

Dave Schaefer - ITAA board consideration

My name is Dave Schaefer and I appreciate your consideration for the ITAA board.

I first got exposed to the sport of archery a little over 5 years ago when my daughter Emma started taking lessons at the local park district. From there we found Northern Illinois Archery Organization JOAD. At the time NIAO was just starting back up after a slow first attempt at getting a program started. To help support that club I joined the board where I served in a Trustee position. I helped the club look for ways to help find ways to fund raise to help with offset the costs of renting practice space and purchasing equipment. Beyond the board I would help with whatever I could to help promote and support the team.

In 2017 Emma made the decision to join Chicago Bow Hunters JOAD. As part of CBH we have jumped in to help support the program. For the last several years that has included spending time supporting CBH events as part of the kitchen crew. But have always been willing to help support CBH however possible.

In addition to supporting the JOAD clubs we have been a part of we have also supported the ITAA. We have had a couple very successful years of raising money with our food sales at the state events. I have also given my time personally to help with set up and tear down at the state events.

So why do I want to take a bigger role in the ITAA? For me the answer is simple, I have enjoyed the opportunity to support Emma in her archery journey and I see this as an opportunity to support a much larger archery community. I feel like the ITAA and team of people that have supported the organization have done an excellent job in supporting the sport and I would like to bring my ideas and experience to help continue to grow the participation in the sport.

I may be a bit of an unconventional candidate as I am not an archer, not a judge, not a coach. But what I have been for the last 20+ years of my life is Software Sales Professional. What I bring to the table is the ability to bring people together to solve problems. My experience managing teams of people as well as managing customer expectations will help in supporting the efforts of the ITAA. I feel I have made a lot of friends and connections across our archery community and would want to leverage all of those to help support the efforts of this great organization.

A few things I have thought about in terms of ideas for supporting the ITAA:

- Find ways to raise funds outside of just the big events
 - Possible ITAA Gear sales
 - Sponsors for large events
- Expand our promotion of the sport
 - Push for more participation beyond the Chicagoland area
 - Look for opportunities to support local JOAD in getting additional participation
 - Outreach to Illinois ranges, clubs and schools
- Grow our support for ITAA athletes
 - Potential archery scholarships
 - Help promote athlete's archery success in our community
 - Support archers looking for additional training

While these are just a few of the things I have been thinking about I would also look to our archery community for their input. Good or Bad there is a lot we can learn from the people who are already engaged with the ITAA.

I want to thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to your decision.