



RIVER FALLS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Board Bio's - Election April 3rd, 2019

Jody Christensen

Hi-My name is Jody Christensen; I have been a board member for 21 years, and a hockey parent for 25 years. I have had 3 children go through the River Falls youth hockey program, two boys and one girl. My youngest will graduate high school this year, so I will officially have no skater in either high school or the youth program next season. With both girl and boy skaters, I have been involved in both sides of the hockey community.

I have been responsible for many things in the hockey association over the years including all of the following areas: registration, ice schedule, hockey tournaments, managers, officials, volunteer schedule, and most importantly, communications. I do not work all of these jobs myself, but I oversee them and find awesome people to work with me to get the job done well.

Folks ask me all the time how I have been a board member for so long, and my answer is simple. I am passionate about two things: one is children and the other is hockey. What better spot to be in to be involved with both of those passions than being a youth hockey board member.

I wasn't sure how I would feel about being a member after my last skater went to high school, but I soon realized how much easier it is to make decisions when you have no bias on who is involved, or who it may effect. I believe that I bring a whole new perspective to the association, and I also feel that I make a positive difference in the association as a whole. I get to know most people by the end of each season, and I come to watch several games at all levels as all of my children also officiate hockey, and I am always there to support them when they ref. As a long-standing board member of 21 years, I also have a lot of history and experiences that can be beneficial for us in many circumstances.

I hope you will consider me for a board spot. I think I have proved to be very dedicated and committed to the program, and can help continue the growth and success of the program with the experience and the passion that I bring.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jody Christensen

Frank Linn

My name is Frank Linn and I am running for the board again. I have served on the board for the past 6 years and have held the role of the RFYHA President for the last 4 seasons. I have one child in the program, Daniel, which is moving up to the PeeWee level for the 2019/2020 season. While we have accomplished many wonderful things during my tenure, there are still great things we are working towards that I would like to see through. I was directly involved with the start of the Learn to Skate program, the capital campaign program that helped raise money for the latest Zamboni and the addition. On top of my primary role as President for the association, I am currently on the capital campaign committee formed to address the updating of the Wildcat Centre's outdated refrigeration system. I know we are in a better spot than when I first arrived on the board, but there is still work that needs to be done and I would like to continue to contribute in a greater capacity. Thank you for your consideration and thank you for entrusting RFYHA with your children's free time. I know there are many options available and that it is a significant time commitment.

John Linehan

Hello, my name is John Linehan. I have owned Linehan Outdoor Services for nearly 20 years. Hockey has been a big part of my life for 38 years: as player, parent, coach, and board member. My son, Luke, will be a first-year Bantam next season. My daughter, Ashley, was a first-year Mite (hopefully next season, U10). :) My wife, Steph, teaches fourth grade at Greenwood Elementary School. I have coached youth hockey for almost 10 years. I have been a board member for 3 years. I want to continue my position on the board because I believe in the direction of our association. And want to continue to be part of that progress.

Kaylan Wilson

Hello everyone, my name is Kaylan Wilson. A lot of you Mite families already know the Wilsons! My son Hudson Wilson has just finished his fourth year as a Mite and is very excited to be moving on to join the Squirts in the Fall! Our daughter Brooklyn is the six year old little, blonde girl who can be found enjoying a ring pop or running around the rink during all of her brother's practices and games. If you've never seen me in the stands.....it's because I'm watching from the best and warmest view in the rink, I can usually be found up in the mezzanine! And last but not least, many of you already know my husband, Jeb, either from skating with the Mites or as your pharmacist behind the counter at Walgreens!

Jeb and I have lived out here more than 12 years now and have contributed to RFYHA longer than we've even had kids. It would be my pleasure to serve on the River Falls Youth Hockey Association board to enable those with a passion for hockey to be able to play hockey. As a board member, I would look to others for hockey expertise but believe I could bring valuable insights, ideas and operational strategy. I graduated from the University of Minnesota with my doctor of pharmacy and I am currently working for Pfizer in medical outcomes. I also have association experience and currently serve as co-chair of the Member Engagement Committee for the Minnesota Pharmacists Association where we work with individuals and organizations to drive membership.

Working with current Board members, my fresh perspective and enthusiasm would be driven towards priorities like the Capital fund and ensuring our skaters have a safe and welcoming rink to call home. I'd like to be more involved in our association and would appreciate your vote.

Carrie Torgersen

My name is Carrie Torgersen. I have been a member of the River Falls Hockey Association since 2015 when my twins, Frankie and Emme, wore my husband Kurt down and we let them try hockey. They now skate for the U10 Black Cats and have enjoyed a really great season with their team. I also have a Mite 2 level skater, Analeigh.

I have been a physician in the River Falls community for the past 11 years and I currently practice at the Allina River Falls location. I completed the two year St. Thomas Physician Leadership program in 2016 and am currently the medical director of the River Falls Hospital. My leadership strength and emphasis is on creative problem solving and improving communication in systems and between people. My board experience includes holding a 6 year peer elected seat on the Allina Physician Governance Council. I also am currently on the Turning Point board for victims of domestic and sexual violence and have held that seat since April of 2017.

I have done most of my hours for the RFYHA in scoring games and by co-running

the Golf event with my husband. We took over that task in 2017 and will now be running the event for the third time on May 31, 2019. I undertook a business analysis of the event after a disappointing turnout in 2018, by compiling and comparing data from the similar sized golf events from the other associations in the community. That analysis led to changes in pricing, structure and format that I hope will lead to a much better margin at our event this year.

I have several goals as a board member:

I would like to increase the profits of the current golf event to a level that is at least twice that of previous years. This would place us closer to the margins of the other local events.

I would like to further develop our relationship with the training and concussion services through the River Falls Hospital. This would include increasing their presence at tournaments and improve utilization at all levels of the concussion hot line and other services that could be useful to coaches. I also have plans to ask for a grant from the Allina foundation to see if we could expand the emergency supplies stocked and available at the rink.

I would like to be part of the conversations and possible committee designed to provide more mentorship from local hockey players at the college and high school levels. I would also like to develop a program to have a few combined practices with Baldwin over the season for the Mites girls. With that opportunity they will have a better understanding of being able to join a female team at U 10 and can mingle and socialize before playing together on Black Cats.

In summary, I enjoy taking on new challenges and I have a lot of energy to give this organization. Thank you.