

Jesse Orttel

How long have you and/or your children been involved in the Lakes Area Hockey Association, and at what levels are your children currently participating?

I have been involved with the Lakes Area Hockey Association for the past 10 years, serving in roles as a board member, youth coach, and high school coach. Currently, I have children participating at the Squirt, Mite, and Mini-Mite levels.

Please describe any relevant professional experience, skills, or employment background:

I currently serve as the Lead Pastor at Good News Community Church in Okoboji, where I provide organizational leadership, team development, and community engagement

Have you held any leadership roles within the Lakes Area Hockey Association or other youth, civic, or nonprofit organizations? If so, please describe your involvement:

I served as a Board Member for the Lakes Area Hockey Association from 2021 to 2024, contributing to organizational planning, program development, and overall association governance. I also serve on the board of Kings and Queens Local which is a non-profit that supports foster and adoptive parents and kiddos by providing resources and trainings.

What leadership qualities, strengths, or experiences do you believe would be your primary contributions as a Board Member?

I grew up playing hockey in Cambridge, Minnesota through the high school level and later played collegiate hockey at Bethel University and Waldorf University. Through these experiences, I have gained valuable insight into what contributes to successful youth hockey organizations. I hope to apply that knowledge and perspective to help strengthen and continue improving the LAHA program.

What has inspired you to seek a position on the LAHA Board?

I currently have three daughters participating in the program, along with a son who will join in the future. I am motivated to help ensure the program continues to grow, improve, and provide a positive experience for all players so they can develop a lifelong love for the sport. I am also passionate about supporting the continued growth of girls' hockey, as our association is approaching the opportunity to field a true girls youth hockey team.