



PRO OUTBOARD CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE - 2026

A Category Chairman shall be elected by the category members for a term of two (2) years.

KRISTI ELLISON **Luxemburg, WI**



My racing career started in 1978 when I received a Yamato 80 for Christmas. I began racing in Novice Formula 350 class with a full deck Byers boat, which I flipped twice in a week at the Nationals in San Antonio. Once I aged out of Formula 350 I moved up to C-Service Hydro and RB Hydro.

I left racing when I got married in 1989 and went on to have 3 children with my husband Richard. Richard was active duty US Army which took us to Ft. Benning, GA; Ft. Campbell, KY; Ft. Sam Houston, TX; Mount Pleasant, SC; and our final duty station at Ft. Bragg, NC. In August 2001, while living in Texas, my dad passed away. That Fall my brother, Chris Hellsten, asked me to attend a memorial race for my dad in Alexander, LA and pass out the medals. The first thing I noticed when I walked in to the pits was the smell of methanol and castor and it all came back after 15 years of being away. By the following year, I had bought a small race trailer and 2- K PRO hydro rigs for oldest 2 boys, Michael and Kevin, and I started racing 125cc hydro. My son Travis Ellison started racing when he was 11.

This is a family affair for Ellison Hellsten racing: my son Kevin races 250ccH and 350ccH; my niece Mackenzie Hellsten runs 125ccH; my brother, Chris runs 250ccH, I race 175ccH, and after 10 years on active duty in the Army my son Michael has returned racing 350ccR. My sister-in-law Dawn works on the judges stand.

In order for our sport to thrive we need volunteers and I am happy to contribute my time and commit to the growth of power boat racing. In the past I have served as the President of the US Title Series from 2004-2009; Vice President of APBA, Chair of the APBA Safety Committee; APBA Council; APBA BOD Category Representative, PRO Commissioner since 2005; and currently serve as the Chair of the PRO Commission.

My family has been involved in APBA racing for over 73 years. Like so many families in this sport, it is what we do as a family and I am passionate we keep this going for my grandchildren. I can't imagine what we would do in the Summers if we did not have our outboard family to go race boats with.

My goals for the Professional Outboard Category are to **Expose, Promote, and Remove Obstacles.**

Explanation of Goals:

- **Expose:** This goal focuses on bringing professional outboard racing back to local events and introducing non-APBA professional racers to various outboard racing categories in new regions. This strategy has already shown success in increasing participation in 500, 700, and 1100 runabout classes.
- **Promote:** This objective aims to expand professional racing by supporting initiatives such as driving schools, developing new race sites, and securing sponsorships to encourage wider participation and interest.
- **Remove Obstacles:** A key part of this goal is to eliminate barriers to entry for racers interested in entering the PRO category and to advocate for proposals that stimulate the availability of boats and motors and supporting classes that face barriers to growth ultimately leading to an increase in class participation.