

JERICO SAILING CENTRE ASSOCIATION 2026/2027
BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

SEVEN full term (two year) J.S.C.A. Board of Directors positions are available.
TEN candidates were nominated as of the nomination-closing deadline.

Listed in alphabetical order by last name, the following candidates have put their names forward for election to the Jericho Sailing Centre Association Board of Directors:

BESZANT, Lynne

I moved to Vancouver from the UK 18 years ago and have been a JSCA member almost as long as I have lived in Canada. Through my connection as a sailor with one of the affiliated clubs, the environment has become one of my most frequented places, and its value as a non-commercial, member-funded and member-run operation is a principle that has been consolidated during my time both as a member and on the JSCA board.

I have previously served on our sailing club's board for a total of 5 years in a variety of positions and will be once again serving on that board over the coming 2 years. I have also served as a member on the boards of an outdoor activities club in Vancouver and a member-run sports club in the UK and have since served on the JSCA board for the past 6 years.

As well as understanding the basic principles of maintaining and organising the activities of volunteer-run organisations, I am developing a deeper understanding of the centre's interdependent relationship with the City of Vancouver and the Parks Board, especially with regards to our course-made-good plans for 2035/2045 in the context of the looming impact of climate change and its implications for our activities and also our lease renewal. The challenges associated with the daily smooth running of the sailing centre, given its responsibilities for general maintenance, event management, safety and on-the-water rescue within budgetary limits, are also clear.

With the past 6 years' experience in mind, I would like to nominate myself for a further term on the board of directors in the hope of building further on this experience and making a more meaningful contribution to this amazing community as it welcomes people from all walks of life and all of life's circumstances, adding such value to our community.

FRENCH, Kevin

Jericho has been an important and fun part of many lives, including my own, and I would like to continue my involvement as a director in renewing and growing the organization. I am currently the Treasurer for JSCA and a member of the executive committee. I am an active level 3 skipper volunteer for Jericho Rescue and have enjoyed meeting many Jericho members through the racing and other programs supported by Jericho Rescue, as well as those sailors needing 'hands on' help!

I will work to strengthen JSCA efforts to involve more youth and bolster our coaching and safety/rescue programs for all users. I have decades of experience working in a team environment during my career in finance and marketing. That experience has informed my efforts to understand the needs of and develop programs to serve our sailing and paddling communities. I also look forward to being a part of the work to renew our great facility over time.

I have been a sailor almost all of my life racing keel boats, dinghies, windsurfers and catamarans, and I also enjoy time on the water in my kayak. I have coached and played competitive soccer and understand the need for strong organizations to support successful recreation programs. We are truly fortunate to have access to such a fabulous multi-use facility in such a stunning location. What makes it truly special though is what the staff and volunteers bring to the Jericho community. I ask for your continued support to be a part of that team.

HUNT, Brian

I have been an active member of the JSCA since 2000 and a member of the JSCA Board of Directors for the past 17 years. During my 17 years on the Board, I have served as Chair of the Programs Committee and four years as Treasurer. I feel I have contributed to the Sailing Centre in a meaningful way and would like to continue giving back to the Centre by running again for another two-year term.

When not at Jericho, I work as a Wealth Advisor and Portfolio Manager at BMO Nesbitt Burns, where I help individuals, families, non-profit organizations and corporations to budget and manage their money. I am currently responsible for managing over \$700 million in client assets.

From 1984 to 1995 I was a Clearance Diver in the Canadian Navy serving on various ships in the fleet as well as Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic (Halifax) and Fleet Diving Unit Pacific (Esquimalt). As a navy diver, I am very familiar with the type of rescue craft that Jericho uses as well as the local Vancouver search and rescue resources.

From 2007-2010, I was the Commodore of Hobie Fleet 214 here in Vancouver. As Commodore of the Hobie Fleet I worked with other clubs in the JSCA such as UBC and Locarno to grow interest in sailing and racing. I am currently Vice President and the Western Canada Representative for the Canadian F18 Sailing Association.

As a sailor, I have been fortunate to represent Canada at three World Championships, three CataCups, numerous North American and National Championships.

I have raced and sailed at Yacht Clubs and Sailing Centres all over the world and I can tell you that Jericho is a special place. The sailors in the Seattle area have been trying for years to replicate what we have here. I think my background is unique and I know the Board of Directors values my input on many matters. I love sailing, I love the water, and I want to see the JSCA grow into the future. I want to give back to the sailing centre that I call home.

IRWIN, Steve

I have been on the Jericho Sailing Centre Association's Board of Directors and the Board's Operations Committee Chair since 2018. I enjoy contributing to the JSCA community and would like to stand for re-election.

Over the past eight years as a board member, I have gained valuable experience and understanding about JSCA's operations, finances, and strategic initiatives. I was the co-chair of Jericho's 50th Anniversary planning committee, part of the hiring committee for JSCA's new General Manager and was directly involved in the recent universal access washroom project. I was the JSCA's representative on the City of Vancouver's Jericho Lands Working Group initiative from 2019 until 2023. I would like to continue to contribute and support JSCA as a Board Director.

I have lived in Kitsilano and have been a member of JSCA since the late 1980s. For many years I sailed a Laser; as my family grew, we joined Companionway Sailing Club where we now sail and paddle. I have been the President of Companionway Sailing Club since 2020. I have been an active Jericho Rescue Group volunteer since 2017.

JOURABCHI, Parisa

Since joining JSCA in 1998 to learn to sail, I have come to deeply value the unique community that has grown around access to the ocean at Jericho. I became involved early on, serving for three years on the executive of the UBC Sailing Club, where I remain a member. Whether sailing, paddling, kayaking, or windsurfing, being on the water continues to be an important part of my life, particularly when I have the opportunity to introduce someone new to the community.

It has been a privilege to serve on the JSCA Board of Directors for the past six years. During that time, I have contributed to the Planning Committee and the development of Course Made Good 2045, particularly on sustainability and adapting to a changing climate, and most recently served as Chair of the Programs Committee. These roles have given me an even greater appreciation for the people, programs, clubs, staff, and volunteers that make the Jericho Sailing Centre such a special place.

If elected for another term, I would be very pleased to continue contributing to the Board and helping to sustain and strengthen the unique, diverse and inclusive ocean community that has kept me connected to JSCA for nearly three decades.

KOTOWICK, Kyle

I previously served on the JSCA Board from 2012 – 2013 while I was a graduate student at UBC and an active member of the UBC Sailing Club, at which point I had to resign due to moving to the East Coast. During my time on the Board, I also served as the Director of the Safety Committee; in that role, I spearheaded the procurement of the new rescue vessel now known as the Titan, which involved a significant grant from the BC government and close collaboration with the manufacturer. I also led the revamp of the JSCA Rescue Manual, modernizing it to meet the needs of the organization. Before and while serving on the Board, I also served with the Jericho Rescue team as one of its most active members, accruing hundreds of hours of helm time over a two-year period.

Since my previous term at JSCA, I have been involved with multiple other not-for-profit organizations at a Board level. I served as the Vice President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Graduate Student Council while completing my PhD in Aerospace Engineering at that university, managing a significant budget and performing extensive volunteer management duties. I then served on the Board of Governors for MIT's Muddy Charles Pub, a student-owned and operated pub on the MIT campus. Simultaneously, I served four years as the Director of Information Technology with MIT Emergency Medical Services, a volunteer position with a not-for-profit entity dedicated to providing ambulance services to the Cambridge and Boston areas. In this role, I worked to improve the technological capabilities and efficiency of the organization, something that I wish to bring to JSCA as well (the livestream webcam on the JSCA website hasn't worked since 2019; I can fix that, among many other things).

After completing my doctorate program, I founded my own information technology company in 2018 and continue to own and operate it to this day. Through that endeavour, I have gained notable experience in financial management, vendor management, contracting, human resources, and strategic planning and forecasting. I believe that this experience will be directly relevant to supporting JSCA's long-term sustainability.

I'll note that I continue to have a particular interest in supporting the Jericho Rescue program. My participation in that program from 2011-2013 drove my interest in first response and emergency management, leading me to become a license Primary Care Paramedic (currently employed part-time with BC Ambulance) and a certified Incident Commander through the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). My training and experience in this area will allow me to support JSCA and Jericho Rescue in the planning, operations, and collaborations required for large event management such as the T100, and my ties with BCEHS (BC Ambulance) will assist in coordinating operations that involve BCEHS personnel on-site.

My other areas of interest include financial sustainability while remaining affordable and accessible for the community and working with the City of Vancouver to ensure a long and mutually beneficial relationship, securing our tenancy on the property for decades to come.

MUNNIS, Paul

I have greatly enjoyed volunteering on the various JSCA committees over the past year. I am a member of the Locarno Sailing Club and have been actively involved with the JSCA since 1995. Last year, I was pleased to coordinate the GoFundMe retirement fund for Mike Cotter.

Professionally, I am the Vice President and Managing Director of a boutique insurance planning firm in Vancouver. In this role, I have gained extensive experience in business management, office operations, and employee oversight. I believe these skills, combined with my longstanding involvement with the JSCA, would enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the Board.

I previously served on the JSCA Board of Directors in the early 2000s, including as President and Chair of the Food and Beverage Committee. I would welcome the opportunity to serve once again, drawing on my past leadership experience and continued commitment to the organization to support its ongoing success.

SPRIGG, Sinéad

Having served on the Board for the past two years, I would love the opportunity to return for another term. It has been a rewarding experience, giving me a greater appreciation for the people, dedication, and behind-the-scenes work that makes Jericho such a special place.

I am passionate about keeping sailing accessible, inclusive, and safe for everyone, and would be delighted to continue contributing to a community that shares these values.

Being on the water is a huge part of both my personal and professional life, and I am passionate about supporting and growing our local marine community. Alongside my involvement with Jericho Rescue Team, I run She Sails Vancouver, a sailing school focused on creating a welcoming, supportive environment for people who may not have traditionally felt represented in sailing.

I am also actively involved with Women on the Water throughout the year, including at the Vancouver International Boat Show, encouraging more people to discover sailing and become part of our community.

Through my work as a yacht broker with Thunderbird Yacht Sales in West Vancouver, I also bring insight into the broader marine industry and the opportunities and challenges facing recreational boating.

Jericho is a special place because of the people who make it what it is, and I would be proud to continue playing a part in its future.

STAIRS, Chris

It was a real privilege to govern JSCA through her 50th year of operations. And it was an especially humbling exercise to help orchestrate the succession of our management team in the fall of 2025, triggered by the retirement of our longstanding and dedicated General Manager of 38 years, Mike Cotter. I'd like to applaud and congratulate Dominique Labrosse and the entire team in deftly managing our "change of guard" over the last 12 months.

I've personally enjoyed 25 years of active involvement in the Society. And I'm now proud to see my daughter graduate from her time as student and coach at Mac Sailing to become a member of the Junior Varsity Sailing Team at UVIC. Jericho has been a real source of joy for our family. I'd love to continue my support, and I look forward to assisting with such key initiatives as the:

1. Board of Parks & Recreation Agreement Extension (pending)
2. Jericho Lands Development (ongoing)
3. Climate Change Resiliency Plan (ongoing)
4. Jericho Charitable Foundation Creation (tentative option to be investigated)

As stated before, the Jericho Lands residential development may introduce as many as 15,000 new residents into our immediate neighbourhood. Many of these local Vancouverites will wish to enjoy the JSCA experience. It's important for JSCA to ensure it will have the capacity to match this anticipated influx in demand. A recent Climate Change Stress Test undertaken by our Board of Directors has separately identified that we have work ahead of us to plan for and mitigate against the long-term effects of rising sea levels. Both of these drivers will have a direct impact on our operations and financial model through to 2045. All of which, in turn, will directly inform our discussions for Agreement extension with the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation. I'd be very pleased to continue my role as a JSCA Board Director in order to help shepherd the Society through these many and varied planning efforts. For reference, my career involvement with JSCA includes:

1. Board Member, Jericho Sailing Centre Association (2006-2026)
2. President, Jericho Sailing Centre Association (2010-2026)
3. Vice President, Jericho Sailing Centre Association (2009-2010)
4. Committee Member – various: Planning, F&B, Fund-Raising (2006-2026)
5. Volunteer, Jericho Sailing Centre Race/Rescue Committee (2005-09, 2012-26)

WARNER, Simon

Sailing and being by the ocean comes from my family. We enjoyed sailing among the Gulf islands in the summers. I gained skills and confidence through sailing camps and learned about boat building repairing an old wooden dinghy. After several years away I returned to Vancouver and joined JSCA with my young family after my kids took sailing lessons at Jericho. We were fortunate enough to be given an older laser and that was my reintroduction to sailing in Vancouver.

I joined the laser fleet and started racing on Sundays. I enjoy improving my skills to try to match the experts. I continue to be an active member of the laser fleet and have helped organize a recent masters regatta.

My professional life is that of an eye physician. I gain great satisfaction from caring for patients and have formed close bonds over many years. I love teaching medical students, residents and colleagues. I like to listen and learn and have organized conferences and weekly educational meetings. I have served local advocacy groups and done departmental committee work.

Finding ways to contribute at Jericho is easy and fun. I took the weekend Jericho Rescue training course and now enjoy supporting some of the many events held throughout the year at Jericho. There have been wonderful opportunities to meet people, learn from them and gain skills and knowledge. There are also opportunities to teach others. I was named Volunteer of the Year in 2025. I have been a member of the Safety Committee for the past 2 years.

There are many objectives set out in JSCA's plan for the next 20 years. I will continue my involvement with the Safety Committee, and I am interested in being involved in relationships with all stakeholders. I bring my listening and learning skills and enthusiasm and hope that I can help achieve great things at Jericho. Please consider me for the JSCA Board of Directors. Thank you.