



Meet the 2024 Candidates for NMTA Board of Trustees

Elizabeth Bohling, Seattle Boat Company

Born and raised in Bellevue, boating has been a part of my life since early childhood. Summer days were filled with kneeboarding, water skiing, wakeboarding, and surfing, creating cherished memories spent in Desolation Sound during our annual family trips.

My journey at Seattle Boat began in my teenage years, where I worked across different departments such as the accounting office, parts office, and service. Sweeping the shop floor remains a vivid memory, with the sounds and scents of the service department etched in my mind.

Balancing my love for boating with competitive horseback riding, I returned to Seattle Boat in 2015 after college in Texas. It was then that I took the initiative to develop the HR department and significantly expand the Finance and Delivery Coordinator office. As the company expanded, my career naturally progressed into management of the Sales team, culminating in my appointment as Co-President following the acquisition of Tobler Marina in September 2023. My experience across various facets and roles within our business has given me a profound understanding of our employees, customers and community as a whole.



Beyond my roles at Seattle Boat, I've been actively involved in committees like Grow Boating and the Seattle Boat Show and several 20 Groups (dealership innovation & accountability peer groups), fostering relationships within the boating community. I've especially grown to value my time at NMTA, where building relationships goes beyond just friendship and aims to support the future of our boating community.

Joining the NMTA board aligns with my values and lifelong passion for boating. The opportunity excites me, offering a chance to deepen involvement and contribute positively. I believe my dedication to boating and our boating community at large makes me a strong board candidate, resonating with NMTA's industry commitment.

Eager to share insights and drive industry success, I look forward to combining passion with purpose on the board, shaping a brighter boating future. Prepared to bring my experience and leadership to support mariners' needs, I'm enthusiastic about this new chapter.

John Dumas, Port of Anacortes

John Dumas is the Director of Operations at the Port of Anacortes, and is current also serving as the Interim Executive Director. John brings a demonstrated history of working in both private and government industries, with over 20 years of management and leadership roles in manufacturing and operations. After serving 8 years in the United States Navy, he served in accounting, quality and safety roles with a manufacturing company that led him to the role of Site Leader for locations in Anacortes, WA and Houston, TX with over 70 employees and \$25 million in annual sales. In 2017, he took the position of Director of Operations at the Port of Anacortes where he worked on establishing foundational management standards over 4 distinct operational centers. Away from work, John is married to Megan and has three children, one in college, one in high school, and one in 3rd grade. A true passion away from work and family is coaching athletics, and is extremely proud of his role coaching the 2023 Anacortes High School football program to its first state title in history.



Arnie Hammerman, Brand Builder Media

My name is Arnie Hammerman and I run a local marine oriented marketing services company called Brand Builder Media. Brand Builder Media is the culmination of many years working in and around boats and the boating business. Ten years ago, my wife of 30 years, Janet and I started the company in part to help marine businesses grow and thrive.



I come from a boating family where we spent our leisure time sailing, boating, and having fun on the water. My father always told me that the best jobs are the ones where you can do something you like while still earning a living. I took that advice to heart and kept my focus on boats and the water. I studied marine biology including bioacoustic research with bats and dolphins in college. After school I taught sailing, diving, and marine sciences. I also worked on boats and earned enough sea time to get a USCG captains license which I have maintained for over 35 years. Once I got involved in working around boats and the boat business, I knew where I belonged. Jobs changed over the years, but I always stayed closely involved in boating and the marine industry. As a captain I ran charter, delivery, and private yachts. I sold marine electronics and equipment, and then got involved in marine journalism and publishing. I worked at the two largest marine media companies in the U.S. for many years as a regional manager and publisher. I continue to write articles and boat tests, contributing to numerous marine publications worldwide, as well as writing for Brand Builder's clients.

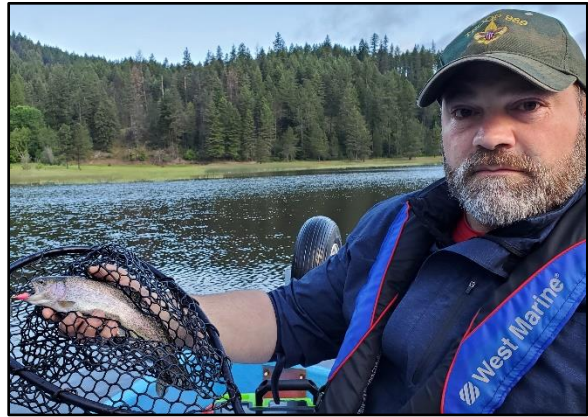
I have continued my family boating tradition cruising the Pacific Northwest with my wife, our two grown sons, and our dog Callie, who goes most everywhere with me. I still occasionally deliver boats, enjoy time offshore, and when my schedule allows, I work on a research vessel searching for historic wrecks and artifacts.

I want to serve on the NMTA board to continue my involvement in the industry and to help grow the sport of boating. I am lucky to have been born into a boating family, with the heritage continuing since my kids like to boat and both of my brothers and I all own boats. I am privileged to be able to work with some leading boat companies helping them to grow their business. In conjunction with the NMTA's great boat shows and other programs I hope to be able to help more people get out on the water and experience all that boating has to offer. I have volunteered in other positions and know I can do more for the industry as an NMTA board member and appreciate your consideration. Thank you for your vote and I'll see you on the water!

Clint Kirry, Hewes Marine Company

As a 16-year leader at the Pacific Northwest's #1 manufacturer of aluminum boats, I have immersed myself in the region's boating industry and hope to continue to provide my experience to the NMTA Board, as I have for the past six years.

After 12+ years spent in advertising and marketing management positions in Las Vegas, Seattle, and Salt Lake City, my wife and I decided to relocate, with our four children, back to the Pacific Northwest. Our family roots are in both Western (Seattle, Port Ludlow) and Eastern (Ritzville, Moses Lake) Washington, and we found our perfect match in the forests and lakes surrounding Colville, WA. In 2008, I was hired by the Hewes family—first as Hewes Marine Company's Marketing/Sales Director, and then (in 2017) as Vice President—to oversee the company's Marketing/Sales, Warranty/Customer Service, and Shipping teams.



Although I once saw fishing and boating solely through the lens of my experience as a youngster fishing near Neah Bay, Ilwaco, and Port Angeles (among other places), I now view it through the lens of thousands of hours spent learning from boaters, anglers, and boat retailers. This experience has led me to believe that the most important issue facing marine businesses in the Pacific Northwest is the need to safeguard the health and permanence of fish stocks and marine ecologies while simultaneously allowing fishing and boating industries to thrive. This is no easy thing. I will continue to bring an Eastern Washington employer's and boat manufacturer's voice to the board as I help the NMTA accomplish this difficult goal. I continue to focus on common-sense fishing policies, and long-term economic opportunity based around boating and fishing in the Pacific Northwest. I will continue to focus on promoting fishing among young anglers—especially as large numbers of current anglers and boaters continue to age out of these activities. I will lend my efforts to influencing government policy for fishing and boating as well as “grow-boating” initiatives.

Michael Villarma, The Bay Company

I grew up on an island in a small town in Southeast, Alaska. This is where my love for the water originated from and ultimately what directed me towards a career in the maritime industry. I spent most of my younger years enjoying the outdoors. Fishing, hiking, camping, etc. Sports played a large role in my life and gave me the competitive drive that launched me into my current career.

Shortly after graduating high school, I attended college to pursue my Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. I worked for the State of Alaska as a Vessel Construction Manager, assisting in the repair of vessels operated by the marine highway. It was during this time I met my wife and started a family.

In 2017 we became owners of The Bay Company and opened a third location in Ketchikan, AK. Growing this business to what it is today has been challenging but one of the most rewarding milestones in my life.

Our company is a fairly new member to the NMTA organization, however I am eager to show the association what I bring to the table and share some insight as to how the Alaska market plays a significant role in the Northwest and vice versa. I want to ensure that boating areas remain open to the public and that families can continue to recreate on the weekends without breaking the bank.

We have been successful at keeping these issues at the forefront of what we stand up for by supporting and actively being involved with organizations that share this same vision. I feel that collaboratively with the current knowledge of the NMTA board and my ambition and wherewithal to make a difference, we have the ability to make a change and protect what is most important to us all.



Paul Zimmer, S3 Maritime

My path from growing up in Eastern Washington to having worked in the marine industry for 30+ years has taught me that this industry provides great opportunities for a vast group of diverse individuals. Simply stated, this is the key to the ongoing success of this industry.

While I was always drawn to the water and water-related activities, I had no idea what an enjoyable and fulfilling career the marine environment could provide. It was only after I moved to Seattle after college and took a part-time job with a local shipwright that I realized the scope of these opportunities.

My first job at Raven Marine Service was only part-time however it quickly became full time and I soon took over the business. At the time, Raven Marine specialized in providing quality paint projects, as well as fiberglass and composite repairs.

As the business grew and expanded, I took on a partner and formed Seattle Yacht Service enabling the company to provide a broader range of services including mechanical, electrical, marine systems, and marine electronics.

In 2007 I co-founded S3 Maritime which is a full-service yacht repair company that now has 65 employees and four locations in the Pacific Northwest. My daily activities include working with the management team strategizing, budgeting, marketing, sales, and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the company.

I have been a member of NMTA for 24+ years. I have served on the Technicians Committee and I am a current member of the Super Yacht Northwest Committee.

The NMTA is a vibrant and critical part of the recreational marine industry. I feel it is important to support NMTA for the health and benefit of all members. My 30+ years of experience in this industry, culminating in serving on the Board of NMTA, will allow me to better serve and support all of NMTA's diverse member businesses.

