

AARON BUNCE BIO

My name is Aaron Bunce, and I'm proud to put my name forward for the Cedar Rapids Izaak Walton League Board. I'm a Cedar Rapids native, and I've been a member of this chapter through multiple stints over the past twenty-plus years. I care deeply about the people, the land, and the traditions that make this League worth protecting.

By trade, I am a full-time novelist, writing science fiction for Variant Publishing. I hold an associate's degree in criminal justice and an undergraduate degree in English, with a focus on fiction. Before I made my living with words, I spent twelve years as an Armed Security Officer at the Duane Arnold Energy Center: a job that taught me discipline, accountability, and a respect for firearms safety that has helped shape who I am today.

Part of that role included work as a professional adversary, operating within regulations set forth by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to test and train nuclear security personnel and site security plans. I've trained extensively through both NRC and NRA programs and served as a Range Safety Officer (RSO). That background gave me a hands-on understanding of firearms safety, regulatory compliance, and what it takes to hold people and systems to a high standard.

That respect is a big part of why this chapter matters to me. I'm an SCTP-certified Trap coach with six years of experience as both a head and assistant coach for the Kennedy and Prairie trap teams. Coaching young shooters has been some of the most rewarding work of my life: teaching safe, confident handling of firearms and watching kids grow into responsible, capable athletes.

If elected, I'll bring the same commitment to the Board that I bring to the trap line. That means I will show up, do the work, and put safety, mentorship, and community first. I believe the Izaak Walton League's mission of conservation, education, and outdoor recreation is one worth investing in, and I'd be honored to help carry it for this next leg.