



Report of Operation of SAHA 4/30/2026

- 930 active participants in 2025-2026 (again... record numbers)
- Maintained board meetings the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7am... very productive, extremely focused
- Up to date on all filings and audits
- 192 Year End Surveys submitted... a substantial increase in productive, honest data makes an organization our size stronger.

1. Goalie Training – We maintained the girls summer training and added a boys training as well. This summer has a full schedule of boys and girls summer goalie training. We also had much success with the Thursday night goalie sessions at St. Mary's Point.

2. Rec Center – We remain their largest customer. Our members treat the Rec Center with great care (picking up locker rooms and throwing garbage in the garbage cans) and the staff knows and appreciates it. We again used more ice hours than any other season plus added Friday morning before school practices for peewee/12u and older teams as well as many morning practices during hosted District playoffs. Our relationship with the city and the rec center is solid and growing. You will notice additional pony logos and decor throughout the building plus the possibility of drink rail being added to the end of the North Rink.

3. Lily Lake - We are working diligently to improve the conditions at Lily Lake. Hosted meetings with city administrators, city council and rec center staff to share ideas on the extent of upgrades the city is willing/able to commit to. Upgrading the rest rooms is the top of the list but we are pushing and encouraging the city to explore a much more grand renovation to bring this old barn back to life. Stay tuned...

4. Charitable Gambling - Donations to the association from gambling more than tripled the last 2 seasons significantly helping control costs for all members. If any members know of bars/restaurants looking for a great program to run charitable gambling at their location please connect them with our gambling manager. Also please support (with team functions, family meals, etc) the businesses that already have Saha charitable gambling at their bar/restaurant.

5. Skate for the Roses – Skate for the Roses remains in a category by itself. It's the premier girls tournament in MN. Registration continues to fill in hours for all levels... all girls teams volunteer and it's a great supplement for next year's girls teams.

6. Away Tournaments – Registrations happen earlier and earlier each year. Our admin keeps a close eye on tournament openings, seeks feedback from managers and coaches at the end of each season on tournaments and adjusts our next year's registrations accordingly. SAHA spends close to \$200k registering for away tournaments.

7. Lake Elmo Bank – It's convenient to have a local presence to facilitate team checking accounts. We were able to get additional FDIC coverage and a market interest rate on our bank account balance. These are both great improvements.

8. Costs – Inflation remains everywhere... Our biggest expense for SAHA is ice and that expense goes up 3-5% annually paid to the city. Jersey sponsors were added and became a win win for SAHA and the companies who advertised on our game and practice jerseys.

9. Jerseys – Initial annual jersey implementation was a huge success versus the previous two year program. Names on the back of jerseys were a massive upgrade - especially for grandparents and relatives. Great job by the jersey committee in designing and delivering the jerseys to each of our teams.

10. Volunteers - As our association has grown the number of volunteers needed continues to grow. Leadership is developing a list of members willing to volunteer (with a question during registration) and should improve on using more volunteers to accomplish additional non hockey tasks.

11. Hockey

- i. We continue to have an abundance of great parent coaching - we do not have an abundance of non parent coaching, but we continue to seek ways to get more applications.

- ii. Added additional ice hours for every team at every level... and continued to have the hours audited to ensure what was in the budget was received by each team... with a +/- 2 hour min/max.
- iii. Ice hockey systems continues to evolve for each of our coaching staffs and SAHA recommended drills are being added
- iv. Eliminating on ice PDP for skaters at the Lumberyard while continuing individual/small group goalie training continues to receive positive feedback
- v. New on ice equipment was purchased and well cared for at each of our arenas. Cones, gates, shot blockers, goalie pegs, tires, etc. Appreciate the effort by our coaches to keep this equipment in good order and in the proper place so the next coach could use it without wasting valuable ice time.

The hockey landscape in most parts of the country is changing. The community based hockey model like Saha continues to shine vs other programs.

It has been an incredible honor to serve as your President over the last two years. As my term concludes on April 30th, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the trust you placed in me to lead this exceptional association. I am especially grateful to my fellow board members; your tireless work behind the scenes and your unwavering commitment to our players have been the engine behind our success. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such a dedicated group of leaders. Seeing our players grow and our community thrive has been the highlight of my tenure, and I step aside with immense pride in everything we have accomplished together. It is my sincere hope that every player, parent, and volunteer carries that same sense of pride for the Stillwater Area Hockey Association, knowing that our collective dedication is what makes this association truly great. Go Ponies!

Matt Tuccitto
President, 2024-2026