

Davan Russell - Candidate statement & bio

My name is Davan Russell and I am standing for election to the position of Secretary of the Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association Board of Directors. I am the outgoing 2nd Vice President on the SPFGA Board along with being appointed as the Board Parliamentarian.

I am a life-long member of the Alberta Fish & Game Association and volunteerism is in my blood. I have participated in governance of non-profit organizations inside and outside the AFGA realm in roles including Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian so have an in-depth understanding of the roles that a leadership body plays in the governance and success of organizations. Organizations that I have been involved with in a leadership role include AFGA Zone 5, Narrow Lake Conservation Centre, School Parent Council, Church Camp Boards, and Student Council. I also volunteer with Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Search and Rescue Dog Association of Alberta, and with my daughters' school.

Outside of non-profit governance activities, I am an avid outdoorsman involved in hunting, angling, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and occasionally birdwatching and berry picking. I am also a sport shooter that enjoys pistol, rifle, and shotgun sports and have a couple black powder rifles that I hope to put to use in the near future. I am a father of four young girls and I am happiest sharing these outdoor activities with my daughters and the youth of today and the outdoorspeople of tomorrow.

Professionally, I am as geoenvironmental engineering consultant and this role provides me with wide ranging experience in project management, document control, interpretation of legislation and regulations, and communication skills that I see as critical to a role such as secretary of an organization as large and diverse as Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association.

Since I joined the SPFGA Board of Directors in 2018, I have been involved in updates to the SPFGA By-Laws and Facility Rules. My main goal in both updates was to improve clarity and ease of understanding of the documents. I also was able to successfully make it easier for members to participate in board meetings by removing the requirement that members provide advance notice of intent to speak on topics on the Meeting Agenda. I have also been involved in developing key strategies to optimize the flow of board meetings by requiring that board members provide advance notice and wording of motions along with the request to add items to meeting agendas and moving officer and director reports to a written format so that the rest of the board has an opportunity to read the reports in advance of meetings and come prepared with considered questions as well as defining the Parliamentarian role on the SPFGA Board and serving as the Parliamentarian since the development of the role.

My goals for the upcoming term, if elected, are to:

- complete an in-progress update of the SPFGA Bylaws;
- continue to lead efforts to advance the SPFGA Board Governance Model from a working board model to an executive board model and therefore freeing up many key volunteers to focus on their areas of interest rather than on the governance of the Association; and
- to optimize and continue development of the SPFGA Policy Manual along with an Operations Manual to serve as guiding documents for the SPFGA Board of today and tomorrow moving us away from the oral narrative tradition that has served the club for decades but that we have outgrown.