



# 2020 St. Louis Region Officer Elections

**Hello St. Louis Region SCCA members:**

**I hope this message finds you well.**

**Buckle up now, because you have some reading to do...**

**Our 2020 Board of Directors election is upon us. Please take some time and consider the following candidates listed alphabetically for each seat below. The list will be followed with each candidate's bio information.**

**Here is the slate of candidates (incumbents are in bold):**

**Regional Executive (R.E.)(vote for 1):**

**Mike Kenney**  
Jim Lynch  
Matt Pirrello

**Secretary (vote for 1):**

**Kelsey Stephens**

**At-Large Directors (vote for 3):**

**Calvin Cooper**  
Chris Hammond  
Steve Leidholdt  
**Jim Lynch**

**Nominating Bios**

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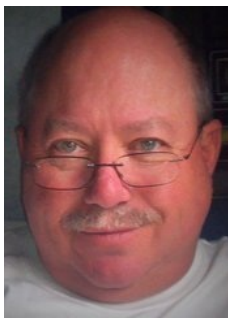


## Mike Kenney

After serving the past two years as the St Louis Region SCCA Region Executive I have decided to remain on the ballot for the 2020 Region election of officers and Board of Directors members. The past two years have not been without significant challenges but the health of the Region remains good and progress has been made in many areas. The most significant challenge has obviously been the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to pose a significant threat still today. None of our programs were unaffected by the pandemic which resulted in a large number of cancellations early in the season and many schedule changes as we resumed. In cooperation with the SCCA national office, local government agencies and venue managers we were able to resume our activities in early summer by establishing guidelines to enable the resumption of our events safely. We have been successful in doing this and as we wrap up the current seasons without incident so far I count that as a noteworthy success. While it's unclear what 2021 will bring the Region is well prepared to meet whatever challenges we face.

I would also add that our success the past two years is almost entirely due to the efforts of our Program Managers and the many volunteers who allow us to plan and execute safe and successful events. They are the key to our continued success regardless of who serves as Region Executive in the next term. In closing, I would urge you to consider becoming one of those volunteers in your favorite program(s).

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## Jim Lynch

I am currently a member of the St. Louis Region Board of Directors, "at-large," a position I have held for the last fifty-two months. I have also served as the region's Road Racing Chairman since August 2018.

Since joining the SCCA in August of 2013, I have participated in SOLO, Road Rally, PDE. I have served as an instructor for the Tire Rack Street Survival program as an in-car coach and a classroom environment.

I have represented the St. Louis Region at three National Conventions and two MiDiv Conventions. I also represent the region on the MiDiv Road Racing and Time Trial Committees. In May 2020, I led the effort that brought a Hoosier Super Tour event for the first time in the St. Louis Region's history. This successful event has changed the conversation regarding the distribution of the Super Tour events. Last January, we were told by the "powers in charge" a Super Tour in St. Louis would never happen. Now, the conversation is, "we need

to discuss coming back to St. Louis on a rotating basis," following our very successful event.

I will continue to support all of the region's programs and foster a safe and inclusive environment so that all members may enjoy the motorsports events that we choose to host.

**Achievements:**

2016 and 2017 SOLO CSP Region Champion, 2015 Runner-up  
Region Worker of the year  
2018 Spirit of St. Louis Award  
2019 Region Executives Award  
2016 Worker of the Year Award  
Two-time National Road Rally Top 10 points finisher  
2019 MiDiv VROOM worker award

**Positions held:**

SAC committee member, four years  
SOLO Grid Chief, three years  
Road Racing Chairman, two years  
Board Member, four years and four months

**Licenses currently held:**

Road Rally Safety Steward  
Road Racing Novice License  
National Timing and Scoring License  
National Race Administrator License

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**Matt Pirrello**

Three years ago I joined the SCCA on Kelly Smith's recommendation. I came out to my first event and was less than enthusiastic about my experience. It seemed to me there was no clear direction, no one to instruct and guide, and I felt surrounded by people who were complaining about things I didn't understand. I concluded that the organization was lacking definitive leadership, but I looked past that and felt as if I could see what the organization could be.

In my typical fashion I jumped in with two feet and a big stick. I was appointed to the SAC and last November was elected to the Regional Board of Directors – At Large. I currently participate in the SMF class driving a red Honda Del Sol with a giant wing. Thanks to Kelly, (who actually told me about this 15 years ago) I got safety trained and currently hold the Safety Chief position.

Those that know me, know that I am firm but fair. I am constantly pursuing ways to improve the Region and grow membership. I strive to lead by example. I believe in empowering our volunteers, giving them the authority to manage their chosen areas of responsibility. I believe this organization's success and viability is built on its talented pool of membership volunteers.

It's likely that many of you have no idea that a Regional Board of Directors exists, nor what they do. I plan to change all of that. I will promote transparency and encourage member participation. I will return to holding monthly membership meetings and regular newsletters to keep you informed of current and upcoming events. I will promote program cross pollination. Essentially, I will do everything possible to tear down barriers that have

separated us and build a “club” where members want to be involved.

I have owned two successful businesses for over thirty years, and have served in several leadership capacities including Mayor for six years in the City of Ellisville with responsibility for nearly 10,000 people and a 10 million dollar budget. If you stand with me, we can make this organization what we all want it to be.

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## Kelsey Stephens

Kelsey has been in the STL region since 2017 and been active in both the Road Rally and Rallycross programs. She is up for Re-Election for the Secretary position and excitedly running again.

She competes as a co-driver (navigator) in the American Rally Association. She won the 2019 Open 2WD Regional Championship as a co-driver and is leading the class championship again this year alongside Calvin who is also on the ballot. Navigating has taught her strong organizational skills and confidence.

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## Calvin Cooper

I have been serving on the Region Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large since 2017 and have been an active participant in Rallycross, PDE and Road Rally. My primary discipline is Performance Rally in which I compete as a driver in the American Rally Association. I hold the title for the 2019 Open 2WD Regional Championship and currently lead my class for the 2020 season.

I have a background in software development for which I spent 7 years developing small business software solutions. During that time I also operated a BMW repair service in my free time. I left my software development job in 2019 to transition to full-time operation of my BMW repair shop and used car dealership: Cooper Autoworks.

During my time as a Member-at-Large I have assisted the region board with managing



various Information Technology related challenges. I was directly involved with facilitating the recent updates to the region and program websites. As well as making a push to consolidate the various technologies used by the region. If re-elected I will continue to put my knowledge of Information Technology to use in assisting the region.

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## Chris Hammond

I joined the St. Louis Region of the SCCA back in the spring of 2000, fresh out of college and looking to take part in motorsports activities. I have spent the past 20 years as a member, primarily in the St. Louis Region with a jaunt out west for a few years. I've participated in Solo, Rallycross, Road Rally and Road Racing at some point throughout my years within the region. My wife Natalie, and my two kids Jacqueline and Daniel are all members of the St. Louis Region as well.

I have been part of the SAC on multiple occasions and I regularly participate in National SCCA events and look forward to continuing that for many years to come.

I bring a technical software/engineering background that I believe will help the region thrive as the world continues to drive forward with its digital growth. I am formerly a software engineer and have made the transition to running product teams and sales within organizations of all sizes, providing insight and skills that will help make educated, rational and beneficial decisions that the region needs made.

As a member of the region's Board of Directors I want to be an active part in making sure that our region's driving programs continue to provide outlets for drivers of all types, in safe and commercially viable ways.

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## Steve Leidholt

I have owned and operated numerous technology companies over the past 35 years. Currently, I am President/CEO of STL Communications, a Chesterfield based technology services/cloud organization. I believe that my experience in problem solving, strategy and most importantly helping people work together to achieve their goals will help me be an effective board member of the SCCA.

I have been hooked on cars ever since I bought my first car, a very rusty 1969 Mustang fastback when I was 15. Since then I have enjoyed owning and driving lots of sports cars, but nothing compares to the excitement and fun of actually racing in an SCCA event.

Over the past 5 years I have participated in SCCA solo events, PDE and Road Racing and love them all! I am currently racing my 1967 Mustang in the ITE road racing class.

Several years ago, when my Mustang had a mechanical failure at Heartland, an entire group of fellow racers helped me load my broken car into my trailer. When I looked surprised at their willingness to help, one of them said "that's why it's called a club".

If elected, my goal is to do everything possible to help foster that spirit of club membership across Solo, Rallycross, PDE, Road Racing, Road Rally and Street Survival while working to make sure we can all continue to experience the unmatched thrill and excitement of racing in all SCCA programs.

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**Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. Soon you will receive an email with a link to vote on Motorsportreg.com. The voting period will end Sunday, November 15 at 11:59 pm.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jennifer Tobey**

**Nominating Chair**

**[Website](#)**