

This is the voter’s guide for Cascade Shooting Facilities Board election positions. This is the structure of the contents:

- Each position is listed in the order identified in the ByLaws.
- Each candidate is listed in alphabetical order within each board position.
- The candidates that provided a statement will have a page number following name and is linked directly to that individual.
- Each statement is unedited and in full context as received. Some formatting changes reapplied due to email provider issues.
- It is strongly encouraged to read each candidate statement.

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Statement received from: Steve Fischer

Candidate for: President

I've been a member of Cascade Rifle Range since 1992 and earned lifetime membership status in 2004. I am also a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and hold three High Master Classifications in High Power Rifle. I have strong leadership experience gained from decades of owning my own small business in the construction industry.

Back in 2003/2004, I stepped into the position of President at Cascade for a member who was moving out of state. Following that term, I was then elected to serve two full terms. During my service as president, club membership went from under 200 members to just under 1,000 members.

Prior to and during my time as President, I was able to use my background in construction to assist in the construction of the range. I built many of the shooting sheds, the restrooms, the cover over the pits and the walls of the target shed. I also spent some time operating the bulldozer that is still parked at the gate.

As President, I believe in following the bylaws closely and treating every member equally.

Over the years I've spent countless hours volunteering at the club and look forward to the opportunity to once again serve as President to Cascade Rifle Range.

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Statement received from: Derek Mirkle

Candidate for: President

Hello, my name is Derek Mirkle and I'm asking for your vote for the office of President of our club. Please allow me to tell you about myself.

I have been a member of our club for almost 30 years, going back to when the old range was in use, and was around as the current range was developed. I currently participate in Cowboy Action Shooting and Mini 3Gun, and have participated in High Power matches in the past.

I am 65 years old, a Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, where I served as a Hospital Corpsman. I have been a gunsmith and FFL holder since I returned from the service in 1978.

I volunteered with King County Fire Protection District #43 (later named Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety) as a Firefighter/EMT for 26 years, retiring in 2003.

During that time, I served two terms as President of the Volunteer Firefighters Association in addition to Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

I have served as a member of the Board of Directors of Renton Fish & Game Club (where I am also a member) and am currently the Discipline Chairman for Cowboy Action Shooting, and President of the RF&GC Sub-club Renton United Cowboy Action Shooters.

Before retiring in 2015, I was a vendor claims investigator with Costco, an optical lab tech, a phlebotomist (that's the person that draws blood samples in the hospital), an ambulance tech, and even a brick mason's hod carrier.

Cascade is an amazing club, and it has come a long way since I first joined. I would like to see us continue to improve our club going forward by focusing on a couple of things.

First, our 30-year lease with King County has to be renegotiated in 5 years. We need to ensure that we're fulfilling the letter and spirit of our charter and the terms of the agreement. We need to make sure that we're providing huge value not only to our members but also to our community, a critical requirement of our lease. And we need to quickly evaluate where we stand and start preparing immediately to demonstrate the value we're adding to the members and community, and start working with King County to ensure an easy, guaranteed renewal for our club to continue to succeed. We must all remember that our lease is governed by the King County council, and there is only one member of that council currently who is a strong supporter of 2A rights (Reagan Dunn). Without a successful lease renewal, we are effectively out of business. Our lease contains very specific obligations that we must meet in order to be in compliance. I believe we can do a better job of meeting those obligations. The first step is to fulfill all the tenets of our club charter and we must do this in an obvious way. Our upcoming renewal will

be the first time in nearly 30 years that our commitments will be tested. Ask yourselves honestly: have we evolved as a club in meeting our obligations in the past 30 years? Will a group of anti-gun politicians look at our club and be convinced that we are valuable to our community? I will lead the charge to convince them with your help. Second, Cascade needs to encourage more youth to participate in firearm safety and shooting sports. The youth are our future. With proper training we'll

have fewer shooting accidents and a much healthier attitude towards firearms in the coming years. These properly educated and very capable youth will be able to carry the torch for us in protecting our firearms rights.

Third, I believe we need to do more to welcome more women into the club activities. We have a number of women actively participating in the Cowboy Action Shooting program and Mini 3-Gun and they have become fantastic shooters and are a great addition to the sport. More women than ever are getting into firearms for self-defense, and then are finding that target and competition shooting is a lot of fun. We need to strive to make more of our women members feel comfortable and welcome in our club and in our activities.

Fourth, we need to find ways to help members be more involved in the club, whether it is in volunteering for service projects, participating in programs, attending meetings, or serving on committees, it doesn't matter. Members need to know what is happening with the club, how we're spending our money and investing in our programs. They need to feel included. I'd like to help our club members feel like a real part of our club rather than merely a money source.

And lastly, I believe we need to do more to fight to protect our Second Amendment rights both in Olympia and Washington DC. We have a large number of members, most of whom don't know what is happening on the 2A front—or how to stop the slide. I would like to find ways of helping our members become more well-informed and to know how to make their voices heard in both Washington's.

I am running for President to help keep our club and its facilities up to the fine standards that President Bentler and the current Board members have achieved and maintained and continue the path forward in improving it even further.

I would be honored to receive your vote, and I encourage you to vote for JoDee Ferrell for Vice-President, Arlene Martin for Treasurer, and Darin Puryear for Master-at-Arms.

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Statement received from: JoDee Ferrell

Candidate for: Vice President

Members of Cascade Shooting Facilities:

My name is JoDee Ferrell and I am running for the board position of Vice President. I am currently the Cascade Women's Entity chair, where I've served since its creation a year ago.

Please allow me a few minutes to share my background, qualifications and positions.

I was born and raised in Washington. I have lived in the Renton/Maple Valley area for the past 31 years.

Seven years ago, my late husband and I joined Cascade. We were looking for an activity (pistol shooting) that we could enjoy together due to his limited mobility after a spinal cord injury, as he was confined to a wheelchair.

What started as a couple's activity turned into a real passion. I have since become an NRA-certified RSO and pistol instructor. I regularly teach women new to the shooting sports. I love shooting trap and pistol, and I recently built my own AR-15. I regularly compete in Cascade 3-Gun matches. I am a member of A Girl & A Gun, an organization that promotes women's shooting and safety.

In my non-firearm life, I graduated from Western Washington University with a Degree in Business Administration. I recently retired from a 30-year career with Johnson & Johnson Vision as an Executive Territory Account Manager. I was responsible for a 6-million-dollar sales territory and 125 optometrist accounts. I have an extensive business background as well as strong sales and negotiating skills.

I am currently on the Board of VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity). Our primary mission is to help provide vision care, eye exams and eyeglasses worldwide to underprivileged people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

Here are the positions that I believe will propel our club (and our sport!) into the future:

- **Increase opportunities for children to learn about shooting sports and gun safety**

As a pistol instructor teaching woman, I am asked all the time, "What is the best way to teach my kids about gun safety?" and "What is a good age to start kids in shooting sports?" As a club we can do more to teach and support youth/parents in our club/community and help to shape and guide the next generation of shooters. If we normalize firearms in the home today with our youth, we raise more adults who will help defend our 2A rights tomorrow.

- **Welcome more women, the fastest-growing segment of new shooters**

Of the more than 13 million new firearms purchased last year, nearly 2 million were purchased by women. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has documented a 77% rise in female gun ownership, and nearly 25% of women in the US now own guns.

As the head of the women's entity, I have seen firsthand the huge desire of women to learn about firearms for both protection and recreational sports. Our monthly attendance at Ladies

Day has grown from 7- 8 ladies per month to 25-30 ladies per month--which would be even greater if we didn't have to cap attendance due to COVID.

Most of these women didn't previously understand gun laws--they are now becoming hugely active in politics as they realize how critical their 2A rights are.

We have worked hard to create an environment for ladies to feel safe and comfortable shooting here, but there is so much more that we can and should do to incorporate them into our disciplines, programs, and meetings.

- **Increase member involvement and engagement in the club and activities**

We must do a better job in engaging membership to become active participants in club activities and stewardship. We need to increase communication with our club members about fiscal expenditures and club activities. We need to be transparent and consistent, and create more opportunities for members to become more involved.

- **Increase 2A activism to help defend our 2A rights in Washington**

Our government, both state and federal, are increasingly attacking our 2A rights. We must come together and make it easy for our members' voices to be heard loud and clear. We need to create opportunities for club members to learn what is happening in Olympia and DC, and learn what steps they can take to protect our 2A rights. Because without our 2A rights we really don't have a club to belong to.

- **Facilitate the renewal of the club's lease with King County**

Our 30-year lease with King county will need to be renegotiated in the next 5 years. It is critically important that we show our commitment to our club charter and our commitment to our community to ensure a successful renewal of the lease.

Cascade Shooting Facilities is far and away the nicest range in the area; we should be proud of our club, and we must ensure that it has a long and vibrant future. I ask for your vote for the office of Vice President, and I also ask that you vote for those who have a similar vision and will help us to achieve success: Derek Mirkle for President, Arlene Martin for Treasurer, and Darin Puryear for Master at Arms.

Thank you for your support!
JoDee Ferrell
Women's Entity Head

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Statement received from: Neely Miller

Candidate for: Vice President

Hi I'm Neely! Little bit about me... I joined the club back in 08/09 after a few years of going, as a guest to shoot shotgun, with my Uncle Tom McLaughlin. Shortly thereafter, I took on the duty of the newsletter for a couple years and then on to serving as the treasurer for the club since about early 2011. Being the treasurer is something I have enjoyed thoroughly to help make CSF the successful range it is today. I was honored to be voted in as a life member by my peers back in 15/16. I would love to continue to help guide CSF in the future as Vice President.

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Statement received from: Steven Winter

Candidate for: Secretary

My name is Steven Winter and I've been a member of CSF for almost 5 years. Soon after joining I completed the RSO training class and since then I have been volunteering my time as a RSO for public shooting days. I appreciate the public shooting days because they have given me an opportunity to spend time with the people that use and enjoy our facility. I have heard many great things from our public shooters regarding our facility and our reputation as an organization. I would like to accept the position of Secretary to become more involved in the operations of CSF and contribute to the ongoing excellence of our organization.

I have lived in the Auburn area for almost 14 years having moved to here from the Midwest. Firearm ownership, use and safety are important issues to me as I grew up in a farming where hunting and shooting were practically an everyday part of life. The value of firearm knowledge grew with me also during my military service in the Marine Corps and Army National Guard.

I feel my everyday career responsibilities make me well suited for the position of Secretary. I am currently employed as a Development Manager at International Paper's Innovation Center in Federal Way. Each day I interact with our different facilities and customer around the world on the development of new products by our R&D group. This has led me to develop strong communication skills, be detail-oriented, organized and well-versed in a number of administrative responsibilities. I oversee the records, policies, safety and compliance of our products as they are developed and then commercially released. I also volunteer on the First Aid responder team at our facility and I serve as team co-leader for APPTI, an industry –led consortium that promotes development of Advance manufacturing technologies.

My wife and I have 5 children, 4 of whom are currently going to college in 4 different states. This keeps us very busy helping our children with their education planning. Our family does believe strongly in education, I have graduate degrees in engineering and business. Lastly, when life gets back to normal, we look forward to spending far more time outdoors, hiking, skiing, traveling, camping and spending more time with family.

I want to thank everyone in advance in considering me for this position.

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Statement received from: Arlene Martin

Candidate for: Treasurer

Members of Cascade Shooting Facilities:

My name is Arlene Martin and I am running for the Treasurer board position.

I was born and raised in Washington, and currently live in Covington.

My husband and I have been members of Cascade since 2018 and we've both thoroughly enjoyed having access to such a wonderful range. While I've been shooting firearms for years, in the last few years I've jumped in with both feet, taking classes to improve my skills, and practicing regularly both on the range and with dry-fire. I've become much more proficient in firearms than I previously thought possible, and even recently built my first AR-15.

I've regularly attended Cascade's women's entity activities and have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to practice and learn with other supportive women on the firing line. I have been impressed with the volunteers who're there to help new women shooters feel comfortable and develop confidence in their abilities. I decided earlier this year that I wanted to give back to this wonderful community so I took Steve Powell's RSO training course earlier this year so I can help maintain a safe environment on the range.

I have been self-employed since 1995, operating a number of small businesses. Since 2015 I've operated Cozy Kitties Inn, a thriving, cage-free boarding facility for cats. I regularly volunteer with the nonprofit organization Cat Rescue of Washington.

Last year I retired as a Licensed Massage Therapist after 17 years in private practice with locations at JBLM and in Covington. Prior to that I had a commercial driver's license (CDL) and as an owner-operator I drove tractor trailer trucks (doubles, tankers and hazmat) across Washington and Oregon. Prior to that I was an owner and operator of a State Licensed Adult Family Home, specializing in care for the medically compromised but mentally ill.

I would like to be of service to the shooting community here at Cascade in part by serving in the position of Treasurer. As a small business-owner, I understand very clearly the need to accurately account for all monies received and spent and communicate the finances to the club. I do the accounting for my own business and I believe I can capably do this service for CSF well. Our beloved fellow member, Deanna Kaster, a retired CPA, has agreed to help me settle into this role to ensure everything is accurate and properly recorded.

As a board member, I would like to see our club increase their focus in a couple of areas:

Help more women enjoy the shooting sports

I've run into so many women over the past couple of years who were like I was: peripherally involved with firearms through their husbands. Or brand new to firearms as they see the craziness around them and decide they need their first. I would like to help our amazing club create many

more opportunities for women to feel welcome in the club meetings, at the shotgun range, and in other entity activities.

Teach children firearms safety and help them learn to enjoy firearms

It used to be that youth learned about firearms from their dad or their grandpa. But that doesn't happen as often anymore. We need to help bring children into the shooting sports so they can have fun, be safe, and help grow this sport we all love.

Fight for our 2A rights

I didn't used to be political. But since diving into the shooting sports, I've realized just how far the politicians are willing to go to take away my right to defend myself and my family. These last two years I've become far more involved in writing my legislators and participating in politics. The gun owners around me don't know what is going on. They don't know that their rights are being taken away. As a club, we need to help more gun-owners learn what is happening and help them get involved in protecting their 2A rights.

Increase member involvement

When I was a new member, I didn't know what programs the club offered and when I saw something on the calendar, I didn't know how to get involved. I would like to find ways to encourage more members to learn what is going on in the club and how they can join in. We have an amazing club that can be even better with more participation.

I am very proud of Cascade Shooting Facilities. I want to help give back to those in the shooting sports who've helped me, and help more members enjoy the benefits of the range. I ask for your vote as Treasurer.

I also ask for your vote for another couple of individuals with whom I've spoken at length and believe share similar goals for the club: Derek Mirkle for President, JoDee Ferrell for Vice President, and Darin Puryear for Master at Arms.

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Statement received from: Buddy Miller

Candidate for: Treasurer

Hello- my name is Buddy Miller. I've been a member at CSF for 12 years roughly. In that time my wife and I have served on the board in several capacities and helped the club where ever possible. Personally, I have helped with special projects, hiring outside contractors to complete tasks we can't ask of the Tuesday crew, work parties, special events and many other facets of the job. We are happy to donate our time to help drive CSF and make it the best range we can offer to our members. My wife has been treasurer for the past few terms and we both think it's time for a change of rolls, this was the easiest transition we could think of to help continue to serve CSF but still have any questions answered by the last person doing the job. I look forward to a new roll at CSF to fill yet another position. See you on the range.

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Statement received from: Valentine Burkhauser

Candidate for: Master at Arms

Valentine Burkhauser, Candidate for Master - At - Arms

I became a member of Cascade in 1995 because I wanted a place to shoot.

In October 2003 I was asked to serve as vice-president when the position was vacated mid-term. I then was elected to two more terms. During this time, we were constructing the current range and I was tasked with inventorying and moving all equipment and club property from the old range to the new/current range.

I have been co-chair of the High Power Rifle committee since shortly after joining Cascade and ran the High Power Rifle clinics for over ten years.

I was again asked to step in and fill the Master - At - Arms position when the individual that held the position was not able to fulfill the term. During my current tenure I have been able to repair or replace all non-working locks, inventoried all club properties, and have initiated the conversion from metal to all electronic locks.

I believe that the Board guides the club and should maintain a fair and impartial view when dealing with club members, requests, and issues that arise. The By-Laws and Operating Procedures are the tools that should be used to guide the Board in their work.

Since becoming a member, I have willingly donated time, money, and resources to build and enjoy a club that is renown throughout the shooting community as one of the finest there is.

It would be a privilege to be elected to the position of Master-At-Arms.

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Statement received from: Darin Puryear Candidate for: Master at Arms

Fellow Members of CSF:

My name is Darin Puryear and I am running for the board position of Master at Arms. I would be honored to earn your vote, and since some of you may not know me, I would like to tell you a bit about myself and my qualifications. I hope you will spend five minutes reading this as you think about the ramifications for our club's future.

My bride and I, along with our four children, have been Maple Valley residents since 2008. We live in the beautiful countryside in north MV. I grew up in Tacoma. Dad is an Air Force vet, and mom is retired from the family dairy business. As a kid, my passion was the Boy Scouts and later, building hot rods (which I still enjoy), hunting and shooting!

My first "real" job at the age of 15 was working in a Tacoma gun shop sweeping the floors and stocking shelves. I was a gun dealer there for the next 10 years; it was there I found my lifelong love of hunting and shooting sports. Today, I am an executive leader in the insurance business. I am active in the Cowboy Action Shooting club at Cascade, and also am a regular trap and Sporting Clays shooter.

I volunteer as Vice President of the Dream Builders Guild, a nonprofit supporting Seattle Children's Hospital. I am also a past board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound.

I am asking for your vote because I want to give back to the club that has been very important to me over the last several years.

My positions are simple, and are in strong support of our club charter:

- **To increase opportunities for youth involvement.** My 9-year-old son and I compete in Cowboy Action Shooting together at Cascade. This is the greatest joy I have in the shooting sports and I want more parents in our area to have those opportunities with their kids. Our kids are literally our future as a club - I can think of no better way to shape that future than to have them spend time with the gracious, supportive people like you who make up our club!
- **To increase our offerings to women.** My wife is a budding shooter and part of the fastest growing segment of our sport. I want to create more opportunities for her, and ladies like her, to enjoy this amazing pastime. In addition, it is a moral imperative that we do everything we can to empower more women to learn to defend themselves. A big part of this is the proficient and safe use of firearms for those who choose that means.
- **To become a more active and overt organization defending our 2A rights in WA.** Our state government is aligned against us - we must become a loud and active force in defeating anti-gun bills and laws. If we fail at this, we may as well take up knitting!
- **To help run this club like the business it is.** I understand we are a not-for-profit corporation, whose constituents are us members. However, this club has all the workings of normal for-profit business and should be run as such. I have been an executive leader in private industry for over 27 years, and have served as President of the 4th largest insurance brokerage firms in the northwest for the past 13 years. I have deep experience in managing corporate finances,

controlling expenses while making smart investments in our future, and managing a large diverse workforce. I want to bring the same expertise to CSF.

- **To create greater transparency and involvement.** I will contribute to a board that is completely transparent in its dealings, communicates clearly and regularly to the entire membership about our operations and follows the bylaws of the club to the letter while looking for ways to bring the current bylaws into the 21st century. We will do this by asking you to help correct the conflicts that currently exist and by underscoring the need for transparency to our members and involvement of those members in more facets of the club's operations.
- **To ensure our future.** I will proactively assist in the critically important task of preparing to negotiate our lease renewal with King County. A successful renewal is imperative to our survival and it will be here before we know it. I have successfully negotiated numerous commercial leases in multiple states, successfully creating a winning combination for both the landlord and tenant. It cannot be overstated how important it is to actively demonstrate our commitment to our club charter if we are going to make this negotiation successful. The goals outlined above will be a great start.

I am joined in these goals by a stellar slate of candidates for other board positions with similar goals. We come from different backgrounds (which is a tremendous benefit) but are united in our vision of what this club can be with your help. My friend Derek Mirkle is running for President; JoDee Ferrell for Vice President; Arlene Martin for treasurer and me for Master at Arms. A vote for us will create remarkable change - I promise!

I appreciate your vote, and am completely committed to earning your trust and respect. Thank you for taking the time to learn about me and taking an active role in our future together. If you would like to reach out to discuss any of my ideas further, please feel free to contact me directly, at the email listed below.

Respectfully,

Darin Puryear
dmpuryear@gmail.com

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