



Bison Blueline

BYHA Newsletter – March 2021

Gambling Report:

Julie Prince presented gambling report. Started 6:45PM

Board Members Present: Lena, Ryan, Hans, Maria, Danielle, Tiffany, Jill, Brandon, and Shawn

Profit Carryover From this Month	\$146,999.55
Carry over increase / (decrease)	(\$15,667.84)
Gambling Operating Expense Request (Includes graduated tax rate)	\$89,200.00

We are reporting on the month of January. It is good to have the bars and restaurants open again. We are so appreciative to those who continue to support the BYHA through our pull-tab locations at the Thirsty Buffalo and Hitching Post.

A motion to approve \$89,200.00 to cover estimated expenses.

- Hans 1st, Jill 2nd. No Discussion. All Approved and Motion Passed (8-0).

We are hopeful to remain open and that our gambling operations continue to grow. Our gambling manager has been in contact with the new owners at Buffalo Heights restaurant with hopes they will allow us to set up shop once they open.

Event Schedule

HOC Meeting:

First Sunday of the month @ 7:00 PM

BYHA Board Meeting

Second Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Next Meeting will be April 14th

Gambling

THIRSTY BUFFALO

Bingo: Monday 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Pulltabs: Sunday (12-10), Monday - Thursday (12-11), Friday (12-12) and Saturday (11-12)

Meat Raffle: Thursday @ 5:30pm, Saturday @ 3:00pm & Sunday @ 4:00pm

HITCHING POST - Annandale

Pulltabs: Sunday (12-8), Monday (Closed), Tuesday-Thursday (5-9), Friday (4-11) and Saturday (11-11)

Meat Raffle: Saturday (12:30)



The board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: 11 Directors

Lena Gawtry, Ryan Ferguson, Hans Iverson, Maria Rosso, Danielle Rakos, Tiffany Grube, Jill Ross, Brandon Murphy, Shawn Kirschner, Nathan Dixon, and Mike Honsey

President Report:

We would like to invite everyone to our monthly board meetings. These are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Buffalo Civic Center in the New Rink Conference Room.

A two-week notice to the President is requested for time on the agenda.

Secretary Report:

Prior to the March meeting the Board made the following decisions:

(2/18) A motion to approve the payment for the New Hope Tournament fees in the amount of \$1,050 for the 10UB-Black team was made.

- Shawn 1st, Ryan 2nd. Discussion regarding the families helping out with Dibs during districts. Or possibly having the team pay half of the amount that is due. Approved and motion passed (6-2, Maria and Tiffany).

(2/23) A motion to approve the new billing schedule, which includes foregoing the original January ice fees was made.

- Hans 1st, Shawn 2nd. No Discussion. All approved and motion passed (9-0).

A motion to approve minutes for month of February 2021 (these have been posted on the BYHA website)

- Brandon 1st, Ryan 2nd. No Discussion. All Approved and motion passed (10-0).

Treasurer Report:

Actuals:

1. Cash Balance (from prior month): \$167,081 as of February 18th, 2021
2. Expenses paid: \$27,832 in expenses in February 2021
3. Estimated expenses upcoming: Anticipate expenses of \$65,000 in March 2021
4. Income received (prior month): \$800 in revenues in February 2021
5. Estimated income upcoming: Anticipate revenues of \$90,000 in March 2021



A motion to approve the treasurer report was made.

- Ryan 1st, Brandon 2nd. No Discussion (10-0).

Wright County generously approved our grant request in the amount of \$20,000. Wright County received funding from the federal CARES Act to help businesses and no-profits with costs associated with COVID-19.

Any families with outstanding ice bills will be notified in the next week. We appreciate all those who have paid in full as we approach the close of our season.

Ice Scheduler:

Sadie is a ROCKSTAR! A huge thank you to Sadie for all of her hard work this season. With all of the changes and updates handed down to us, we are so thankful she was able to keep us all organized and on the ice.

As of now, ice is set to come out on March 20th. If any teams advance to state, Lee will consider keeping the ice in longer. There has also been a request for the City of Buffalo to update their software so it will sync better with the new ice scheduling software.

Registration Report:

For registration next fall, we are looking to combine all of the different areas of the BYHA to better reach families.

HOC Report

5000 Puck Club prize shop is almost ready to go. Watch for an email to select your child's prize. Congratulations to all those skaters who participated in the 5000 Puck Club this year.

This year for the end of season for Squirts and 10U we will be hosting 3-on-3 tourneys. For the 8U, there will not be end of season evaluations this year, but the coordinators are looking at planning a fun festival at the end of March.

Goalie clinics moved to Monday nights – Jon Varner and Justin Baker are running these during the skills nights. This is giving more one-on-one coaching for our younger goalies.



Open position on HOC: (If interested, applications are due by April 18th)

- Co-Coaches Coordinator
- Squirt Co-Coordinator
- ABC Coordinator
- Try-out Co-Coordinator
- Goalie Coordinator
- 8U Co-Coordinator
- Player Development
- Player Development Co-Coordinator
- Tournament Coordinator
- Tournament Co-Coordinator
- Jr. Gold Coordinator

District 5 Report:

D5 has open positions for the following: President, Vice President, and Treasurer. If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact Steve Gapinski.

Tryouts for next season – D5 is discussing whether players with Tier 1 conflicts will receive either an exemption or excused absence from tryouts.

A motion was made that BYHA would like to see that players with a Tier 1 conflict will receive an excused absence from tryouts, not an exemption. This will be taken to the next D5 meeting.

- Hans 1st, Mike 2nd No Discussion. (10,0)

Next HOC meeting will be held on April 7th.

There is not going to be a Mite Sauk Rapids Jamboree this year due to Covid.

Volunteer Report:

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you who stepped up and helped at our district tournament. Without having mandatory Dibs this season, we really appreciate those who went above and beyond and helped out.



Advertising/Sponsorship:

Please continue to support the businesses who support us:

- A110 Athletics
- Adjust to Health Chiropractic
- Andy Austin
- Annandale Art and Textile Center
- Artistic Me
- Big Bore Barbecue Co
- Billy D's Crooked Tavern
- BJ's Deli
- Buff N Glo Car Wash
- Buffalo American Legion Post 270
- Buffalo Bison Hockey STP
- Buffalo Books
- Café Jules
- Christensen Group Insurance
- City of Buffalo
- CorTrust Bank
- CUB Foods
- Dixon Farms
- Domino's Pizza-Buffalo
- Holiday Station Stores - Annandale
- Huikko's Bowling and Event Center
- In Hot Water Coffee Shop
- J&J Athletics
- Jimmy Johns - Buffalo
- Jimmy's Pizza-Annandale
- Kwik Trip -Buffalo
- Lakeside Nutrition
- Mill Creek Inn
- Miller's Jewelry
- Old National Bank
- P-M Custom Woodworking
- Ryan Chevrolet
- SDP Hockey (Select Development Program)
- South Brook Gold Club and Grill
- Spilled Grain Brewhouse
- Stewart Plumbing
- Sweet Escape Ice Cream
- Sylvia + Louisa
- Taco Bell-Buffalo
- Target-Buffalo
- The River Inn of Hanover
- The Vision Companies
- Thirsty Buffalo
- TruStone Financial
- Waterfront Lakeside Grille
- What's the Scoop?

Next season marks the 50th Anniversary of the BYHA. Committee will be formed to help plan for this event.

Equipment Report:

Watch your email as we approach the end of the season and will be scheduling jersey drop-off times. Please make sure the jerseys are washed and hung on hangers in the jersey bag.

A motion was made to keep Nate as equipment manager for the 2021/2022 season.

- Maria 1st, Hans 2nd No Discussion. All approved and motion passed (10,0).



Apparel:

We are working on trying for another pop-up sale (held at the rink). Date/Times will be available soon. Mike has volunteered to fill the apparel role for next year.

Concession Stand:

The concessions stand will remain closed for the season. Extra candy will be used for end of year prizes/gifts.

City of Buffalo:

Ice will be removed from the Peterson Rink on March 20th.

Pro-Shop:

We will be putting a few items in the vending machine such as tape and laces.

New Business:

This April we will have 5 open positions on the Board of Directors. Voting will take place at the board meeting on Wednesday, April 14th. (See bios and ballot below)



2021 BOD Election Bios

Kent Baker

I have been involved with the BYHA for the past 7 years. I have a PeeWee, Squirt and 6U skater in the association. The past 6 years I have been a Coordinator on our Buffalo Hockey Operations Committee (HOC) - serving as the Squirt Co-Coordinator and then previously, the Mite Co-Coordinator. In addition to the HOC I have also been a Head Coach and Assistant Coach on my kids teams. I believe that I can continue to bring insight from different viewpoints (Coordinator, Parent and Coach). I hope to use these different viewpoints to help the overall development of the kids and our BYHA programs. When coaching, I always try to communicate with the other coaches to make sure that I get their input in our practices and games. I also communicate well with the parents on my team - I am very positive and a good listener. My goal is to make sure that all of the kids have a great experience when they come to the rink. For those of you that know me, I am very passionate about the game of hockey and youth development for all of the kids in our association.

Professionally, I am the CEO for Stewart Plumbing Inc. I work a lot with project management and providing estimates to our customers. At work, our goal is not to simply meet our customer's expectations, but to exceed them. My work role transitions well into the BYHA. We have a great association filled with awesome parents and kids. I would like to continue being a part of the solution in helping our association grow and ensuring those positive experiences for every kid in our association.

#It'sForTheKids

Skaters: Alex (Peewee), Gavin (Squirt) and Briana (6U)

Ryan Ferguson (Incumbent)

My name is Ryan Ferguson, and I am seeking re-election to the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors. My family has belonged to BYHA for seven years. Our daughter is finishing her first year at 15U and our son is finishing his second year at Squirts. I have been serving as a board member, and our BYHA



Representative to MN Hockey District 5 for the last three years. For the last two years, I have also served as the BYHA Vice President. I am passionate about Buffalo youth hockey, and hope to have the opportunity to continue serving our association as a member of the board.

Skaters: Isabel (15U) and Lucas (SQ)

Jessica Fudali

My name is Jessica Fudali and I am running for one of the open positions on the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association (BYHA) board of directors. I have two boys currently in hockey-a Jr Gold and a Squirt. We have been a part of BYHA for 7 years. In the past four years I have been a team manager at the Squirt and Bantam level. I am an RN that manages the care of senior residents and a staff of 50+ unlicensed caregivers at Okalee of Medina. I am responsible for budgeting, admissions, discharges, adhering to state rules and regulations, hiring competent staff, supervising staff and the care of our residents. I have strong leadership skills with a customer first approach guided by teamwork, communication, organization and problem-solving skills.

I support putting kids first within BYHA that gives them an opportunity to be successful in their highest potential, have fun and remember their experience to build the next generation of hockey players. I will advocate to continue to improve the BYHA mission of “promote a fun, fair hockey environment that develops respect for others, self- confidence, leadership and teamwork in all the student athletes (BYHA Handbook).” I would like the opportunity to contribute to BYHA by serving as a board member. Thank you for your support.

Skaters: Tyler (JRG) and Caleb (Squirts)



Lena Gawtry (Incumbent)

Hi BYHA Families, I am seeking re-election to the BYHA Board of Directors. My family has been a part of the BYHA for 10 seasons. My kiddos are at the Bantam and 10U level. In my 10 years, I have held a variety of positions: Team Manager, Safesport Coordinator, Girls Hockey Day Coordinator, Ice in Party Committee Member, Webmaster, Social Media Coordinator, Board Member and now have been the President for the past 2 seasons. I love to be involved with organizations in our community and I am extremely passionate about growing the hockey program in Buffalo. It has been a privilege to be involved with such an amazing organization.

Professionally, I am the Marketing and Sales Manager for a local pond and lake company. My background is in ecommerce, digital marketing, budgeting and forecasting. While being on the board, my goal has been to get as many people involved as I can and to be as transparent as I can with every member in all situations. We have a great association filled with tremendous families. The relationships that I have formed over the years have been amazing and I look forward to those that are yet to come.

Hockey has become upfront and center with my family and we love every minute of it! I have a deep respect for the sport and what it teaches kids about hard work and commitment. I would like to continue being a part of the solution in helping our association grow, ensuring positive experiences for each athlete that walks through the Civic Center doors... It would be my honor to continue as a board member in our association. Being involved with youth hockey has been eye opening and rewarding. It really shows that it "takes a village" to have an association as large as we do, but there is absolutely no better job out there. Thank you for your consideration and see you at the rink!

Skaters: Ayden Gawtry (Bantam) and Maehli Gawtry (10U)

Jacob Hanson

Jacob is a lifelong lover of hockey and until his son was born, played goalie his entire life. My fondest memories as a child were gearing up in the locker room with my buddies and teammates, playing pond hockey



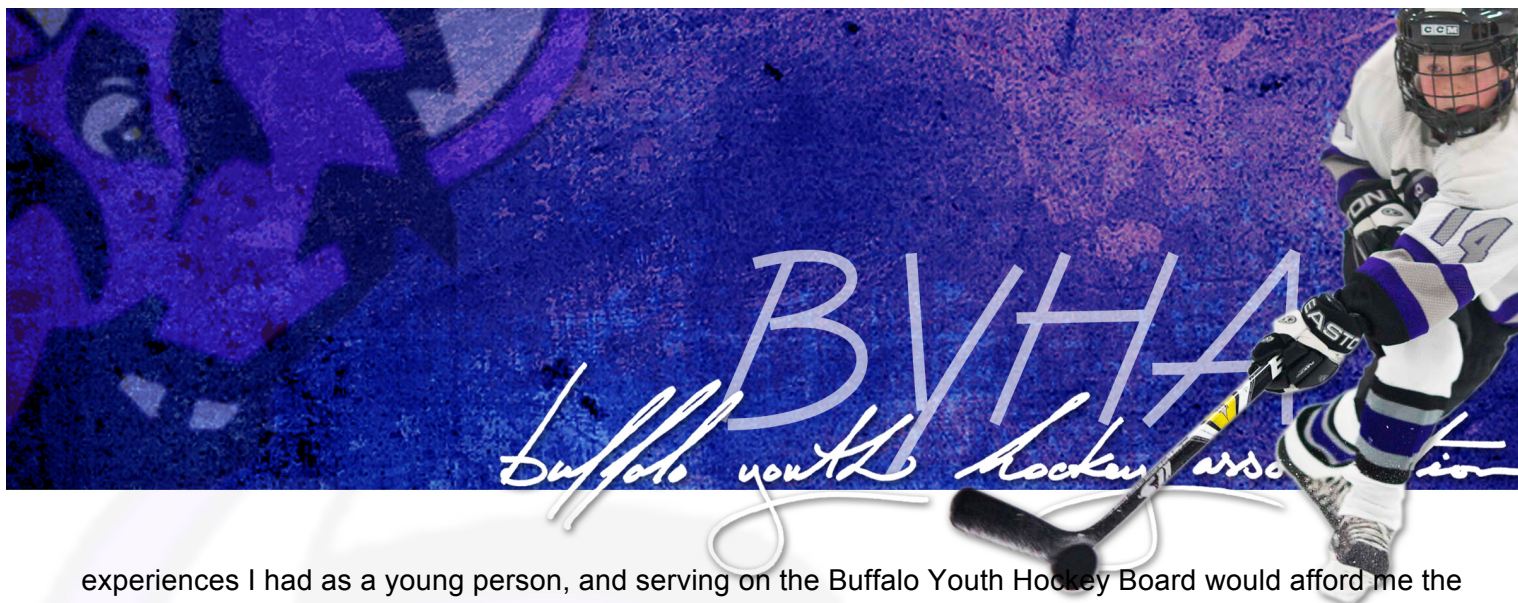
with the neighborhood kids and dreaming of playing in the MN state tourney during every game of knee hockey in the basement. I would like to run for the board to ensure that any child, regardless of their circumstances, has the opportunity to play hockey, to enjoy the sport as I did and to gain the many life skills this game perpetuates- hard work, perseverance, teamwork and a love for the game. Jacob moved his family to Buffalo 6 years ago and has completely fallen in love with it, when he isn't outside causing trouble with his two kids, he is looking for ways to give back to the community, and would love the opportunity to serve this the families and players of our community through this board position.

Skaters: Sawyer (2nd Year Mite) and Bexley (Incoming Mini-Mite)

Mark Lemen

My name is Mark Lemen. My wife and I, along with our 3 children, moved to Buffalo 6 years ago from Sharonville, OH, near Cincinnati. I am the Utility Supervisor for the City of Plymouth and assist in coaching my two sons hockey teams. Along with being an assistant coach for both my mite and mini mite sons, I have been a varsity football coach for Buffalo High School for 6 years. Prior to moving to Buffalo, I coached varsity football for 15 years for three different high schools, I was the varsity head wrestling coach for Cincinnati Aiken HS, an assistant boxing coach as well as an assistant hockey coach for Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller HS. In addition to these coaching responsibilities, I was the Sharonville Youth Football Organization president and board member for 13 years.

I am interested in a board position with Buffalo Youth Hockey because I understand the importance of volunteers and organization involvement to ensure that our young athletes have an opportunity to play. I feel that youth athletics is vital for the development of young people, regardless of ability and skill level. Being a member of a team and learning those life lessons are instrumental in who I became as an adult. Therefore, I feel that it is my responsibility to help ensure that all members of the organization benefit from those same



experiences I had as a young person, and serving on the Buffalo Youth Hockey Board would afford me the opportunity to do so.

Skaters: Wyatt and Emmett (Mites)

Dusty Pierce

My name is Dustin Pierce. I am running for an open position on the BYHA BOD. I have been a part of BYHA since the 1980's as a youth all the way through High School. I coached for many years after high school here in Buffalo and after my kids started playing hockey I'm back at it.

My oldest son Dylan (10) is finishing up his last year of squirts heading to pee wee's next season. My second oldest is Marek (9) and he is finished up his 5th year of mites moving on to squirts. My daughter Claire is 5 years old and will be back playing next season. I will coach them all.

I am interested in an open position because I'd like to better understand how our association works, and to see it away from behind the bench. I also believe I could help make positive decisions and bring a coaches perspective to the process. Thank you.

Skaters: Dylan (Squirt), Marek (Mites), and Claire (Mini-Mites)

Danielle Rakos (Incumbent)

I currently have 2 kids (Emma & Easton) in the association- Emma is 10U, and Easton is a mite. I am currently a director on the board and also am the registration coordinator for the association. I feel fortunate to be a part of such a strong association that will hopefully only become stronger!

Skaters: Emma (10U), Easton (Mite)



Bob Schroeden

In West Philadelphia born and raised. On the playground is where I spent most of my days.....hang on, I'm pretty sure that wasn't me.

Hi, I'm Bob Schroden and I would like to run for a position on the BYHA board this year. I have two boys who are at the mite level who have been playing for 3 and 4 years now. My wife Leota is the manager coordinator for the mites group and in the past I have also enjoyed volunteering, whether it be to monitor the locker rooms, run the clock for a tournament or having the opportunity to flex my amazing hockey playlist for a game.

I'm excited about the opportunity to get involved with the BYHA board. My background in consulting and solutions design means that you will have someone who is open to new ideas and provides creative brainstorming around how changes can be made. I represent a focus on improvement and change and believe that many of you are interested in achieving a more development focused approach to the structure and goals of the BYHA organization. I believe it is important to have fun, but as another parent said to me recently, "winning is fun," and our athletes need success to drive their commitment to development.

I am a team coach for a Velocity 3 on 3 team and I coach the STMA United Super U8 boys soccer team year round so I have an understanding of the challenges our coaches face and how important culture plays into the attitudes our athletes bring with them on the ice each day.

Enrollment is important to any organization, but i believe that we have room to grow where we can increase enrollment by having a program that experiences more competitive success. All of you have options of where you spend your time and money. For many of us hockey is the number one investment we are making with our children from both a time and money perspective. One of my goals is to try to influence the mindset about our culture and decision making to see how we can become competitive with other development programs taking a 80/20 mindset of achieving 80% of the benefit with 20% of the cost.

One of the first things I'd do as a director is ask us to take a look at the current BYHA mission statement and philosophy. Our current mission statement reads more like a recreational league and not a league that competes in the lakes conference of MN..



The Current BYHA Mission Statement:

BYHA shall promote, sponsor, provide facilities for, and organize a program dedicated to recreation, sportsmanship, and excellence in ice hockey for youth in School District #877 (Buffalo), #876 (Annandale), and surrounding communities. Each participant shall be given the opportunity to compete at the level best suited to aid in the development of his or her individual physical and mental qualities. It shall be the responsibility of every member to promote a fun, fair hockey environment that develops respect for others, self-confidence, leadership and teamwork in all the student athletes.

I hope you vote for me. I work well within a team of different perspectives and focus on why change is possible versus focusing on all the reasons that make it difficult. It is important that we have a group of differently minded people working together toward a common goal. Every year I have seen the BYHA board and coaches do an outstanding job at making changes to improve Buffalo Hockey. I am very excited to support and contribute to keep that culture of change and improvement going. Success requires everyone buying into a common goal and creating a culture focused on collaboration, development and commitment as well as fun.

Skaters: Robert and Reece (Mites)



For Official Use Only: _____	
OFFICIAL BALLOT	
2021 BYHA ELECTION BALLOT	
BYHA Members must SIGN IN at April Board meeting to vote. VOTE for UP TO FIVE (5) DIRECTORS.	
Please mark to the left of selected candidate with (X)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kent Baker	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Lemen
<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Ferguson (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dusty Pierce
<input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Fudali	<input type="checkbox"/> Danielle Rakos (Incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lena Gawtry (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Schroeden
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacob Hanson	<input type="checkbox"/> Write In:

Additional Notes:

Voting will take place at the board meeting on Wednesday, April 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm



BYHA Board of Directors (BOD)

March 2021	Position	Name	Phone	Term Expires
x	President	Lena Gawtry	612.386.1104	April 2021
x	Vice President	Ryan Ferguson	612.719.2005	April 2021
x	Secretary	Maria Rosso	763.250.8949	April 2022
x	Treasurer	Jill Ross		April 2022
x	Director	Brandon Murphy	651.271.2090	April 2021
x	Director	Mike Honsey		April 2022
x	Director	Danielle Rakos	612.720.2967	April 2021
x	Director	Tiffany Grube		April 2022
x	Director	Hans Iverson	763.238.5018	April 2022
x	Director	Nathan Dixon		April 2021
x	Director	Shawn Kirschner		April 2022
NOTE: 11 Directors were present for March 2021 meeting.				



BYHA Hockey Operations Committee (HOC)

Position	Name	Phone	Term Expires
HOC President	Yuri Preugschas	763.258.3594	
ACE/HEP & Asst. Coaching Coordinator	Paul Heyerdahl		
Player Development Coordinator	Thomas Johnson Jamie Johnson		
Goalie Development Coordinator	Jon Varner		
A/B/C/5000 Puck Coordinator	John Reynolds		
Tryout Coordinator	Derek Rosso Brent Danzeisen		
Scheduling Director	Hans Iverson		
Mites/Mini Mites Coordinator	Ryan Huddy Tiffany Dixon		
Away Tournament Coordinator	Jenny Sabetti		
Safesport Coordinator(s)	Kelly Hinnenkamp Michelle Munn		
Squirt Coordinator	Kent Baker DJ Dalbec		
Gils Coordinator	Ben Guck Adam Dalum		
Boys HS Coach	Aaron Johnson		
Girls High School Coach	Dave Carothers		



Volunteers

D5 Rep	Ryan Ferguson
Equipment Manager	Nathan Dixon
Wreath Coordinator	Erica Wurm
Marketing Coordinator	
Picture Coordinators	Mike and Lora Toussaint
Purchasing Coordinator	
Registration Coordinator	Danielle Rakos
One Goal Coordinator	Matt Griffith
S.C.O.R.E. Coordinator	Rissa Schrick
T.E.A.M. Coordinator	Molly Geislinger
Advertising/Sponsorship Coordinator	Shawn Kirschner Shawna Johnson
Travelling Level Team Manager Coordinator	Kari Magaard
Initiation Level Team Manager Coordinator	Leota Bemis
Home / Away Tournament Coordinator	Jenny Sabetti
Volunteer Coordinator	Sarah Shult



Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator	Lena Gawtry
Billing Managers	Jill Ross
Hall of Fame Committee Chair	