

Matthew Meier - Candidate statement & bio

My name is Matthew Meier and I am running for election to the position of Treasurer.

I grew up in BC. In my early years nobody in my family hunted, but my dad loved (and loves) to fish. In addition to passing that interest on to me, he also enrolled me in the Junior Olympian program at a local archery club. I credit many hours spent at these activities in my formative years for instilling the roots of patience, perseverance, and focus. When the archery club closed, I was signed up for the BC Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education program that was hosted by a local fish and game association. This followed by my dad and I learning to hunt and led to developing my interest in various shooting sports. My local fish and game association also sponsored the course that lead to me getting my FAC (which has since evolved into the PAL). I have many fond memories of these years and I think many of us have similar stories. It is also these memories that have instilled a passion in me for to promote club level involvement in the development of passing on these interests and skills to the next generation and other adults alike.

At my day job I have worked in supply chain management for the last 20 years in a variety of roles. I have learned the value of solid leadership as well as teamwork and have worked hard to cultivate skills in both. I also have developed specific skills in data mining and financial analysis, logistics, and strategic planning and analysis. I have completed a management program at the University of Alberta and hold a Supply Chain Management Professional designation. In my non-business life, I have also developed skills in personal financial management – with a specific focus on budgeting.

I moved to Alberta in 2010 and shortly thereafter joined SPFGA. Like most, I have really enjoyed many of the benefits of membership, largely using our various facilities. In response to a call for volunteers, I saw an opportunity to put some of my skills to use in giving back. As such, I have served on the Board in the capacity of Membership Director and 1st Vice President (Membership) for the past 3 years. I have seen the club evolve a lot in this time and have worked hard to be an active part of that evolution.

Once again, I see a need on the Board, and I feel compelled to step up. I can bring a solid range of skills to the role of Treasurer and look forward to the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I would like to see the Board continue to take an evermore strategic approach to their mandate. We need to think long term to be able to know how to make the right decisions today. If elected as Treasurer I will work hard to ensure we have a solid financial plan as a part of this process.

As many Board members and other volunteers before me have been, I am passionate about the success of the SPFGA. My vision is for us to build on what others have started and help propel us forward for future generations. Recent years have been difficult on many fronts, and not just COVID and the economy. There are political pressures against much of what we hold dear. Hunting and fishing face the competing pressures of industrial growth and a lack of understanding about the role consumptive conservation activities play in overall conservation strategies, especially in the ever-growing urban centers. Shooting sports are also under intense pressure, which we have seen most recently reflected in the broad ranging Order in Council pushed through by the Liberal Government. It is up to clubs like ours to not rest on our laurels, or only provide solid services for our current members, but also to work hard to ensure we will be able to do so for generations to come. I would like to continue to be a part of this effort.