

TO: Steve Ireland, Chair, CIA Official's SC

RE: Next Generation of Officials

Sharing some information for consideration by the CIA Officials SC-

As I look over the list of members on the Officials SC, I see a lot of years of experience. And see the need to grow the next generation of officials within the CIA.

I am sharing some background on the work that the Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Competition Division (BFA-HACD) has started on this same topic. Thought this might be an area of consideration for the Officials SC.

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(From 12-28-2020 BFA-HACD Newsletter)

The Next Generation of Officials



The HACD is always looking for the next generation of officials. Please consider becoming part of an event staff if you have interest. The HACD Board has set up a working committee to try and develop a plan to encourage, promote and train people interested in officials jobs. The working committee contacts are Patty Cramer (patty.cramer@gmail.com) and Rob Wise (wiseres1@gmail.com).

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Process within BFA-HACD

- 1) Identify interested persons –
 - a) Event Directors for weekend events were contacted for recommendations.
 - b) Notice was placed in HACD newsletter (see above)
- 2) Compile the list with contact details.
 - a) +100 names were collected.

Next Steps

- 3) Contact those on the list to find out about interest in what jobs or areas.
- 4) Make videos of jobs explaining basics and details, such as measuring, target setting, etc.
- 5) Hold virtual training classes for competition officials with presentations by experienced officials.
- 6) *Encourage Event Directors & Event Organizers for regional and national events to include new officials on their staff.*
- 7) *Encourage "Mentors" for new officials to exchange information and have on-the-job training.*

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Having been an event organizer and event official for many years, I understand the ‘comfort level’ of having a staff you are familiar with. But I also see the need to encourage and bring more people into all areas of the sport.

It may/will be a hard sell to get event organizers and event directors to bring on new staff, but worth the effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Spaeth

CIA Observer USA