

APPLICATION FOR HYS BOARD

Dr. Mary Hampson Patterson (parent, Finley 2007)



TEAM AFFILIATIONS

Current Team: SILVER ESTUDIANTES (2006 in 2021-22)

Next Team: CENTRAL RED (2007 in 2022-23)

Past Teams: **CENTRAL BLACK** (**practice player only, Fall 2021 only*); **CENTRAL RED** (2007 in 2020-21); **CENTRAL WHITE** (2007 in 2019-2020)

REC./HOUSE TEAM: (2007, Coach Steve Wilkerson, 2017-19)

Also involved w/: **Arzani Summer Camps, Winter World Cup & Free Play**

DUTIES & ACTIVITIES FOR CLUB:

Rec/House Support Parent... then Travel Support Parent: (Assisted Team Manager, provided rides/food/family support, fund-raising & general organizational assistance).

REASON FOR INTEREST :

I'm not a finance, advertising, fund-raising or tech person. So I might not be all that useful to this Board, to be honest. All my training is in the Humanities (Ph.D. in European History & was a University Professor for years, volunteering in non-profit, NGO humanitarian organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, supporting victims of Domestic Violence, & in a safe-house for escaped victims of the Human Trafficking/Sex-Slavery crime organizations outside of New York City). So ...my usefulness might be more in fostering clear & empathic communication in parent culture, conflict-resolution, Big-Picture social justice & communally-minded thinking.

1) I might represent the more a-political, slightly less exclusively competitive, but more joy-driven Travel kid's parent? A lot of kids in this club are significantly, competitively gifted as players, & have a real shot at either a Black team or - further - a pathway to College teams. But there are a lot of kids, like mine :) - in Travel - who aren't likely to be able to shoot for those results, & are actually pretty happy with that...for whom soccer is a pathway more to personal character growth, high-school team opportunities, & maximum playing time. I'd love to see more language wrapped *intentionally* around that kind of kid's - and family's - experience. So I think I might represent the chunk of quieter, less singularly-driven/ambitious but more communally-minded parents. (And, as that type of parent, I'd love to see a healthier culture & communication style between parents & administration, parents & coaches, and parents & other parents).

2) I'd love to see a more intentional advocacy for the inherent worth of the vast terrain of parents/kids/ levels of play BETWEEN the two poles of REC (on one side) and super-competitive BLACK TEAMS (on the other). Basically, White & Red-level teams/kids. There's a whole world of Soccer energy, good experience - & money - in the middle that seems (possibly?) Sometimes a bit under-valued & thus under-marketed, under-branded.

Thanks for considering.