

To the NHPA Committee: 20 Feb 2024

I, Clarence William Lassiter, Jr. with careful deliberation and much thought have decided to launch my name for consideration for the duties of the office of the Presidency of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association. My passion and desire for this wonderful national sport is great.

Since joining in 1999, I have enjoyed being a participant and an officer in various positions at the State and World levels. At State, served as Director of four different sites in North Carolina and member of NC-Hall of Fame Committee. Of course you know me as the Set-Up Committee, World Judge, Instructor of Judges and Scorekeeper.

Retired from service for my country of 22 years in the United States Army Finance and Accounting Corp and received the Meritorious Service Medal for service while serving in the countries of Germany, South Korea, and Bosnia. As a Sergeant First Class I also managed a \$7-million-dollar budget during my time at Ft Liberty. I have been in a leadership position since the age of 19.

I have been a Commissioner of Soccer and Basketball for ages 6-18. A Coach for over 20 years' experience in basketball, softball, volleyball and horseshoes. I have coached Women and Men softball teams. I know how to handle all age groups.

Husband to a 21-year Army veteran having a daughter, two sons and blessed with 14 grandchildren.

Blessed to be a Servant of the Lord.

I look forward to serving you and working for you.

Clarence W. Lassiter, Jr.



Bring Back Stuart Sipma for NHPA President Experienced, and Professional

It has been three years since I was your President, and I would love for the opportunity to serve this great organization once again. Since I left the office, I have sure missed my second family. Now that I am retired, I have all the time to serve the people of the NHPA to be best of my ability. My motto was and always will be "To make decisions in the best interest of the NHPA."

As I have demonstrated previously as NHPA President, I will once again ensure that the affairs of the NHPA are conducted in a fiscally responsible manner, ensuring the success of this great sport for future generations.

My top concerns and main goals for the NHPA Council shall be as follows:

- Growing our membership
- Regulate NHPA spending.
- Maintain our HOF Museum and support the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club.
- Support the NHPF in growing our funds to allow grant money to the Charters to grow your leagues.
- Creating sponsorship packages that will attract not only businesses that have a direct impact on our sport but businesses outside of our circle as well. The knowledge and expertise of our current young council members will be key to making this happen. I will make sure we provide the tools and labor to make this happen!
- Provide open communication between the NHPA and the Charters
- Continue to integrate new technological equipment to streamline our sport.

If you have enjoyed the wonderful pitching venues, great pitching conditions, and proximity to well-known vacation spots then rest assured that I will continue to make this a top priority moving forward.

Some of my accomplishments while serving on the NHPA Council as the 5th VP for six years and President for twelve years consist of the following:

- World Tournament Coordinator responsible for attending sports marketing meetings to encourage cities throughout the United States and Canada to bid on our annual World Tournament. This marketing effort led us away from pitching in outdoor parks and into newer

climate-controlled sports complexes for the benefit of the world horseshow pitching community.

- Chairing the Rules, Guidelines & Specifications (RGS) committee in the combining and rewriting of the Rules and By-Laws.
- Outsourcing the Game Related Sales from the NHPA to an outside NHPA member contractor.
- Implementing electronic scoring and posting of World Tournament stats by using HS Master and Scoring.
- Lead the Council in upgrading to a larger W.T. trailer for storing our W.T. equipment.
- Leading the committee to acquire W.T. sponsorships for constructing new portable courts and purchasing rubber mats which are still being utilized today.
- Updating the Newslines magazine from a printed only version to a digital copy allows members to receive their bimonthly Newslines as part of their membership fee.
- Leading a committee in sponsoring the purchase of video cameras enabling spectators to view W.T. pitching from their homes or smart phone devices.
- Eliminating printed membership cards and utilizing E-Shoe for member registration and payment processing.
- Providing membership packages to new members.

In conclusion, I have a unique passion for this sport, with the desire and dedication needed to carry us forward. I am a responsible and professional businessperson with extensive marketing skills. I will put together a diligent Council and committees to assist with the challenges that come with leading any great organization. The future of our sport is alive and well and by working together we can be a very vibrant and unified Association. I appreciate your support in having me back as your next President at the 2024 Convention at the Tri Cities Kennewick, Washington this July/August.

Respectfully,



Stuart Sipma

Past, Current, and Future NHPA Members:

I am formally announcing my candidacy for NHPA President and ask for the support of all who share my belief that our organization needs to embark on a new, constructive course. I believe my candidacy will be healthy for the National Association and the State Charters

I am running because I have grown increasingly concerned about the course of events that have taken place over the past 20+ years. While we all enjoy the premier event of the NHPA, the World Tournament, we have experienced a substantial membership decline, a shrinking budget, and a major disconnection from our leadership to membership, over this period.

In my opinion, the root of these problems lies right here – in the leadership. We have become complacent with an “ineffective” system that has become increasingly insensitive to the needs of the members who support it with their dues.

It is difficult to find leaders who are independent of the forces that have brought us our problems. If the NHPA and the organized sport of horseshoes is to survive for my generation, and move forward, this must change.

It will only change when the members vote for a leadership that listens to them, relies on them, and seeks to return their association to them. We must begin to continue to embrace our core values and uphold our traditions but begin to blaze a path forward through the issues we face. This begins at the charter level; we must help our membership grow by working hand-in-hand with them at a charter level.

I have spent the last 2 years of my 18-year tenure as an NHPA member working indirectly with the NHPA council as Youth Director, and now directly as NHPA 3rd Vice President. I now see it is time to tap into the technology that is available and bring horseshoe pitching into the 21st century. Utilizing my previous business experience, through my leadership and the support of our great members, we will do just that.

An organization that is growing and thriving is one that will solve its problems head on, instead of deflecting them. We must offer progress instead of the “business-as-usual” approach; the truth instead of promises; partnership instead of disconnection.

In the coming months I will take my message and plan to you. I will talk in more detail about how we will work together as a responsible, responsive, association. I have a new vision that will foster leadership transparency, honesty, and input from members.

Together, We will be raising the stakes!

Sincerely,

Ben Webb
