



AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS ELECTION '10

Candidate Platforms for ACE Offices:

President Vice President Secretary and Treasurer

Presented in Alphabetical Order, by Office

All candidates
submitted
platforms and
photographs
for this publication.



DAVE ALTMAN
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Candidate Platform for President

Joined ACE: 1985

ACE positions held and committee involvement:
ACE Vice President (September 2006 to present)
ACE Disciplinary Committee chairman
(September 2006 to present)
ACE Finance Committee (2005 to present)
ACE Treasurer (September 2000 to September 2004)
Assistant Regional Rep (October 2002 to present)
Regional Rep (December 1999 to September 2002)
Assistant Regional Rep (1994 to November 1999)
1998 and 2010 Convention Planning Committee
(Kennywood and Idlewild)
Regional KennyKon and CoasterBash! committee
(1995 to present)

ACE Events attended:

No Coaster: 2006, 2009, 2010
East Coaster: 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006 through 2010
Spring Conf: 1988, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2007
through 2010
Convention: 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997 through 2010
Preservation Conf: 1992, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2008
Summer Conf: 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2009
Fall Conf: 1995, 1997, 1999, 2003
European Coaster Odyssey: 2002 (tour bus co-captain)
ACEspana: 2009 (tour bus co-captain)
IAAPA: 1999, 2003 (ACE delegate), 2007 through 2009
(ACE delegate)
Regional events: CoasterBash!, KennyKon, Ridefest
(since early 1990s)

Profession:

Mechanical Engineer
(Westinghouse Electric Company—since 1972)
Registered Professional Engineer
(state of Pennsylvania—since 1978)

Education:

BS Mechanical Engineering—University of Pittsburgh
MS Mechanical Engineering—Carnegie-Mellon University

Other professional and non-professional organizations:
National Model Railroad Association (NMRA)—1975 to present

Platform statement:

I have attended all of the Executive Committee meetings during both my terms as vice president and my two previous terms as treasurer. I have served on the EC under the last three ACE presidents and have a good working relationship with the current EC officers and directors. I also remain active in the Western Pennsylvania region as an assistant regional representative involved in regional event planning and where I have also been responsible for maintaining the region's finances since 1994.

There are a few defined duties for the vice president, including chairing the Disciplinary Committee and making arrangements for the spring and Fall EC meetings. However the vice president is to assist the other EC directors as necessary. I have regularly assisted the registration director with on-site registrations and have collected auction receipts in the absence of ACE's treasurer at several events.

ACE shares common problems with other "hobby" organizations—aging membership, increasing costs, competing interests for disposable income and membership recruitment and retention challenges. ACE is fortunate to have so many volunteers that keep our events, publications and other costs to a minimum and reduce the potential for dues increases.

I believe that ACE should actively recruit new, especially younger, members and, to that effect, I have championed a trial membership program since 2007. I think that many potential members are apprehensive about spending \$60 or more to determine if they like the club. Many ACE members that I spoke to indicated that they had friends, co-workers and relatives that were interested in joining ACE, but balked at the cost of the annual dues. I am happy to report that the "ACE Test Ride" trial membership program was implemented in November 2009 at the IAAPA Trade Show in Las Vegas.

To demonstrate ACE's commitment to safety, I attended seminars on park safety and security during the 2007 and 2008 IAAPA trade shows in Orlando. I think it is important for the amusement industry to see ACE members attend. As a result of this contact I was invited to make a presentation on ACE's history, mission and coaster patron safety during the Spring 2008 Amusement Ride Safety Seminar sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture (state ride inspection agency). I was invited to repeat this presentation in 2009 and 2010 but work-related overseas trips prevented me from doing so.

I am encouraged by the new spirit of cooperation between the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA) and ACE. We can accomplish much more united, as opposed to the previous situation where ACE and NRCMA were vying for the same equipment donations from the parks, causing confusion within the amusement industry. I attended museum seminars at the 2008 and 2009 IAAPA trade shows and came away with the impression that the museum industry is a tight-knit community. Although some contacts were made, I would like to invite any

members who are employed in the museum industry to help us navigate through these “uncharted waters.”

Three of the directors currently on ACE's Executive Committee have made known their intentions to resign at the end of the current term. If elected president, I plan to appoint some new faces to these positions, and I have already talked to potential replacements.

However, I am discouraged by the lack of opposing candidates for three of the Officer positions for this election. Giving that ACE's membership is over 6000, we should have several qualified candidates running for each office. I am more concerned that we will be in the same situation two years from now at the next election.

Many of the current EC members came from and some retain their positions as regional reps and assistants and/or work on several committees. We need to identify ACE's future leaders now and get them involved in the organization so they are prepared to step into these roles. If anyone has a desire to become involved in the organization, or has questions on what is involved, please contact one of the elected officers after the election.

Thank you for your consideration.



JERRY WILLARD
San Francisco, California
Candidate Platform for Vice President

I am pleased to accept the nomination for Vice President. It has been my privilege to serve ACE over the past several years, including four years as Treasurer, and I hope to continue representing ACE's members while fulfilling new responsibilities.

Contributions to ACE—Getting Involved

I have been a volunteer and contributor to ACE since early in my 11-year membership because I wanted to give back to the organization. Prior to serving as Treasurer for ACE, I routinely volunteered for registration and the General Store at Coaster Con. I thought it was a perfect way to contribute and to get to know other members. Later, I served on the ACE Web site Committee for two years providing some of the primary maintenance to the site, particularly the information that required frequent updates, which allowed me early interaction with several Regional Representatives and Executive Committee members. I also contributed to ACE publications writing two articles for *RollerCoaster!* issues.

I served as ACE's Treasurer from 2004 to 2008. I reviewed all monthly financial statements and helped process expenses and revenues, prepared annual budgets, provided written reports for all Executive Committee meet-

ings and Annual Business meetings, and attended Executive Committee meetings. I worked frequently with the management firm to ensure a good relationship and address ACE's day-to-day needs.

During my term, I also implemented a dues increase for the first time in 14 years to ensure ACE's financial stability, introduced multi-year memberships to help mitigate the effects of the increase on members who committed to ACE and helped develop and adopt an investment policy to guide future investment and preserve assets. Additionally, midway through my four years, I served as a member of the evaluation and selection team as ACE transitioned to a new management firm. I helped develop the Request for Proposals document, evaluated proposals and recommended candidate selection and, once the contract was negotiated with the new firm, I transitioned the financial records from the old provider to the new firm.

Other Qualifications

In addition to contributing to our organization, my professional experience and education have prepared me to serve in the role of Vice President. I am currently employed as a deputy director in charge of contracts and administration for a commuter rail line. I am responsible for a program budget of more than \$60 million, which includes planning and the management of projects, contracts and personnel. Currently, I am leading a procurement to develop an RFP and select a contractor that spans the entire operation and maintenance of service, leading a multi-disciplinary team.

Prior to my current position, I was an analyst for more than 10 years, working for public transit agencies. I was responsible for a variety of analytic and financial projects. Working for public agencies for 18 years, I am familiar with an organizational structure that is similar to a non-profit agency such as ACE. I also have a degree in Economics, graduating with high honors from the University of Southern California, and have strong problem solving and analytic skills.

Why I Want to be Vice President

In relative coaster oblivion at the northern end of California more than 300 miles away from the nearest amusement park, I did not get many chances to ride coasters growing up. My first coaster was a toboggan like the ones at Lakemont Park and Little Amerricka. It came to town with the carnival when I was a kid, and not seeing another toboggan for many years, I always wondered if I had dreamed that encounter. I mean a coaster where you start up a 90 degree climb inside a long rocket-like tube, lying on your back in a cage, only to come spilling out of the top and into a never-ending spiral to the ground. Who comes up with such stuff? Little did I know about some of the wild creations that would take place over the next 35 years.

Attending college in Los Angeles and settling afterwards in the San Francisco Bay Area, my coaster void was quickly filled by numerous local parks. Now I am fortunate to be centrally located about an hour from the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, California's Great America, and Gilroy Gardens. To show you how much things change in relatively short time, three of those parks have been renamed since I first ran for Treasurer six years ago. Thankfully none has closed, unlike in other parts of the country.

I have been a member of ACE since 1999. I am still not sure why it took me so long to join. I guess you can attribute it to being a poor guy recently out of college and paying off student loans and bills. Fifty dollars seemed like a big deal back then, and I think it still is. I want to be sure our members get their “money's worth.” ACE has changed a lot over the years, and the environment around us has changed even more significantly. Park closures and consolidations, formation of other enthusiast groups, the Internet and an easier way to distribute information and do business all of these things have changed our pastime.

I want to help ACE evaluate its place today and plan for the future. I look at the potential to be Vice President as a blank canvas. As Treasurer or even in my current profession, you can be so encumbered by day-to-day activities and the running of a business that you can sometimes lose sight of where you are and where you should be going. I want to support ACE with that work. Unlike other Executive Committee positions, there are few assigned duties to the Vice President and certainly not the same daily responsibilities as others. The Vice President position is a support to the President, the Executive Committee and the members.

I was a successful Treasurer for ACE, and I will continue to bring a well-rounded background, new ideas and a strong ability to work well with others that benefited the Executive Committee and ACE in the past. I have an ability to communicate effectively and facilitate decision making within all levels of an organization. If elected, I will represent all ACE members and support the goals of our organization. I hope that I will even be able to find a few more goals for us along the way. In return, I hope that you will support me with your vote.



BILL GRAVES
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Candidate Platform for Treasurer

I am running for my second term for the position of ACE Treasurer. I have been a member of ACE since 1992 and began being an active participant in ACE events starting in 2000. Living in North Carolina, I am a member of ACE's Southeast Region and particularly enjoy the regional events like Spring Fling and CoasterFest. In 2004 I became involved with helping to restart the then dormant ACE *RC!* Back Issues sales process and still handle back issues sales today. You can find my annual report on *RC!* Back Issues sales in the report handed out at the Annual Meeting or on-line in the “My ACE” portion of the Web site. I have also been a frequent volunteer at the ACE General Store during the Cons and during auctions at ACE national events.

My personal qualifications are largely unchanged since the last election. I am retired from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I worked with many departments in the University, frequently overseeing the creation of billing or other financial systems. I served as the Treasurer of CUMREC, the national Conference of Higher Education Administrative Technology and am currently Treasurer of Carolina Friends School, a position I have held for over 20 years. In that role I craft the school's annual budget and have applied a very conservative fiscal approach to the school's finances.

I would like to discuss briefly some of the tasks I have undertaken as ACE Treasurer these past two years in an effort to improve awareness of the position and the tasks required. These include but are not limited to:

- Making the Treasurer's transition process simpler by adding to the Treasurer's duties documentation as well as defining the process flow for the various spreadsheets that need to be maintained to ensure adequate cash flow, membership revenue analysis and restricted fund analysis each month.
- Creating annual proposed budgets. I also added graphs that highlight the sources of ACE's annual revenues and expenditures to the ACE Budget, as can be seen on the "My ACE" web page.
- Taking liberal advantage of ACE's past two Treasurers' (Jerry Willard and Dave Altman) to both understand the duties of the position and to understand the decisions that led to the current ACE budget policies.
- Working in close contact with ACE's CPA to resolve tax return concerns and documenting the flow of ACE's accounting line items into the IRS's Form 990 for future Treasurers.
- Annually filing ACE's tax return (the Form 990) and ensuring that ACE's business management firm (Offinger Management Company in Zanesville, Ohio), has issued 1099's where appropriate.
- Created a proposal for a gradual shift to on-line balloting, a process that could save ACE thousands of dollars each election year.
- Working with ACE's business management firm to revise ACE's Chart of Accounts, improve financial reporting, and to review and approve ACE's financials on a monthly basis. In 2009 this included working with the President to negotiate a two-year contract renewal with Offinger.
- Working with the President to ensure all approved expenditures are applied to the correct budget lines.
- Working with ACE's business management firm to revise our handling of credit cards to meet new, more stringent requirements by the card issuers. This also required creating revised procedures for ACE's Regional Reps. The Treasurer also processes all regional and national auction sales proceeds before submitting them to the management firm.
- Leading ACE's Investment Committee and working with ACE's brokerage firm and investment manager to oversee ACE's two investment accounts and to ensure that ACE's Investment Policy is followed.

I noted two years ago that "part of any platform is frequently a vision of what one would do if elected." In hindsight I believe that the Treasurer's position is less one of vision, but is one that provides clarity to ACE members and the Executive Committee of the financial intricacies of a moderately large not-for-profit organization and the potential financial impact any options being studied might have on ACE's financial position. As such I have worked

hard to improve the documentation that should make future Treasurer's jobs easier to transition in to as well as to make the information at hand clearer.

Thank you for your consideration.



RUS OZANA
Dracut, Massachusetts
Candidate Platform for Secretary

It is an honor to accept the nomination to the position of ACE Secretary.

Personal Background

- Present: Realtor - residential real estate
- Previous: 28+ years in Financial Services/ Administration/Management
- Bachelor of Science in Management, University of Lowell (Massachusetts)

ACE Background

- ACE member since 1993
- RollerCoaster!* contributor
- "Show Me The Coasters," Fall 2009, feature article on Coaster Con XXXIII
- Authored 4 small articles
- ACE News contributor
- Photo contributor to *RollerCoaster!*, *ACE News*, ACE calendar
- Region 1 registration volunteer
- Circulation Team Member for the Region 1 newsletter, "*New England Dispatch*"
- Attended 52 national, regional, and international ACE events

Media/Publications

- American Builder, (Comcast/CN8, 2007, episode 4.51—"Six Flags New England") Represented ACE on camera exploring the roller coasters at Six Flags New England with host Jim Lemire
- Psychology Today*, "Thrills & Chills/Beating Coasterphobia" (June 1999) Feature article on "coaster phobics," in which I participated as a mentor. The article led to follow-up media coverage in the *Boston Herald* and a WCAP radio talk show, where I represented ACE.

Other coaster-related

- "Oc-Boulder-Fest!" at Lake Compounce, organizer of annual group outing since 2000.

Over the past 17 years, I have had the great privilege and pleasure to be part of American Coaster Enthusiasts. I have attended numerous events and made lasting friendships. Although I have volunteered to assist in various aspects of the organization, I feel it is time for me to do something more and, in so doing, help advance ACE in

memberships and name recognition.

I am proud to extol my ACE membership to anyone I meet. However, it never ceases to amaze me the number of people who do not know of our existence. Of course, once I explain the organization to them, I am usually greeted with one of two types of responses—those expressing terror and those expressing intrigue.

At a cocktail party held at the home of a museum curator (I am married to a manager in the fine art field), the conversations revolved around art collections and exhibitions in which the various attendees were currently involved. At one point, I was asked my specialty. "Roller coasters," I replied. No one was expecting that response. It quickly became obvious I had piqued their interest and curiosity. I began to talk about ACE and roller coasters. Within moments, my topic became the center of attention. The attendees were all fascinated. I, of course, was thrilled to give them all the details they wanted. The evening had taken a turn I had never expected.

Why did I accept this nomination? I feel it is time for me to give back to an organization that has given me so much. There are members in our organization who are very passionate about ACE. This is certainly most evident during the Q&A session at the annual business meeting each June. Many ACE members are not simply there to visit parks, ride coasters, and hang out with their friends. They want to bring to the table their concerns, suggestions and new ideas. It is important that this exchange continue, whether it occurs during the annual forum, or in individual exchanges between members and the Executive Committee. I want to be an active participant in these exchanges and help guide the future direction of this great organization. By the EC continuing to show their support and encouraging membership participation, I would like to see attendance at ACE events extend well beyond the one-tenth of our membership we currently get. These events are one of the greatest examples of social networking ever!

What have I done for ACE? Locally, I am always available to my Regional Representative to assist with event set-up, registration, assembling door prizes, and anything else that needs to be done. I've spent many afternoons collating, folding, stapling, stuffing and stamping envelopes as a member of the circulation team for our regional newsletter. As Secretary, I would like to give back to the club on a larger level. I view this as my 'thanks' in exchange for all the fun and excitement I've received from ACE over the years.

Why should you elect me to this position? As Secretary, I'll be responsible for the safekeeping and recording of the spoken and written words, as well as the decisions made by the Executive Committee. The information gathered during these meetings will need to be transcribed, formatted and disseminated back to the EC, as well as made available to the membership, as requested. The contents and presentation must be clear, complete and concise, especially for the annual ACE Convention, where it is disseminated to all attendees. I will also be available as the connection, a sounding board, between the general membership and the EC, for ideas and comments (and, yes, complaints) that need to be addressed.

I've spent years in administration. I have served on and taken minutes for a committee which monitored planned

medical research for children with debilitating and often fatal diseases. I've written procedural manuals for positions I've held over the years, allowing those in my absence to understand the rules, regulations and guidelines which need to be followed. I've maintained data files for financial institutions which were used to verify information delivered through other technologies. I've managed staff responsible for the updating and maintenance of accounts in both large and small investment firms.

As a Realtor, I don't simply list houses and bring potential buyers to see them. The process involves more research, documentation, record keeping and reporting than a potential buyer or seller could imagine. I must also follow State laws, rules and regulations on procedure and ethics. All this work is done behind the scenes. And that's where, if I am elected, you will find me as the ACE Secretary, diligently working behind the scenes, making sure all that needs to be documented is done so accurately and responsibly (when not riding roller coasters, of course!). I will also be at the forefront to the membership at large to answer, get answers to or act upon their inquiries and suggestions.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank those who have nominated me for this position. I thank ACE for the friends I have made over the years. And I thank the entire membership for its consideration of me as the ACE secretary.

Thank you.



SUSAN SHICK
Fairview Park, Ohio
Candidate Platform for Secretary

Qualifications; ACE related

- ACE member since October 1998
- ACE Assistant Regional Rep 2008-present
- GOCC member, GOCC secretary 2006-2010 (term ends 9/1/10)
- Attended 10 ACE national events and numerous regional and other events
- Volunteer: convention registration, merchandise store set-up
- Ridden over 450 coasters

Qualifications; Professional

- Graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College; BME Music Education
- 30+ hours graduate work in music education
- Teacher vocal/general music; Cleveland Metropolitan School District—Artemus Ward School 1988-present.
- Organist; Rockport United Methodist Church 1991-present. Director of music 2009-present.
- Organist; Parkwood United Church of Christ 1968-1991.

- ESP Grade level chairman 2007-present.
- MENC (music educators)
- PEAC award 2008 (teachers)

Joining ACE has been a wonderful adventure. My husband, Earl, and I have been married 36 years. It was so exciting attending our first convention at Hershey, Dorney and Williams Grove. Sharing the passion of riding roller coasters with others who feel the same continues to amaze me! I love it!

Volunteering at ACE events has given me the opportunity to meet many enthusiastic ACEers. I am proud to be a part of an organization that promotes coasters and their historic preservation. The ACE minutes are a part of historical record and need to be accurately documented.

I have been a teacher for 22 years with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as vocal/general music teacher. I currently have 550 students in grades PK-8. I am responsible for lesson plans, teaching, and four performance group rehearsals each week. I am grade level chair, which meets weekly and turns in a report weekly to the principal.

I feel blessed to have this opportunity to run for the office of your ACE secretary and ask for your vote.

