



Name: Mike Poborsky

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Education: Avalanche L1-3, Avalanche Instructor 1-2 + many refreshers, NSP many courses, High Angle Rescue Instructor Courses, WEMT-B, OEC + yearly refreshers, PSIA L1 course, US Dept of Justice-Federal Explosives License for Avalanche Control Work, Avalanche Search and Rescue Class A, B, and

C Dog Handler courses + yearly refreshers, AirMed, LifeFlight, and Flight for Life Avalanche Deployment Team training + yearly refreshers.

Certification: AMGA/IFMGA Mountain Guide

Occupation: Full time year round Rock, Alpine and Ski Guide, Avalanche Instructor, Vice President of Exum Mountain Guides.

Why do you want to run for AMGA Board of Directors?

My desire to serve on the AMGA Board is simple. I would like the opportunity to be an active participant with the Board to promote American guiding and climbing instruction, expand and improve AMGA educational programs, and increase access for all guides working in the United States.

What are your qualifications?

My two most significant qualifications for the Board position are hard work and relevant practical experience in both business and guiding. I began working full time for a large-scale (150+ employees) environmental cleaning company at age fifteen while still in high school. The majority of work was performed for large industries, including power plants, coal mines, steel mills, paper mills, oil refineries, municipalities, and waste water treatment plants. Over fourteen years I progressed within the company from Equipment Cleaner to Laborer, Heavy Equipment Operator, Project Manager, and finally Vice President. During this same period I founded, an asbestos abatement company that provided services for many of the same industries, and occupied the position of president and CEO. In addition to the daily operations of both companies, my responsibilities included research, design, testing and manufacturing of equipment and processes that revolutionized environmentally responsible methods for industrial cleaning and asbestos abatement. This equipment and technology remains in place today and is used throughout the world.

In 1999 I resigned from both positions to pursue my passion for the mountains and started working as an independent full time guide and professional ski patroller. From the start I immersed myself in both professions and took advantage of every opportunity to further my education through AMGA courses and exams, avalanche courses, high angle rescue training, and outdoor related emergency medical courses. In 2004 I started working for

Exum as an overflow guide and have progressed within the company to Full Time guide, advisor to the Board of Directors, Director, Owner, and currently Vice President. In addition to being co-responsible for the daily operations of a guide service, I am a very active rock, alpine and ski guide that averages as many days in the field as any employee of the company and understand the outdoor culture thoroughly. Since 2009 I have worked solely as a mountain guide, avalanche instructor, and guide service operator within the United States and intimately understand the challenges facing active US guides and climbing instructors.

How will you work with the board of directors?

If elected I will openly work with the Board to promote American guiding and climbing instruction, expand and improve AMGA educational programs, increase access for all guides working in the United States, and help maintain a financially solvent organization.

Would you give an example where you have shown good participative management skills? Currently as Co-Owner of a guide service I collaborate regularly with two other owners to make management decisions about the daily operation of a year round rock, alpine and ski guiding service. These decisions include, but are not limited to, employee training and scheduling, marketing initiatives, financial oversight, risk management, insurance, and working with federal, state, local, and private land managers.

What do you consider one of your biggest failures and what did you do to overcome this?

I consider my single biggest failure the decision I made to continue working full time as a teenager and not pursue a college education. I have overcome this regrettable decision through hard work, dedication to my profession, and immersing myself in the educational process as an adult. Through age and maturity I found enjoyment in education that was absent in my youth. With this newfound appreciation I will continue to challenge myself in the future.

What are the key strategic issues facing the industry, profession and the AMGA Board? How do you believe the board should respond?

I believe the current key strategic issues are; 1) Brand identification, the organization needs to continue working diligently as a team to build trust and respect for the entire professional guiding and climbing instructor community. 2) Academic excellence, continue to improve programs to maintain the highest standard of guide education and examination in the world. 3) Access, continue working to preserve existing access, promote credential based access for certified guides and accredited businesses, and facilitate opportunities for international IFMGA guides to work legally in the United States.

Describe an incident when you led through significant conflict on an important principle. How will this influence your participation on the Board?

The recent mandate by the AMGA to link guide training to accreditation obviously caused conflict within the established guide community, including our guide service. Because of my sincere belief in the value of professional education I stood behind the decision of the AMGA Board and actively promoted the mandate within our company and to the greater guiding community. Although this mandate will affect many of our guides, and have enormous financial implications to our guides and company, I supported the decision because I believe it will ultimately help to further legitimize the guiding profession. My verbal support was further confirmed by our company decision to provide financial assistance to those guides who were directly affected by the mandate. I have proactively worked with the AMGA, and our guides, to coordinate and facilitate the required training prior to the date set forth by the Board. If elected to the Board I will continue to support initiatives and decisions that I view as beneficial to the AMGA and the majority of guides working in the United States.

How will you handle the time commitments required for this role?

I understand and appreciate that the responsibilities and time commitment of the Board are significant. Because I believe in the value of active participation in my job and profession, I am dedicated to making myself available for all Board activities for the duration of my term.
