

My name is Joe Formanek.

I hold a B.S. (Microbiology) U of MN, 1988, and a Ph.D. (Food Science) U of IL, 1998, and am currently a Director at a major food company based in the Chicago area.

I have been an avid homebrewer for over 23 years as of today. I've been the recipient of numerous local and National awards, being honored with the AHA Ninkasi Award in 2000 and 2007, as well as the AHA Meadmaker of the Year in 2004. I have been a member of the BJCP since 1995 and attained the rank of National Judge in 1997. I am very active in the hobby, having judged, organized or played some committee role in almost 100 competitions over the years, as well as being a founder of a brewclub (BUZZ) in Champaign, IL. I am also an active member of the Urban Knaves of Grain Homebrew club in the Chicagoland area.

I have also had the great honor and privilege of being the Midwest BJCP Representative since 2005 as well as being the current Vice President of the Organization. I truly enjoy serving as an advocate on the BJCP board for judges in the Midwest region with any concerns that may arise. I make every attempt to be completely accessible to Midwest members and address these issues in a very timely manner – I hope that you have been satisfied with my responses if you have contacted me for help in any way!

The BJCP as an organization has grown dramatically over the past 6 years – in both membership as well as in structure. The homebrewing hobby has absolutely exploded over the past few years, with an amazing number of brewers deciding to take the next step in becoming a Beer Judge. The BJCP has and is growing to support this desire. A greater infrastructure within the organization is being developed to help support this influx, with new processes being tested to accommodate this incredible influx of examinees.

New programs and initiatives have been undertaken over the past 6 years to both give more back to the membership as a whole, as well as to guarantee that certain managerial issues that arose during the previous BJCP regime could no longer take place, and that justice was served. I truly hope, as your BJCP representative, that you have been happy with the progress of the BJCP over this time and see fit to again honor me with the privilege to serve you again in that capacity for another term.

Cheers!!

