

Running for President



Jeff Johnson

Why do you want to be President? *I am rerunning for President of People First of Missouri because I would like to see change. I would like for more Self – advocates to have more input about changes that they would like to see in the organization's future, and I would like to help keep things going in the right direction as President of the election.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *I have been part of People First for 12 years.*

What have you accomplished as a member of People First? *One of the things that I have accomplished as being a member of People First. I have built excellent leadership skills. I have helped emcee with the Disability Rights Legislative Day in 2020. I also have help with planning the Disability Rights Legislative Day for 2021. I have advocated for education issues so that students with disabilities and get a good education. I have advocated for fair housing issues; I helped one of our People First members and his family keep their home. I was one of Missouri's first People First members to do a SARTAC fellow project on School Pipeline to Prison. I had helped our local People First chapter of Boone County set goals for this year and last year that they have accomplished in the years' time. I have reached out to help the People First chapters struggling to get back up and running. I have formed a good relationship with legislators, Local leaders that make decision-makers like the local Mayor, School Board members, a County Commissioner, and a Judge.*

What is your plan for working with People First officers, People First members, advisory, and supporters? *One of my plans would be to reach out to all People First chapter's presidents and hold meetings with their advisors. I want to listen and ask them where they like to see People First of Missouri be in the future. I also want to be sure that People First chapter members are part of the decisions; for example, members should have a say in electing People First of Missouri state officers. I have a great working relationship with University of Missouri – Kansas City Institute for Human Development, which helps supports People First of Missouri.*

How will you support People First of Missouri local chapters and members? *As I stated up top, I would be reaching out to them directly and by listening to them about the concerns that they may have about People First.*

As President, what would you like to get done in the next two years? *I want to get done in the next two years re-elected as President of People First of Missouri. I would like to finish the initiatives that we have started. I want to help get the other People First chapters back online that used to be part of People First of Missouri but fell off the radar. I also would like to see People First of Missouri have a voice in discriminatory housing practices – maybe partner with the Missouri Inclusive Housing Corporation in advocacy. I would like to see People First of Missouri take a stand against systemic racism and the school pipeline to prison.*

What do you think it takes to be a good president? *What makes a good president is that he / or she would have to be a good listener when in a meeting. Sometimes as President, you have to meet people where they are at, which I have done that in the past for our People First chapter of Boone County. A good president must be a good leader who can build trust, be reliable, show up for meetings, work alongside others, and partner with other organizations, states, and stakeholders. A good president must and should work closely with the UMKC – IHD staff who helps and support the organization of People First of Missouri.*

See next page for information on Rodger Crome

Running for President



Roger Crome

Why do you want to be President?

Like the rest of the world, People First of Missouri has been hit with some major changes over the last couple of years, and it appears that the impact will continue for a while longer. I believe in the movement of People First and the strength of our membership. We have accomplished so much over the last 20 years. I believe that we will be able to take the lessons learned through this global pandemic and apply what we have learned to strengthen the self advocacy movement. As the President, I will get the pleasure of working with and learning from membership at all levels of People First of Missouri. Over the years, we have molded change in our state and been a leader in our country creating collaborations between states and modeling the self advocacy movement. I am proud to say that I had the opportunity to be in a leadership role when these things came about. As we look forward to where the self advocacy movement is going, I want to be in the position to listen to your thoughts and concerns and have the ability to implement the changes you see.

What have you accomplished as a member of People First member? *Over the last 21 years, I have seen many accomplishments both with us as a movement and personally because of the lessons I have learned from many of you. The accomplishments that I will list here are not solely my accomplishments. We, as a team, have accomplished a lot. In 2005, our state saw significant cuts to services and supports for people living in the community. One of these wholly slashed programs was a group of self-advocates and supporters that visited people's homes and tried to ensure safe, healthy, happy, and fulfilling living conditions. A couple of other People First members and I met with the Governor's office and were able to compromise and establish a framework on which to build the SAFE program. I have participated in almost every Legislative Day and visited with legislators many times to discuss legislative priorities for People First of Missouri. We developed a partnership with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and, through this relationship, we have been able to remove MR from the name of the Division. Additionally, we worked alongside the Division to create and develop the Advocacy Specialist positions within the Regional Offices. We advocated for and saw the passage of legislation that says that a Children's Services worker cannot remove a child from the parents based on disability alone. Under my leadership, we listened when we were told that chapters and the statewide steering committee were not aligning in policy and practice. With this information, we all worked together to establish the new mission statement and our belief statements and ultimately agreed on an Affiliation agreement. Together, we have found a way to see the issues both in our state and our organization and found a way to come together and advocate for the change we want. There are many other accomplishments that I could list here, but I need to leave room for others to write. I will end this answer with this. My biggest accomplishment over the last 21 years with People First of Missouri is that you chose to honor me with the pleasure of serving in a leadership capacity as we facilitated change.*

What is your plan for working with People First officers, People First members, advisory, and supporters? *There isn't a one size fits all answer for this. As President, I will pledge to listen and be available to members, advisors, and supporters to do my very best to participate in People First of Missouri the best it can be.*

As President, what would you like to get done in the next two years? *I think that People First of Missouri has been very focused on the organization. As a 501©3, this is important, but in my opinion, what is more, important is growing the movement and helping members grow and develop into the best advocate for themselves and the community that they can be. Due to the pandemic, we've seen a significant cut in our operating budget from the DD Council because of the inability to use it in person. Things will begin to normalize over the next two years, and we will be coming back to in-person meetings. I would like to see the budget reflect the increased activity.*

What do you think it takes to be a good president? *If I were to break it down to the bare bones, it would be that a good President understands that it is not about the person in that role. An actual President is a servant of the people and listens to what people want and need. A good President takes responsibility when things go wrong and find the right people to praise when things go right. When ego gets in the way, it's hard to see the path in front of you. I will make a good President because I believe in every one of you and would be honored to be trusted to lead this great organization and movement again*

President
Jeff Johnson

Vice President
Patty Goss

Secretary
Kelly Ray

Treasurer
Katie Kinder

Sergeant at Arms
John Warrick

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Running for Vice President



Patty Goss

Why do you want to be vice president? *Because it gives me a chance to serve People First of Missouri & give people a chance to have their voices heard.*

How long have you been a part of People First of Missouri? *I came to my first steering committee in Jan or Feb 2004.*

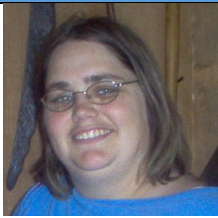
Will you be willing to step up if the president is not able to attend a meeting? *Yes. I think so. However, I must admit that I tried to stifle a person's voice. About two years ago. For that, I apologize to you, Jonathon. I've wondered so many times why I did that. And I am still unsure, yet I've made it my mission to see that it happens no more.*

What have you accomplished as a member of People First?

What do you think it takes to be a good vice president? *Wholeheartedly, yes. I would see to it that we carried on with our goals & our mission.*

No other
Candidate
Running

Running for Treasure



Kelly Ray

Why do you want to be a treasure? *I feel like that with my qualifications to support People First of Missouri, I have represented you well over the last two years, and one of those years was during a pandemic year. I am a strong advocate and have advocated helping other members get what they want in their lives. And I have great experience in financial planning and currently taking online courses in accounting/Computer technology and maintaining a 4.0 in these courses as my degree is in accounting/business computer technology, which will be a great asset.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *I joined People First of Marshall in 1996 and joined People First of Missouri in 1998, and since then, I have served as President, vice president, and secretary. I have also held these roles in my local chapter and treasure, and a treasure of my local chapter. I was responsible for writing the monthly reports for monthly meetings, keeping the checking account up to date, and contacting a business for donations. I was also responsible for setting up fundraisers. I am currently the President of my local chapter and the secretary of People First of Missouri. I have been a past member of The Regional Advisory Council (Region 10). I served as a secretary. I am currently a new member of the ARC. I also am your SABE Region 4 alternate (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered.) and was given the outstanding people first member award of my local twice. I am also a partner in the policy-making graduate of the class of 2000. I have also done several presentations at the national, statewide, and Real Voices Real Choices conferences and spoken at the disability rights day.*

Will you be able to communicate with People First officers, People First of Missouri members, advisory, and supporters? *Yes, I will be able to. I can drive to meet in person, meet on Twitter and zoom, email and phone, and can do Facebook chat/live.*

Are you able to keep organized? *Yes, I can. I use money software to handle our chapter's bank account and financial reports. Currently, I have access to a desktop and laptop, which will keep everything organized.*

How will you support People First of Missouri chapters and members with their financial reports? *I will check chapters every month and contact them to see if they need any help or offer advice, give ideas, and find out what they need.*

How will you keep records and receipts of all expenses? *I will save receipts in a binder as well as will save them on a jump drive and will also scan them into the computer*

Will you be willing to work with others to prepare quarterly and annual financial reports? *As the current secretary, I meet with the officers to help plan and prepare a budget for the fiscal year, and as your treasure, I will continue to do so. As the treasurer, I will make sure everything is documented and shared, and for anything new financial item that is brought up, I will ask for permission or a vote before proceeding.*

See next page for
information on
Kayla Aldridge

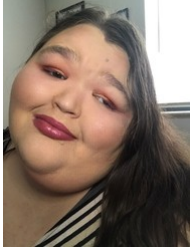
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Kayla Aldridge

Why do you want to be treasure? *I want to be treasurer because I have been treasurer in my chapter for 6 years and I have enjoyed doing and I want to also do it at the state level. I also enjoy doing math and accounting.*

How long have you been a member of PFMO? *I have been a member of People First for 6 years*

Will you be able to communicate with PF officers, PF members, advisory, and supporters? *Yes I will, I have my own cell phone and computer with internet access and I have my own email address.*

Are you able to keep organized?

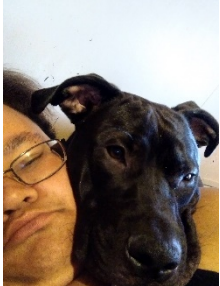
Yes, I have been able to help my chapter organize all their papers and keep track of everything.

How will you support PF chapters and members with their financial reports? *I can teach them how to create the reports and about accounting. I can help them figure out what they need on the reports.*

How will you keep records and receipts of all expenses? *I will keep a binder with everything in it just like I do as chapter treasurer and I will keep a folder on my computer and google drive for any necessary documents.*

Will you be willing to work with others to prepare quarterly and annual financial reports? *Yes, I am willing to work with anyone that I need to get things done.*

Secretary



Katie Kinder

My name is Katie Kinder. I have two dogs, recently became an amputee last year. But that has not stopped me from doing the things I love. I'm an active Self-Advocate & Advocate. I have been part of People First for about 11-12 years. I have learned so much since joining People First

Why do you want to be the secretary? *I like to take notes & keep records. So I can look at it at any time*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *6-7 years*

What experience do you have in taking minutes during the meetings? *Been a secretary of People First of Missouri, Secretary of Boonslick of People First & a Secretary of People of First of Boone County*

How soon after a meeting will you forward the meeting minutes? *Two weeks after the meeting, I will send it to Candace & officers for proofreading*

What is your process for keeping records? *Have it saved in a folder & a second spot*

Will you be able to attend all meetings? *Yes*



Susan Parker

Why do you want to be the secretary? *I have been secretary for the state level for two terms back to back before. I have always turned in my notes on time and kept a log of everything that needs to be documented. I enjoy taking notes on my computer and attending all steering committee meetings. I promise to do a good job, take good notes, and report anything and everything needed.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *I have been a member of the Saint Charles chapter for over 15 years.*

What experience do you have in taking minutes during the meetings? *I started as just a steering committee representative for my local chapter. I was taking longhand notes for our local chapter, and during my term, for my local chapter, I was asked for a copy of the notes multiple times before being nominated for state secretary. It indeed was one of my favorite positions I have held in the past. And I promise to do a good job if elected as state secretary.*

How soon after a meeting will you forward the meeting minutes? *I typically would email my minutes at the end of the meeting to the state advisor immediately before leaving the steering committee meeting and any officers meeting or breakout committee as needed. And or turned in by the time given or date/deadline*

What is your process for keeping records? *I tend to take notes on my laptop, and I save them to my laptop. I then will have them go back in meetings if discussing something or a vote etc.... I have in the past have had to pull up past notes in the meeting to get official votes that were made and or to go over what a committee has done etc.... they are always good to have on hand if you are in a meeting, so if I store them on my computer then I will have easy access to them.*

Will you be able to attend all meetings? *YES! I love everything about the steering committee and all the knowledge and information I can learn to help other members and or people in the community and not miss a meeting. I have attended every zoom when I am notified and will do my best to represent people first of Saint Charles and then of Missouri. Thank you for this opportunity for the nomination, and, thank you for your vote! If you have any questions, please let me know. And I will answer before the election if need be. Thank you very much*

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Running for Sergeant of Arms



John Burriss

Why do you want to be Sergeant at Arms? *I am currently serving as your sgt of arms and feel like I have represented you well in the last two years and would like to continue representing you.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *29 yrs. for People First of Missouri, I joined my local people first chapter in 1991. I was a founding member of the Marshall Mo chapter; I have served every office in my local chapter.*

How will you keep the meeting running on time? *I will pay attention to the schedule as I currently do and speak up and inform you how long we have, and if we run out of time, I will suggest we come back to it later or see if we can at another meeting.*

Will, you be able to help the members with the handouts during the meetings? *Yes, I will be able to. I will make sure everyone has a copy of all the paperwork, see if we need more copies, and make sure we can make copies if we do not have enough.*

Will you be able to make sure that the members and guest have sign-in for the meeting? *Yes, I will have a table set up, stop them at the door, make sure they sign in, and make sure contact info is up to date.*

Will you make sure that the members and guests have sign-in for the meeting? *If not, make them correct it.*



Jason Mize

Why do you want to be Sergeant at Arms? *I've served before as a Sergeant at Arms, and I feel like I did a good job. There were no problems, and I had no complaints when I held that position. I want to do it again. I'm a strong advocate, and I want to ensure everyone is getting along and working well together. I enjoy being part of steering committee meetings, and I want them to be a positive experience for everyone.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *I've been a member since 2000, so about 21 years.*

How will you keep the meeting running on time? *I'll make sure steering committee members are settled in and ready to start on time. I'll follow the agenda and help keep things on track. After*

breaks, I'll make sure steering committee members return to their seats.

Will you be able to help the members with the handouts during the meetings? *Yes, I have no problem helping with handouts – I can take care of that before and during meetings as needed.*

Will you be able to make sure that the members and guests have sign-in for the meeting? *Yes, I will have the signup sheet and will make sure everyone has the opportunity to sign in.*



Thomas Towler

Why do you want to be Sergeant at Arms? *I wish to be Sergeant at Arms because it is a new opportunity for me.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *5+ years.*

How will you keep the meeting running on time? *I will keep the meeting running on time by looking at the clock.*

Will you be able to help the members with the handouts during the meetings? *Yes*

Will you make sure that the members and guests have sign-in for the meeting? *Yes*



Randy Todd

Why do you want to be Sergeant at Arms? *for being interested in being Sergeant AT arms for People First of Missouri 1sr, I am interested in being sergeant at arms because I can keep meetings moving on schedule and orderly, having served in a similar role at People First North Kansas City a couple of years ago.*

How long have you been a member of People First of Missouri? *I have been a steering committee member at People First of Missouri for over ten years;*

How will you keep the meeting on time? *I will keep the meeting running on time by*

politely notifying the committee members and the officers when things are slowing down behind schedule.

Will you be able to help members with the handouts during the meetings? *I am more than willing to help members with the handouts during the meetings*

Will you make sure that the members and guests have sign-in for the meeting? *make sure members and guests sign in for the meeting.*

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