

GILLIAN BLITCH

My main qualification as candidate for the CdS Board is that of oldest living CdS dive mom... in every sense of the word ☺. My son Emmott, (silver level) joined CdS in February of 2005 making him now, at 12 years old, the longest continuous member of the team! His initial tryout for CdS earned him just Saturday lessons, and he's worked his way up from there with courage and tenacity that put my occasional reluctance to make the increasingly frequent commute from North Central Phoenix to shame!

I have long been active as a team parent, and would say I have been an energetic participant in the growth of the team and especially the growing success and national reputation of the invitational meets we host. Most of you have seen (and/or heard) me at both meets and meetings, and I served as Board President B.D.* I want to be clear that I am running in this election only for the position of Board Alternate. This is a position which exists in our by-laws but has lain dormant for the last few years; it provides for an alternate vote when an issue comes before the Board that presents a conflict of interest for one (or more) of the sitting Board Members. I think that when the Board needs someone to step in quickly to vote on an item, ideally that person should already be familiar with team precedents, management issues, and/or budget constraints. Given the unusual circumstance that every position on the Board is up for reelection this year, this will be especially important.

That said, I have served on other non-profit boards in the Phoenix area, including as Chairman of Cross Roads Pre-School Board, and the North Central Education Foundation. My background is in international marketing and communications, and for the last 6 years or so I have been fortunate to combine this with a lifelong interest in art as director of a private gallery in Scottsdale.

Because of Emmott's singular passion, diving is a 'force' in our family life. We welcome it for the etiquette, grace, and strength of character that are essential to the sport no matter what the level of your natural talent!

**Before Dave*