

Running for President (Russ)

Russel Des Jardins

Occupation: Commander

Employer: Idaho Army National Guard

Education: Montana State University, 1999

Sports Experience: High School Basketball, Track, Cross-country. U.S. Army Regional Biathlon team and running team.

Sports Coaching Experience: Upward Youth Soccer Assistant Coach

Wife: Julie

Children: Keith (13), Gavin (10)

I am currently a member of the BYAHA board as President and previously held the Vice-President position. I would like to continue to drive positive change in the organization to achieve the originally intended goal which is the development of ALL Junior Steelheads players.

I have roughly ten years of youth hockey experience through both of my boys, in four separate youth hockey organizations of which three are traveling teams. This includes the Bozeman Ice Dogs, the Treasure Valley Hawks, and the Boise Junior Steelheads. From this I have the opportunity to experience both the positive and negative aspects of youth hockey travel organizations.

Bottom line, after experiencing the turmoil over the last few of years, I want to continue to help the organization make a positive change, creating an honest and open organization that is FOCUSED on providing the best possible experience and opportunity for ALL of our players. This organization is here for one purpose only, and that is the development of ALL players. We need to regain that focus, and I will do everything in my power to help guide the board to achieve that end-state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Running for Secretary (2 candidates – Jason and Krista)

Jason Kajkowski

Born and raised in metro Detroit, i.e. "Hockeytown." Became a fan of the Red Wings while in high school during future Hall-of-Famer Steve Yzerman's early years, and got to see them hoist the Cup in '97 and '98 before moving to Idaho in '99.

Education: BA in English, Western Michigan University
MBA, Finance emphasis, Boise State University

Spent about 5 years working in technical communications with various companies, including automotive in Detroit, then moved into a Finance role at Micron Technology. Spent about 9 years as an internal auditor, and another five as manager of capital investments at Micron. Now work as the Vice President of Finance for Dairy West, an organization that contracts with dairy farmers in the state of Idaho to promote Idaho dairy products and the dairy industry.

Served on the Homeowner's Association Board for our 220-plus housing development in Meridian for about 5 years, with 2.5 of those as the President, before moving to east Boise. My current job role requires lots of interaction with various dairy-related Boards, including preparation of financial summaries and supervision of meeting minutes.

My son developed an interest in playing hockey after watching my wife show off her old figure skating moves during a family trip to McCall. He progressed through learn to skate and Hockey 101 lessons, and will now be starting his third year of Jr. Steelheads travel hockey. Although I grew up a fan of the Red Wings and the NHL, I tell everyone that I've never enjoyed watching hockey more than when my son and his teammates play.

Krista Howard

My name is Krista Howard. I have held the position as Secretary for the last year and would like to continue as the BYAHA secretary. I have enjoyed working with the BYAHA Board and working to help the organization create a strong program for travel hockey for the members. I have the time to volunteer for this position and enjoy spending time helping with the organization.

I have a son that has played squirts for three years and is moving up to the pee wee level. Each year the organization has become stronger and provided good opportunities for the kids to play hockey and become more competitive. Without the volunteers this would not be possible, and I understand that it takes hours of commitment from many volunteers for the organization to be successful. I have been able to contribute in a small way as the secretary and hope to continue to serve the organization in this manner. I would like to see the organization continue to grow and provide all the players and their families with the best opportunities for travel hockey.

I have been involved with organized sports my whole life and currently I am involved in coaching my daughter's soccer. I understand the need for volunteers and support for the organization for the program to be successful. I have the time and am committed to helping and assisting in any way I can to see that the organization continues to move forward.

Our family has really enjoyed travel hockey and we have meet some amazing families. I look forward to the future seasons and traveling with all the families we have meet and will meet. The parent commitment and support is impressive and the kids are amazing! I want to help with the continued success and growth of this organization and help to see that the kids have the best hockey experience as they grow through each level of hockey.

Fundraising Director (Bobbi)

Bobbi May

My family has been part of the Jr. Steelheads for the past 9 years. I have three sons, two of which play hockey, Jacob is a forward playing Junior level hockey out of state and Danny will be a U16 goalie in the Fall.

I have been active in our fundraising program the entire time my boys have played travel hockey, including serving the last 3+ years as the Fundraising Director. In this position, I have established a strong relationship with the Idaho Steelheads who support us through the Chuck-a-Puck program, ticket sales, and our tournament raffles.

In addition, I have worked diligently to build our programs reputation with BSU. Here volunteers are given regular fundraising opportunities through staffing a concession stand. Jr Steelheads hockey is now one on the go-to nonprofit groups in the valley called on to fill this position.

Our fundraising program has changed a lot since I joined the organization, as it now offers many more options to raise money, and is active year round for those who want to participate. Thus, making hockey possible for families of every income level!