



Appleton Area Hockey Association (AAHA)
Board of Directors – Statement of Intent FORM

Approved by: Elections Committee
Posted: Monday the 22nd of January 2018
Due: February 15th, 2018

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1) Please provide a brief summary of the qualifications and/or strengths you feel you would bring to the organization.

Youth sports, specifically hockey, has been a huge part of my life and I have seen the positive impact it has on kids. I've seen kids that can barely stand on ice become Olympic and Division One hockey players, but more importantly, I've seen kids apply the lessons they've learned through hockey to their personal lives. I've also seen how youth sports have changed over the years, become more competitive, intense and added pressures kids aren't always equipped to handle. Unfortunately, I've had to experience the negative aspects of youth sports, how negative, self-serving policies have impacted organizations, their kids and have caused organizations to lose focus on the important aspects of what youth sports are all about; community and family, player development (on and off the ice), and the lessons learned through sport that can be applied to our everyday lives.

From a practical perspective, I work for a non-profit organization that has Chapters (similar to our association's "Chapter" of USA Hockey). In this position my title is Chapter Leadership Advisor (or more accurately, volunteer leader) where I train and advise Chapters on governance issues (like bylaws), conflict resolution, leadership development, volunteer management, process management, etc.

From a youth sports perspective, not only have I participated in youth sports as a player for most of my youth, but I have been involved in multiple youth sports associations as a coach and adult for over eighteen years. Throughout all those years I have been involved in coaching various sports but one constant has always been my involvement in youth hockey. During this time I have been involved in several youth organizations and have seen both successful and unsuccessful organizational policies and people, which has allowed me to see what a successful organization can do and what limits an organization's success. Because I have been involved specifically in youth hockey for so long, I have seen more than one generation of player progress through an association to the highest levels of the sport and how the associations have or have not supported the now, young men and women as they have progressed. This, combined with my association experience and skills, has provided me with a unique perspective

and applicable experience that I can use to help keep moving AAHA forward. To me hockey is a microcosm of life and we need to keep progressing toward becoming an organization that puts a youth player's development first, on and off the ice, developing boys and girls into men and women and ultimately leading to bigger and better things for the kids, our organization's future, and the sport of hockey.

2) Please share why you are interested in being part of the Board of Directors.

I'd like to help ensure that the sport I love stays something that all local kids have the opportunity to play. And for those that already play it, that they enjoy it to its fullest potential. This can only be accomplished through the leadership at the highest level of the organization. One of the components in this development process is to develop, communicate and constantly refine and stick to a strong mission and vision that will guide everything we do, from the formation of policies to the selection of teams and coaches. At this stage in my youth sports involvement, I feel I have a lot to offer and being able to help steer the organization through my participation on a new level will help bring the organization and the kids involved in it to the next level, while helping me give more back to the sport that has taught me so much personally.

John Bellotti III _____
Signature

2/12/2018 _____
Date