

Candidate Statement for Sandy Cockerham

My name is Sandy Cockerham and I hope you will elect me as your BJCP Midwest Regional Representative.

A native Hoosier, I reside in Indianapolis. I have Chemistry degrees from Purdue and a Law degree from Indiana University, all earned at the Indianapolis campus as a part-time student while employed full time in the pharmaceutical industry. I've spent most of my years at the same company, working in research and development. I've worked with people from all around the world and have learned to overcome cultural and geographic differences in order to get things accomplished.

I've homebrewed for 25+ years and have judged since 2007. I'm a Master Judge and have earned the Mead Judge endorsement. I'm an exam grader, proctor and exam administrator. I'm an Associate Exam Director and will soon transition to share the Assistant Exam Director position. I am on the committee for the National Homebrew Conference in Grand Rapids, MI and will administer the BJCP exams at conference and serve as co-chair for the BJCP reception. I'm on the Research and Education Fund Committee of the AHA.

I'm a very active judge with over 75 competitions since attending at my first competition in early 2007 (an epic 7+ hour roadtrip to Kansas City with the leader of my BJCP class and two other students to judge at the Kansas City Bier Meisters 24th Annual.) I enjoy traveling to judge at NHC first round sites around the Midwest.

I'd like to become a BJCP board member in order to have a more direct role in shaping the policies of the organization. I've seen more transparency the last few years but more is needed. We owe it to our membership to be as open as possible about actions the board is considering and about the final proposed changes. I believe the BJCP has started to move faster on many things but we still lag. That being said, change for the sake of change alone isn't a good thing either. I have strong troubleshooting skills and I enjoy figuring out the part of processes that need to be fixed and then attempting to maintain those that do not need to be discarded.

The BJCP made tremendous progress with the creation of the online entry exam and with improvements in the exam system overall. Demand for exams in all regions far outstrips available dates and seats. There are so many new competitions; it's hard to staff the judge pools with BJCP judges. My primary goals as your representative will be to work with the board to find workable solutions for the issues we face.

We're an all-volunteer organization. Personally, I feel more engaged in the BJCP because of my volunteer hours. I'd like to help make this organization something that more people want to volunteer for in order to meet the common goals and to help support and improve the BJCP with their time and ideas. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as your regional representative.

