

Candidate Statement for Steve Cook

Hi! Like you, I am passionate about judging & homebrewing. I'm excited to further my dedication to our hobby by serving as your BJCP Midwest Regional Representative. Not only do I have a passion for judging and homebrewing, I also have the organizational credentials that you would expect of a Regional Representative.

So you can get to know me a little better, here are a few of my brewing accomplishments:

- BJCP National Judge, Exam Grader, Tasting and Written Exam Administrator (Kansas City)
- AHA NHC 1st Round Competition Site Director for Kansas City in 2013 & 2014
- AHA Competition Sub-Committee member, 2013 to Present
- President, Kansas City Bier Meisters Homebrew Club, currently serving my 2nd term.
- 2012 Brewer of the Year in the High Plains Homebrew Circuit
<http://www.kcbiermeisters.org/competitions/high-plains-award.html>
- 2012 NHC Final Round Bronze Medalist Oktoberfest
- Adjunct Instructor "Craft Beer Appreciation" course at State Fair Community College
- Testified before the Federal and State Affairs Committee in the Kansas House & Senate in 2013 & 2014 to expand the KS homebrew law.

I have extensive executive committee experience in my "non-brewing" life, enabling me to help the BJCP continue its great tradition of serving judges and homebrewers. I am a Doctor of Optometry and served several terms on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Optometric Association. I just completed over 20 years of committee service to Ducks Unlimited. I currently serve as an advisory board member for US Bank. I have also served several terms on city government committees as well as leading various civic organizations. As my prior volunteer activities wind down, I am looking for a new challenge; the BJCP is where I would like to dedicate my time and talents.

What I am most interested in as the Midwest BJCP regional representative is to continue to expand the number of ranked judges in our region. For the last several years it has taken 4 to 5 days to judge the Regional NHC and other large competitions here in the Midwest because we only have a limited number of ranked judges. I am already taking steps to address this regional shortage of judges. I will be administering 5 tasting exams and one written proficiency exam between now and January 2016. With more exams on the way as the 24 month schedule period opens up. I am also confident there are additional ways to streamline the exam grading process to make the RTP turnaround time faster while still maintaining the excellent quality feedback that our examinees currently receive. Additionally, I am interested in serving on the Continuing Education committee because I have a lot of ideas how we can increase the knowledge and skill of our existing judge pool beyond what is currently happening.

I am excited to have an opportunity to serve you and the BJCP. I look forward to the chance to bring new ideas to an already successful and well run organization.

Steve Cook

