



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

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

Dustin Klitzke

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Phone number

- 1) Please provide a brief summary of the qualifications and/or strengths you feel you would bring to the organization.
- 2) Please share why you are interested in being part of the Board of Directors.
- 3) AAHA Members will be able to view this form.

Dustin Klitzke  
Signature

2/15/18  
Date

I believe I have many strengths both in hockey and operational knowledge, which will lead to my success in this position. First, I have a strong work ethic even in tough times. I know this organization has been struggling in some areas and I would enjoy being a part of the efforts to turn it around as well as share my experience in hockey to place AAHA back on the map for top youth hockey programs in the state. I also feel that my professional background in insurance sales plays in my favor. I am very strong in written and verbal communication, as well as I am not afraid to voice an opinion. I know how to overcome obstacles and find viable solutions to challenges.

My hockey knowledge is rooted in AAHA. The year the program started I played for an AAHA team up until high school. I know what it takes to be successful in hockey at all age levels as I was part of a group of players who won state three consecutive years at the youth level from Pee Wees to Bantams. I was also a four-year varsity player on a very successful Appleton United High school team. I continued on to play several levels of junior hockey where my career was cut short due to injury. I have competed at several levels of this game and have gained tremendous experience that I feel I can pass on through a position on the youth organization board.

After playing was no longer an option, I turned to coaching. I have coached the WHEL U18 team for two years, one as an assistant and one as a head coach. Both seasons the team reached the championship game in the league and won. Currently, I am the assistant coach for the Bantam A team in AAHA. I believe through game play and player/parent feedback the kids have grown immensely as players by having a much better understanding of the game and are more well-rounded kids as a result of our coaching staffs' efforts.

Additionally, I'm in my fourth season as a WIAA official and have officiated at the USA Hockey level. This experience has given me a unique understanding of the game from a rules perspective and view the game from a different viewpoint.

All of these experiences from nearly all perspectives of the sport have developed and given me the tools to share my knowledge and passion for hockey with youth in the area. The next step in giving back to the sport for me is to serve on a board that determines some of the goals and direction of this organization.

Professionally, I believe my experience in sales lends itself perfectly for a board position. The duties of a board member entail many difficult and complex decisions that need to be analyzed from many points of view for possible outcomes. Through these decisions there may be obstacles and challenges to overcome, but my experience has taught me how to assess each situation and possible outcome to set the choices up to be as successful as possible. Also, I believe this has taught me to look for unique and creative solutions to find better answers to reoccurring problems. As a leader in my company's Agent Aspirant group, I collaborate regularly with a team and work to bring together differing opinions about common goals. I feel I would be a strong and impactful contributor to AAHA and the success of the board.

There are several reasons for my application for this board position. My passion and love for the game combined with my desire to help drive the success of others. I want to pass on the experience, knowledge, and time others put in to help get me where I am in hockey and in life. Ultimately, I want to pay it forward to the hockey community that raised me. This organization has and continues to play a very crucial role in my development as a hockey player and as a person.

I was a part of AAHA during the inaugural season as an organization and it has given me numerous opportunities to grow. I have had many coaches and teammates who are now lifelong friends and role models for me. I would love the opportunity to give back to the youth of our program and share these ideas to build an even more successful association. I feel this passion for the advancement will drive and direct my decisions to be in the best interest of the organization and all who are a part of it.

I also have experienced and seen the life lessons that a sport and hockey in particular can teach people, specifically kids. Hockey is a sport of constant improvement and advancement. I feel that these ideas can teach kids many things from dealing with "loss" or "failure" to overcoming adversity which are facts of life at some point or another. I would like to continue to help with these teaching moments and guide kids along this journey to supply them the tools and abilities to deal with and grow through adversity. I also believe at the end of day not only can I teach from this position, but it also provides me many opportunities to continue to grow as a coach, player and person.

I believe my experiences in hockey, professionally, and life in general make me an excellent candidate to serve on the AAHA board. I have a vast knowledge of hockey and aspire to continue to cultivate it on a daily basis through watching games, reading articles, and actively teaching. My character and work ethic combined with career and life experience keep me rooted to strive to be the best I can in order to set an example and grow youth hockey in this area. I believe my passion for the game and this organization will propel me forward to be a valuable contributor to the board. My commitment to the life lessons the game of hockey can teach youth players will be unmatched if selected to participate on the board. It is for these reasons I passionately and confidently submit this application to serve on the AAHA board and believe I would be an excellent addition to this organizations board. Thank you in advance for your consideration.