

Meet the Candidates

OMGHA Board of Directors Election

April 17, 2019

Candidates for President

Adam Reiter

I have served as an OMGHA coach and OMGHA board member the past 8 seasons. My most recent role was appointed President (last 6 months) and VP of traveling for the 2016-2019 seasons. I am passionate about OMGHA, growing the game of hockey, and developing the youth of our association. I have served on the board and coached our teams for the right reasons: To develop the skill set of our hockey players, give back to our community, create a positive, encouraging and fun atmosphere for our kids to play hockey, and provide leadership to ensure our association flourishes. Professionally, I am a Sr Director for Target leading a team of 2600 team members. My business, leadership and team skill set translates well to serving on the OMGHA board making me a productive and effective member.

Candidates for Vice President of Girls Traveling

Chad Wieneke

I am running for OMGHA's Vice President of Girls Traveling position. I have two children who have participated in the association either currently or in the past, my son Jack is on the Maple Grove High School team and my daughter Harper will be a second-year U10. I am passionate about youth hockey and would like to contribute to the continued strength and improvement of OMGHA going forward by ensuring that there is consistent communication, organization and application of our values across the association and more specifically the girls traveling program.

In regard to my background, I have been involved managing my son's hockey team from Mites through Peewees, coached my daughter's teams from U6 through U10, served as OMGHA's Dryland Coordinator, Peewee Traveling Director and for the past 2 years VP of Girls Traveling, so I have an understanding of the background operations at both the house and travel level. From a professional standpoint, I work at Medtronic where I manage our Global Clinical Audit function with teams located throughout the US, Europe and Japan. I believe my professional experience has taught me a great deal about interacting with individuals across cultures in an environment where many individuals and/or groups have their own interests at stake and it is critical to come to decisions that are value-added for the entire organization.

I would like to see a continued growth within OMGHA from both a participant number and skill progression perspective. I would like to help build on the foundation that has already been created and continue to establish OMGHA as an association that both players and families can be

proud of in regard to how we handle ourselves on and off the ice. I am an organized and execution-oriented individual who passionate about hockey and I pride myself in being able to contribute to the development of the program and enjoyment of the game for all players.

Candidates for Vice President of House

Brian Grant

Hi, my Name is Brian Grant, and I am running for the VP of House position. I have three daughters playing in OMGHA. My oldest will be a U15, my middle daughter will be a U12 and the youngest will be a U10. While none of my kids will be involved in the house program, I want to continue the steady leadership we have been able to provide on the House Committee. This will help keep our program consistent and growing like it has over the last handful of years. I was born and raised in Maple Grove and grew up playing hockey in OMGHA. I started in Supermites as a 2nd grader and played all the way through my senior year in high school on the Jr. Gold A team. If elected, I look forward to helping continue our strong house program. I also want to ensure the continued growth of the girls program. I will strive to make sure that OMGHA is a place that kids will come and fall in love with the game of hockey just as I did playing in the old bubble that sat were the East Arena sits today. Thank you for your support.

Candidates for Boys Level Directors (choose 3)

Bret Caywood

My name is Bret Caywood and I have 3 kids playing within OMGHA (Bantam, PeeWee, U12). I have served as the Squirt Director for the past 4 seasons. I have coached and managed my kids groups in OMGHA's Mite, Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam programs. I have also coached Squirts and Bantams in other programs within MN and IL. I feel that my experience in this role over the past 4 years along with having 3 players come thru the Squirt level gives me an advantage in understanding and navigating all the duties. If I were to be selected as the Squirt Traveling Director, I believe that I would continue to have the same positive impact on helping coordinate the continued direction and development of this group. My goal will continue to create more challenging levels of competition for the kids, see that their technical development continues to be a focus and work the game flow into the introduction of the Squirt Program.

Rich Dean

I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to join the OMGHA board as a voted member. I have been fortunate enough to be a part of the travel board the past 2 years as the Junior Gold Director. I have been so impressed in the thought, plans and execution as we continue to grow our association. Over the past 2 years, I have learned a lot around how to help support specific levels as well as OMGHA's priorities. I am very supportive of OMGHA's values and goals as an association and believe that my experience coaching and playing various sports at either the Junior, College and Semi-Pro level can help add greater insight and help support our vision. I

have been a part of OMGHA for 4 years since moving from Vancouver, Canada and currently have 3 boys playing within the association; 1 in SuperMites and 2 in PeeWees. I would be honored to join the board as a travel director and excited to help support OMGHA's vision.

Erik Kukkonen

I have been a squirt director and involved in coach player development for the last 4 years. Before that I was involved in the house program and was instrumental in starting the Mini-Mite Program.

Candidates for Girls Level Director

Mike Hueller

I have served the past year as the interim U15 Director and am excited for the opportunity to serve 3 more years to continue to provide the best experience for the youth of our association. My wife Stacie and I have been involved with the association for the past 6 years with both of our girls. Lexi (11) has played for the past 6 years and will be a second year U12. Annika (9) also played hockey for 3 years through Girl Mites. I have also served as an assistant or a head coach from Mini Mites to U12. As the U15 Director I will continue to ensure that we continue to provide excellent opportunities that develop hockey skills and life lessons at all levels.

Candidates for Mite Director

Jason Rogowski

When my oldest son decided to play mini-mites, I signed up to coach simply because I played hockey and figured I could help in some small way. Over the last 4 years, participating in OMGHA has grown to be a much more meaningful part of my family's life than I originally thought. I find coaching rewarding because you see instant results as kids learn new skills and develop as players. Being on the board is another positive opportunity to pass experience on to other coaches and parents, to help further player development. My kids participate in other sports, and I always find myself wishing they used the time on field as efficiently and effectively as we do in OMGHA. I'd like to continue to be a part of this organization and positively impact more of these players.

Candidates for Director of Coaching

Andy Hedlund

I grew up in Maple Grove and played in OMGHA from 1983 until 1993. I was a B player then an A player every other year in OMGHA. I went on and played at Osseo HS. (2 years of JV and 1.5 years of Varsity) I was definitely a late bloomer. After which, I played a couple years of Jr. Hockey in the USHL and NAHL which prepared me for what came next at MNSU Mankato. I was fortunate enough to play in the WCHA when it was the best college league in the country. As a senior, I was our team captain as well as voted our MVP for the season. I was a 3 time Academic All-American. After graduation, I went on and played professional hockey. After a brief stint in the ECHL, I signed with the Ottawa Senators. For the next few seasons, I spent most of my time with their AHL affiliate in Binghamton NY. After being traded to the Washington Capitals, I went finished my career in North America with the Hershey Bears playing for Bruce Boudreau. For the following 8 seasons, I played in Europe. 6 years in Germany and 2 in Austria. I played in 3 All-Star games and on 3 occasions got to play for Team USA. The last of which as a captain under Peter Laviolette. My hockey career took me all over the world and gave me some incredible experiences. I love being able to pass on what I've learned and share stories with players and coaches in the association. I have been retired from professional hockey for about 5 years. I currently run my own business. I believe that I could be an impactful resource as the coaching director in OMGHA. Thank you for your consideration!

Candidates for District 3 Representative (Choose 1)

Steve Fischer

My name is Steve Fisher. I have lived in Maple Grove for 19 years. I have been married to my wife Nancy for 27 years. I have three children and one grandchild, ages 2, 15, 22 & 24. All three children played hockey in OMGHA. I have coached in different capacities throughout the years, mainly as an assistant, but was a head coach on occasion. I currently own and operate a commercial real estate and construction company located in Maple Grove. I love the game of hockey and am a firm believer that playing youth sports is a foundation for children in helping to achieve some of the necessary life skills. I am running for the District 3 Representative position and hope to be able to represent OMGHA in our District.

Paul Steenerson

My name is Paul Steenerson and I am interested in the District 3 Representative position within the OMGHA board. I currently have two boys who play hockey for OMGHA and have been involved with coaching since my oldest was a mite.

My experience includes being on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Minnesota, Maple Grove Youth Lacrosse Association and Bemidji State University Alumni Association. I am also an active member on a number of volunteer committees through my employer.

I am interested in this position as it would provide me the opportunity to give back to the association and its members in a capacity other than a coach. OMGHA has been part of my

family for a number of years and will continue to be, not just for hockey, but for the lasting friendships my family and I have developed.

I hope you will consider me for this position to represent OMGHA within District 3.

Thank you.