



Candidate Statement for Ryan Thomas

I would be honored if you would re-elect me as your BJCP regional representative.

Over the past three years the Board has addressed several issues that I identified as my priorities when I first ran for election-

1. Increasing the availability of exams and number of judges
The exam program has been expanded and optimized. I introduced the Grader Incentive Program to encourage graders to pick up additional sets, and worked with the AHA to set up a matching program. We introduced policies for large exam sets, regional written exams, and streamlined the RTP process. This has led to an increase in the number of exams given each month and the number of graders available to judge at competitions. Our region has grown to be the largest in terms of US membership.
2. Training and judge development
Grader training sessions are now available at the NHC, and recorded for others who cannot attend. The Seibel kits have been reworked to be more targeted and easier to acquire. Provisional judges are now included in the list provided when registering a competition, allowing new judges to gain experience prior to their exam. The Board also created a new Regional Training Coordinator position.
3. Update policies and technology
The Board has revised and updated the By Laws, as well as adding several new policies to foster growth within the exam program. I obtained a software grant to provide all graders access to Office 365 as well as other software donations for the organization.
4. Open communications
Based on your feedback the Board adopted a mass email system, and used that to publish quarterly newsletters. The Board has also engaged an outside company that is in the process of revamping the BJCP website.

In the next three years I will continue to work on these initiatives to expand the influence and effectiveness of the BJCP. We are making great strides as an organization, especially in growth outside the US, but we are still growing more quickly than we are improving. We have a comfortable surplus that can be used to improve our training efforts and expand our infrastructure and programs. Being able to hold competitions and judges accountable for quality will also increase the value and respect of BJCP Sanctioning and Certification.

I would appreciate your support and the opportunity to continue to serve on your behalf.