

Suzanne Britt-At Large Candidate

Resume Summary: Suzanne Britt grew up a part of the ACA community spending her summers paddling at Lake Sebago. She has experienced the many facets of the ACA, including - recreational, marathon, slalom, sprint, SUP, and sailing. Suzanne has been deeply involved in paddlesports leadership. She is the current President of the American Canoe Association, former Treasurer and chair of both the Finance and Audit Committees, and currently serves as Treasurer of the Pan American Canoe Federation and as a member of the International Canoe Federation Finance Commission.

As an internationally certified official, and experienced event organizer, Suzanne continues to contribute to the canoeing community at both the local and international levels. She has served as an Olympic and Pan American Games official and plays a leading role in advancing paddlesport nationally and internationally. In her time on the ACA board, she has been focused on improving communication across the organization, strengthening governance and driving value for ACA members.

Suzanne is an experienced finance and accounting professional with a background spanning start-ups, high-tech, retail, manufacturing, wholesale, and service industries. She has led diverse teams, managed SEC reporting, shareholder relations, and IPO events. Her unique combination of proven expertise in financial operations, organizational leadership and passion for promoting paddling give Suzanne a strong position to continue to contribute to the ACA.

Why are you interested in serving on ACA's Board?

First and most importantly I care deeply about this entire paddlesport organization and would like to see it continue to change, grow and thrive. I very much believe in the importance of the ACA to the paddling community. We are a diverse group with recreation, competition, stewardship, safety and education. Yet at our heart – we are still a community of volunteers that want to spend time together paddling. Some of my interest comes from growing up as a part of the ACA community (Lake Sebago kid), some from being a member of the competition side of the organization, and now as a board member. I understand the board's importance as the visionaries and caretakers of the organization and I believe being on the board is where I can continue to contribute to the ACA's success.

What specific knowledge, skills, abilities and talents do you bring?

Currently, I think the skills I am most actively using are thinking strategically, prioritizing and fostering communication across the organization because I believe we have to work together as one team for the organization. My skills include the ability to manage diverse groups and work across organizations. As a board member, I have made it a point to learn as much as possible about the entire organization. I have served as ACA treasurer, a grievance committee member, a strategic planning committee member and have chaired the officials' association. I was a RAC liaison during the creation of their operating procedures, a committee member that evaluated a new governance structure for competition, testified with other ACA members at the WA state legislature and as a Competition Council liaison during the creation of their operating procedures. I have experienced the recreational, marathon, slalom, sprint and sailing that is a part of the ACA. I am proud to have met at least one member of every US Olympic canoe/kayak team since it was exhibited at the 1924 Olympics. Additionally, I have been a certified official in the United States for over 40 years and an ICF official for over 30 years. I have been active at a local, national, and ICF level. I have served on a variety of national committees such as the Rules and Officials Committee, of which I was the chairperson for several years. Further, I have more than 35 years of experience in finance and accounting. My diverse skills include bookkeeping, financial reporting, budgeting, and regulatory compliance, among many others. Internationally, I represent the ACA as an International Canoe Federation finance commission member and COPAC treasurer. I learned early in my life about the importance of the ACA and its role in providing opportunities and promoting safety in all paddlesports. It is my hope that my broad skill set and knowledge of the many facets of the ACA can continue to be beneficial to the board.

Do you have any previous experience or are you currently serving on a non-profit Board?

I am currently president of the American Canoe Association and a member of the board of directors. I serve as treasurer of the Pan American Canoe Federation (COPAC) and on the executive committee. I am a member of the International Canoe Federation finance commission.

Please share any additional information that will help the ACA better understand your qualifications:

I have been a certified official in the United States for over 40 years and an ICF technical sprint official for over 30 years. I am currently an ITO for sprint, marathon, and SUP. I have been active at a local, national, and ICF level.

Highlights of my officiating career include:

- 27 years as the Chief Official at the Ted Houk Regatta, annually one of the top 3 or 4 in the U.S.
- 35 years of officiating at U.S. National Championships, U.S. Olympic Festival Trials, U.S. National Team Trials in a variety of positions including on some occasions as a part of the organizing team.
- 5 World Cup events
- 1 World Cup event SUP
- 1 Super Cup
- 1 Jr World Championship Sprint
- 8 Senior World Championships
- 3 World Championships Marathon
- 1 World Championships SUP
- 2 Olympic test events (1995 Atlanta and 2011 London) Sprint
- 4 Pan American Championships
- 2 Continental Qualifiers
- 1 2012 Olympics
- 3 Pan American Games (2011, 2019 and 2023)
- 1 World Games (2023) Marathon

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