

Jeanette Geisbauer, Jill Gerard, Eric St. Martin
3/20/2019

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Jeanette Geisbauer, Jill Gerard, Eric St. Martin
SAHA Nomination Committee
1675 Market Drive, Suite B
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Dear Jeanette Geisbauer, Jill Gerard, Eric St. Martin:

I, Paul Bajda, being a member of SAHA in good standing, and meeting the requirements of the position will accept, if elected, the position of Vice President on the Board of the Stillwater Hockey Association for the term May 2019 through April 2021.

I am deeply honored to know that my fellow SAHA members felt me worthy of such an important responsibility. I am eager to carry on the great work that is being done in the association.

Attached, please find a brief statement summarizing myself and relevant experience.

Sincerely,

Paul U. Bajda

Paul Bajda

Enclosure

Go Ponies!

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My name is Paul Bajda (pronounced "BYE-DA") and I live in Stillwater with my wife Carrie, son Gavin and daughter Kendall. I am a computer programmer at Travelers Insurance Company, working in downtown St. Paul. My wife and I moved to the Stillwater area back in 2001 due to my employment with Andersen Windows. We were very fortunate to have landed in the Stillwater school district, at the time schools were not a primary concern. But now having kids, we are glad to be in such a great district and hockey association. My daughter Kendall attends the Stillwater middle school and my son Gavin goes to Andersen in Bayport.

We did not get involved in hockey until 2015 when my son decided he would like to give it a try. We quickly found out that starting out at 7 years old, he was already behind since most kids had been skating for several years. Then it started, and we got completely pulled into the hockey "lifestyle". Over the first 6 weeks, Gavin moved up mite levels 3 times because of many great coaches that determined his ability exceeded the level he was at. It was an overwhelming time for my wife and I, as soon as we started to meet new players and parents, we were off to the next team! Gavin ended up on the Intermediate mite team, "The Rangers" and had a blast that season. I was amazed how many new friends he made (and so did we) in such a short time. A long story short, Gavin decided that goaltending was his calling. He has enjoyed great success playing in nets the last few years.

I was a 3-sport athlete growing up and fondly remember the friendships, great times and lessons that came from playing sports. Seeing my son experience the same things has made us very happy and want to be involved. Over the past couple of years, I have assisted by managing the team that Gavin plays on. That has been a very rewarding experience and given me a look at the amount of work that goes into a quality program like ours. During my time managing, I was able to over-see the association trading pin order, coordinate a road trip for an out of state team, organize many games, scrimmages, team outings, parties, etc. Of course, I cannot take sole credit as there are many great people in our association who never hesitate to help anywhere and everywhere. I like to say that as a manager, "I just guide the process". The parents, coaches and players are the ones that make it all work.

In addition to managing Gavin's SAHA team, I organize summer AAA hockey for 4 teams participating in approximately a dozen tournaments. I am familiar with many aspects regarding the business side of hockey. In my career, I have gained a significant amount of experience organizing, scheduling and setting priorities. This experience has allowed me to successfully deliver several complex projects by coordinating large groups of people with many moving parts.

I'm very impressed with the direction our association is headed due to the great work by our volunteers and leadership, past and present. As vice president, I would like to assist in getting our charitable gambling on its feet. Charitable gambling would provide a huge boost to our program and be a benefit to all SAHA members. Strengthening our association is foundational to having successful teams and great player experiences. In addition, I would do my best to provide positive representation for all levels of girls and boys within the association.

I would like to graciously ask for your support and vote in this upcoming election for the position of vice president. Thank you.

Go Ponies!