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**Education: BA in Political Economy, Colorado College**

**Certification: IFMGA**

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

I have been involved in guiding for ten years, five of those as an IFMGA Guide Certified by the AMGA. My passion for guiding stems from a deep connection with outdoor adventure and the desire to share these experiences with others. I have a broad base of experience in the guiding industry from working for a small guide service to working for a larger guide service and eventually working for myself. I believe that this gives me the perspective to provide a positive influence on the guiding industry through work on the AMGA Board.

### **What are your qualifications?**

Aside from being an IFMGA Guide, I also hold a BA in International Political Economics from Colorado College. Both my Guide Certification and my college education have allowed me to pursue living and working abroad. As a result, I have been able to interact and work with other IFMGA Guides from different countries in multiple languages. From this experience, I possess hands-on knowledge of different land management and insurance systems. I understand the pros and cons of these different systems and I believe that my knowledge can help guides and guide services with Access and Insurance issues in the United States. Though I still guide abroad I am actively guiding domestically as well as pursuing access in a variety of venues as an AMGA Certified Guide.

### **How will you work with the Board of Directors?**

I have been involved with the AMGA Board of Directors as a committee member on the Scholarship and Accreditation committees. I have also attended many Board meetings besides the annual meeting. I know many of the current Board Members personally and believe that I will be able to communicate and work effectively with them. There are important issues that currently affect the guiding industry including the cost of insurance, access to public lands, accident and disability insurance for guides, and sustainability of the profession for working guides. I would like to participate on the AMGA Board to address

these issues so that the AMGA can support both guides and guide services where they need it most.

**Give an example of where you have shown good participative management skills?**

I have been involved with the Certified Guides Cooperative (CGC) as President of the Board since its inception late in 2010. During that time I have pursued insurance and permits for AMGA Certified Guides and IFMGA Guides. I worked with the CGC Executive Director and the CGC Board of Directors to ensure that the needs of the member/guides are met by their organization. Several key issues that we worked on successfully included keeping up-to-date books and records, offering CGC services on an at-cost basis, and instituting a regionally-based risk management and permit application program. Projects on which we are still working include instituting a trainee/assistant guide program, offering accident and disability insurance to ALL guides (not just CGC Members) and applying for AMGA Accreditation.

**What do you consider one of your biggest failures and how did you overcome this?**

I was once a guide in training in the AMGA programs like many AMGA members are now. At that time I was a talented climber, but not a "guide." I thought that I could just show up to a program without really preparing mentally and physically and without really knowing my equipment. It turned out that was not the way to approach an Advanced Rock Guide Course. Most of the routes were manageable, but later in the course I had a very difficult time guiding one of the longer routes, which disappointed me greatly. The feeling has dissipated some, but at the time I was devastated by my performance. The instructors saw fit to pass me, but I made a pact with myself that I would always take the time to prepare for the task at hand and to prepare as a professional. I took the next year to guide and prepare adequately for my exam. I climbed, ran, guided and practiced my systems. After preparing well, everything went smoothly.

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

The AMGA has built a strong foundation based on training and certifying guides at international standards: the IFMGA for Guides and the UIAA for Instructors. Sustainability is a critical issue facing the guiding industry as a whole. Access is tightly regulated, sometimes down to a cap on what guide services charge their clients. Land areas are open to climbing, but are currently

closed to guiding where guides and guide services could greatly benefit the stewardship of the land. Liability insurance and other insurance for guides and guide services is expensive and there is currently no insurance benefit for guides being certified or for guide services who employ Certified Guides. A final issue is maintaining the AMGA's good standing within the international community. Working to provide reciprocity for foreign guides can only strengthen the foundation upon which the AMGA was built and allow the organization to move forward swiftly on issues facing the guiding industry.

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

A recurring theme with IFMGA guides is a move to guide more days in Europe. Many find that it is lucrative to spend the summer abroad or move abroad.

Issues of immigration and licensing make it challenging to stay abroad. After spending time in the Alps I have discovered the benefits of a strong guides association. A few years ago I ran a professional development clinic to help guides understand the foreign system. The outcome of my clinic was not that guides should pursue guiding abroad. Increasingly, I counsel guides to channel their energy into the AMGA so that we can strengthen our guiding community in the United States.

Over the past few years I have had many guides approach me with their thoughts regarding a variety of issues that affect the guiding industry. These range from questions regarding training and certification programs to concerns regarding the guiding industry itself. No matter what the issue is, I have been a patient listener who then provided advice to help resolve their dilemmas. Throughout my career I have endeavored to be thoughtful, deliberate, and professional. These are three values that I try to impart to guides who approach me and these are values that I hope to bring to the AMGA Board of Directors.

**How will you handle the time commitments of this role?**

My connection to guiding and to the guiding industry is strong enough that I will commit to the responsibilities of the AMGA Board regardless of time and expense. I am honored to have been nominated for this position and will do my utmost to fulfill my role on the AMGA Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.