

Sylvain Niles



Why are you interested?

I strongly believe in the work that has been done being fundamental to the health of our community. I hope to provide a voice and participate in the uncomfortable but necessary conversations we must have to heal and move forward.

Skills / Qualifications:

A decade or so of volunteer management of 100's of volunteers where many situations like this arose, several decades of event security and de-escalation, professional team leadership for 15+ years (mainly applicable in that I have had constructive remediation plans built and executed with individuals and have experience handling both positive and negative outcomes.)

Personal interpretation of the purpose and priorities of the RAC:

To provide a clear, transparent process by which the community can safely report, track, and address violations that harm individuals and the community as a whole. The council specifically represents a neutral place where reports can be discussed, researched, and outcomes which help the community can be implemented.

How do you plan to handle the emotional impact of receiving information about difficult cases involving your friends and community members?

I've been dealing with this on a personal level for quite some time, both inside and out of the burner community. I acknowledge the feelings they bring up and sometimes need to step back for a day to collect my thoughts and see things clearly. I've also already confronted one of my best ex-friends being an egregious violator of the worst kind, and while I would of course recuse myself if that were to arise again, I know how to deal with it.

Honest assessment of the monthly time commitment:

4-6 hours minimum. More if the process is asynchronous (everyone checking reports, adding notes, etc outside of meetings, then focused meetings to discuss everything).

Involvement with Burner groups:

Major burning man art installations (EGO, Photo Chapel, Totem of Confessions), BRC Gate (11+ years), BRC ESD (medic since 2013), BRC Tech Team, Deep Playa (safety lead, medical), Critical NW (event safety lead), YouTopia (SD Regional, DPW lead pre-event 2013).

Involvement with adjacent communities:

Technology Board Member for Young Non-Profit Professionals Network in SF, 2012.

In conclusion:

While I care passionately about this subject, I hesitated to throw my hat in the ring as a cis-male, because I've seen similar processes to RAC not give adequate voice to those most affected. If my voice is useful I'd love to help, but not at the expense of the diversity of the council.