



LDC Youth Hockey Inc  
Board of Directors Annual Meeting  
April 6, 2025  
6:00-8:00 PM  
Dassel Cokato Ice Rink

Members Present: Jason, Luke, Patrick, Siri, Micki, Steve, Matt, Brian Moe, Kari, Maria, Tammie, Leah, Sarah, Abby, Mandy

Members Missing: Bill, Rita

Guests: Laura Holmquist, Greg Peterson, Amber Peterson, Brandon Nagel, Keaton Danielson, Brice Berggren.

The annual meeting of the LDC Youth Hockey Association was called to order at 6:02 by Jason, all members updated their positions as per below:

#### **Annual Reports-**

##### **President**

The 2024 - 2025 season was my first in the role as president. It was a busy season with a lot of learning on the go. I was able to meet a lot of new people in my new role and expand my outlook on all things LDC. We are fortunate to have such a great hockey community.

The board has put a lot of focus this year on building a strong hockey culture in our association. We expanded the hockey advisory committee with a goal to bring a top down approach to our program as well as bring some outside perspectives to the conversation. We added a coaching clinic for all coaches to hear this message and learn some of the systems we would like to use. We also added ice hockey systems for our coaches to use for practice planning.

Construction of the new LARC is underway which created some chaos for us at the end of the season but will be a great facility for us to use in the future, as well as a new way to raise money via a busier concession stand.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the board members, coaches, parent reps, and volunteers who made this season great. None of this would be possible without their hard work and dedication to our association.

I am looking forward to seeing all of our skaters and their families at the rink next season.

- **Treasurer**

Treasurer Position in 24-25

- Receive Registration Payments
- Setup Monthly Payment installments
- Pay Monthly Bills
- Reconcile accounts Monthly
- Assist CPA with year end tax return
- Assist with concession stand purchases
- Assist with equipment purchases
- Assist with Tournament payments
- Coaches reimbursements
- Stocked/maintained vending machines

Collected a total of :

\$  
291,928.43

Paid out a total of

\$  
270,716.01

- **VP/District 5**

Things are very positive at the district level. There were several lively conversations throughout the last 12 months, but for the most part all of the board members and association representatives showed up to the meetings with a very collaborative attitude.

Team designations at each level are one of the main topics of discussion. Every association struggles to some degree with team designations. The district encourages planning ahead. Every association was required to have a Squirt A team this past season. It appears the trend is towards requiring associations to have an A team at every level (for youth teams, girls, so far, seem to be allowed B only). The LDC executive board took part in meetings open to all LDC

coaches and discussed team declarations for the 2025-26 season. I have also talked with other associations about their declarations. I am prepared to present LDC's preliminary declarations at the April district meeting.

LDC hosted the Bantam B1 district tournament and the Squirt B year end tournament. These are the first year end tournaments hosted at the DC rink. They went well and we received positive feedback. We will be even better positioned for hosting year end tournaments next season when both arenas will be available.

Relationships between the D5 board and the officials' association are good and have continued to improve. The officials' association had a representative at every meeting this year. Officials fees are being renegotiated and will go up for the 2025-26 season. Currently D5 officials' fees are, for the most part, much lower than metro districts.

LDC has several young officials. We should continue to recruit and retain officials within the association.

At the end of 2024 season I was voted in as the Second Vice President of the D5 board so will serve a one more year of a year term on the D5 executive board.

LDC had several positives this season.

The spring skills clinics were, again, a success. They were slightly scaled back from last season due to timing of year end tournaments. We used only internal LDC coaches. The Boys' Varsity coaching staff had several coaches on the ice for each session.

Our team placements were, for the most part, right on. Not every team had a winning season, but we did have teams show a lot of improvement over the course of the season. I believe every team was able to find competitive games and scrimmages.

The DCRC continues to be a huge asset to the association. Other associations struggle to get enough practices in December and January. Getting the consistent number of weekly practices the DCRC allows us shows up in our athletes in season development. It was also fun to have tournaments hosted at the DCRC. It is easier to get scrimmages scheduled with metro teams when you can offer a location that is 30 minutes closer to the Twin Cities.

The association had more non-parent coaches than I can remember anytime in the recent past. Chris Olson helped with the PeeWee B2, Zac Johnson with the Bantam B1, Jon Raisanen and Sam Niemela with the Bantam A.

The hockey advisory committee met several times over the course of the summer and throughout the season. The boy's HS coaches were very involved. I believe this is the first season LDC has had a preseason coach's clinic. It was well attended. It was clear that many of the concepts were used by coaches throughout the season. There is still room for improvement

and further involvement by the HAC, but it was very nice to have a group getting together somewhat regularly to discuss hockey operations.

- **Secretary/Tournament Coordinator**

The Secretary position is in charge of setting meeting dates, taking notes at the meetings, posting minutes to the website and other various behind the scenes tasks. Also this position is in charge of booking all teams away tournaments/hotels and this is challenging to find competitive tournaments for each team as every year presents a different talent level for both LDC and other teams. LDC Youth Hockey spent over \$20,000 for tournaments last season and we realize that is a big part of the kids hockey experience so we make it a priority to try to find fun weekends to be a part of. Another important part of the program that was introduced this past season was free access to the IceHockeySystems.com platform that coaches use to plan each practice. This was found to be a big help for almost all teams and we will continue to provide this platform for all coaches unless a majority feel it is not working for us.

- **Registrar**

167 players, 9 travel teams, 50 coaches. Online registration works very well and this past year we moved up the deadline for returning players and that gave us some extra time to plan the number of teams we would have. Next season we will use Crossbar as our registration and website platform and hope that will make registration even easier to complete.

Areas to continue to improve:

- Communicating expectations for coaches
- Coaches completing requirements sooner
- Mite team organization

- **Scheduling**

Before the scheduling weekend in mid-October, we encouraged/helped teams to schedule travel weekends for teams that wanted to do those. Then we scheduled all district 5 games in mid-October. Once those are on the calendar we encouraged/helped teams to fill in their schedules with scrimmages. During the season we scheduled practices each week with the goal in mind of 4 practices for Bantams, 3-4 practices for 12U/PeeWees, 2-3 for 10U/Squirrels. We try and split the practices as evenly as we can between our two arenas.

- **Fundraising**

YOY overall fundraising loss of (34.05%)

- The biggest contributing factors: Winstock, Four-Wheeler Raffle, \$1,000 Bingo
  - Winstock didn't seek outside volunteers during the summer of 2024. They tried to fill all volunteer shifts with Holy Trinity members. At the 11th hour they reached out to LDC Youth Hockey to see if we could provide some backstage volunteers.

We were able to accommodate their request but we were unable to secure as many shifts as the year prior resulting in a (133%) loss in fundraising proceeds.

- The 2025 raffle drawing experienced a (54.89%) YOY loss. Contributing factors are likely the grand prize we chose this year (4-wheeler); and definitely a lack of member participation in selling additional tickets. Very disappointing member participation.
- We did not secure a \$1,000 Bingo event with the Muddy Cow – this should be sought after by the next Fundraising Coordinator to get something on the books for August of 2025.
- Wreath sales saw a 15.17% YOY **increase**. There is not a huge time commitment in launching this fundraising effort. The struggles come in the form of distribution day staffing. Community members seem to value this fundraiser and I don't know that I would eliminate it.
- TP/PT Fundraising was down (13.82%) YOY.
- Watercade root beer float proceeds 47.61% YOY.

I strongly suggest a fundraising committee is established to assist the coordinator with all aspects of the fundraising process. It is a big lift for one person, greatly diminishing the ability to roll out new fundraising programs.

| Watercade 2024 - Root Beer Floats   |              | Notes/YOY Profit or Loss                 |
|---|--------------|--|
| Gross Sales   | \$1,842.00   |  |
| Root Beer Cost  | -\$350.00    |  |
| Ice Cream   | -\$119.85    |  |
| Bottled Water   | \$0.00       | Family Fare Gift Card                    |
| Ice   | \$0.00       | Family Fare Gift Card                    |
| Wax Sheets  | -\$29.91     | Amazon                                   |
| Root Beer Venmo Donations   | \$660.00     |  |
| Net Proceeds  | \$2,002.24   | 47.61%                                   |
| Winstock 2024 Backstage Volunteers  |              |  |
| 15 Volunteers/\$100 for every volunteer/shift                                       | \$1,500      |  |
| Net Proceeds  | \$1,500.00   | -133.33%                                 |
| Raffle Ticket Fundraiser (2025 Polaris Sportsman 4-Wheeler) (2,000 tickets printed) |              |  |
| Ticket Sales  | \$13,580.00  |  |
| Cash Prizes   | -\$800.00    |  |
| Marketing Materials (Ramsey Printing)   | -\$131.50    |  |
| Pure Hockey Gift Card   | -\$300.00    |  |
| Scheels Gift Card   | -\$150.00    |  |
| Visa Gift Card  | -\$75.00     |  |
| Exempt permit fee   | \$0.00       | \$100 covered by Thrivent Action Dollars |
| Ticket Printing Expense   | \$0.00       | \$108 covered by Thrivent Action Dollars |
| Cost of 4-Wheeler (Davis Motorsports)   | -\$7,266.00  |  |
| Net Profit  | \$4,857.50   | -54.89%                                  |
| Toilet Paper/Paper Towels   |              |  |
| Funds Raised  | \$104,002.53 |  |
| Product Cost  | -\$61,232.93 |  |
| Return to Skaters   | -\$35,424.00 |  |
| Net Profit  | \$ 7,345.60  | -13.82%                                  |
| Wreath Sales  |              |  |
| Funds Raised  | \$10,138.50  |  |
| Product Cost  | -\$6,283.00  |  |
| Return to Skaters   | -\$1,575.00  |  |
| Net Profit  | \$2,280.50   | 15.17%                                   |
| 2024 \$1,000 Bingo  |              |  |
| Funds Raised  | \$0.00       |  |
| Net Profit  | \$0.00       | -100.00%                                 |
| Total fundraising profits for 2024/25   |              | YOY profit/loss                          |
|   |              | -34.05%                                  |
| Fundraising typically starts in June and wraps up in January/February               |              |  |

- **Advertising, Recruitment & Retention**

This past year I have helped coordinate the following advertising/retention/recruitment efforts:

- Litchfield Watercade Parade
- Varsity reading to Kindergarten classes in Litch, Dassel, and Cokato
  - included advertising/flyers for the mite program and pond hockey as well as coupons to entice attendance at the Varsity games
- Girls Hockey Day- a kickoff/recruitment event to begin the girls hockey season
- LDC Night at the MN Wild Game

Looking forward to next season- Should I continue in this board position- I would get an earlier start this Spring/Summer on recruitment ideas in hopes to gain more mites for the coming season.

- **Equipment**

Hosted Equipment rental handout prior to the start of the season and kept records of this.

Followed up with old business rentals, returned deposits and was available for equipment questions all season long.

Took inventory of all jerseys to start the season. Assigned jersey all youth skaters except mites, kept documentation of all jerseys.

Applied for a grant from Dicks Sporting Goods and was awarded \$400 in gift cards. Provided a Pee wee team coach the cards to purchase dryland equipment.

Cleaned out the equipment and jersey room with help for the construction happening at the Litchfield Arena.

Collected jerseys from all youth skaters. Communicated with parent reps to return the jerseys and placed them in the storage until completion of the remodel at the Litchfield arena.

- **Concessions**

This past season was my first year in service. It brought many new faces, relationships, and experiences. Would like to thank the board for their patience in the learning process for me in this position.

Concessions for the 2024-2025 season showed a profit of \$19,491.15 dollars in Litchfield. This is compared to a profit of \$8,852.61 in the 2023-2024 season. Things to consider, the Litchfield season ended on 2/10 with a very limited night of concessions and the rest of the games were finished out at the DC rink with a semi limited menu. DC had total sales of \$5,498.75. Top 5 selling items for both Litchfield and DC included combined totals of cold beverages at 3,736 units, candy bars at 2,804 units, hot chocolate/cappuccino at 1,834 units, popcorn at 1,657 units, and coffee/tea at 1,256 units.

Would like to extend a huge thank you to McDonalds of Litchfield for providing hot cups and lids for the Litchfield rink. Would also like to extend a huge thank you to Jack's of Cokato for their

assistance at the DC rink with pizza and coffee deliveries along with the supply of hot cups, lids, napkins, and pizza slice holders. We continued with Bernatello's pizza and their pizza oven in Litchfield. Both concession spaces will undergo a facelift prior to the 2025-2026 season. We are looking forward to the big changes in the 2025-2026 season with the addition of the extended hours in the Litchfield rink and looking at what that could mean for LDC Youth Hockey. We have started conversations with the City of Litchfield on what this will all entail so stay tuned for more!

Would like to thank all the families that put time into working in the concession stand this past season! The above numbers would not be possible without all the effort that is put in by everyone in the association, thank you!

- **Safe Sport**

Safe sport was low key this year. I feel that this means our association is doing well. Only one reminder was sent to the association about locker room monitoring. This email was prompted from district 5, as a reminder of the rules and consequences of safe sport, due to an incident with another association.

- **Dibs**

This season was good overall, we did end up with 54 hours that were not completed by 6 families. There were some mite practices and varsity games that I had missed during the season. We did have a hiccup mid season with games/practices getting scheduled with missed communication. End of the season went a lot better. We did end up canceling DIBS hours for penalty box visitors and home at the end of the season due to lack of volunteers. We had families that put in 25+ hours, hoping Crossbar will eliminate some of the multi names for 1 family.

- **Mites**

This past season the mites got more ice time than previous years and it will hopefully show as these kids move through the association. The fact that we have 2 rinks is a huge plus for LDC hockey. We will need some creative minds to come together and help figure out how to get more kids involved as we are a bit concerned with the low number of returning mite age kids.

- **Hockey Advisory Committee- see above under VP/D5.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Elections-**

All members were re-elected by unanimous vote except Kari Peter (Fundraising) who resigned her position effective immediately.

Fundraising position is now vacant, nobody volunteered so this position will remain open and we will try to fill it via email.

Chris Olson was nominated by Luke Huggett as the **mite coordinator** for the upcoming season, unanimous vote to appoint him if he chooses to accept it.

**Open Discussion-**

Luke mentioned we have to get more people involved in the board to continue to grow the association. We have open positions that need to be filled for the upcoming season and it's critical that we get more help from everyone in the association.

Brandon Nagel mentioned maybe we should look at giving the kids a break on practice at some point during the week so they don't hit burnout and save on the kids mental health. Discussion about having longer not more practices to save on driving kids around, the board will discuss this during the summer and make the best choice for the association. Perhaps we look at a 75 or 90 minute practice sessions for the older kids instead of 60 and get them a day off during the week, more to come on this discussion during the offseason.

The non-parent coaches were brought up and how nice it was to have them involved so kids get a different experience.

A question was asked of the varsity coaches on their philosophy of playing time for each team or age level, and should we spell it out in the handbook?

Currently the handbook says that Bantam and Peewee A is earned playing time, not equal playing time, the "earned playing time" clause is open for debate, what constitutes earned, coaches discretion, or showing up for practice or what is it? B teams and lower is written as equal playing time. The HAC will tackle this during the offseason and communicate it to the executive board for review.

It was nice to have the Bantam A & B teams practice together during the season, we will try to keep that going next season.

Next meeting May 4th at the Litchfield Civic Arena 6:00  
Motion to adjourn at 7:10 by Sarah 2nd by Tammie.

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