



PRO OUTBOARD CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE - 2024

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

KRISTI ELLISON **Luxemburg, WI**

My father, Pete Hellsten, started racing at age 16 when his dad gave him two Johnson motors that did not run and told him if he was able to get one running he could have it. He was able to repair one of the engines, build himself a soap box runabout and started racing on the east end of Long Island, NY as an original member of the Eastern Outboard Racing Club. In 1977, I received a Yamato 80 for Christmas. I began racing in 1978 in the Novice Formula 350 class with a full deck Byers boat, which I flipped twice in a week at the Nationals in San Antonio. The following year I was given a Butts Aerowing to drive. I tried racing in 20ss but the 80 pounds of lead in the boat made it too squirrely to drive. 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. When I walked in the pits the first thing I noticed 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 driving my brother's 125cc hydro. My son Travis Ellison started racing when he was 11.

I won my first National Championship in 1988 in C-Service hydro; then in 2012, 2014, and 2016 in 125cc hydro. I was national high point champion in 125cc hydro in 2012. Currently, my son Kevin races 250cc and 350cc hydro; I race 175cc hydro; my niece Mackenzie Hellsten runs 125cc hydro; and my brother, Chris runs 250cc hydro.

Served as the President of the US Title Series from 2004-2009; Vice President of APBA, Chair of the APBA Safety Committee; APBA Council; PRO Commissioner since 2005; and Chair of the PRO Commission for over 10 years.

My family has been in this sport for over 71 years. Like so many others 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.



PRO ***2024 CATEGORY VISION*** ***BY: KRISTI ELLISON***

My goal as the PRO Category Chair, along with the PRO Commission, is to build the category by reintroducing PRO racing at local races while exposing non-APBA PRO racers to different categories of outboard racing in regions where this has not been done for many years.

Competitive outboard racing is too small to be fractured and if we continue on the path of not racing together it will accelerate further decline. As the Chair, it is my responsibility to work with the Commission and membership to promote PRO racing and encourage growth by supporting driving schools, promotion ideas, developing new race sites, obtaining sponsorship, encouraging equipment development, and supporting any proposals brought forward to increase interest in the category and remove obstacles to entry, therefore, growing membership.

- Kristi Ellison