



Bison Blueline

BYHA Newsletter – February 2022

Gambling Report:

Julie Prince presented gambling report. Started 6:45pm

Board Members Present: Lena, Ryan, Hans, Danielle, Shawn, Mike, Kent, Dusty and Tiffany

Profit Carryover From this Month	\$343,192.97
Carry over increase / (decrease)	(\$17,538.13)
Gambling Operating Expense Request (Includes graduated tax rate)	\$147,700.00

We are reporting on the month of December 2021. December was a smaller month for games, but it was still good. Trails End (Annandale) will be switching to use the Annandale Lions. They wanted to use someone more local. With the sale of the golf course, Julie will be contacting the new owners to see if we can remain on with the pull-tabs there.

A motion to approve \$147,700 was made (\$117,700 for gambling expenses and then \$30,000 for the BYHA).

- Shawn 1st, Mike 2nd. No Discussion. All Approved and Motion Passed (8-0).

We received our final audit from Larson Allen. We received 5 stars on this - which is really good. In the audit they pull around 20 games and go through all of them. We are in good shape and have no concerns to address with the gambling process.

Event Schedule

HOC Meeting:

First Sunday of the month @ 7:00 PM
Next meeting will be March 6th

BYHA Board Meeting

Second Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm
Next Meeting will be March 9th

Gambling

THIRSTY BUFFALO

Bingo: Monday 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

Pulltabs: Sunday (12-10pm), Monday - Thursday (12-11pm), Friday (12-Midnight) and Saturday (11-12pm)

Meat Raffle: Thursday @ 5:30pm,
Sunday @ 4:00pm

The Heights - Buffalo

Pulltabs: Sunday – Saturday 11am-11pm

J's Down Under - Buffalo

Pulltabs: Monday-Thursday 3pm-11pm,
Friday-Sunday 12pm-12am

Meat Raffle:

Wednesday and Saturday 5:30pm



In December we completed our arrangement with Larson Allen. We will now be working with Schlenner, Wenner & Co. for our new gambling accounting firm. January 2022 was the beginning of our first monthly audit with them.

The board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: 9 Directors

Lena Gawtry, Ryan Ferguson, Danielle Rakos, Hans Iverson, Tiffany Grube, Mike Honsey, Shawn Kirschner, Kent Baker and Dustin Pierce

Members Present:

Asleson, Frolik, Fudali, Hancock, McClellan, Johnson, Lachermier, Lenton, Wurm, Kohnen, Torkelson, Hawkinson, Ruth, Niemczycki, Baker, Otto, Hawkinson (sorry if I missed anyone, I was trying to keep up with all who attended when they walked in)

M. Otto was asked to leave the meeting as she is no longer an active member within our association.

President Report:

We would like to invite all of our members to our monthly board meetings. These are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Buffalo Civic Center in the New Rink Conference Room.

A two-week notice to the President is requested for time on the agenda.

Secretary Report:

There was a change from the January newsletter after it was published to update the status of the Photo Coordinator and also to update the Sponsors of the BYHA. These changes have been made.

A motion to approve minutes for month of January 2022 (these have been posted on the BYHA website)

- Tiffany 1st, Shawn 2nd. No Discussion. All Approved and motion passed (8-0).



Treasurer Report:

Actuals:

1. Cash Balance (from prior month): \$443,402.10
2. Expenses paid: \$73,092.64 in expenses in January 2022
3. Estimated expenses upcoming: Anticipate expenses of \$82,000 in February 2022
4. Income received (prior month): \$94,178.52 in revenues
5. Estimated income upcoming: Anticipate revenues of \$41,000 in February 2022

A motion to approve the treasurer report was made.

- Mike 1st, Dusty 2nd. No Discussion (8-0).

BYHA now has a Venmo account. Parents can now make payments through our Venmo account using the account name @BYHA-MN and code 1104

Registration Report:

No Updates at this time.

HOC Report

The next HOC meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6th @ 7:00 PM in the Purple Rink Conference Room at the Buffalo Civic Center. Members of the BYHA are also able to attend this meeting. If you would like to be placed on the HOC Agenda, a two-week notice to the HOC VP is required.

A request was made to have more details from the D5 meeting included in the monthly newsletter. Lena will be handing off her notes from the HOC meeting to Maria so she can include more in the HOC section of the newsletter.

Coordinator Updates:

- AB: Wes Asleson
 - Wes was able to get on the agenda for the D5 board meeting to talk about team level placements. There was also interest from other associations regarding this topic.
 - We are not allowed to have cross level scrimmages (even ones that are coach controlled). This is a MN Hockey ruling. We can however utilize the 3 on 3 boards and play across levels. (Example: Pee wee A vs. Pee wee B)



- Mites: Ryan Huddy and Tiffany Dixon
 - We have a request to repair the mini nets (they need to be re-stringed) and the black dividers need to be replaced (the Velcro does not work any more on these).
 - Evaluations for the Mites have been scheduled.
 - March 12th is going to be Mite Day in Buffalo. Tiffany is working on the details of this.
 - MN Wild has contacted us to be a part of their Little Wild Program this fall. This will be discussed as new business at the board meeting. It is a great program to get more kids skating.
- Squirts: DJ Dalbec and Keith Jerpseth
 - Scrimmage Fest was amazing. The kids and visiting teams had a great time. The Super Deker and fastest shot competition was a great addition.
- Coaching: Paul Heyerdahl
 - Reminder to coaches to work on feedback for each of the players on your team. This will give them things that they are doing great and then as well as a few things to focus on over the summer.
- Girls: Ben Guck and Amy Kotish
 - No Updates at this time.
- Player Development: Derek Rosso and Jamie Johnson
 - 10,000 Puck Club-Jennifer Johnson
 - Program ends February 20th
 - We should hit 1 million pucks as an association - this is fabulous! We are looking at ways that we can celebrate this!
 - We have had 174 kids that have turned in at least one week of sheets
 - The coordinators will start to look at prizes for those that reached the gold, silver and bronze levels.
 - Looking for summer options to keep the kids motivated with the program
 - Look for additional ways to have the kids continue with their development - maybe we have little videos made from HS players that can be sent out.
 - Derek will be archiving the practice plans that are in Hockey Share. This way when a coach leaves, we will still have access to those plans.
 - PD will be looking at more options for next season for skills night. Possibly have Coach Johnson do the boys skills and Coach Huddy run the girls?
 - The reviews on Katrina were awesome.



- Tournaments: Jennifer Sabetti
 - We are hosting 10-D5 District games the weekend of February 18-20th
 - Jenny will be looking for feedback from the coaches and managers on the tournaments that their team attended this past season
 - Discussion was had about tournaments that start on Thursdays. This gets hard as then some kids are getting pulled out of school on Thursday and Fridays.
 - We are hosting both Bantam A and B for the MN Hockey Regional Tournament March 4-6th at the rink. We will have 26 games that we need to provide the positions for. Please pick up shifts where you can. These tournaments are great visibility for our association.
- Board: Lena Gawtry
 - We will need to post any open HOC position that are coming up this spring. Coordinators need to reach out to Yuri with their intentions.
 - The end of season survey will be getting sent out to the members soon. Lena asked for the HOC coordinators to let her know if there are any additional questions or changes that they wanted to see on the survey.
 - HP/Tier 1 Process - these are due to D5 by February 11th. Lena wants to define what this process is going forward.
- Safesport: Kelly Hinnenkamp and Michelle Munn
 - No updates at this time.
- Goalies: Jon Varner, Tristin Baker, and Matt Griffith
 - The feedback on MEGA has been great.
 - Continue to have MEGA use the coaches that attend the goalie practices and have the coaches be involved with the drills so they learn what needs to be done to help support the goalies.
 - Bantam Goalies would like to see more repetition
 - Tristin will be sending out a goalie specific survey.
 - Mite Goalie day - Tiffany has the roster and sign-ups. We will reach out to the kids that attended this session to see if they want to attend goalie try-outs next fall.
 - We will be looking at changing the verbiage on the registration paperwork:
 - Yes (Full time),
 - No
 - Part time
 - Interested in being a goalie



- Try-Outs: Brent Danzeisen and Bob Schroeden
 - Talked about how we wanted to give feedback to players at the end of the season. It was decided that the coaches would put this together and give feedback to the players.
- Ice Scheduler: Hans and Sadie Iverson
 - End of season play- if teams are advancing through districts and regions, they need to inform the ice schedulers.
- JRG: Matt Frolik
 - The JRG Team will make play downs - Matt will need a check for this.

Guest Speaker:

Jessica Fudali came to speak to the board about the following:

- Team formation problems, the tryout process and her desire to have only outside evaluators
- Unequal playing time at the Junior Gold level
- PeeWee team level assignments, how Buffalo should not be a AA program

After Jessica Fudali presented the board, we discussed her complaints. We mentioned that a lot of these concerns should be brought to the HOC before they are brought to the board. The HOC make decisions about hockey and then presents them to the Board of Directors for approvals. Or, the concerns should follow the handbook and be addressed through teams and the coaching coordinator. In June, the HOC and BOD have a joint meeting and that is typically when we make decisions about the upcoming year. We have noted the concerns over paid evaluators and will also include questions about this in the end of year survey that is sent out to the BYHA members.

Regarding JR. Gold, other parents and players were at the meeting. They talked about how much the coaches care about the kids in the program and how they do roll the lines as much as they can with the exception of Penalty Kills and Power Plays. JRG is not a development team. They are working on building a JRG program that is competitive and has a place for kids to continue to play hockey after the association level. Lena spoke that she and Matt would like to add a section to the current BYHA Handbook for the JRG program. JRG is in a separate league, has its own rules, and should be treated as such. With trying to grow this program we need to continue to be competitive and provide a winning/fun experience for the players that are not moving on to play HS Hockey. Players may not get equal playing time; this was discussed at the team meeting at the beginning of the season.



Regarding our AA teams at Bantams and Peewees, we explained that this isn't a decision that we get to make as a board or an HOC. This decision comes directly from MN Hockey and based on the size of our school and association, we need to field a team at the Bantam and Peewee AA levels. With that being said, we have been able to get on the D5 agenda for the April meeting to discuss having different levels at PWs. Our suggestion will be to go back to our second level team being a B1 team and exploring the option of having Peewee C.

Throughout the discussions of those present at the meeting, the members asked if the HOC could send out a newsletter, if they could attend those meetings, and if we could add the dates of the HOC and BOD meetings to the association calendar. As noted in the HOC section of this newsletter, we have added their meeting minutes to this newsletter and will continue to do so in our monthly newsletters. We will also work with the ice schedulers to add the meetings to the calendars. Their meetings are also open to our members and if you would like to be on the HOC agenda, a two-week notice is required. The upcoming HOC meeting date is listed at the top of the newsletter.

Additional discussion was had by the group regarding retention and recruitment (this position is vacant if anyone is interested), summer programs to encourage the kids to keep skating and shooting pucks, that some wanted a coach staff that will hold the kids to a higher level of commitment (for those that make it on the top teams), and that they would like to see more training for the coaching staff. They also said we need to look at the culture in our association and make changes. These changes are not going to happen overnight. The HOC and BOD will continue to invest and put together plans on how we can make improvements within the BYHA. We can guarantee you that as a Board of Directors and as an HOC, we hear the concerns that are brought to us. We are trying to do our best with the decisions that we make in the association and we truly care about all of the kids that are in our program. We base our decisions on what is best for the whole association and will continue to make adjustments and improvements.

District 5 Report:

The March D5 meeting will be canceled due to Regions. Elections will take place at the April Meeting. Open positions are Senior VP and Secretary.

Michael Kephart does not see the referee problem changing within the next two years. While we promoted and got additional referees to sign up, they all haven't completed their training or evaluations.



Going into next season, Ryan wants to talk more with our ice schedulers and tournament coordinators. There were many weekends that multiple associations had tournaments. As a district we will be trying to spread out the tournaments so we have enough officials to go around.

Reminder on the EBUG rules going into Districts and Regions. Paperwork needs to be turned in to Lena for approval. She will get this to Steve to sign off on. If your team needs a back-up goalie, paperwork must be filled out and approved in order for them to be on the bench.

USA Hockey has their annual meeting coming up. There is discussion that they might begin charging more for Mites and that they will be raising their fees across the board.

Tournament Report

The District tournament is coming up the weekend of February 18th. We are hosting 10 games in Buffalo. Championship Day Sunday will be on Sunday, February 27th at the MAC in St. Cloud. If you are available, go and cheer on some of our Buffalo teams.

We are hosting D5, D15 and D16 for the MN Hockey Regional Tournament the weekend of March 4-6th. During this weekend we will have 26 games and we need all of the help that we can get covering game day duties. Currently we have over 160 DIBS positions available (and this does not include the concessions stand). If every BYHA family picked up at least 1 shift, the whole weekend would be covered.

Volunteer Report:

As mentioned above, we are hosting the Regional Tournament. Please help us pick up shifts where you can. Our association cannot operate without volunteers! We thank you for all of the shifts that you have helped us pick up already.... please continue to help out where you can for this upcoming tournament.

Ice Scheduler Report

If your team is advancing through districts and regions, please have the manager reach out to the Ice Schedulers.



Advertising/Sponsorship:

No updates at this time.

Concession Stand:

Sweet and Salty.... Our Ice cream and pretzel sales are through the roof!

We will be reconciling the number of volunteers that are needed to run the concessions stand in the off-season. We tried to be more volunteer-run this year. We have even had some shifts that were 100% volunteer run. Things went well. It makes it a lot easier that we do not have the fryer running.

For the weekends of districts and regionals, Pam will try to have more paid workers in the concessions. This will allow us to have more volunteers be able to help with the game day duty shifts that we have to cover.

Apparel:

It has been a struggle to get new apparel from vendors this year - everyone is out of stock. Everything that we have been getting, we have been selling out of! Thank you to everyone who is purchasing apparel and promoting the BYHA. The plan is to start ordering new apparel in June in hopes of getting these items for the beginning of the hockey season.

Having the apparel items run through the square machine in the concessions stand is great. We will be looking at adding pictures to find things better when ringing out a customer.

Equipment Report:

A request was made for more quick-change gear. Kent and Nathan will be doing inventory on all of the equipment at the end of the year.

We are selling lots from the vending machine! This is great as it is available anytime the rink is open and we do not have to pay a staff person to manage the sales.

New rink diagram clings have been added to each of the rinks. Kent is also looking into new wipe-off boards for each of the locker rooms.



City of Buffalo:

The drinking fountain in the Peterson Rink has been fixed.

The city is planning on purchasing new scoreboards for the purple rink. These would be installed some time this summer.

Pro-Shop:

We will be selling our pro-shop items out of the Apparel Room this year.

Advertising/Sponsorship:

No updates at this time.

Marketing/Recruitment/Retention

We are still looking for someone to fill this role.

New Business:

We have 4 positions that will be available on the BYHA Board of Directors this spring. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact Lena Gawtry, BYHA President, by Wednesday, March 9th @ 6:30 PM with your intent to run. All candidates will need to also provide Lena with a Bio.

We currently operate the board with 11 board members. This has allowed us to have a more even number of positions open each year: (Year 1: 4 positions, Year 2: 4 positions, Year 3: 3 Positions.) Over the past few years with board members resigning or leaving, this has gotten messed up and we have an off-balance with our numbers.

A motion was made to reduce the board of directors to 9 positions this year to balance out the number of candidates that we vote on each year.

- 1st-Kent, 2nd-Hans. Discussion - look at counts for years ahead. Motion approved 7-1. (No-Shawn)

MN Wild has reached out to see if we can be a host for their 2022 Little Wild Hockey Program. Little Wild is for kids ages 5-8 who have not participate in organized hockey programs. They are looking for the BYHA to



provide four 1-hour ice sessions in September 2022. This would be a weeknight - same time each week. We will put this in the budget for 2022.

The Rink Rat Program in Annandale is looking to have the BYHA donate one hour of ice to their Community Education program. Their program typically runs at the Annandale ODR; however, with warmer weather in the forecast, the ice would be melting and they would be running into some slush. They have 24 skaters in this program.

A motion was made to donate one hour of ice to the Annandale Rink Rat Program and to not have it conflict with any BYHA Activities (Date TBD).

- 1st- Shawn, 2nd-Ryan. No additional discussion. Approved 8-0.

Additional Notes:

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.



Please continue to support the businesses who support us:

- A110 Athletics
- Adjust to Health Chiropractic
- Andy Austin
- Annandale Art and Textile Center
- Artistic Me
- Bayer Built Woodworks
- Big Bore Barbecue Co
- Billy D's Crooked Tavern
- BJ's Deli
- Brenner Dental Group
- Bridging Hope Counseling
- Buff N Glo Car Wash
- Buffalo American Legion Post 270
- Buffalo Bison Hockey STP
- Buffalo Books
- Buffalo Chiropractic Clinic
- Buffalo Pizza
- Carlson & Jones, PA
- Christensen Group Insurance
- City of Buffalo
- CK Seafood
- Community Lawn Care
- CorTrust Bank
- Coburn's Buffalo
- CUB Foods
- Dixon Farms
- Domino's Pizza-Buffalo
- First Class Mortgage – Dulcea Arden
- Hat Trick Hockey
- Holiday Station Stores - Annandale
- Huikko's Bowling and Event Center
- In Hot Water Coffee Shop
- Insurance Center of Buffalo
- J&J Athletics
- Jimmy Johns - Buffalo
- Jimmy's Pizza-Annandale
- Johnson, Larson & Peterson P. A.
- Kwik Trip –Buffalo
- Lakeside Nutrition
- LPG & NH3 Supply, Inc.
- Mill Creek Inn
- Miller's Jewelry
- MidCountry Bank
- Old National Bank
- Omann Brothers Paving
- P-M Custom Woodworking
- Play It Again Sports - Buffalo
- ProTech Restoration
- Production Stamping
- Ryan Chevrolet
- SDP Hockey (Select Development Program)
- South Brook Gold Club and Grill
- Spilled Grain Brewhouse
- State Farm – Mark Olson
- Stewart Plumbing
- Sweet Escape Ice Cream
- Sylvia + Louisa
- Taco Bell-Buffalo
- Target-Buffalo
- The River Inn of Hanover
- The Vision Companies
- Thirsty Buffalo
- TruStone Financial
- Waterfront Lakeside Grille
- What's the Scoop?
- You Betcha Popcorn



BYHA Board of Directors (BOD)

February 2022	Position	Name	Phone	Term Expires
x	President	Lena Gawtry	612.386.1104	April 2024
x	Vice President	Ryan Ferguson	612.719.2005	April 2024
	Secretary	Maria Rosso	763.250.8949	April 2022
x	Treasurer	Shawn Kirschner		April 2022
x	Director	Hans Iverson	763.238.5018	April 2022
x	Director	Mike Honsey		April 2022
x	Director	Danielle Rakos	612.720.2967	April 2024
x	Director	Tiffany Grube		April 2022
x	Director	Kent Baker		April 2024
	Director	Jill Ross		April 2022
x	Director	Dustin Pierce		April 2024
NOTE: 9 Directors were present for February 2022 meeting.				



BYHA Hockey Operations Committee (HOC)

Position	Name	Phone	Term Expires
HOC President	Yuri Preugschas	763.258.3594	
ACE/HEP & Asst. Coaching Coordinator	Paul Heyerdahl Rissa Peterson Mark Lemon		
Player Development Coordinator	Derek Rosso Jamie Johnson		
Goalie Development Coordinator	Jon Varner		
A/B/C/5000 Puck Coordinator	Wes Asleson		
Tryout Coordinator	Brent Danzeisen Bob Schroeden		
Scheduling Director	Hans Iverson		
Mites/Mini Mites Coordinator	Ryan Huddy Tiffany Dixon		
Away Tournament Coordinator	Jenny Sabetti		
Safesport Coordinator(s)	Kelly Hinnenkamp Michelle Munn		
Squirt Coordinator	DJ Dalbec Keith Jerpseth		
Girls Coordinator	Ben Guck Amy Kotish		



Boys HS Coach	Aaron Johnson
Girls High School Coach	Ryan Huddy

Volunteers

D5 Rep	Ryan Ferguson
Equipment Manager	Nathan Dixon
Wreath Coordinator	Erica Wurm
Marketing Coordinator	Sheryl Workman
Picture Coordinators	Michele Siemek
Purchasing Coordinator	
Registration Coordinator	Danielle Rakos
One Goal Coordinator	Matt Griffith
S.C.O.R.E. Coordinator	Rissa Schrick
T.E.A.M. Coordinator	
Advertising/Sponsorship Coordinator	Shawn Kirschner Shawna Johnson
Travelling Level Team Manager Coordinator	Kari Magaard
Initiation Level Team	Leota Bemis



Manager Coordinator	
Home / Away Tournament Coordinator	Jenny Sabetti
Volunteer Coordinator	Sarah Shult
Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator	Lena Gawtry/Megan Omann
Billing Managers	
Hall of Fame Committee Chair	