

POSITION STATEMENT:

My name is Chris “Papa” Zuest and I am PROUD to be running as a candidate for YOUR next President of Parrot Heads in Paradise (PHIP). I truly believe PHIP is the greatest all volunteer international humanitarian (and PHun) organization there is. No one can hold a candle to all the dedicated work You do. From the great events You organize and pull off, from to the charity work You do, from the lives, both external and internal to our clubs, you touch and enrich for the better. You truly are leaving this world a little better than we found it ... and are having a BLAST while doing so. You and your clubs are the number one reason PHIP continues to thrive and grow and draws so many PHun, PHun crazy people worldwide to our family of Parrot Heads. I say all that because I believe it’s very important to never forget what we are all about and why we are here. As a region communicator my role is to educate, inform, promote education and information to club members through their club leaders, to provide guidance when needed and be supportive and helpful and make sure we all succeed. As PHIP President I feel the same thing holds true, first and foremost I believe I am there for You to help us all succeed.

I also firmly believe being PHIP President is a two fold job, being a people person “first” and functioning at a high level of productivity in a leadership role “always”. Throughout my Parrot Head and professional career I have had the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to understand the needs of a large organization. Invaluable skills needed to hit the ground running and effectively assimilate into the PHIP Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Skills needed to function as a highly qualified team member, and most importantly skills to always remember we are all volunteers, never forgetting where we come from and what it’s like to be a new member or a new club with lots of ideas and energy.

PERSONAL INFO

I was born in Victoria, B.C., Canada in 1956, relocated to the US at an early age and have moved all over the place to get me where I am today. With all the moving around in the Military, the Federal Aviation Administration and my family when I was younger, when I count it up most of my life I lived in Oklahoma, so I guess that would make me a CAN-Okie. Anyway, Oklahoma is where I live now and that’s where I think I will stay, unless of course Jimmy needs someone to wax his car, rake and mow his lawn. I’m sure I could find enough to do while he’s out of town and gone, and if I didn’t have to shoot the lock off the liquor cabinet all the time I may consider moving again then...

I have been married 32 years to the current COPA Director of Membership, RagTop Lori Mae, we have three wonderful kids, Chris Jr. “Shipwreck”, Sara “Wilson”, and Stephanie “Island Girl” and as you may have guessed, ALL Parrot Heads. I also am lucky enough to have a great son-in-law Kevin “CrawDaddy”, Parrot Head too, and a wonderful Grand Daughter Jamie “Little Miss Magic”, that’s right third generation Parrot Head.

When I’m not doing Parrot Head stufh, working or plotting my next Parrot Head road trip which is just about every weekend, I am a proud member of my local VFW and am

Jr. Vice Post Commander. I am also a Shriner of North America, you know the fat guys with the funny hats riding in those little cars in parades, and of course raising millions of dollars to support the Shiner Hospitals and Children, and yes I do ride in the parades...

PARROT HEAD RESUME

- Been a self proclaimed Parrot Head since 1973, just needed an organized club system so I could join, thank you Scott!!!!
- Joined an actual Parrot Head club in 1995, in Cheyenne, WY. Actually I was on a business trip to Alexandria, LA, one evening I ran into a group in tropical shirts having more fun than I was, the Central Louisiana Parrot Head Club, I joined the group and the club that night and have been a card carrying member of a club ever since.
- After moving to Fredericksburg, VA I joined the Rappahannock Area Parrot Head Club in 2001 and stayed a member there until moving to Oklahoma in 2003.
- In 2003 I joined the Central Oklahoma ParrotHead Association (COPA)
 - Served as Vice President from 2005 – 2006
 - Served as President from 2006 – 2010
 - Served as Treasurer/Secretary 2007 – Present
 - COPA Cares Fund, COO and Treasurer 2009 – Present
- In 2007 I was selected as Regional Communicator for the South Region (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas). I have served in this position from 2007 - Present
- Sharkstock (South Region Event) Treasurer 2008 - 2010
- Notable Jimmy Buffett factoid, had a ticket to see Jimmy at the “Fabulous” Fox Theater in Atlanta in the late 70’s, never made the concert AND lost my ticket some where along the way years later, who knew that concert was taped and would end up as part of the “You Had to be There” double album, so every time I hear someone say “You Had to be There” I can’t help but think they are talking about me, the Fox Theater and my lost ticket....

EMPLOYMENT

1974 - 1996 – United States Air Force Air Traffic Controller, Air Traffic Control Shift Supervisor, Air Traffic Control Manager, Air Traffic Control Group Superintendent (Fayetteville, NC, Republic of Korea, Wichita Falls, TX, Oklahoma City, OK, Tacoma, WA, and a few deployed locations along the way)

1996 - 2001 – Air Traffic Control Facilities Manager – Cheyenne, WY

2001 - 2005 – Senior Air Traffic Control Program Analyst (HQ Staff Weenie)
(Washington, D.C.)

2005 - 2009 – Terminal Procedures Development Specialist (Oklahoma City, OK)

2009 – Present – Production Integration Staff Specialist (Oklahoma City, OK)