

**IBA 2020 Elections  
Candidate for Councillor  
Richard A. Beausoleil**

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I began my career working under Dr. Mike Pelton at University of Tennessee and joined IBA in 1997. With Frank Van Manen and Joe Clark also on staff, I'm thankful that the value of IBA was engrained. That was 23 years ago, and ever since I've been lucky enough to work with bears in Tennessee, Louisiana, New Mexico, and now Washington where I've been for 19 years with WDFW. In addition to conducting research and helping protect the resource, co-founding WDFW's Karelian Bear Dog Program to non-lethally resolve human-wildlife conflicts has been most rewarding.

In 2012, I became the first Chair of IBA's Management Committee and held the position for over 7 years. I'm proud of our accomplishments which included conducting a survey of North American managers to help inform IBA Council, establishing an online managers forum, developing the Manager's Corner section of International Bear News, creating electronic copies of all Eastern & Western Black Bear Workshops and preserving them on IBA's website, helping shape IBA's new membership fee structure, and producing a management-oriented brochure to attract more managers to IBA. In 2017, I also became a member of the IUCN Bear Specialist Group Human-Bear Conflicts Expert Team.

Through these positions, Dave Garshelis and Carl Lackey nominated me for an IBA Council position. I respect these gentlemen and their nomination is much appreciated. If elected, I will integrate myself into IBA Council and help continue our mission and objectives. I plan to fully engage in IBA's transition to become even more relevant across the globe and help implement that structural plan. The IBA is an outstanding organization full of dedicated members, many of whom I consider good friends. I for one am proud to be an IBA member and always will be; I hope you will too. I would appreciate your vote.

In Solidarity,  
Rich

