



2013 CANDIDATES FOR BOARD ELECTION:

RHONDA LARRANCE
ARYLIN STARLING
ERIC SISLER

Due to the cancelation last year, we did not hold an election. As such the 2013 Board Elections are for 2 positions:

- 1 – 5 year term
- 1 – 4 year term

Each Member will be asked to vote for 2 (two) Candidate choices. The Candidate with the most votes will be given the 5 year term. The Candidate with the next highest number of votes will be given the 4 year term.

THE CANDIDATES:

RHONDA LARRANCE
FESTIVAL NAME: RHONDA

- General work experience:
 - I have worked for Boulder Valley School District as a para-professional in Special Education for the past 10 years. My duties include working with students both individually and in small groups, as well as facilitating their inclusion in the general education classroom. In the course of my job, I have gained and improved many valuable skills that would benefit as a Dragonfest board member. In working with students, in small groups, I have to balance the educational needs of students working at vastly differing levels, being sure to provide instruction at each child's level, while running a coherent group. The members of Dragonfest have highly differing needs as well. Balancing and meeting those needs while maintaining a functional, enjoyable festival would be one of my primary goals as a board member. My job also entails being able to think quickly and make decisions. I have to be able to create, and follow a plan, while maintaining the flexibility to react to changing circumstances as needed. Thus, my skill at dealing with sudden changes has improved greatly. A third skill that would greatly benefit Dragonfest is my creativity. In my work I have had to create fun, engaging lessons for students. The students I work with need multiple repetitions to learn a concept. To access differing learning styles, and prevent boredom, various methods of presentation are needed. I look forward to using my creativity to help Dragonfest move into the future.
 - I also teach potter thru Mudslinger's Pottery School in downtown Louisville. I began working with them as a student three years ago, but have added adult individual and group lessons as well. I have dedicated much time and energy to my creative work, and would love to bring that commitment to Dragonfest.
- Volunteer (or unpaid) work experience:
 - During college I took a couple years out to teach thru a program offered by my school. The first year I spent in Haiti. I lived in a college dorm with the Haitian students. I taught K-2 in the morning and English as a second language at the college in the evening. I came back to the States, just to choose to leave again. I spent my second year in the Marshall Islands teaching 8th graders, while living and working with people from around

the world. All of this time living among people of different cultures, has given me the ability to see things from various points of view. My ability to see things from the perspective of others would be a great asset as a Dragonfest board member.

- I have also held several positions on Dragonfest staff over the years. I helped start the Centering Plaza. I was lieutenant the first year, and co-coordinator the next. More recently, I have been working with Youthfest. I spent several years as an unofficial lieutenant. Then I was Kidfest coordinator. Followed by, Youthfest coordinator. As Youthfest coordinator, I was dedicated to creating a fun, safe, engaging program. I designed daily themes, and activities; developed safety protocols, and supervised the implementation of the plan by the area coordinators (Grandma's Place, Kidfest, and Tweenfest), their lieutenants, and parent volunteers.
- Other qualifications:
 - I am dedicated to my work and practice as a spiritual person. I have been a priestess of Eclectic Wicca for over 20 years in both solitary and coven practice, earning my third degree in 2009. I have been a Reiki Master for over 15 years, using the skill mostly for the healing of friends and family. However, I have done some teaching and would like to expand that practice. My current work involves working with and integrating shadow. By acknowledging, owning and healing our shadow, we can become whole.
Education: BS Counseling Psychology, 1992
Certifications: First Aid, CPR, Crisis Prevention Institute's Non-violent Crisis Intervention
- Campaign statement:
 - *As a future board member and director, I want to help Dragonfest continue to exist as a fun, viable, spiritual retreat. I want to balance the needs of all of its members, younger and older, louder and quieter. My son has grown up loving his trip to d-fest each year, and I am willing to work so that will be around for his children to love as well.*

ARILYN STARLING

FESTIVAL NAME: STARR

- General work experience:
 - I have been a case manager for 11 yrs, which requires organizational skills and the ability to problem solve.
- Volunteer (or unpaid) work experience:
 - 2 yrs Medical Lt for Dragonfest
 - 7 yrs Medical Coordinator
- Other qualifications:
- Campaign statement:
 - *Hi, I'm Starr, Many of you know me. I started coming to Dragonfest in 1996 and from the start I have wanted to help the community and keep Dragonfest a place of Spirit and family. I've spent many years helping with operations in some capacity and I feel it is time to help with the long term health and well-being of this amazing retreat.*

ERIC SISLER

FESTIVAL NAME: ERIC SISLER

- General work experience:

- I have been employed by the City of Westminster at the library for 28 years in a variety of positions: page, circulation clerk, technical services associate, bookmobile driver, courier and library application specialist. I am currently the Library Network Specialist, a position I have held since 2007.
- Volunteer (or unpaid) work experience:
 - Front Range Pagan Pride setup / takedown coordinator: 2009 – 2011
 - Dragonfest hauling lieutenant: 2009
 - Dragonfest hauling coordinator: 2010 – 2011
 - Dragonfest site facilities co-coordinator: 2012
 - Dragonfest setup / takedown co-coordinator (in training): 2013
- Other qualifications:
 - I am the creator and developer of ReadingRecord, an open source, cloud-based LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL & PHP) application used by libraries nationwide to track reading program progress.
- Campaign statement:
 - *I am not one who normally seeks this kind of political / leadership role, preferring instead to "get my hands dirty" by working in the background. One night while listening to the rain fall on my tent I felt the familiar "tap, tap, tap..." of Spirit nudging me. That nudge later became this simple question: "Is Dragonfest important enough to you to get involved at a higher level - to step out of the background and assume a leadership role?" After participating in a number of fireside chats this past festival, I can definitely see some things that need improvement:*
 - *Staff are important. So important in fact that no one individual should have to be continuously available during festival - they need time to enjoy it as well. All staff positions should have at least a co-coordinator so that every staff member has time to be "off duty". By doing so we can reduce burnout and hopefully attract new staff members.*
 - *It is time to move beyond the "900 attendees at Wellington Lake" mentality, because it seems unlikely that Dragonfest will ever have that many attendees again or move back to the lake. There's nothing wrong with a smaller, more intimate festival - we just need to adjust our planning accordingly.*
 - *Protecting and respecting Deb's land is vital. If that means capping the registration, then it's time to have a serious discussion about doing so.*
 - *We need to do a better job of promoting Dragonfest. There were some definite miscommunications and an overall lack of communication in 2013.*
 - *Finally, we need to re-energize the Dragonfest community. Offering different workshops would allow others to get more involved in the community. Having fewer rituals and workshops would keep people from having to choose between programs. It would also provide free time for people to get together and do their own thing.*

While I cannot fix all these things alone, I can listen, offer a different perspective and speak my mind to help shape the future of Dragonfest.

My answer to the question asked by Spirit? While I have not been attending Dragonfest nearly as long as many of you, it is close to my heart, as are many of the staff and attendees. With that in mind, I humbly submit my application for the Dragonfest Board of Directors. Thank you for your time and consideration.