

2013 VPCA Board Nominees



Barbara Anderson

If you don't recognize my picture, try adding blue goggles, a wet ponytail, and a dark navy speedo one piece. I spend most of my time at the pool in the water either splashing with my grandson or swimming laps. I grew up in West Palm Beach and have never stopped missing the ocean. For that reason, being able to swim in the sun at Venetian has been essential to me. My daughter and I started swimming at the pools while they were still owned by the Baker family and I jumped at the opportunity to join the VPCA when it was initially created. It has been my long-standing intention, once I was retired, to ask for the opportunity to 'give back' to Venetian.

I retired from Emory last April after a 31-year career in Information Technology. At my retirement party, there was an opportunity for those who had worked with me to share their impressions of me. To give you an idea of the kind of board member I would be, I share some of their most repeated comments: kind, competent, forward thinking, trustworthy, customer focused, hard-working and dependable. As a board member, I would strive to live up to these comments. I also promise to build on the openness and attentiveness to member feedback the current board has demonstrated and to continue to foster Venetian's comfortable feeling of community.



Nick Cortese

Nick Cortese has been a member of Venetian Pool since 2005 and a City of Decatur resident since 1998. Nick is married to Diane and has 3 children who graduated from Decatur HS. He has served as a volunteer sports coach for the Decatur Rec and on various volunteer activities for the Decatur HS Booster Club. Nick has worked for Delta Air Lines for 34 years and is an engineer responsible for repairs to engine and landing gear parts, primarily involving chemical processes such as cleaning and electroplating, and also surface coating technology.

His interests include the outdoors in general; hunting, fishing, travel, reading, and any kind of home repair/maintenance. He participated in the 40-mile challenge last year and has signed up again this summer. Being a lap swimmer, he is interested in ensuring there's adequate resources devoted to that activity, but with family and friends, has spent a lot of time relaxing

and dining at the pool on nights and weekends and appreciates the family-focus of Venetian. Nick would like to serve on the Board in any capacity and wants to contribute in continuing the fine tradition of Venetian to meet the needs of the entire pool membership.



John Dean

My name is John Dean. I am married and father of three. I was fortunate to serve on the board the last two years. During that time, I witnessed Board members putting many personal issues and agenda's aside and doing what they thought was in the best interest for our pool as a whole. This collaboration and selflessness led to some great accomplishments. Some are easy to see and some are not. The infrastructure of the pool (our biggest asset) has been completed and is in great shape. The new grills have received rave reviews. The switch to a professional pool management company (Swim Atlanta) has been a smooth and financially positive transition. Our long term financial health has improved and procedures have been put in place so that this continues. We have also seen internal technological advances such as an improved website, increased bandwidth for members, and we have added on line voting as an option. We have had record numbers join the swim team and participate in new programs such as the 40 Mile Swim Challenge. Our summer camp is still the best deal in town and fills up with waiting lists for both sessions. This past year we have had the smallest number of membership redemption's in many years, and our waiting list is still too long. We are entering a time where decisions will be made on Venetians Master Plan and the future of our pool and property. It's important to me that Venetian remains on the right track financially, and that we make smart, and well thought out decisions for our future. I would like to be part of this important time and hope that you will consider me once again for the Venetian Board.



April Gabor

My name is April Gabor and my husband, Billy, and I have two young daughters. After living in NYC for over a decade, we decided to return South and set down roots in Decatur. We sought out Decatur for the lifestyle: walkability, environmental consciousness, great schools and sense of community.

I am passionate about travel and all things art + design. I have a BFA in photography and own my own business, Tadpole Studios, specializing in children and teen portraiture. I've worked closely with architects and designers on projects that have been published here and abroad. I also served on the board of our loft building in Noho, NYC. I love the collaborative process and

seeing something come to fruition. Since the master plan is already in the works, I believe my skill set would be a tremendous asset at this time.

Some things I'd like to work toward: increase funds by tapping into under-utilized resources, which would require little to no additional spending but yield big returns. I'd also like to increase oversight and improve standards in regards to cleanliness and care of the pool (e.g. mildewy chairs). I believe that good design doesn't need to cost a fortune and I will work to fine tune the aesthetics and 'curb appeal' of the pool, while maintaining the intimate, close-knit spirit that makes the Venetian so special.



John Hall

My name is John Hall and I am asking for your vote to become a member of the Venetian Pools Board of Directors. My wife, Becky, and 2 children, Nathan and Chelsea, have been members of Venetian for the past 3 years. We have enjoyed spending time with friends, making new ones, participating in swim team and all the great planned events during our membership. My goal as a member of the board is to make improvements, where needed, and work to keep a balance of activities that appeal to all of our members .

I am employed by Troutman Sanders, LLP as an IT Project Manager and we are active members at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church. Over the past 4 years I have coached my son's little league team at DHYS and have just recently begun training for my first 5k and plan to run the Peachtree next summer.

I am a strong candidate for the board because I have experience managing projects and finding solutions. A few of the issues I will look in to are the lack of parking, the underdevelopment of some of the land as well as exploring the addition of healthier concession stand snack/meal options while keeping costs at a minimum.



Rob Katz

I appreciate the nomination. My name is Rob Katz and my family (Wife Kathleen and Daniel (12), Gildea (11) and Caitlin (7)) and I have lived in Decatur since 2000. We have been members of Venetian since around 2005 or 2006. My kids all learned to swim at Venetian and have each spent time on the swim team. Also, my wife swims laps at the pool and I have started trying to

swim laps, although it is truly a work in progress. Last year I was appointed by the board to complete the remaining year of a board member who resigned and the board elected me treasurer. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the board. During the year, the board worked extremely well together and has built on the positive changes implemented by the previous board. With respect to the pool renovation project, I worked with other members of the board to implement competitive bidding for the project saving the association approximately \$15,000.00. In addition, I performed a review of the insurance in place for the association and improved our coverage while working to reduce its cost. I also worked closely with the board to implement our budget this year and to put in place safeguards for the disbursement of funds.

A record low number of persons redeemed their membership this past year which has placed a great deal of financial strain on the pool due to the lower level of initiation fees. Despite this financial challenge, due to the conservative nature of the budget, it appears (Note: The year is not over) that the pool will still not run a deficit this year and has been able to make improvements such as re-paving the parking lot, installing new grills and painting the light poles. When I became treasurer, I found that there is a steep learning curve with respect to understanding Venetian's finances and operations. I decided to run for the board this year so that I can apply the knowledge I have gained from serving as treasurer this past year during a full term on the board. I believe that in general, but especially during this time of difficult budgets and the continued development of our relationship with SwimAtlanta, the management company for the pool over the last two years, that maintaining a certain level of continuity and historical knowledge on the board is important. Venetian Pools is a wonderful place and we are very fortunate to have such a nice community of people. Thank you for considering me for the board and I would appreciate your vote.



Michael Purser

I like to think I sample most of what Venetian offers. My company is a sponsor of the swim team and I attend meets when possible. I am moving closer to my (second) 40 Mile Challenge tee shirt. And my wife and I still enjoy dinner by the pool with friends or solo. The last two seasons at Venetian have been some of the best that I can remember. My goal, if elected to the board, is to keep that momentum going. Board membership is about stewardship and serving the members - not a cause. I welcome your support and look forward to my second tour on the board.



Matt Smith

I'm an Atlanta native. I graduated from Woodward Academy and did my undergrad and law school at the University of Georgia. My wife and I live in Decatur with my two stepsons and our twin daughters. I am an attorney at Andersen Tate and Carr in Gwinnett county working in commercial real estate. I enjoy golfing, hunting and watching Georgia football.

I think the Venetian is a great place to belong to and my vision as a board member is to ensure that the pool meets the needs of all its members. My wife and I plan to spend many summers at the Venetian with our children and I want to help the pool continue to achieve high standards of safety and lots of family fun.