



Hi everyone-my name is Fred Mullner. For those of you who don't know me, I've been homebrewing in and around Pittsburgh for close to ten years. I've been judging for about six years and have somehow inexplicably made it to the rank of Grand Master. I think it's because I test well and like to drink beer. Anyway, I am throwing my hat into the ring for Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative. I never thought I'd do that, but COVID has made me reconsider a lot of things. Last year, as I sat home alone without my social network of homebrewer friends, I nearly went out of my mind. I'm not ashamed to say that I've met the vast majority of my friends through homebrewing, and I looked forward to any and every reason to get together. It wasn't until all that went away that I realized how important the homebrewing community was to me. This isn't just a hobby; it's a passion. It's a wonderful opportunity to share something we love with friends, neighbors, and complete strangers. And in these days where everybody seems so divided about everything it is truly a gift to have something like that.

COVID threatened to bring all that to an end. Homebrew club meetings were cancelled, festivals and competitions were put on hold, and the NHC went virtual. People in the brewing industry everywhere lost their jobs as bars and restaurants closed down. The AHA itself had to take drastic measures just to survive. Now that things are, hopefully, returning to a semblance of normalcy, we have a lot rebuilding to do, and I want to be part of that. As the Regional Representative, I plan to have a robust network of people who can help clubs host exams, competitions, and events—things that will help the homebrewing community get back on its feet. I will make sure that BJCP is responsive and gives clubs the help they need. And I'll be transparent which means that if we can't help, I'll tell you that too. The BJCP is a great organization with tons of knowledge, and I want to make it accessible to as many people as I can. If we do this right, we can help make our own little corner of the homebrewing world a more open, inviting, and fun place to hang out and have a pint.

Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I would certainly appreciate your vote.