

Three (3) at-large directors shall be elected annually by the membership for 3-year terms.

BOB WILSON

Pasadena, MD

My name is Robert Wilson and I am running for a position on the Board of Directors for the American Power

Boat Association. I started boat racing with my brother in 1974, becoming a member of the APBA and have been involved in many aspects both locally and nationally for over fifty years.

I have previously served on the Board of Directors in 2019 and served as IRC chairman in 2021/2022. I am currently the Region 4 chairman, treasurer of our local club, and heavily involved in putting on two very successful events each year.

I have been married for over forty years, with two children and two grandchildren. I have been employed with the same company for over 40 years as the general manager of a multimillion-dollar company, overseeing all aspects of the business including finance, marketing and human resources.

This experience, along with my fifty plus years in boat racing, uniquely qualifies me to bring an exceptional insight to the Board of Directors to make the proper decisions for the sport of boat racing that has been such an enjoyable pastime for me and many of my closest friends and family.



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CALLIE SHENSKY

Germantown, WI

Last year, I was nominated for the APBA Board of Directors. Even though I didn't earn the seat, that nomination was the start of my leadership journey within APBA. Rather than stepping away, I chose to get more involved, learn more about how our organization works, and put in the work to help move APBA forward.



Over the past year, I have served as Council at Large Secretary and attended every Board of Directors meeting. I've listened, learned, contributed my opinions, and gained a much deeper understanding of how APBA operates. Through that experience, I've also seen firsthand where I believe we can make meaningful changes for the future of our organization and our racers.

I'm a third-generation boat racer, now in my 20th year of competition. I'm both a cross-category racer and cross-category Chief Scorer, giving me the opportunity to experience APBA from several different perspectives. Racing isn't simply something I do — racing is my life, my passion, and it's in my blood.

Over the past year, I've also been an active leader on APBA's Marketing Committee, helping drive initiatives to strengthen the visibility of our sport. Together, we've grown every category's Facebook presence, expanded APBA's reach on Instagram and TikTok, added live streaming for Stock and Modified events. We've also continued working to grow APBA's YouTube presence and bring powerboat racing to a larger audience.

I've also been working with the Trackside Committee on our new website, helping update it and making its completion a priority so our racers, members, fans, and potential new members have a better way to connect with APBA and find the information they need.

Another major priority for me is our rulebooks. Some of our rules are outdated, unclear, or inconsistent with our technical manuals. I experienced the consequences of that firsthand at Nationals. I want to help go through these rules, address inconsistencies, and make them clearer and easier to understand. Racers should know exactly what is expected of them before they get on the water. I want to help make those changes so the next racer doesn't have to go through the same experience.

Above all, I'm for the racers. I want to make racing exciting again while still honoring the history and traditions that make APBA special. Whether it's helping improve our online presence, expanding live streaming, working on our website, improving our rules, or taking the 1US National Champion hats from an idea to reality and getting them into the hands of our champions, I want to keep finding ways to bring energy, recognition, and excitement back to our sport.

You've seen the work I've put in over the past year. I can't wait to show you what I can do in the years to come.

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DAVE BRIESACHER **Paoli, PA**



As a third generation boat racer, I sometimes feel like I didn't have a choice but to be behind the steering wheel of a race boat. My grandfather started racing in the 40's, my mom and uncle raced through the 80's and my brother and myself started in the 90's. My nephews and I and have continued the family tradition through today. Watching my family volunteer their time and effort to put on many races and prepare a race boat provided a lot of valuable lessons – mainly we don't race unless we help out. It's a lesson that has been applied to many things in my life outside of boat racing.

College and being a young adult took me on a path away from racing, but I ultimately found my way back to the pits. During that time away, I was fortunate enough to travel quite a bit, learn about marketing, promotion and life from working at a magazine. As I'd learned from racing, sometimes you'd have to work all hours to meet a deadline. Moving on to a more steady career path, I took a job with a small, family owned electronics manufacturer. My enthusiasm to help out in new roles - again learned from a life of racing - lead to being promoted to marketing director. Most recently, I took on a project manager role for a project that is very similar to the improvements APBA is trying to make. Our company has successfully transitioned from allowing our customers to register their devices and process payments via unsecure pdfs and mail in registrations to a secure automated website.

I still attend 7-8 stock, mod, pro and j races a year and have been the president of the Delaware Valley Outboard Racing Association for the last 8 years. We have developed a great club through racing schools and support from our community that puts on the biggest (non-national) kneel down race of the year in Lock Haven, PA. I have served as a Region 3 Stock Commissioner for the past three years. Outside of racing, I enjoy the community, camaraderie and fitness of racing mountain bikes and look forward to the prospect of becoming a J dad in the next year.



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DAVID RANKIN

Hacienda Heights, CA

I joined APBA in 1975 raced in Inboard Endurance.
I was Inboard Endurance Category Chairman from 1987 to 1998
(+or-) I have been active as a member of IRC I have won several US-
1 National and World Championships in Offshore, Inboard and
Inboard Endurance I would look forward to to helping out with the
BOD.



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GARY HUGHES

McKinney, TX

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Gary Hughes. I would like to formally apply for a board position within the APBA. I have been involved with boating and boat racing my entire life. Beginning as a small boy, my father raced in the 1970's and 1980's. We went everywhere and entered every race he could. It seemed everyone knew him and our racing team. I couldn't wait to grow up and start my own team.



I started participating in SDBA drag boats in the 1980's. My first boat was a 14 Allison with a 150 xs. I ran 70 to 80 class, then joined the APBA. And ran JP and drags all through the 80's. I worked for Mirage Boats for several years. I built Mod VP with Brad Collins. I also had the opportunity to help Gary Tuttle and Red Hinman. I have had the honor of working as an inspector for DSRA. I'm also an inspector for APBA, authorized to do rick management and referee. I will have a Texas Tri Hull that I will be racing this season. I'm also the commissioner for region 8.

At this time, I would like to give back to an activity that has provided an extensive avenue for work ethic, sporting, dedication, team building and commitment. I want to help grow and reestablish the greatness of boat racing history while building sustainability for the future. I'm very passionate about the activity and am ready to commit to serving the organization to the best of my ability.

Thank you for your consideration!

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JASON DIAMOND **Bonney Lake, WA**

Biography for the 2027 APBA BOD

My family has been racing since 1972; I grew up as a toddler playing in my dad's boats. I have raced as a driver and or owner in the Stock, Modified, Pro Outboard, and OPC Categories, as well as the Junior Classes. I manage multiple racing social media groups and stay connected to many categories through digital, virtual and in person communication.



In an official capacity I'm a member of the APBA Council at Large (since 2021), an active Referee, Risk Manager and Race Director in Region 10. I have previously been a commissioner for both Modified and Stock Outboard, a Seattle Outboard Association Board Member, club Commodore, inspector, Region 10 Pro Activities Chairman, Chairman of the 300ss Hydro Committee and served on the 2018 & 2024 APBA Stock-Mod-J Outboard Nationals Committee.

My professional background is in business management with a focus on the retail musical instrument and service industry. I have worked with local businesses, national retail chain stores, public and private school districts and have owned my own small business until medically retired.

I am familiar with both the member and administrative side of racing and look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve as a director for APBA.

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KATELYN SHAW -FANARIS **Milford, DE**

The American Powerboat Association has been part of my life for all of my 38 years. I have grown up within APBA, and throughout that time I have had the privilege of experiencing our organization from nearly every perspective—as a racer, official, race organizer, club officer, commissioner, volunteer, and Board member. I am seeking the opportunity to continue serving on the APBA Board of Directors because I believe deeply in the future of our sport and, most importantly, in representing the members who make it possible.



My involvement in APBA began at an early age. At 14, I became a Chief Scorer, and at 15, I was honored as Inboard Scorer of the Year. Since then, service has remained at the heart of my involvement in racing. I served as Region 3 Officiating Director from 2011–2018, Region 3 Vice Chairman in 2019, Region 3 writer for *Propeller Magazine* for several years, a member of the Inboard Racing Commission from 2018–2020, head of the Flat and V Committee from its inception to current, and Chief Scorer from 2024-2025.

At the club level, I have served as Secretary, Vice President, and President with the Greenwood Lake Power Boat Association and Lake Hopatcong Racing Association. After moving to Seattle, I continued my involvement as Secretary of the Tacoma Inboard Racing Association. Over the years, I have helped manage and support races throughout the United States and Canada, working alongside clubs, race committees, officials, and volunteers to keep events running successfully and, in many cases, working diligently to help keep races on the APBA schedule.

I believe effective leadership requires an understanding of what happens on the racecourse as well as what happens behind the scenes. I began driving in the Sportsman Entry class in 2014 and have since competed in 1.5 Stock, 2.5 Stock, and 2.5 Modified, in addition to riding in the Jersey Speed Skiff class. In 2021, I was incredibly proud to become the first female driver in APBA history to win a National Championship in a flatbottom class.

Along the way, I have been honored to receive the East Coast Rookie of the Year Award in 2014, Region 3 Man of the Year Award in 2015, TIRA Woman of the Year in 2021, the Terry Troxell Award in 2021, and SIRA Woman of the Year in 2022. While I am grateful for each of these honors, what means the most to me is having the opportunity to contribute to a sport and community that have given so much to me.

My experience in racing extends beyond Inboard. I have served as Race Chairman, Chief Scorer, timer, turn judge, and wherever else I have been needed on race day. In 2015, I officiated with H1 Unlimited as a starting-line timer. I have also worked with the Canadian Boating Federation, Hydroplane Racing League, Southern California Speedboat Club, and Grand Prix America, and have assisted with Outboard, OPC, Vintage, and Special Events. These experiences have reinforced my belief that although our categories, regions, and racing organizations may face different challenges, we are stronger when we work together to support the sport as a whole.



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I was first nominated to the APBA Board of Directors in 2019. Since then, I have worked to be a representative who listens, asks questions, researches issues thoroughly, and considers how decisions will affect our membership. I believe Board members have a responsibility not only to make decisions but also to explain them, answer members' questions, and ensure that the people we represent have a voice.

Transparency and communication remain priorities for me. APBA is a national organization, and there is rarely a one-size-fits-all solution. The challenges facing an East Coast club may be very different from those facing a West Coast club, just as the needs of one racing category may differ significantly from another. Good leadership requires recognizing those differences, listening to the people directly affected, and finding practical solutions that move the entire organization forward.

I also believe APBA must continue modernizing the way we operate. I have long embraced the philosophy of working "smarter, not harder," including efforts to move race registration toward more efficient digital processes. Technology should make it easier—not harder—for members, race committees, and volunteers to participate in our sport.

In 2021, I joined the APBA Marketing Committee despite not coming from a traditional marketing background. I approached that opportunity the same way I approach challenges on the Board: research, learn, ask questions, and get to work. I believe APBA has an incredible story to tell, and we need to do a better job telling it. Increasing our use of racing videos, social media, community outreach, and partnerships can help us reach new fans, attract new participants, support our race sites, and introduce the next generation to powerboat racing.

One of the projects I am most proud of grew from that belief. In 2021, I combined my passions for education and hydroplane racing by founding the nonprofit **Racing to Read**. The program connects schools with racing venues and uses motorsports to encourage students to read while introducing young people and their families to hydroplane racing.

Since its creation, Racing to Read has introduced more than 15,000 students in racing communities to hydroplane racing in their classrooms. More than 4,500 students have had opportunities to interact with racers and racing equipment, nearly 4,000 students have earned tickets to racing events, and participating middle school students have read more than 40,000 books. To me, those numbers represent more than the success of one program—they demonstrate what can happen when racing organizations actively engage with the communities surrounding our events.

Professionally, I hold master's degrees in Special Education and Educational Leadership and serve as an Assistant Principal at a middle school in Delaware. My career has strengthened many of the same skills I bring to the APBA Board: communication, research, data analysis, problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, and advocacy.

I am running for the APBA Board of Directors because there is still work to be done.

I want APBA to be an organization where members feel heard and respected, where decisions and policies are communicated clearly, and where leadership is willing to listen even when conversations are difficult. I want us to find smarter ways to support our clubs and race sites,



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reduce unnecessary burdens on volunteers, strengthen communication across categories and regions, and make it easier for people to participate in our sport.

I also want us to look beyond the next racing season. The future of APBA depends on attracting new racers, officials, volunteers, fans, families, and communities while continuing to support the dedicated members who have kept this organization strong for generations.

I have spent my life in this sport, and I understand both how much APBA means to its members and how much work goes into putting boats on the water each weekend. I will continue to bring an open mind, a willingness to do the research, the courage to ask difficult questions, and a commitment to finding solutions rather than simply identifying problems.

It has been an honor to represent you on the APBA Board of Directors, and I respectfully ask for your support so I can continue that work.

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KURT ROMBERG **Midland, NC**

Kurt Romberg started racing with APBA in 1975 as part of a team that included his father and brothers. As a driver, Romberg participated in 25SSH, BSH, 25MH (now known as 400ccMH), and BMH (now known 350MH). He won the national championships in 25SSH (1981) and BMH (1983). Romberg was also the fastest qualifier in 25SSH at the 1981 national championships.



Romberg left powerboat racing at the end of 1983 to attend college in Kansas. He returned to powerboat racing with youngest son Noah in 2013. Noah won the National High Point Championship in AXH in 2015.

Romberg has been active in the governance of APBA. He was the Trenton Outboard Racing Club Commodore from 1982 to 1983. He currently serves as the President of APBA. Romberg was elected to the SORC from Region 14 in 2018 and has been continuously appointed to the SORC since. He is currently the Stock Outboard Chief Inspector and a key member of the Stock Outboard Technical Committee. He served as the Chief Inspector at the 2019 – 2023 & 2025 national championships. Romberg inspects several local races each year.

During Romberg's time away from powerboat racing, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Aerodynamics from Wichita State University. After graduation, Romberg had a brief stint as an aerodynamicist in Formula 1 car racing in England. Following his time in England, Romberg moved to Detroit for a job in the General Motors Aerodynamics Department. His last position at GM was Chief Aerodynamicist for the C5 Corvette that debuted in 1997, which had the lowest drag coefficient of any American built sports car. Romberg left GM in 1997 for a career in NASCAR. He started as Chief Aerodynamicist for Richard Petty at Petty Enterprises. In 2001, Romberg became Chief Aerodynamicist for Rick Hendrick at Hendrick Motorsports, where Romberg worked with drivers including Jeff Gordon, Jimmy Johnson and Chase Elliot. During this time, Hendrick Motorsports earned seven NASCAR Cup Championship Rings. Romberg currently works as Chief Aerodynamicist for NASCAR's Roush Fenway Racing. He moved on to Roush Racing in 2016 and was on loan to Ford from 2022-2024 where he added three more championship rings to his collection. He retired from NASCAR at the end of 2024 but was pulled back 6 weeks later to work for Joe Gibbs Racing, where he is currently a Senior Engineer in Aerodynamics.

In 2007, Romberg received the Race Tech Aerodynamicist of the Year award. To date, Romberg remains the only American to win this prestigious European award customarily given only to Formula 1 aerodynamicists.

Romberg finds it ironic that during the week, he works very hard in the "gray areas" to enhance the performance of race cars, while on weekends, he works very hard at APBA races to keep people out of the "gray areas."

Kurt Romberg's unique combination of perspectives, skills and experiences would be an asset to the APBA Board of Directors.

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MIKE SADLON

East Okeechobee, FL

Mike Sadlon — APBA Board of Directors Candidate

Mike Sadlon's passion for speed began at age 10, when he discovered that moving the tilt pin on his six-horsepower Martin could make his boat faster. That curiosity launched a lifelong involvement in motorsports and powerboat racing.

After working as a stock car crew chief, Mike transitioned to tunnel boat racing in the early 1980s, becoming a qualified driver. In 1992, he entered offshore racing as a crew chief and backup driver/throttleman. Over the next decade, his team earned multiple championships and more than 42 race victories.

Mike later competed in APBA Inboard Racing for six years before beginning a 15-year involvement with P1 Offshore, where he served in virtually every capacity—from racer to Chief Referee.

Today, Mike serves on the APBA Council at Large and works with many teams across all disciplines of powerboat racing.

With decades of experience as a racer, race official, crew chief and council member; Mike brings a unique, hands-on perspective to APBA leadership.

"I am honored to bring my experience, insight, and passion for powerboat racing to the APBA Board of Directors and help grow our sport for the next generation."

Mike Sadlon Candidate — APBA Board of Directors



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MIKE TALARZYK

Evansville, IN

Mike Talarzyk from Evansville, Indiana started out when he was 12 years old doing pit tours during Thunder on the Ohio eventually helping crew on teams and now at 47 years old racing a 2.5L stock Hydroplane as well as crewing on the GP-15 Hopp Racing Team. Mike also has possession of the Hydroplane Simulator in which he and his son take to events and showcase what Hydroplane Racing is all about, interacting with the fans and recruiting new fans.



Mike has recently started getting into the outboard SST class of Racing as well. His wife Brandi is from Kankakee, Illinois and since racing has returned Mike has been present and is actively pursuing a hull for racing in that class as well as his hydro. Mike has also been involved with local committees to bring back racing to the Evansville, Indiana area.

Besides boat racing Mike is the owner operator of a school bus transportation business in Evansville, Indiana. Mike is also married and the father of 3 boys. Boat Racing is his only hobby.

Mike's passion for the sport of boat racing is why he is trying for the APBA Board of Directors as someone who is willing to step up to the plate and help the organization and boat racing in general to succeed. Mike is in the middle and can see both sides of an issue and is well diverse in social media, email, photo/video editing, and Microsoft word/excel.

Mike is an out of the box thinker with a focus on new sponsorship opportunities and new race site development while keeping current race sites strong and ongoing.

Want to reach out to Mike? Call/text (812)402-1763 or email mtalarzyk@aol.com

Thank You! For considering Mike Talarzyk for APBA Board of Directors.