Voters Guide

Volunteer Representative Nominees

The profiles below highlight volunteers that would like to be a Volunteer Representative on Free Geek's Board of Directors. The profiles were collected from the nominees themselves.

Jason Owen

Jason has volunteered at Free Geek since November 2009. After briefly volunteering at the bench, the table, and in receiving, he decided to go through the build program. Once he completed the Build program he moved on to advanced testing and mac build, where he spent quite a bit of time. Currently, he is a server build volunteer instructor (the only one at the moment, actually) and he's part of the technocrats.

Jason would like to join Free Geek's Board of Directors because he believes in the mission of Free Geek. He was an active member for Community Council and would like to continue on as a Volunteer Representative to the Board of Directors. He has attended Council meetings since October 2010, and Board meetings since April 2011. He was also one of three Council representatives on the Advisory Study Group which came up with the expanded board and town hall idea. From attending these three sets of meetings, he believes he can bring a decent amount of continuity and good ideas to the board.

Jason believes that the democratic, low-barrier-to-entry model Free Geek has used is important, and he would like to do his part to preserve as much of that openness and transparency as possible. He sees Free Geek as a growing

organization and some of the things he would like to see include:

* a more unified staff
* a full board (with all the skills, interests, and people represented)
* a more central place in the community, with outreach to local free software organizations
* more education opportunities for volunteers

Through his experience in Council, ASG, and with the current Board, he has learned how meetings at Free Geek work and has given him some background about how Free Geek has came to be where it is. His experience in Technocrats allows him to help the Board answer technical questions and meet technical challenges. His experience on the floor in Mac Build, Server Build, and Advanced Testing has also given him a fairly solid understanding of the flow of people and equipment at Free Geek and his ongoing volunteer work keeps him in touch with the other volunteers and staff at Free Geek, and keeps him in the loop on the day-to-day happenings.

Eric Hamilton

Eric has been a Free Geek volunteer since October 2010. He has worked primarily in the Build Program but has also spent some time on the recycling bench. In addition, Eric has spent some time introducing, transporting and chaperoning three teenagers who've volunteered at Free Geek.

Eric would like to join the Board of Directors because despite how much he already likes Free Geek, he feels like he can help make improvements to the organization and that the Board is where a lot of great ideas start. Eric is not shy about

The Schulze Method of Voting

The Free Geek elections will be determined by the Schulze Method. This is a voting method used by several organizations including Wikimedia, Debian, and Gentoo. It is a preferential voting system -- it compares voters preferences for one candidate over another and uses this to determine the overall winner. The mathematics behind it make it one of the fairest voting systems available and it satisfies many of the different criteria that have been devised for measuring the fairness of voting.

The method works by each voter listing the candidates in order from the one they most want to win, to the one they least want to win. The same preference (how much the voter wants the candidate to win or how much they want the candidate not to win) can be given to more than one candidate and candidates can also be given no number (they are interpreted as the worst).

Next, for every pair of two candidates, they are compared: ignoring all other candidates, which of the two in the pair is preferred by most voters? We keep track of how many voters agree with the majority decision.

More calculations take place comparing the relative preferences between pairs to determine the final order. In the Schulze method the winner is the most preferred of all the candidates.

The mathematics can be quite complicated but fortunately we have software to do the job for us. As a voter all you need to be concerned about is ranking the candidates in order of preference, the software does the job of determining the final outcome.

How to Vote

When you recieve your ballot, your job as a voter is to put a number in front of each candidate's name:
Give lower numbers to your favorites. Give larger numbers to your least favorites. You do not have to put a vote for against a candidate. Candidates who are not ranked are treated the worst. You can use the same number for more than one candidate: this shows you rank them equally.

Examples of Valid Votes

N.B. 3 & 4 count the same, only relative preference matters

We Welcome our new Robot Overlord

Reference ID#1

Vote for your new Robot Overlord

1	**A:** R2D2
4	**B:** Marvin the Paranoid Android
3	**C:** Bender
5	**D:** Mechagodzilla
6	**E:** WALL-E
2	**F:** Johnny 5

We Welcome our new Robot Overlord

Reference ID#2

Vote for your new Robot Overlord

5	**A:** R2D2
1	**B:** Marvin the Paranoid Android
3	**C:** Bender
	D: Mechagodzilla
2	**E:** WALL-E
	F: Johnny 5

We Welcome our new Robot Overlord

Reference ID#3

Vote for your new Robot Overlord

1	**A:** R2D2
1	**B:** Marvin the Paranoid Android
2	**C:** Bender
2	**D:** Mechagodzilla
3	**E:** WALL-E
	F: Johnny 5

We Welcome our new Robot Overlord

Reference ID#4

Vote for your new Robot Overlord

3	**A:** R2D2
3	**B:** Marvin the Paranoid Android
4	**C:** Bender
4	**D:** Mechagodzilla
5	**E:** WALL-E
	F: Johnny 5

sharing his ideas. He admits that sometimes they are good, but he is also willing to admit it when his ideas aren't the best solution available.

Eric is very interested in outreach and partnership opportunities and believes that his work in corporate computing environments gives him some insight into how Free Geek might better and provide opportunities that lead to careers in related fields. He would also like to do more for the Hispanic community.

For the better part of the past 20 years Eric has worked in two particular areas that both intersect at Free Geek: computers and public affairs, in jobs ranging from the Army Medical Corps, Prodigy, and some small-town newspapers and print shops. He has the panoply of "plus" certifications: A+, iNet+, Network+, Security+, and works as the webmaster for a large organization in town for his day job. He has gained a variety of writing and design skills from his wide-ranging work and volunteer experiences, providing him with an enhanced appreciation and respect for other people.

He would like to see Free Geek continue to improve its accommodations for volunteers, provide more community training opportunities and collaborate with partnerships to provide professional certifications. He also believes that Free Geek can fulfill an important role in helping the disadvantaged to develop tools and capabilities to contribute to Portland becoming a conscientious leader in technology.

Eric believes that his past volunteer and work experiences would benefit the Board and is prepared to lead by the strength of his commitment and ideas, rather than by taking an authoritative approach. As a volunteer, he has seen

people come and go, but sees the importance of growing a dedicated core group of volunteers to “build the bench.” With care, Free Geek can thrive and grow, instead of stagnating. As a relatively new volunteer, he is well-versed enough in the Free Geek culture without being indoctrinated or numbed by familiarity.

Joe Bourguignon

Joe has volunteered at Free Geek for a little over two years, on and off.
He has gone through the Build program and after completing it, was asked to become a Build Instructor. In addition to being a Build Instructor for the past year, Joe also volunteers some of his time in Macland and Build when he has free time.

Joe would like to join Free Geek’s Board of Directors because he loves Free Geek! He is interested in helping to represent the Build program on the Board, and excited to contribute new ideas. He would like to understand better how Free Geek runs and the decisions that go into it. He believes that the world needs more organizations like Free Geek and would eventually like to start a non-profit of his own. Joe sees Free Geek continuing to lead the sustainability field in computer recycling in the next two years. With previous experience in the solar industry, he also sees solar panels on the roof, acquired through grants and donations.

With a variety of skills and experiences to bring to the Board, Joe has also been a geek since having an 8086 at age 6. He grew up through the infancy of the PC as we know it today and worked in the computer industry professionally for over 9 years in the Silicon Valley and Portland. He loves both computers and organizations that foster sustainability; Free Geek is a natural fit. Both his strong computer and communication skills, and volunteer experience for the past two years allow him to be a strong advocate for volunteers on the Board.

Larry Lloyd

Larry began volunteering at Free Geek last February. In the past year Larry has volunteered in in serveal areas including build, laptops, and advanced testing. Today, you'll mainly find him in build volunteering as an instructor. As a build instructor he regularly assists and works with build volunteers and keeps the build room stocked with the components necessary for building computers.

With a varied and broad based experience in the labor force, Larry is very interested in HR policies, training and sales. He has owned a successful small business; worked in upper management for large corporations; had production-line labor jobs and wrote sales training manuals. In his 300 + volunteer hours at Freegeek on the floor, he has seen a diverse range of volunteer types. He can identify with some and has the ability to understand the motivation of most.

Larry would like to join Free Geek’s Board of Directors because he sees the organization as the "perfect storm" of three extremely crucial factors of 21st century society: technology, education and employment. Adding his experience and enthusiasm to the advancement and/or enhancement of Freegeek's effectiveness in these areas would be an admirable effort. He would also like to see Free Geek continue as a trendsetter in sound, environmentally oriented business practices.