

2025 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS – General Assembly October 19, 2025

Devan Simmerson – Vice President (incumbent)

No statement provided.

Tim Klima – Vice President

My name is Tim Klima, and I'm honored to be running for Vice President of our organization. Many of you know me from my years of service in different roles. I've had the privilege of serving as President for 8 years, a member of the Board of Directors, and as Quarry Manager. During my time as President, I focused on improving the diving experience and strengthening our facilities. Some of the projects I'm proud of include:

- Added 6 shelters for gear-up areas.
- Built over 300 feet of gear-up benches in just one year.
- Brought power to the bottom area at JMR Quarry.
- Created a back entrance for diving access at Lake Norman Quarry.
- Constructed a supply shed at Lake Norman Quarry.
- Assisted in sinking several underwater features, including two sailboats, a car, a school bus, and even a 48-foot cruiser.

All of these improvements were made to enhance safety, convenience, and the overall enjoyment of our members and visiting divers.

As Vice President, I will continue to support the growth of our organization, help maintain our sites, and make sure we're creating the best possible environment for divers of all levels. My focus will be on teamwork, open communication, and carrying forward the tradition of service that has brought us this far.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to continuing to serve this amazing community.

Charles Miller – Board of Directors (Central District) - Incumbent

My name is Charles Miller and I have been on the Board of Directors for the PDRA for the last three years. And what three years these have been! We've been through the issues of keeping the quarry's open during Covid, we've seen the changes of Quarry Management, we've seen the closing of Lake Norman Quarry and the challenges of keeping our two other quarries not just open but upgrading them to handle the over flow from Lake Norman. I've helped manage the problem of higher costs in operation, ie, lumber, electricity, fencing, keys, compressors, air lines, and all that

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comes with keeping our quarries not only open, but safe and clean. We now have a well at the Lake Norman facility to help with the cleaning of gear, and to facilitate the opening opening of the quarry as soon as possible.

I've not just voted on how to spend your money, but also how to save it as well. I vote with a conscience, not with the majority. I've been involved in projects that make our quarries better and easier to use. I've helped with gathering prizes for our annual Treasure Hunt last year and stay engaged and dedicated to getting Lake Norman Quarry reopened!

Some of my background. I'm married with two grown children and seven grandchildren that I love spending time with. I spent 30 years in the Army and have two deployments. I was a Construction Engineer and finished as a Combat Engineer. I was the Operations NCO for a 1200 man Task Force in Afghanistan. We conducted IED operations in all of Southern Afghanistan. I retired in January 2013. I've been a diver since 1998, when I was stationed in the Marshall Islands. Since then I've been certified as a Public Safety Diver, Divemaster, and am currently working on Instructor. I'm qualified in Deep, Rescue, Wreck, Night and limited Visibility, Sidemount, Recreational Decompression Diving, Twin Back Mount, Dry Suit, Full Face Mask and underwater Communications to name a few. I'm also part of a small salvage team and have participated in multiple boat and aircraft lifts from depths as deep as 85 feet. I've helped repair large pumps in zero visibility water, all by feel. I've logged over 2000 dives and have many unloaded as well. I've dove lakes and quarries as well as a lot of the Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. I have an upcoming trip scheduled to Truk Lagoon in 2026.

I have and will be committed to not only keeping the PDRA well managed and maintained, but growing and bettering it in the future. These past three years have been a privilege to serve you and I look forward to doing even more.

Thank you,
Charles Miller

Ben Mccandliss – Board of Directors (Central District)

Hello fellow PDRA Divers! I hope this message finds you all well as an introduction. My name is Ben Mccandliss I live in Mooresville and have had the pleasure of diving in the Lake Norman Quarry and the American Quarry. I have been a member of the PDRA for many years now and have seen some of the improvements over the years. I have done many training dives as well as given some tours in the quarry's. I am currently working on becoming an instructor to show the world of diving to our youth. I am also a Scoutmaster of a local Scout Troop where we have introduced diving to many youth over the last several years.

I appreciate the importance of having a location or locations available for quality training for these youth before we release them into the beautiful opportunities of the world. I like many would like to see our beautiful location open again in Lake Norman sooner than later. I know we are waiting on our friends with the State to give us the great news. I would like us to continue making improvements to all of our locations. Just recently we had a scout work on his Eagle project at the American Quarry which is just about complete. This project made more space for teaching out of

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the blazing sun possible as well as some extra table space and gear benches. We have a few more scouts looking for projects that have the same love for the water that we would love to make improvement projects. These projects come to zero cost and 200% benefit of the association members.

Thank you again for your time as I look forward to working and diving with all of you soon!

Matt Abernathy– Board of Directors (Central District)

Hello! My name is Matt Abernathy and I currently live with my beloved girlfriend, dog and cat in Concord, right on the inside edge of central district.

I first got open water certified at the quarry about two and a half years ago and I really took a liking to it so I have been volunteering and hanging around ever since.

I want to be a board member to become more involved; ever since I started helping out on workdays and hanging around I have met some super cool people and made a lot of friends along the way. I love the way the PDRA has built its own little community and I want to help it continue to prosper in any way I can.

I vow to make only actions that wholly benefit the quarries, land, and community that we all share and love. Hope to dive with you all soon!