

OMHA Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026

Present: Allyse Pierce, Todd Demers, Carrie Sholette, Grace Montana, Joel Abar, Ryan Bouchey

Excused: Austie Jerome

Guests: Casey Plumley, Eric Boyer, Dana McLear

Grace accepted February's meeting minutes. Joel 2nd

Welcome new members

- We would like to welcome Ryan Bouchey as new President and Joel Abar as Vice President

Our new President is **Ryan Bouchey**. Ryan grew up in Ogdensburg and played for OMHA throughout his entire minor hockey career before continuing on to play OFA Varsity Hockey. Ryan comes from a family deeply rooted in OMHA — his father served as OMHA Board President for 15 years. Ryan brings not only a lifelong connection to our association, but also a strong understanding of its history and values.

Our new Vice President is **Joel Abar**. Joel also grew up in Ogdensburg, played for OMHA throughout his minor hockey career, and went on to play OFA Varsity Hockey. Joel's family (the Barr's) were founders of OMHA, and their legacy remains an important part of our organization's foundation.

Ryan and Joel are stepping into these leadership roles together as a team. Both have young children currently playing within OMHA, and they are committed to strengthening and supporting our association for the next generation of players. It is our belief that their shared vision, lifelong ties to OMHA, and collaborative approach will make them tremendous assets to our organization.

Please join us in welcoming Ryan and Joel into their new leadership roles.

Resignation

- Grace made a motion to accept Jessica Denny's resignation. Joel 2nd all in favor

Treasurer's report- we have \$23,020.32 in the account

- Hazen Player of the game gifts 400
- Plaques for Hazen and Banner and medals \$432.80
- Talked about sponsorships and registration prices - we don't make enough with just registration to cover the cost of ice and referees - may need to raise registration prices and continue to ask for sponsorships to continue to operate

- Joel and Ryan are looking to ask Pepsi and Howland Pump to sponsor our tournament

Correspondence:

- **12U/10U Combined Team Report:**

A coach from the past season addressed the board regarding the combined 12U and 10U team. He explained that the season began with a 12U roster that was within numbers, while several 10U players did not have a team. To ensure all players had an opportunity to participate, the teams were combined.

An agreement was established at the start of the season to create separate player groupings (“pods”) to allow for appropriate skill-based play. This included scheduling C-level and B/C-level games for developing players, while the tournament-bound group participated in required Q games and other competitive matchups.

Each group also participated in a tournament: the tournament-bound team attended the Empire State Games in Lake Placid, while the developmental group competed in a Pulaski tournament. Due to roster limitations, 12U players were utilized across both groups as needed.

The coach stated that the season followed the original plan as agreed upon. While acknowledging that some concerns were raised during the season, he emphasized that the coaching staff did their best given the circumstances. He also noted that, without combining teams, the 10U players likely would not have had the opportunity to play this season.

It went exactly how it was agreed upon

- **Tryout dates** were changed for the second skate due to another team needing the ice for a playoff game and a notice will go out to all who have signed up
- **Board interest** - Eric Whitcombe - will welcome him at the annual meeting

12U tryouts

- Minimum of 13 players and 2 goalies ~ max of 15 skaters
- Tryouts will consist of:
 - Skating drills (forward, backward stopping edges)
 - Passing shooting
 - Small area games
- Will meet with parents the first night at the end of the skate
- Player commitment form will be required
- And \$300 registration will be required

- Direct contact to let them know they made the team by April 1st

End of year banquet

- Clarkson players are coming to do speech and play mini sticks with our players- will give them a gift card
- Will order from Big Cheese - pizza, wings, and salad
- Will get an idea of numbers attending by sending out a notice to each team level individually

Coaching Applications

- Intro n/a
- 6U - Joel Abar - all in favor
- 8U - Ryan Bouchey - all in favor
- 10U - Steve Lemieux - all in favor
- 12U - Eric Boyer and Scotty Williams
 - Eric Boyer for Tournament Bound Team- all in favor
 - Scotty Williams will be head coach 12U House Team - all in favor
- 14U - will reach out to Josh Gilson
- 16U - ask Mike Fennessy

Hazen Tournament

- There has been family conflict and due to this, the family has asked that we discontinue the Hazen Tournament
- OMHA will continue have a tournament with a new name
- Need to get date out asap
- Need to advertise better
- Looking at Dec dates
- Try hockey for free trailer is available in our area - would like to take the first week of ice in October to offer try hockey for free to possibly get kids interested

Fundraising

- Austie is working on a Golf Tournament for the spring
- Also finishing up the handbook
- Looking to possibly have a big raffle with tickets for \$100 and only sell 300

LiveBarn

- OMHA board members need to go to city council meeting
-

Outdoor Rink

- Church and Boys & Girls Club is willing to have an outdoor rink at the Fr Martin field
- Looking to get it started and donations and feedback
- Church owns the land
- Would be great for roller hockey in the summer and broomball leagues and open skating and hockey in the winter
- Will continue to discuss and possibly get things going - need to find out about liability

Old/New Business

- Need to advertise to bring jerseys to banquet
- If they don't get handed in they go on the obligation list and can't play in another organization until it is handed in
- Power Skating - we did it 2 years ago - was difficult with the ice schedule this season

Closing Remarks:

Carrie Sholette expressed her sincere gratitude for the recognition she received during this year's Hazen Tournament. She shared that this would be her final meeting in an official capacity after 25 years of service on the board.

Carrie noted that while she is stepping away from her formal role, she will remain available to support the organization through phone and text as needed. She plans to continue assisting behind the scenes, including helping with concession stand operations once the Dome reopens.

She thanked the board for their support over the years and expressed confidence in the current leadership, stating she feels the organization is in a strong position and moving in a positive direction.

Grace made a motion to adjourn; Allyse 2nd

Next meeting ~ ANNUAL MEETING ~ Wednesday, April 22nd, 6 pm - Dobisky