



## 2010 TCAHA BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

### **PRESIDENT**

#### **Dawn Little Thunder**

My name is Dawn Little Thunder and I am running for president of TCAHA. I have been involved with TCAHA for almost eight years. I started out helping my son's Mite coach as the team manager. The next season I got my level 1 coaching card and was an assistant coach for my son's Squirt team. The following season I helped run the Squirt house tournament and earned my level 3 coaching card. During my son's first PeeWee season I was an assistant coach. I began learning to play hockey after joining the adult hockey league three years ago. I have stepped in to help when the association has asked; filling a vacancy on the board, serving last season as one of the head BP coaches and also coaching a 3 on 3 Mite team.

My goal if I were elected president would be to ensure that the board continues to work together as a team, making positive choices for both the good of the association and our children/players. I would work to increase parent involvement and to help make everyone's experiences as positive as possible. We cannot function without parental involvement and it is essential that parents feel both comfortable and needed as they participate in helping to create an experience that has players developing their skills and having fun.

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#### **Sal Marquez**

My name is Sal Marquez. I am submitting my letter of interest for President of TCAHA. I would like to have an integral part in generating and supporting growth in player participation. In addition, I feel that I would benefit TCAHA overall and bring my years of experience in sports organization to continue improving our association.

I have direct experience in fundraising, contacting media and local businesses, which will transfer over directly to the growth and exposure of our great sport. I am currently on the Yakima National Little League Board of Directors, past Vice President of the North Division for the past two years, I am a past player agent for the 8-14 year olds and am a current Coach Coordinator. I have coached baseball for the last 20 years and the past 5 have been for the Select teams. I am an active Church Board Member and have owned my own business.

Although I do not currently reside in the Tri Cities, my work, hockey and recreation bring me to town 2-3 times per week. My son has been playing in TCAHA for the past five years and has had nothing but great experiences. I have not met all of the current coaches and have not been a hockey coach myself, but I love the sport !! Over these past five years, I have met many people in the TCAHA family that I now consider close friends.

As quoted by Warren G. Bennis, "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality" I believe that I can provide the leadership to accomplish our collective goals for this association, it's players and volunteers. I would truly appreciate your vote !!

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#### **Jeff Thom**

My name is Jeff Thom and I welcome the opportunity to serve as president for TCAHA in the upcoming elections. My daughter Jessica has been playing hockey for TCAHA for four years and I have coached with her team every year. I began playing hockey in Canada at age four and continued until age sixteen.

I have gained an understanding of what makes an association successful through my years of amateur sports (hockey, lacrosse and football). My parents were actively involved in my sports as both coaches and managers. I have also witnessed what a dysfunctional board can do to an organization as I served as a director for one year



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with the Tri-Cities Figure Skating Club. My ambition for TCAHA is to develop our sport from a "grass-roots" level up. I firmly believe that this type of development will lead to sustained growth for our association and our sport. If elected, I will expend all my energies, and utilize all our resources, to enhance the enjoyment through participation for players and parents.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Thom

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

#### **Trae Rockwell**

My Name is Trae Rockwell. I have been with TCAHA since 2001. I have coached from BP to Midgets to include High School JV. My son, daughter, step-daughter and wife all play goalie while my other two step-sons play defense and I play forward (house/rep/adult novice). I have been on the board as a Director for 22 months then

becoming the Vice-President at present. I have a good idea of how the TCAHA machine runs and understand the responsibilities of the office of Vice President.

Being able to manage people, meetings, assets and discipline is something that I have done during the 20 years I spent in the Air Force. Retiring as a First Sergeant now I can spend more time volunteering for hockey.

I believe in building from house up. Without a strong house program everything suffers. I also believe that we need to take care of our adult program too. Everyone has an equal voice and it is my duty to represent what is best for the association as a whole.

I believe that problems do come up now and then and need to be handled in a "chain of command" fashion. Starting with the individual, coach, team manager, AGC, coaching director, and then the board. All while having the freedom to access the board directly "open door policy". Everyone deserves to be heard.

WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

Trae Rockwell  
619-3368  
traerockwell@tcaha.com

### **Secretary**

No Candidates



## 2010 TCAHA BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

### Treasurer

#### **Betsy Ballard**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my interest in volunteering for the Board of Director position of Treasurer. I have actively been a member of TCAHA for the past five years. During this time, I have not only been a devoted team Mom (2 years), but a team treasurer (1 year) and a team manager (2 years). In all of my duties, I have consistently strived to keep the success and betterment of the team as a whole as my number one goal.

I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and am employed by the Department of Energy as a Project Controls Officer. I have been in Project Controls for over thirteen years. I provide critical, time sensitive cost, schedule and project management support to a Federal Project Director. This in conjunction with my business and management skills, abilities and knowledge would be an asset to TCAHA.

Not only am I an active participant at work, but I have also been a Jr. Achievement classroom volunteer for the past six years. Jr. Achievement educates students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs within the classroom. Coupled, I am a dominant force of change both at the workplace and in the success of the children I touch through the Jr. Achievement program.

I feel that TCAHA needs to be re-centered on what is best for its players supported through this organization. My hope, goal and vision by becoming Treasurer is to help in making this organization one of the premier hockey associations in the Pacific Northwest with the primary focus on what is best for the players. In order to accomplish this, it first begins with a focus on the team's sponsorship and membership recruitment. Without these vital items, TCAHA and the players would be left without a sport they love. Next, I would help to center the efforts of the board on public relations. The public relations established in within the community provide partnerships with the local businesses as a vital support of TCAHA, its future and the future of the player's abilities to play in this organized sport. Finally, I feel it is necessary to re-establish the connections between TCAHA and the organization's main avenue for implementing work. The volunteer effort of the organization is imperative to the success of the organization. Without the volunteers, TCAHA would lack the necessary membership and community support that is so important in helping ensure that the player's welfare is placed number one in all that the organization does.

I hope that you take the time to consider my interest to be Treasurer for this exceptional organization. I feel that I would benefit both the organization and the players, and I would be proud to serve in this function.

Should you have any additional questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me at 509-628-0929.

Sincerely,

Betsy Ballard



## 2010 TCAHA BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

### **Director 1**

#### **Greg McMahon**

My name is Greg McMahon and I am running for the TCAHA Board of Directors. Some of you already know me as I have been with the TCAHA organization for the past 3 years coaching (1 year of Pee Wee and 2 years of Bantam). I came to the Tri-Cities almost three years ago from Portland where I coached 2 years of Squirt and 1 year of Pee Wee there. In Portland I also held the position of the Division director for one year (Squirt) after being coaxed into the role to help out their organization. I am familiar with TCAHA and the PJH organizations and have some ideas and changes that I believe would benefit the entire organization.

I have a vast background in hockey having played since I was 5 years old and am still currently enjoying playing the sport here. I also hold a current officials card and therefore am quite familiar with the rules of USA Hockey both as a player, coach and as an official.

My 2 boys have been playing for the past 6 years and also hold officials cards, they have both grown to enjoy the sport as well as developed a good understanding of this exciting fast paced game. I have also had the opportunity to make a lot of friends here that have spanned 3 age groups. In short I believe that we need some good representation on the board with a solid understanding of both the game and organizational ideas for benefiting all of its members.

Thanks, Greg McMahon

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#### **Les Whitley Jr.**

My name is Les Whitley Jr. and I am volunteering for the director position. I have lived in the Tri-Cities for about thirty years. I am married to Kelly and we have two kids Jalen and Jule. My wife and I both work out on the Hanford site. I have always loved working with kids whether it be through sports or in the classroom. I have been fortunate when I was young playing sports to have some great coaches. The experiences I have had with them has made me a better coach and a father. My family has been involved with the TCAHA organization for almost six years since our son, Jalen, started in BP when I learned to skate with him. Jalen is in his last year of mites and looks forward to trying out for the squirt rep team next year. I have been on the ice either coaching or just helping kids learn the basic fundamentals of hockey every year. It is always great to see a player score his or her first goal and see what great improvements are made in a few short months on the ice. I look forward to helping grow TCAHA and believe it is an important part of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Les Whitley Jr.



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### **Director 2**

#### **Kevin Olsson**

I've been involved in hockey for the last 15 years as a player. Have a son in mites and a daughter in the BP program. I have two more younger ones so I'll be around the rink in the mite/squirt programs for quite awhile. Currently I coach mite 3, the rockets. My main focus is to have the kids enjoy the sport enough to sign up next year! Looking forward to helping the program any way I can.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Olsson  
628-0083

### **Director 3**

#### **Stein Karspeck**

My name is Stein Karspeck and I am running for the position of Director 3 within the board of directors of TCAHA. I have been involved with TCAHA for 3 years now and have 2 children currently playing hockey within the association. My children are currently at the Mite and BP levels. My experience within the organization consists of being an on ice helper at the BP level for 3 years and an assistant coach at the Mite level for 1 year.

My main priority should I be elected to the position of Director would be to expand my knowledge regarding the overall operations of the association as well as any issues or challenges facing the different age levels. My focus would then be to act in an objective and reasonable manner to help make decisions that benefit the association.

My overall objective in running for this position is to help keep the organization strong by maintaining and then improving the quality of the experience for our players and families. I would appreciate your vote and I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Stein Karspeck  
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