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TRU Board
Of Elections

Dear Board and Fellow Ruggers of Texas,

I am Paul Lawrence from BARC Rugby Club in Clear Lake. I have been involved in Rugby since 1983. I started my Rugby Career at Stephen F Austin State University. I have played for SFASU, SMU, Our Gang, BARC, Galveston, and The Roughnecks

S.M.U. Rugby Football Club	2 Terms Match Secretary
Houston Roughnecks Rugby	2 Terms Match Secretary
Bay Area Rugby Football Club	2 Terms Vice President
	2 Terms Social Chairperson

When I played at SMU, I was blessed to be a part of being the Texas State Collegiate Champions and we moved to the Western Championships. It was a great honor. Since then, I have learned the value of Rugby and a Rugby Friendships.

Well, to be honest I learned that value at SFA in 1983 when my Dad died. I learned this when all the guys rallied around me to support me in my time of need and Scott Sullivan's time of need. His Dad died that same summer.

Without Rugby, my life would have taken a different turn. And I am glad I found Rugby. To this day, I know where all of my College Rugby Roommates are; and we still have our bond. We communicate on a regular basis.

I started my Referee Career in the early 2000's and I played and refereed together. I had to close my player door because I was hurt at practice one evening and I knew it was time.

From that point on and while I was playing, I was always one to do whatever was needed to get the job done for the team or for the Referee Society. My mentors in the Society encouraged me to get more involved and I did. I was an Officer in my Society at the time and I was also a pretty young Ref at the time. So, I do recall a few 7's Tournaments that I ended up taking 3 or 4 more games over the other Refs. And I also remember being given some away games due to the fact that I work for an Airline and travel was easier for me and cheaper for the Society.

As of today, I am still a Referee and an Officer for BARC. I took the office last year on a temporary basis. No one wanted to do it, and someone had to step up. Last year I was appointed and this year I will be elected.

My connection to Galveston and BARC is through Charle Gray. Charlie was my "Rugby Dad". I met him through his wife. His wife and I worked at the same department store, in Galveston. He introduced to BARC and Galveston in my College summers. Before he passed, he asked me to help with Galveston Youth Rugby, in the capacity of being a Referee. Again, I would answer his call whenever he needed a Referee for his boys.

As I get closer to my retirement, I am finding more time on my hands so, I will be keeping Charlie's dream alive. My plan is to try and reignite the Galveston Youth Rugby in Charile's honor.

I have been with Southwest Airlines for 34 years. In that time, I have held a few leadership positions. I was First Vice-President for my Union for 3 years. And I have been in the trainer position for my department for several years.

I was invited last year to help Coach a team on the Spartans and I have had a blast. I was lucky enough to get Junior High and Senior High Girls. It has been a great ride. My joy has been seeing these young ladies blossom and learn the sport. I see how this wonderful sport of Rugby makes these young ladies fit in. And for a lot of us senior Ruggers, we know the fit in feeling VERY well. Rugby is a place where we all can find Our niche.

I have seen Our Union morph over the years and I would like to help keep Texas Rugby Strong.

I do apologize for not being local this coming weekend. I did not realize that I would have been given a slot to 'sell' me this coming weekend. But I made a commitment to my teammates to come and support them this weekend. And I could not back out of this.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Lawrence