

Samantha Varga

Please consider this cover letter as my nomination for the upcoming UAHA Board of Directors election. It would be an honor to serve the hockey community and assist the board in achieving its mission to foster, promote, and improve amateur hockey for charitable, educational, and recreational purposes. I am most interested in the secretary position. However, I would consider any full voting position as recommended by the Board.

I am professionally qualified for the position of secretary. As the Director of Human Resources and Employee Development for Sundance Mountain Resort, I thrive as a strategic partner for all departments while minimizing risk for Ownership. I have created, developed, and refined operational business & training plans, policy & procedure manuals, annual budgets, succession plans, and health & safety manuals. I oversee the recruiting process, on-boarding, training & development, employee retention, benefits administration including Workers Compensation, State/Federal compliance, and conflict resolution. Serving on the Executive Committee for 12 years at the Resort I have developed guiding principles and incorporated those values systemically into the fabric of our organization. Conducting interviews and investigations have honed my ability to quickly and accurately take notes.

For five years I served on the School Community Council representing Greenwood Elementary School in Utah County. Two of those years were as the chair ensuring school funds were allocated to the highest academic need of the students and within the parameters of the SCC bylaws. I excel at being able to move an organization forward while maintaining compliance with policies, procedures, and bylaws.

Personally, I am a part of a hockey family. I have been a hockey lover since the 80's. My husband plays hockey and coached when our son played in the house league. My son has grown up in Utah hockey. He participated in the Salt Lake County Start Smart Program at the age of 4. At the Provo Peaks Arena he played one year in mites, three years as a squirt, one year as a PeeWee, one year as a Bantam while also playing with the PeeWee Grizzlies/WCR team, two years WCR Bantam, and summer middle school hockey. In terms of Utah hockey programs, we've had the pleasure of experiencing them all.

My motivation for running for the UAHA Board is to assist the hockey program in further development. The greatest contributor to the long-term growth of the Utah hockey program will come from the current participants in the program. If they have a positive experience, their children will grow up playing hockey too.

Providing increasing opportunities for growth and development will go a long way in ensuring a positive experience for the hockey parents. Families drop out of hockey when the cost outweighs the value. When the individual and team play development is happening, it is amazing to see how far parents will drive or how much they will pay to support their child's hockey experience.

I want the opportunity to collaborate and contribute to a dynamic and competitive hockey program in which the athletes, parents, and coaches are united in sportsmanship and progression.