



# ACE 2026 Election

## Candidate Platforms for ACE Offices:

### President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Presented in alphabetical order, by office.

*All candidates submitted platforms for this publication.*

## Proposed Constitution Change



**DAVID LIPNICKY**  
Grand Prairie, Texas  
*Candidate Platform for President*

I thank ACE's membership for giving me the opportunity to serve 28 of my 33 years as a member of this wonderful family. I urge everyone to get involved and help make ACE your own. What our wonderful volunteers accomplish regionally and nationally still amazes me. While a small percentage of members makes what I call the "ACE Magic" happen, I am pleased we have a larger number willing to step up and run for office this year, as we have some great candidates who want to help keep the ACE magic alive. Whether it is our spectacular events, publications, merchandise, web services, meet-ups, social media or benefits, it is our members who donate their time and creativity who make our family's magic. It is amazing that all our volunteers started as new members who loved coasters and later decided to give back to ACE as a thank you for the awesome times they experienced. Carrying cables at an event was my first. No role is too small for our family.

#### Involvement

Difficult family situations forced me to wait 15 years before joining ACE in 1993. Although my family situation during our early years in ACE meant we could only do just one or two local events annually, life-long friendships immediately developed. As our situation changed, my two children and I did our first event outside Arlington, Texas: the 1996 Coaster Con in Denver. That experience was a family game-changer.

Encouraged by friends, we soon started to volunteer at local and national events — retrieving items for other volunteers, including cables! Later, it

was helping with event registration, which then led to assisting the ACE volunteers in charge of audiovisual support and auctions at the Coaster Con banquet. I was shocked when Tim Baldwin asked me to be his assistant regional rep in 2002. A few months later, I became regional representative, a position I held for a decade, thanks to a talented team. I then accepted an offer to be public relations director (2010-2014), now known as communications director, and our membership elected me to be ACE's vice president twice (2014-2018). However, I continued my role as ACE's first Twitter/X coordinator (2012-2024) and continued to lead/co-lead ACE's efforts with Give Kids The World, and later ACE Cares, for the same period.

#### Select highlights include:

- Brought industry legend Jeffrey Siebert to ACE's Public Relations Committee as our first-ever marketing coordinator. This key function benefits ACE to this day.
- Helped modernize ACE to be more attractive to younger people by kickstarting our previously unused Facebook and Twitter/X social media platforms.
- Brought on Nicholas Laschkewitsch as ACE's first video promotions coordinator, which helped plant seeds that led to ACE's acclaimed "The Legacy of Arrow Development" and "The Legacy of Schwarzkopf" documentaries.
- Brought on ACE's first Instagram coordinator.
- Modernized our Disciplinary Committee's policies and procedures.
- Played a key role in bringing the ACE Code of Conduct into the 21st century while still helping with our social media operations.
- Evolved Robert Ulrich's #RideWithUs tag into #RideWithACE.

After recharging my batteries the last two years and retiring from my professional work life, I have more to give to our ACE family, *and the time to be your next president*. I have been working with a small group of dedicated ACE members since last May to do just that, *including bringing back the fun for our amazing volunteers and regional rep teams!*

#### Qualifications

My main role as vice president was chair of ACE's Disciplinary Committee. This is a tough but

necessary ACE function. A well-running, efficient and effective disciplinary committee is what used to set ACE apart from all the other clubs. This experience gives me a vital, unique qualification for this election. In addition, the incoming vice president can tap me with advice and insights to get ACE's Disciplinary Committee on track and back up to the elevated level it once occupied.

My operations research skills helped identify a significant weakness after becoming ACE's public relations director. ACE did not have a true marketing function or expertise, which I solved as noted above.

I have decades of professional experience leading and managing projects, teams and resources, which are important qualifications for president. My work career spans the nonprofit, private and public sectors, which is a key, and rare, intangible for serving ACE. This career experience ranges from working up from a janitor to a department manager, later becoming an engineering economist and labor market dynamics economist. Before retiring from my economics career on December 31, my professional responsibilities included managing 15 to 18 different economic and educational research grants totaling \$11 million annually. This covered:

- Responsibility for budgets, work plans, fiscal reports, analytic studies, monitoring, policy development, legal compliance and

resource leveraging

- Developing research and analyses on national and state employment growth and labor market conditions
- Building productive partnerships between public, private and nonprofit organizations

All these skills are vital to the role of president and having positive, effective and efficient working relationships with other members of the Executive Committee and the industry.

Other accomplishments include the following:

- The Spirit of ACE award (2011)
- The (national) 2007 Charlie Benefield Award for lifetime achievement in the Labor Market Information branch of economics
- Seven U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Exceptional Achievement awards
- Secretary of Labor's Honors award
- Earning a degree in economics with a minor in business administration, graduating with honors from the University of Texas at Arlington
- Member of the National Association for Business Economics for 37 years
- Member of the Dallas Economist Club for 15 years

**Why I Want to Be President**

I want to help ACE's future by keeping the wonderful things ACE has accomplished while

returning the fun, enjoyment and satisfaction for our volunteers and regional rep teams. In that vein, I have been assisting a small group of experienced and dedicated ACE leaders and volunteers over the last year in creating a new vision for ACE's next eight years, one I believe our regional rep teams, volunteers and members will love. I will assist in growing the relationship between ACE and our parks as well as the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives. I will support improving our outstanding regional rep system, which is the true heart of our ACE family. ACE needs to be a productive and positive, but a happy light for the enthusiast community and with the parks and amusement industry representatives locally and across the world. If elected, I will continue to bring a strong background and ability to work well with others to make this vision a reality. More than the obvious request for your vote, the more important request is to vote those you think are the best candidates, but the most important request is to support ACE by volunteering and participating in any way. Assistance (big and small) is vital and appreciated. Active participation allows ACE to continue as the greatest enthusiast organization. This is what I bring to the table and why I am ready. If you are ready, join me... Now, let's make some more ACE Magic and have some fun! Thank you for your consideration.



**DEREK PERRY**  
**West Hollywood, California**  
**Candidate Platform for President**

I am honored to accept the nomination to run for president of the American Coaster Enthusiasts as we approach an exciting milestone, our 50th anniversary. ACE has been a defining part of my life for decades. I first joined in 1991 during a family road trip from Rhode Island, when we happened to come across an ACE event at Kennywood. We were exiting *Steel Phantom* and noticed the smiling faces at the ACE table. Being welcomed by fellow enthusiasts and participating in *Thunderbolt* ERT felt like a dream come true, and we were hooked. That experience left a lasting impression and began a journey that has grown into a lifelong passion for this organization and community.

Over the years, I have stayed actively involved through volunteering. I volunteer at every flagship event, attend every regional representative monthly meeting and participate in all Executive Committee (EC) meetings in person. I also introduced the idea of monthly EC digital meetings to help improve communication and collaboration. I have served for seven years as a Pacific Southwest assistant regional representative, working closely with members at the regional level.

For the past four years, I have proudly served as ACE's communications director, helping modernize and expand how ACE connects with current and prospective members. I have happily contributed to ACE's publications and archives, helped grow our social media presence, strengthened relationships with parks and manufacturers and supported the expansion of digital initiatives, including the text messaging service and ACE app. Through leading a large communications team full of exceptional volunteers, I have developed the skills needed to lead the Executive Committee. I have also helped advance ACE digital events, meetups at flagship events, YouTube content and the Ride With Us podcast. In 2020, my twin brother and I created ACE's weekly trivia game, which continues to bring members together. We are also proud recipients of the Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. Spirit of ACE Award and continue

to look for ways to give back to the organization and its members. Additionally, I am involved in developing accessibility videos to help ensure ACE is more inclusive and welcoming to all. I have loved volunteering at IAAPA Expo since 2019, representing ACE and supporting our booth, which contributed to ACE being honored with a Brass Ring Award. My involvement in both preparation and execution would serve me well in leading IAAPA Expo week planning for ACE. I have enthusiastically represented ACE at multiple media day events and on international trips, presenting plaques, building connections with parks and documenting those experiences. I have also supported efforts that have directed thousands of dollars toward ACE preservation initiatives, including expanding ACE Roller Coaster Landmark recognition into Europe and supporting programs like the Centennial Award.

I have enjoyed being a team player and have worked closely with many dedicated volunteers over the years. Some of the closest people in my life are those I have met through ACE, and that sense of community is something I value deeply. As president, I would continue building on this progress while ensuring our members and volunteers have an even stronger voice in shaping the future of ACE. At the same time, I would love to help keep the organization fun, welcoming and centered on the joy that brings us all together.

Looking ahead, one of my top priorities is celebrating ACE's 50th anniversary in a way that reflects our entire community. I want this to be something we build together by incorporating ideas directly from our members and creating meaningful ways to honor our history while looking toward the future. A key part of my vision is encouraging member involvement at every level. I want to inspire new members to engage in website communities and conversations so they feel connected right away. I also plan to expand annual surveys and create more opportunities for feedback that lead to real action. I believe members and volunteers should play a greater role in decisions, such as where events are held and how experiences are shaped.

Communication will remain a major focus for me. We have made strong progress, and I want to continue improving transparency, consistency and clarity between national ACE and the regions. I also encourage members to reach out to me directly with ideas and questions. At

the same time, I believe in balancing innovation with tradition. While we continue to grow digitally, I support bringing back printed *ACE News* for members who prefer it, as well as offering printed souvenir schedules at flagship events for those who enjoy using it during the event and having something tangible to take home. Events are at the heart of the ACE experience, and I want to continue enhancing them. This includes expanding opportunities for connection through meetups at flagship events and ensuring both flagship and regional events reflect what members are most excited about, while maintaining the fun, energy and enthusiasm that define ACE.

I also want to continue strengthening ACE's role within the industry. We have made important progress in building relationships with parks and manufacturers, and I will continue supporting those partnerships. I am currently part of the group working to identify the next ACE business manager, helping ensure strong leadership for

the organization moving forward. Most important, I want to encourage ideas. The best initiatives we have developed have come directly from our members, and I will ensure those ideas continue to be welcomed, supported and brought to life.

ACE is my favorite thing. It has given me so much over the years, and I have always tried to give back through volunteering, leadership and active involvement. I believe I have demonstrated the dedication, experience and time commitment needed to serve as president, and I am ready to lead ACE into its next chapter. As we celebrate 50 years of ACE, I am excited about what we can accomplish together, and I would be honored to help lead us forward.

Please feel free to reach out to me at [dperry@aceonline.org](mailto:dperry@aceonline.org) with anything you would like to discuss. Thank you for your consideration, and let's keep ACE on track and climbing. Ride the vote!



**JOSEPH CIZA**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**Candidate Platform for Vice President**

I am honored to accept the nomination for vice president of ACE. My connection to this organization goes back to 2000, when I worked as a ride operator at Visionland Theme Park and had my first experience witnessing the enthusiasm and passion ACE members bring to every event.

After relocating to Dallas in 2010, I joined ACE through my now-husband, Xander Lee, and quickly found my footing as a volunteer in the South Central region. That hands-on involvement grew into a national role when I joined the Survey Committee, helping build out ACE's first dedicated survey team and establishing our post event and general member survey process. I also supported media coverage for new ride openings in the region, beginning with *Texas Stingray*. In 2022, those experiences led to a conversation with Elizabeth Ringas that resulted in an invitation to join the Executive Committee (EC) as membership director, a role I have proudly served in since September of that year. Serving on the EC has given me a deep understanding of how ACE operates and what our members need.

I am particularly proud of the work we have done to modernize our merchandise program, and I look forward to continuing that momentum as we improve our volunteer processes under new leadership.

As vice president, one of my primary responsibilities will be overseeing the Disciplinary Committee (DC). I believe the DC is most effective when it operates through a clear, consistent and transparent process that members can trust. My goal is to ensure that the process is well-defined and that the committee is empowered to fulfill its role fully and fairly. To get there, I will engage with both current and former DC members to understand what has worked well and where there is room to improve. I want to build a process that is structured enough to be consistent, flexible enough to handle the range of situations that arise and transparent enough that members have confidence in how concerns are addressed. Getting this right is important to me because it is important to our members.

Another responsibility of the vice president is leading ACE Cares, and this is an area I am genuinely excited about. The amusement industry has a long tradition of supporting charitable causes, and ACE has a real opportunity to be an active and visible part of that effort. I want ACE Cares to be a program our members are proud of and that the industry recognizes as meaningful. My first priority will be finding the right volunteer leader for this committee. ACE runs on the passion and dedication of its volunteers, and ACE Cares deserves someone at the helm who brings both organizational skill and a deep commitment to giving back. With the right person leading it, I am confident we can rebuild this program into something that makes a lasting impact and strengthens ACE's relationship with the broader industry.

I am also passionate about listening to our members and hearing what is important to them. One thing I would like to do is work with the next EC to return the general member survey to an annual cadence and improve participation. This will allow the committee to hear directly from members more often on what we are doing well and what can be improved. The vice president is also responsible for planning in-person EC meetings and other duties as assigned by the president. I look forward to working closely with whoever is elected president and helping lead ACE with purpose and collaboration.

At its core, everything I have outlined comes back to one thing: our members. ACE has thrived for nearly five decades because of the people who love this hobby, show up for each other at events and give their time to make this organization what it is. As vice president, my commitment is to serve those members with integrity, to listen more than I speak and to work alongside whoever is elected president and the full EC to move ACE forward together. I am not running to advance an agenda of my own. I am running because I believe in what ACE can be, and I want to help get us there.



**JACKIE EDWARDS**  
**Escondido, California**  
**Candidate Platform for Vice President**

My name is Jackie Edwards. I live in Southern California. I love to help. It's a fact. If you have met me, you probably know this. Being the parent of two grown children, I have done my fair share of volunteering. I was a soccer mom at first, then team treasurer, manager and coach. I then moved on to volunteering on the soccer board as assistant registrar, head registrar and then became president of our local youth soccer league with over 2,000 players and managed a paid staff. I did this while working full time, continuing to raise my children and even volunteering with the high school drama program.

I am originally from a city in Manitoba, Canada, with no roller coasters and had never ridden one until I moved to southern California in 1995. I was hooked! I joined ACE in 2008, when I was at Six Flags Magic Mountain with some friends and saw a group of folks wearing lanyards. I asked what they were at the park for, and they told me that they were part of the American

Coaster Enthusiasts and they were having their event that weekend. I was fascinated with this, and when I got home, I joined instantly! My friends did not, but they certainly took advantage of the ability to attend ACE events.

I did only local events at first, but in 2014, ACE had the opportunity to participate in the filming of the Travel Channel's "Insane Coaster Wars." The filming was for ACE members only, so my non-ACE friends could not participate. For the first time, I was "alone." That day changed my life. When you are with a friend group, you tend to keep with them. That day opened my world to talking with new people and making new friends. I have not looked back. I started traveling to ride coasters and went on many adventures. My first national ACE event was the Preservation Conference in 2017. Again, I was hooked! I loved visiting new parks, meeting new people, of course the rides and the sense of community.

In 2019, I joined Steve Berto as an assistant rep in the Pacific Southwest region. Steve and I worked to expand our team, which now includes Arizona and Nevada. We worked on using social media to its fullest extent, which meant expanding our team even further. In 2022, I became the head rep of our region. During my tenure, I continued to build my team, and I have strengthened relationships with many of the parks in our region, and we are now hosting annual events that draw those from all over the U.S. and Europe. Our region now has a group of 10 reps and hosts six official events and multiple informal events each year.

I love talking to people and meeting new folks. It's something that really drives me. I want to hear their stories. Getting to know the people that you are spending time with brings us together

and creates community. That is one of the things I love about ACE. I want to be a part of the club and continue to drive that sense of community and membership. With ACE being around for almost 50 years and now being international, we have access to such a diverse group of people. I want to ensure that all members feel welcome and acknowledged. ACE can continue to thrive and grow without members of the club feeling left behind and all members feeling like they are included.

I feel I am qualified for the position of vice president because of what I can bring to the club. My experience with multiple positions of leadership within a youth soccer association has given me a unique perspective on interpersonal relationships and working within a committee. As soccer league president, I never wanted to surround myself with those who would only agree with me. I feel that having opinions that don't necessarily align with mine is okay. I have not served on the ACE Executive Committee before, and I will have much to learn, but I am not afraid of a challenge. I am organized, efficient and love to keep busy. I also love planning events, so the fact that the ACE vice president is called upon to help plan Executive Committee meetings is a plus. The Disciplinary Committee also falls under the purview of the vice president. This is something I feel very strongly about and hope I can be a good leader when it comes to ensuring that our members feel safe when attending events. I believe the Code of Conduct should always drive all ACE members' behaviors, even when not at ACE events.

Thank you for your consideration!



**JO POOLS**  
**Hasselt, Belgium**  
**Candidate Platform for Vice President**

Proud Member of ACE since 2022.

Current Role in ACE as ACE Europe Regional Representative.

I live a life fueled by passion, dedication and the courage to step forward when it matters most. Based in Hasselt, Belgium, I've built not only a career but also a journey defined by commitment — to people, to purpose and to the

communities I believe in.

In 2024, I married Ann, the love of my life, in the magical setting of Dollywood — a place that perfectly reflects who I am: drawn to joy, thrill and a sense of wonder. Together with our two cats and two dogs, we've created a home filled with warmth, laughter and loyalty.

My passions have always been close to my heart. I love comic books, movies, games and, of course, roller coasters. But for me, roller coasters are more than rides — they are a gateway to a global community that has shaped a large part of my life.

Professionally, I work in Belgium's energy sector within corporate affairs and regulatory. I have the honor of representing my colleagues at an international level as Belgian secretary within the energy group my company belongs to. It's a responsibility I carry with pride — bringing people together, navigating complex challenges and ensuring every voice is heard.

My journey in the coaster community began in 2000 at an event in the Netherlands with the European Coaster Club (ECC). What started

as curiosity quickly turned into commitment. Around 2003, I stepped forward as Belgium representative, and in 2012 I joined the Executive Committee. I also founded ECC Benelux, driven by a clear goal: to provide better service and stronger connections for local members.

Leadership, however, also means making difficult decisions. After the Winterwarmer event, I chose to step away from the ECC due to internal struggles and differences in vision. It wasn't easy, but it was necessary to stay true to what I believe a community should be.

Still, my passion for the coaster world never faded.

When former president Robert Ulrich approached me — more than once — to help establish ACE Europe, I initially hesitated. But the more I reflected, the clearer it became: the urge to contribute, to rebuild and to do more for this community was simply too strong to ignore. So I said yes.

For more than four years now, I've been leading ACE Europe with a dedicated team of assistant representatives, building it in the true

▶ spirit of what ACE stands for. Together, we've created something strong, inclusive and inspiring — something that truly serves its members.

And now, I feel ready for the next step.

It's time for me to bring my experience, my passion and my vision to ACE worldwide.

My vision for the coming years is clear.

I believe our association should bring roller coaster enthusiasts together by encouraging meetings, shared experiences and knowledge at the local level. To me, the true strength of an association lies in the active involvement of its members and in creating an accessible, enjoyable environment where our shared passion takes center stage. I want to ensure that we continue to focus on facilitating local initiatives — giving members the space and trust to shape the association in a way that fits their own context.

Fun, connection and voluntary participation must always remain at our core. At the same time, I strongly believe in our responsibility within the international coaster community. From that perspective, I want to support global cooperation, knowledge exchange and mutual respect — contributing to the development, safety and preservation of roller coasters and attraction culture as a whole.

I stand by the principle: act locally, support globally. We should empower local autonomy and initiative while actively supporting and facilitating international collaboration.

I also strive for a balanced and healthy organizational structure — one where the structure serves the members, where leadership plays a facilitating role and where decisions are built on trust, transparency and involvement. Success should not be measured purely

by growth or performance but by continuity, solidarity and above all, the enjoyment and engagement of our members.

At the same time, I want to be very clear about something practical: if I am elected, my location in Belgium will not be a barrier to effective leadership or participation. With today's communication tools — online meetings, virtual collaboration and flexible ways of working — we can stay closely connected regardless of distance. I am fully committed to being present, accessible and engaged whenever needed because I am ready and able to perform the duties of the vice president as defined by ACE's constitution.

Because in the end, this is what truly matters: a community that people are proud to be part of.

And that is what I will continue to build — locally, across Europe and worldwide.



**APRIL LUCAS**  
 Bridgeville, Pennsylvania  
 Candidate Platform for Secretary

ACE has given me more than experiences; it has given me lifelong friendships and a place where I have always felt at home. I joined ACE in 1994 at just six years old, alongside my parents and older brother. From the very beginning, it became an integral part of my family's life and values. I was raised to believe that if you can help others, you should. That belief has guided my decades of involvement and service within the organization. It would be an honor to continue that commitment by serving the membership as an officer on the Executive Committee.

The role of secretary is vital to ACE's success, requiring strong organization, attention to detail and clear, consistent communication to support effective leadership. My professional experience has prepared me to manage these responsibilities. As a licensed behavior specialist working with children with autism, I rely on clear communication and thorough documentation to summarize conversations, meetings and observations accurately, ensuring each client's needs, progress and care are well recorded. This work requires precision, confidentiality and consistency as I manage detailed records and produce comprehensive reports. Using multiple digital tools has strengthened my ability to

multitask and meet deadlines efficiently, while my role as a supervisor has further enhanced my leadership skills and ability to manage complex information, particularly when preparing for audits and ensuring compliance.

Some of my earliest memories are of attending ACE events with my family, helping in small ways, learning and feeling part of something bigger than myself. Over time, those moments grew into meaningful responsibilities. From filling envelopes with registration materials to selling lift hill raffle tickets and working shifts at the ACE Store, I have contributed in a variety of ways, among many others. Presently, you can find me working registration alongside my family at Coaster Con. I have also volunteered at park-sponsored events, including a cleanup weekend at Conneaut Lake Park, helping preserve a place where many created lasting memories before its closure.

ACE has been a constant throughout my life, a thread connecting my childhood to who I am today. I have attended more than 100 regional and national events, and 2026 will mark my 22nd Coaster Con. Each event holds its own memories, but one that will always stand out is the 2002 European Coaster Odyssey. Traveling across Europe for weeks gave me a perspective I never expected. It was not just about the rides and parks. It was about experiencing new cultures and perspectives and realizing how connected and expansive the coaster community truly is.

I have had the opportunity to volunteer for ACE at the IAAPA Expo, but my favorite place to give my time in central Florida is Give Kids The World (GKTW). It is more than a nonprofit; it is a storybook village where critically ill children and their families are given the chance to experience joy, laughter and carefree moments during cost-free vacations to the area's theme parks and attractions. There is something powerful about being part of a place where happiness is the

priority.

One of its most meaningful traditions is also one of its simplest: children getting to eat ice cream for breakfast, a small act that represents freedom and the chance for children to simply be kids. My ACE region has turned this tradition into an annual fundraiser at a regional event. Over the past decade, my family has expanded it by providing a variety of toppings for ice cream sundaes. Though it may seem like a small contribution, it is our way of adding a little extra joy to an already special cause.

Since joining the Western Pennsylvania regional rep team in 2022, I have continued to expand my involvement by helping plan and support local events. I contribute creatively and logistically, with a key role in organizing CoasterBash!, the region's most complex off-season event. I take pride in being dependable, stepping in wherever needed and helping ensure events run smoothly. I have also served on both the Disciplinary Committee and the ACE Cares Committee. These roles have deepened my understanding of the organization and allowed me to contribute more meaningfully. I value being part of the work that keeps ACE strong and connected, whether by helping uphold standards and accountability or supporting initiatives that give back.

Being part of ACE as a child has given me something truly priceless — a second family. It is impossible to put into words the love, support and sense of belonging ACE has brought into my life for more than three decades. Through this organization, I have built friendships that stretch across the country, and I feel fortunate to have those connections. My years of volunteering with ACE have only deepened my commitment to service. Along the way, I have developed strong organizational skills, attention to detail and clear communication, all of which contribute to my ability to serve as an effective secretary. I also value transparency and open communication,

▶ and if elected, I would work to ensure members feel informed, included and connected to the organization's decisions and direction. I take

pride in being someone others can rely on, and I am grateful for the opportunity to give back by pouring my time, energy and heart into the

organization that has given me so much.



**LUKE REYNOLDS**  
**San Diego, California**  
**Candidate Platform for Secretary**

Since joining ACE in 2017, I've been fortunate to build friendships with enthusiasts across the country — and that sense of community has kept me involved ever since. It's also what makes me excited about the opportunity to give back and serve as secretary.

I first joined while stationed in the Mid-Atlantic region, where I started documenting the construction of *Pantheon* for ACE's YouTube channel. Following the build and sharing that experience with other members quickly turned

into one of my favorite parts of being in ACE. Over the years, I've continued supporting media days across the country, from *Pantheon* in Virginia to *Galacticoaster* in California, always enjoying those moments when a new ride is introduced to the community.

I've also had the chance to support the ACE IAAPA Expo team since 2017, volunteering at the booth and helping recruit and welcome new members into the club. Along the way, I've filmed and interviewed manufacturers, which has been a fun way to help strengthen ACE's connection with the industry. Through that work, I've had the opportunity to interact with park and manufacturer leadership, building relationships that help position ACE as a trusted and positive partner within the industry. It's been especially exciting to watch the IAAPA media team grow into such a passionate and efficient group of volunteers.

When I moved closer to the South Central region, I loved witnessing the enthusiasm from ACE members as Fiesta Texas expanded and COTALand construction progressed. Leadership from all the parks in the area noticed and used ACE's energy to further promote their rides. As a member of the Executive Committee, I

would build on that close, mutually beneficial relationship between parks and enthusiasts and continue to use our energy to help parks achieve their goals.

Throughout my time as an ACE member, I have continuously shared my love of model roller coasters. I have created enormous working models (such as *Magnum XL-200*) and made videos specifically for ACE's YouTube channel, such as a Black History Month video about Suburban Gardens in Washington, DC. I have also showcased other coaster models in the industry through my volunteer work at the IAAPA Expo.

As a current California resident (and assistant rep for the Pacific Southwest region), I enjoy helping make events run smoothly and ensuring our club members — both new and returning — feel welcomed. I help build ACE's yearly calendar, minimizing scheduling conflicts, and help build the web pages for events in the Pacific Southwest region. ACE has a long-standing reputation across the country and an unmatched legacy and stability as a coaster club. It would truly be an honor to help support that as secretary and give back to a club that means so much to me.



**MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER**  
**Tampa, Florida**  
**Candidate Platform for Treasurer**

As a member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts for 23 years, I am running for treasurer. In those 23 years, I have been an assistant regional representative in Florida for five years and a regional representative in Florida for eight years.

Based on ACE's constitutional description of the officer positions, I feel I am qualified to serve on the ACE Executive Committee as treasurer because of these reasons:

- I am currently serving as treasurer on my neighborhood homeowner's association since 2021 (five years).
- I have managed bookkeeping records for multiple small businesses.

- I have managed multimillion-dollar technology project budgets, which included requisitions, procurements and payment disbursements.
- I balanced multiple regional ACE event budgets to hold a net-zero profit by negotiating costs and forecasting event attendance.
- During my tenure as regional representative, I provided my region's annual financial reporting to ACE's treasurer.

My professional background includes holding a master of business administration degree and multiple certifications in cybersecurity. I have held the position of treasurer in my neighborhood's homeowner's association since 2021. In that role, I have balanced annual budgets, successfully managed multiple community improvement projects and reconciled all financial accounts. Over five fiscal cycles, I have maintained low member dues, with only a single increase of approximately 10%. I have also secured nonmember funding and grants from our local government and successfully managed multiple community pool improvements, including the addition of a shaded structure, new furniture and an upgraded security system. I have experience working with government agencies on procurement and financial requests that support large-scale hardware and software initiatives. I have led over a dozen multimillion-dollar

projects and successfully delivered results for both information technology and cybersecurity stakeholders.

I have immensely enjoyed volunteering for ACE. The opportunity for me to volunteer for ACE started in 2013 as an assistant regional representative in the Florida region, where I built our region's social media presence. In 2018, I became the regional representative for Florida, where I successfully rebuilt ACE's relationship with Universal Orlando Resort and hosted multiple filming events with them. As the current Florida regional representative, I have created and hosted unique and engaging events, including marathon ride events on *Cheetah Hunt* at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and *White Lightning* at Fun Spot America Orlando. I organized affordable waterpark events at Island H2O Water Park and Aquatica Orlando following the COVID-19 shutdowns, as well as a backstage preview tour of *Ice Breaker* at SeaWorld Orlando prior to its opening in 2022. I have also balanced event budgets with a goal of net-zero profit by negotiating costs with parks and accurately forecasting attendance. This included planning for prizes, marathon ride medals, meals and exclusive tours. While many events were highly successful, I also navigated significant challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the pandemic, I worked with Island H2O Live in Kissimmee to

▶ help bring ACE members back to Florida parks and continued delivering high-quality events at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Fun Spot, SeaWorld Orlando and Aquatica.

I share my love of roller coasters and my passion for ACE with my wife and our two children by frequently visiting Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, SeaWorld Orlando and Legoland Florida. I began my ACE journey as a teenager 23 years ago and attended ACE events with my grandfather in Florida, Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 2007, I moved to the Tampa Bay area to pursue a career in technology and frequently visited the theme parks in Tampa and Orlando during my free time. Today, I manage cybersecurity projects for a reputable cancer research center located

in Tampa. My son, who is almost six years old, is now tall enough to start riding the larger coasters, and his favorite so far is *Cobra's Curse* at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. My daughter is only two years old but looks up to her brother and can't wait to start riding roller coasters with him.

As your next treasurer, I will focus on continuing the excellent work of Chris Tilsley. Chris has built a strong foundation for ACE's financial success, and I intend to build upon it. My primary priorities include strengthening regional support for tax and accounting resources and ensuring that ACE continues to meet and maintain full compliance with IRS standards. Additionally, I would like to continue expanding ACE's involvement in preservation efforts and

the support of both existing and historic roller coasters. I have several fundraising ideas to help achieve this goal, including special park events, galas, nonpark gatherings and enhanced social media campaigns.

In summary, my background in accounting, procurement, business and project management and ACE event planning has prepared me well to serve as treasurer on the ACE Executive Committee. I look forward to continuing my volunteer service as an ACE officer. Our members and community are what make ACE strong, and I am committed to supporting that continued growth and dedication.

✓ ACE 2026



**EVANGELOS RINGAS**  
 Glen Allen, Virginia  
 Candidate Platform for Treasurer

I am seeking the role of treasurer and a seat on the ACE Executive Committee because I offer a rare combination of professional financial governance experience, extensive nonprofit board service, more than 20 years of volunteer service to ACE and hands-on treasurer responsibilities at the regional level. Together, these experiences position me to serve immediately and effectively as ACE treasurer.

**A 25-Year Commitment to American Coaster Enthusiasts**

My relationship with American Coaster Enthusiasts spans more than two decades and reflects a deep, long-standing commitment to the organization, its members and its mission. I joined ACE in 2000 and, over the years, have remained continuously involved as both a volunteer and leader. From 2005 through 2022, I served as Mid-Atlantic assistant regional representative, and since 2022 I have proudly served as the Mid-Atlantic regional representative.

Beyond my regional responsibilities, I have consistently supported ACE through behind-the-scenes volunteer work, including the Region Director Task Force team and merchandise operations. In particular, I have played an active role in mini-store merchandise sales at

Spring Conferences and several winter events over the past five years. I have also invested a great deal of time over the past year working with the ACE Operations team on the new ACE website (Higher Logic), including analysis and deployment of regional event functionality.

In my regional leadership roles, I have effectively served as the Mid-Atlantic region's treasurer — managing funds, tracking income and expenses, supporting event budgeting and ensuring proper reporting and accountability. These experiences give me a practical understanding of balancing financial rigor with the realities of a volunteer-driven organization and of working closely with the Executive Committee, association manager and volunteers across ACE.

**Nonprofit Experience**

Beyond ACE, I have served in leadership roles within the Boy Scouts of America, including assistant scout master, Pack Committee chair and Unit Fundraising chair. As committee chair, I led volunteer boards in planning annual activities and worked closely with the treasurer on budgets and expense oversight. As Fundraising chair, I oversaw goal-setting, incentive planning and execution in support of unit operations. This work provided hands-on experience managing charitable funds, expenses and volunteer accountability.

I currently serve as vice president of my local chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a nonprofit with an executive structure similar to that of ACE. Our chapter focuses on fundraising to support scholarships, requiring close collaboration among officers and careful financial stewardship. Together, these roles have strengthened my understanding of fiduciary responsibility in nonprofit governance.

**Professional Experience Supporting Strong Financial Governance**

I bring more than 25 years of professional experience in highly regulated and financially

complex environments. I currently serve as a senior delivery lead at Bank of America, where discipline, accuracy, transparency and strong internal controls are essential. My work involves executive-level reporting, financial documentation standards and governance practices that align closely with the treasurer's responsibilities.

Earlier in my career, while consulting with Allianz Insurance, I supported the regional chief financial officer and controller, managing finance-related initiatives, evaluating cost structures and improving financial processes that delivered measurable savings. Across roles at Capital One, Wachovia Securities and Bank of America, I have consistently worked as a project manager and process engineer, supporting budget forecasting, variance analysis and the translation of complex financial data into clear insights for leaders. This experience directly supports the treasurer's duty to produce accurate monthly reports and communicate ACE's financial position.

**Budgeting, Planning and Financial Stewardship**

Budget development and oversight are core responsibilities of the treasurer. I bring extensive experience building and managing budgets, forecasting expenses and understanding the financial impacts of strategic decisions. I hold an MBA from The College of William and Mary, with formal training in managerial finance and strategy, and have been a certified project management professional since 2007.

At ACE, I would apply this background to develop realistic, data-informed budgets in collaboration with the Executive Committee, balancing ambition with sustainability and ensuring timely approval ahead of each fiscal year.

**Event Pricing, Cost Awareness and Member Value**

Event pricing is where financial stewardship directly affects member experience. Throughout

my career, I have evaluated cost drivers, vendor pricing and operational efficiencies to support informed pricing decisions. At ACE, I would bring this same discipline to collaborating with the president and events director to review admissions costs, food service expenses and fundraising considerations. The goal is to ensure registration fees are fair, transparent and aligned with both member value and organizational sustainability.

My long-standing experience planning over 50 ACE events and managing regional event budgets reinforces the importance of accurate accounting, attention to detail and clear communication among volunteers and staff.

**Executive Committee Collaboration and Values**

ACE’s Executive Committee expectations resonate strongly with how I approach leadership. Throughout my career, both professionally outside of and within ACE, I have collaborated across teams, fostered positive stakeholder relationships, delivered on commitments and upheld organizational mission and governance

standards.

I am detail-oriented, responsive and process-driven — qualities that support timely expense reviews, accurate reporting, smooth audits and documented transition planning for future treasurers.

**Personal Statement**

I grew up in Virginia as part of a large Greek-American family, where values of teamwork, discipline, honesty and service were foundational. From early family visits to Busch Gardens Williamsburg to building lifelong memories at parks with my spouse and children, the amusement industry has always been central to my life.

ACE has extended that passion into a community. Volunteering for ACE has always been about helping members have meaningful experiences and strengthening our partnerships with parks. As my children have grown more independent, I am eager to continue investing my time and skills to help ACE thrive and welcome new families and enthusiasts into the organization.

When considering what volunteers should

serve at the highest level for ACE (the Executive Committee), seek out those with a long-standing commitment to ACE. Seek out volunteers who actively support their fellow volunteers. Seek out the servant leaders.

Throughout my career, I have been recognized for reliability, follow-through and collaboration across diverse teams. I am an independent thinker who relishes connection with others. I understand that trust is built through consistency, transparency and responsiveness — qualities that are especially important in a volunteer-driven organization.

**Conclusion**

I offer ACE a treasurer with more than 20 years of dedicated volunteer service, hands-on treasurer experience and deep professional expertise in financial governance, reporting and operational discipline. I understand ACE’s culture, respect its mission and bring the skills and commitment necessary to safeguard its financial health while supporting its continued growth. Feel free to reach out to me at [evangelosringas@aceonline.org](mailto:evangelosringas@aceonline.org), and I’ll be happy to address any questions or ideas.



**Proposed Constitution Change**

**Revision of ACE Election Dates**

The Executive Committee has recommended the implementation of a constitutional change to provide that all eligible voting members have equitable access to information before ballots are distributed, including access to the candidate presentations at the Business Meeting. To be able to implement this change, a constitutional amendment must be approved by two-thirds or more of those members voting.

**ARTICLE V - Elections – Proposed modification to Section 3 (changes shown in bold and strikethrough)**

Section 3. ~~On or about June 15~~ **Within one week after the business meeting of the election year**, ballots reflecting the nominations, and providing for write-in votes for alternate candidates, shall be sent to all **primary and secondary** members in good standing **as of June 1 of that year**. Returned ballots shall be received or completed online no later than July ~~15~~ **30** to be valid.

**Discussion:**

These proposed updates to Section 3 are intended to:

- Provide clearer guidance on election timelines and ensure that all eligible

voting members have equitable access to information before ballots are distributed, specifically access to the candidate presentations at the Business Meeting (either in person or on-line) that occur during Coaster Con.

- Remove ambiguity in the existing language and support a more transparent and consistent election process by specifying the date by which members must be in good standing and aligning the ballot distribution timeline with current practices.
- Extend the ballot submission deadline now that accommodations for mail-in ballots are no longer required.

Why is there not a specific date for distribution of the ballots?

Your ACE leadership wants to ensure that we have a small window for flexibility to allow for issues that could arise.

What is a primary and secondary ballot?

For Couple Memberships: A couple membership is granted two votes, a primary vote by the primary account holder and a secondary ballot to the second member on the membership via Bylaw 4, Section 1.

For Family Memberships: A family membership is granted two votes, a primary vote by the primary account holder and a secondary ballot to a designated member on the membership via Bylaw 4, Section 1. The primary member designates the secondary vote via “Your Profile” on [RideWithACE.com](http://RideWithACE.com).

This does not apply to Individual or Corporate Memberships, as these two membership types are granted one vote by our bylaws.

Questions may be directed to [questions@aceonline.org](mailto:questions@aceonline.org).

