



BJCP Mountain/Northwest Region Representative Candidate Statement for:

Dennis Mitchell  
Chandler, AZ

Fellow Mountain/Northwest judges, I humbly ask for your vote to serve as your BJCP Regional Representative. Over the past several years, I've been highly active in the BJCP as Communications Director, Associate Exam Director, 2015 Guidelines reviewer and a Grand Master II Judge. On the exam side, I've graded or reviewed over 700 exams. I've judged competitions in ten states, and I love opportunities to travel to judge in new places and meet new judges. On the communications side, many of you have likely seen my posts on the BJCP Facebook page or forums, where I get the often-interesting task of moderating over 5,000 group members while they sometimes passionately discuss BJCP topics.

I strongly believe in the BJCP's Mission, particularly the focus on encouraging the development of the knowledge, appreciation and evaluation of beer, mead and cider. These elements are truly at the core of why the BJCP is important in the homebrew world, and why we must continue to improve the organization. Becoming a judge was transformative in my own beer and brewing journey, and I want to make sure every homebrewer knows the benefits of BJCP certification. To that extent, some of my most rewarding experiences within the BJCP stem from mentoring other judges through teaching exam preparation classes for the Arizona Society of Homebrewers or via email or online chats with other judges around the country and world. I love hearing success stories from other judges when they get the score they were aiming for.

I also currently serve on the American Homebrewers Association Governing Committee and the AHA Competitions Subcommittee and unofficially represent the BJCP on both. I participated on the small team that revised the competition categories for the National Homebrew Competition and developed the new “structured” scoresheets that were piloted successfully during NHC last year.

I believe these broad experiences within the organization will serve me well on the board since they give me different perspectives about various aspects of the BJCP and have helped me meet and talk to many different judges across the country. What I hope is clear from this statement is that I take pride in helping out and getting things done.

A few areas of focus I'd like to bring to the board are completing our website transition, modernizing parts of the exam process and planning for the long-term viability of the organization. As your rep, you will have a strong voice on the board and someone who is willing to listen to your thoughts on how we can work together to keep the BJCP moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration, and, cheers!