

BYH Board Candidate #1

Why would you like to be on the board?

My name is Lisa Neushwander-Killion, my husband, Ed Killion and I joined BYH in the Spring of 2021 when our son, Matthew Killion was able to join the 10U Spring team. transitioning from Bloomington House League. During the 2022-2023 season I completed my first year as the 10UAA Team Manager. I learned a lot and really enjoyed working with the current board members and dedicating my time to support all of the families and getting to know each one of the players. I want to be on the BYH board to continue to support and listen to all BYH families and give our kids the opportunity to play hockey at a highly competitive level in our community.

What do you see as the future of hockey in Bloomington?

There is CLEARLY an big appetite for Hockey in Bloomington. Whether it be the recent Peoria Rivermen game held at GMA, or the Guns and Hoses game drawing in one of it's biggest crowds yet, this community wants hockey and Bloomington Youth Hockey could be and should be the face of hockey in our community. I hope to take steps to help build our club to be a destination for kids and families that want to play or watch hockey in Bloomington.

What is your vision for the organization?

This organization has a tremendous opportunity to continue to build on the progress it's current board has already laid the foundation for. I would like to see a strong partnership with the City of Bloomington House League and the ability to provide the most opportunities for every kid that wants to play hockey. Hockey is for Everyone and with two sheets of ice, we should be able to offer opportunities to play for everyone while continuing to build competitive teams within our org. I also envision our players and families present and visible within our own community, representing our club and being the face of Hockey in Bloomington.

What do you think you could bring to the board?

I work hard as a leader in my career at State Farm, I am a listener and a volunteer. I want to continue to dedicate my time to our club and work together with our board to continue to make our club accessible and respectable in our community. I am a team player and always strive to make decisions that are best for the organization. The future of hockey in Bloomington is a team effort and building strong relationships within our community is something I will work to do.

I would appreciate your support.

Thank you,

Lisa Neushwander-Killion

BYH Board Candidate #2

BYH Families,

My name is Pete Bowman and I would appreciate your consideration to become a board member of BYH. I grew up in a small town about an hour south of Bloomington and graduated from Illinois State in 2001 with a degree in Business Communication, Psychology and Computer Science. When I was younger, I played multiple sports but the one I ended up excelling at was soccer. I competed at a high level from youth through college. After college, Bloomington became my new home where Becky and I have been raising our two boys, Jaxon and Carter.

By becoming a part of the board, I believe I can bring some of my own experiences from my work background, playing competitive sports along with being a parent of multiple children who play multiple competitive sports. Sports helped me gain confidence, learn to be self-organized, become a leader and build relationships, all while enjoying the game itself. Having two boys in multiple sports I understand the financial and time commitments that are being asked of families. I find myself to be a fair and honest person. For me, good communication is key to success even if that involves having difficult conversations at times.

I would like to help the organization build a stronger foundation to maintain success for years beyond my kids playing time. While there have been great accomplishments started to help grow the hockey community there still are several obstacles to overcome to achieve long term success.

I would like to see the organization give more assistance to coaches/managers (especially new ones) and also be more transparent in both their short-term and long-term goals. Be able to have more open and honest communication with families and even look for assistance from them when needed. For the organization to be successful everyone involved including the players and families all need to work together.

I can bring assistance with helping our youth develop both mentally and physically by making sure that the organization provides the best resources to help everyone develop confidence, accountability, improve team work, resiliency, compassion and character. I also believe that more resources can be given to our coaches, managers and families so that they can also be successful in helping develop our youth.

I tell my boys that being a part of organizations like BYH is something that is earned, not given and can be easily taken away. I feel the same for my ask of you to consider voting for me. It is a privilege to be a part of organizations like BYH and I am proud to know and be associated with all of you. Hope to see you at the rink. GO THUNDER.

Peter D Bowman

BYH Board Candidate #3

Dear Jason Beckman, BYH Board Members, and BYH Families,

I am submitting this request for nomination of the Bloomington Youth Hockey Board. Born and raised in Central Illinois, I have been involved in youth sports as a player, parent, and a coach. As a soccer player, I started in recreation leagues and transitioned to youth travel organizations. I continued playing soccer at NCWHS and proceeded to play NCAA D3 at Monmouth College. I am still active in many men's leagues in Bloomington Normal. As my kids have both gotten older, I have been able to help coach them in sports including soccer, softball, and baseball. My son (12U) and daughter (8U) are both players in the Bloomington Youth Hockey organization.

Although not directly involved with the sport of hockey, I have worked with several organizations for youth programs. These include, the YMCA (youth soccer coach), Central Catholic High School (Assistant Soccer Coach), Bloomington Parks and Recreation (youth soccer and softball; player and coach), Chicago Inter South Soccer Club (Coach), and Congerville, Eureka, Goodfield Community Youth Recreation Association (soccer and softball coach). Being involved with all these opportunities and others, I have been able to see how different organizations need to operate not only internally, but how the internal operations can create the best opportunities for those youth and families who participate in those organizations.

What I would like to see for Bloomington Youth Hockey is to create opportunities to help grow and develop our players internally. As a travel hockey program, it is important to keep our players competing at the highest level. This also includes helping to develop all age groups, 8u -18u, and those looking to explore options after 18u including club and or NCAA opportunities. We have strong players, strong coaches, and all the tools to help our players at all age groups. It is important that the board utilizes these tools and opportunities throughout our program.

Organization and communication have been keys to my success as player, coach, and in my career. Strong negotiation skills and the ability to efficiently manage and complete given tasks correctly and timely are skills I can bring to the board. Transparency is crucial for any organization and I look forward to meeting new and existing families and talking with them about our program. Bloomington Youth Hockey has created a lot of opportunities for our players. I am looking forward to working with board members and coaches to create even more opportunities for all our players.

Thanks for your consideration.

Matthew Dabbs

BYH Board Candidate #4

Dan Cotton

Parent of current 8U player

Why would I like to be on the board: As a product of youth sports, I believe that competition prepares a child for the future. I also believe in BYH's mission to be the premier option for competitive hockey in central IL.

What do you I see as the future of hockey in Bloomington: I feel that hockey in central IL is still untapped. Baseball, football, etc still are strongholds in this area for youth sport. I believe that if parents understood that hockey is year round and the same cost as other travel sports they would be more interested. Many parents today grew up without the ability to play hockey and it is unfamiliar to them. Bringing familiarity to hockey should increase interest locally. In conjunction it is critical that BYH is visible at the youngest ages of interest through learn to skate, learn to play, and mini mites.

What is my vision for the organization: I feel that partnership with the City of Bloomington is vital for long term success. The arena is a large liability today for the city, and revenue is top of mind. Having a steady income flow through hockey strengthens this partnership and also allows for priority with scheduling. In addition, our arena is a destination location. With this I believe we can partner with other local hockey organizations to potentially consolidate smaller clubs into one larger club that allows for competitive teams along with more ability to attract teams to Bloomington.

What can I bring to the organization: My career is rooted in relationship building and confronting challenges. I feel that I can build relationships for our organization while ensuring accountability. I believe in youth sports part in preparing children for their future after sports and also the mission of BYH. I feel that BYH is beginning a growth cycle and being a part of that excites me, not only for my child to benefit, but for the long term success of BYH and the local community.