

MEET THE PRESIDENT

Kaitlyn Metscher (she, her)



Hail to the Charming Chief

EDITED BY SARA TOOGOOD (SHE, HER)

It's President's Day! We couldn't get a hold of #46 himself, so we hope you'll settle for an interview with PCA Board President Kaitlyn Metscher (she, her). PCA's President #3. And this "third time" is definitely a charm.

Question 1: *I hear your St. Olaf story begins like this: "It all started in a Christmas tree lot in Clark County." Do continue.*

"Those damn trees. Yes, I ran a Christmas tree lot starting at 16 years old. I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, but also knew my family couldn't afford to pay for college. My Junior year of college, I transferred to an online school to travel the country selling flags with my partner. After completing my Bachelor's degree I took a position at a law firm in Portland, OR as a paralegal and have spent the last four years being the token Zennial in the legal industry. My true claim to fame is starting a salsa dance party among Estate Planning attorneys at a legal conference banquet. I took a real sense of pride watching lawyers flock to the "hangover table" booth the next morning. Lawyers can party - if given the right amount of encouragement. I was recently accepted to Willamette University College of Law, and I hope to continue the tradition of salsa dance parties at future legal conferences (post COVID)."

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Question 2: Substitute the word "roommates" for "dogs" and tell us something funny your "roommates" do.

"My roommates love to chase a laser around the house. One time while chasing the laser, my roommates slammed into the wall and nearly put a hole in the drywall. They have no sense of personal safety or spatial awareness."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN METSCHER

Question 3: What three PCA achievements are you most proud of?

"I am so incredibly proud of the growth, introspection, and learning that so many PCA Members have exhibited in the last year. I have had passionate and driven conversations with so many PCA Members - and each time I get off the phone I am inspired and energized to support PCA in every way possible. If I had to pick 3 achievements I am most proud of I would say:

1. Surviving 2020 -- At the risk of sounding cliché "2020 has been an unprecedented year". Racial reckoning and a pandemic has stretched all of us. It's admittedly been messy, but in the chaos is exponential growth, learning, and a reawakening. I was officially elected the President of PCA in March 2020... the same month the majority of stay-at-home orders were issued. I did not anticipate a pandemic, racial tension, canceling of Pride Parades, or a virtual "Sin City". Without the input of PCA Members I am not sure how PCA would've survived 2020. I know there is still loads of work to do to bring our Member

teams back to 'fire-on-all cylinders' but I am proud of the Crisis Relief Assistance Program of PCA aid to Member Teams and the learning opportunities now available to PCA Member Teams. Positive, massive change doesn't happen in the "comfortable." It's only when you are truly uncomfortable that you can see things clearly and spread your wings.

2. Summit 2021 -- One of my central goals of PCA has been to increase the support and resources to Member Teams. Planning, launching, and learning with PCA members was one of the most rewarding experiences. I've been rewatching the sessions, and seeing the member interactions reminds me why PCA exists: to unite, support and develop other charitable cheerleading teams. It takes someone zany, passionate, and courageous to join an adult charitable cheerleading team. If just one of us can change the world - which I believe one can - imagine what 800+ could do? Summit 2021 set an incredibly high bar for future Summits and I am excited to see how it evolves. In five years, invite me back to Summit 2026. I promise to spill all the dirty details of planning Summit 2021. Until then, know there are candid photos stored, and the planning notes are saved ;)

3. Nerdy -- Updating PCA bylaws to accommodate the growth of PCA. PCA was founded to allow a max of 15 directors on the Board and to allow each team one Director. At the end of 2019, we had 13 teams; we were about to outgrow our bylaws! Revamping the PCA bylaws to move from a unicameral system (one governing body) to a bicameral system (Board of Directors and Delegation) allowed PCA to retain the equal representation desired by its founders, but also allowed PCA to grow like weeds! I announced at Sin City 2020 that PCA would have "a team in every city." Secretly, I also believed that PCA would be known by name by Varsity and NCAA. Updating our bylaws sets in motion a long term strategy - PCA is going to shift from a niche 'for fun' hobby to a real contender in the cheerleading world. A contender that changes the face of cheerleading for the better. Forget the archaic "cheerleading ends after college," or the stereotype that cheerleaders are dumb blondes with nothing better to do. PCA means business. It's going to take awhile before the rest of the world wakes up to the impact of PCA, but when they do? Buckle up."

Question 4: *If you could have any job in the world, what would it be... More importantly, which Successories™ motivational poster will hang on your wall?*

If credentials and money were no barrier, I would absolutely be a Supreme Court Justice... it's about time the Supreme Court had a member of the LGBTQ+ community on their payroll.

"I truly believe we are only limited by our willingness to be labeled "crazy" or "disillusioned." (Yes, of course there are institutional barriers that also limit us -- but that's the beauty of PCA. I think nearly every one of us would support and lift up other PCA-ers. PS: Holler at me if you think there is any way I can help support and lift you up!) If credentials and money were no barrier I would absolutely be a Supreme Court Justice. I am equally upset with the terrible decisions the Supreme Court has historically handed down and in awe of the progressive (for its time) decisions they've authored. I think it's about time the Supreme Court had a member of the LGBTQ+ community on their payroll.

Outside of the hypothetical? I'd settle for: local lawyer, politician or circuit court judge.

I am apparently told I have to pick a Successories TM poster? You'd never catch me actually hanging one, but if I had to? I'd hang the "Vision" poster. "Go as far as you can see. You will then have the vision to go even further."

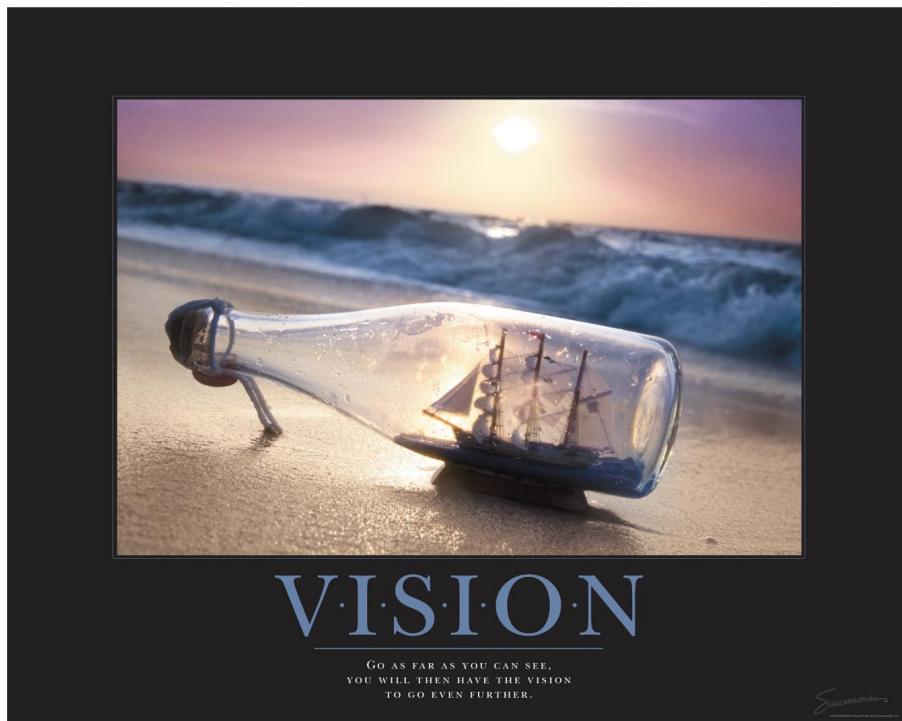


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Thank you, Kaitlyn, for opening up your whole self and giving us your time for this interview.