property Manager

Florida Power & Light Company - Administrator (retired)

- USDBF Treasurer (current interim since 2016)
- USDBF Board of Directors (since 2010)
- USDBF Finance Committee Member (since 2011)
- USDBF Policies and Procedures Chairperson (currently Committee member)
- USDBF Race Officials Committee (formed 2016)
- USDBF Insurance Committee (since 2012)
- USDBF Certified Coach (since 2015)
- SRDBA Treasurer (2010 – 2016)
- SRDBA Competition Committee
- Captain, Miami Dragon Slayers DBRT
- Asst. Coach, Miami Dragon Slayers DBRT
- Treasurer, Miami Dragon Slayers DBRT
- Administrator with Florida Power & Light Company (Retired)
- Involved in Dragon Boating (since 2005)
- Competed with Team USA World Competitions in Tampa, Hungary, and Canada
- Competed at Club Crew World Championships in Italy and Australia
- Travel extensively throughout U.S. coaching/steering/officiating Dragon Boat teams and events

**Skills:**

- Proficient in Quickbooks, Excel, Financial Reports, Budgets, time management, project management, fundraising

**Dragon Boating and Community Service**

- Community Service includes working with local organizations such as
- YMCA
- A.R.K. (special needs youth group)
- Environmental Studies Center Camp W.E.T. for kids
- Summer Camps for “at risk” inner city kids
- SciTech Charter School and Job Corp.
- Salvation Army
- Jesus House of Hope - Food For Families
- Beach cleanups
- Humane Society of the Treasure Coast
- Girl Scouts, PTA, and various other organizations

Megan Kress  
Biography and Experience Profile  
Application for USDBF Secretary Candidacy  
Jan 16, 2017

**Dragon Boat Experience:**

- Dragon boat paddler since 2000.
- Before dragon boat I was wilderness guide (canoe and sea kayak), canoe racer and ACA & BCU certified paddle sports instructor.
- Organized, trained, and executed 100-team festival in Superior, WI from 2005-2012.
- Started the Capital Lakes Dragon Fest in Madison, WI.
- Chartered and coached Blue Water Paddling, a paddle sports club in Superior, WI.
- Coach of Dragon Divas of St Paul, a Minnesota BCS club (80 members) since 2011.
- 1+ year with GWN Dragon Boat as the US Sales & Marketing Manager.
- Assisted Team USA Senior A Women's Head Coach at IDBF Worlds in 2013 & 2015.
- Conducted clinics in upper Midwest to grow the sport in an undeveloped region.
- Level I and II Coaching Certification from Dragon Boat Canada.
- Member of the ADBA as individual (since 2013) and previous, as part of a club.

**Organizational Experience:**

- As a former business owner for over 15 years, with over 100 clients, I have excelled in record keeping, communication and follow through with simple to complex projects.
- I have held board positions on Duluth Area Hockey Association and participated in board meetings for Blue Water Paddling and the Duluth Boat Club.
- As a partner in a small media & marketing agency, I am highly experienced in social media platforms for both business promotion and public relations.
- Extensive experience with Google Drive, WordPress, Facebook Pages, Instagram and Google Analytics.
- Started a web-based collaborative to communicate and promote dragon boating in the upper Midwest.
- Served the past winter as the operations manager and assistant coach for a girls' high school ice hockey team, which tested all my organizational skills and communication styles for 30 girls and 30 sets of parents.
- I am an effective communicator utilizing clear writing and verbal skills.

**Nina S. Rebmann**

I began dragon boating in 2010 and am passionate about the sport! I am an active member of the Philadelphia Flying Phoenix and charter member of the Cancer Support Community Center Teams, where I have competed on local, regional, national, and international levels.

I share a keen interest in the USDBF's mission, as an enthusiastic advocate for the sport and an integral part of your team!

I would like to foster a forward-thinking, professional organization that benefits ALL members: paddlers, coaches, and race organizers, regardless of their level of competition or region.

**ERDBA:**

Treasurer: 2015-present

Ethics Committee: 2017-present

Race Committee: 2014-2015

**USDBF:**

CCWC Committee: 2016

Ethics Committee: past Co-chair 2016

Financial Advisory Committee: 2015-present

Insurance Committee: 2015-present

Policies and Procedure Committee: current Co-chair: 2016-present

I have given tremendous time and efforts to numerous volunteer organizations which afforded me the opportunity to serve on many local: EMS, school, & church, community - food bank, scientific, national, international boards. I have served on numerous positions such as: Treasurer, Secretary, Board of Trustee, Symposium Chairperson, Event Organizer, Trainer, and Newsletter Editor. I have the fundamental knowledge and extensive experience with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

**Robert Mina**

*Application for Office of Secretary – United States Dragon Boat Federation.*

Members of the USDBF Executive Board,

Thank you for opening up these roles for candidates to apply. I know many of you will see my name and likely recoil with some degree of surprise, and frankly if I was in your position, I would as well.

That said, I would like to be listed as a candidate for the Secretary of the USDBF. I have been a member of Team USA on three occasions (2011, 2013, 2015), and have served on the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Dragon Boat Association on two occasions (2009-2013, 2015-Present). Most recently I have also served as a Vice President for the Eastern Regional Dragon Boat Association.

My goals as Secretary would be very simple:

- Improved communications between the USDBF and Regions

Thank you for your consideration.