

Littleton Hockey Association
Meet the BOD Candidates 2025

Name: Eliz Giardino

I currently have a player enrolled at LHA and/or 14ers for the 2025-2026 season: YES

Current Occupation: Head of Corporate Strategy at Ulteig

Board of Directors Position you are applying for: Director of Membership

Professional Skills/Expertise (relevant to the board position): I bring over 20 years of executive leadership experience across media, infrastructure, and consulting—combined with nearly a decade of hands-on involvement in youth hockey as both a team manager, hockey parent and hockey coach spouse. My career has been built on transformation, communication, and people-first leadership—skills that align directly with the mission of this role.

Hockey Community Roots & Cultural Leadership: As a parent of twin boys—one a goalie, one a forward—and a current 14U AA team manager, I know firsthand how important culture, communication, and transparency are to families. I care deeply about the player and parent experience—team culture across both is a top priority for me. I focus on fostering trust, building strong relationships, and ensuring families feel informed, included, and supported at every step. What you see is what you get with me—I'm honest, direct, and deeply committed to helping every family feel like part of a connected, respectful, and values-driven community.

Strategic Leadership & Transformation: For 19 years, At NBCUniversal, I led global operations and client delivery for all brands of NBCUniversal Content, Universal Pictures and Dreamworks Animation, and played a key role in the industry's evolution from traditional cable to streaming. I helped launch major platforms like Peacock and SkyShowtime and oversaw implementation of high-profile joint ventures and partnerships. Today, I lead corporate strategy at Ulteig, an infrastructure consulting firm, where I drive long-term planning, organizational alignment, and strategic execution. **Clear, Consistent Communication:** I strongly believe that effective communication builds trust and drives results. Parents, coaches, and team managers should never be left guessing—I am committed to ensuring that everyone has access to timely, clear, and consistent information. Whether navigating changes, answering questions, or aligning goals, I bring transparency, structure, and responsiveness to every conversation.

People-First Leadership with Adaptability: I focus on listening first, then creating frameworks that allow us to stay grounded in our values while remaining agile. I use data to drive improvement and feedback to shape meaningful change. My leadership style is structured but flexible—centered on supporting people, building alignment, and continually improving how we work together. **Political Agility & Boardroom Experience:** With more than 20 years of experience working across diverse board environments, I bring the political savvy needed to navigate complex dynamics while keeping the needs of our families front and center. I'm known for

translating ideas into action, building consensus, and keeping momentum focused on what matters most.

Describe any previous volunteer experience within the association or in other

organizations: I have proudly served as team manager for multiple teams, including Littleton 13U AA and 14U AA, Colorado 38s 13U AA and 14U AA spring teams, and Dakota Ridge High School Hockey. In each of these roles, I've led communication, managed logistics and travel, supported coaches, and served as a trusted point of contact for players and families—always focused on building strong team culture and a positive experience for all involved. Outside of hockey, I've participated in and helped organize Wreaths Across America, honoring fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their graves during the holidays. I've also supported Baskets for Avivo, an organization that provides transitional support to individuals and families exiting homelessness or recovery by delivering baskets filled with home essentials and personal care items. I've also volunteered with Toys for Tots, helping to ensure that children in need receive holiday gifts that bring joy and dignity. As a Marine Corps infantry spouse of a post-9/11 veteran, my heart is especially drawn to supporting military families and initiatives that honor service, sacrifice, and community. My volunteer work reflects the values I live by—service, respect, compassion, and commitment to something greater than myself.

Do you have previous experience serving on a board or in a leadership position? (If yes,

please describe): While I have not formally served as a member of a board of directors, I bring over 20 years of senior leadership experience at NBCUniversal and Ulteig. Throughout my career, I've consistently operated in boardroom environments—presenting strategic initiatives, influencing decisions, and guiding executive-level conversations. I have extensive experience leading and advising C-suite executives, regularly presenting opportunities, risks, and solutions to drive progress, transformation, and long-term growth. My role has often involved aligning cross-functional teams, navigating complex challenges, and building consensus among stakeholders with diverse viewpoints. I've worked with every type of personality—from highly analytical to visionary to skeptical—and have learned how to adjust my communication and leadership style to build trust, foster collaboration, and move initiatives forward effectively. My ability to engage at all levels of leadership while remaining focused on results makes me highly equipped to contribute meaningfully in a board setting.

What unique skills or perspectives will you bring to the board and to this specific position on the board? I believe that in every role I take on, I have to provide real value—whether it's in the boardroom, with a team, or within our hockey community. I'm a parent of two hockey players myself, and I consider it both an honor and a serious responsibility to represent and support the families in our organization. I don't take that lightly. I bring over 20 years of leadership experience at NBCUniversal and now Ulteig, where I've led major strategic initiatives, built consensus, and helped organizations evolve through change. But at the core of everything I do is connection. I built my career by rolling up my sleeves, being on the ground, listening to staff, clients, and communities—and then turning what I heard into practical, meaningful action. While I have deep corporate experience, I know how to keep things grounded and people-focused. I'm not here to overcomplicate or formalize what should be a community-first environment. I believe in bringing just enough structure to help us operate more smoothly—without ever losing sight of what matters most: the people. I want members to know that while I take this role seriously, I'm also relatable, approachable, and real. Titles don't matter to me—trust and impact do. I'll always lead with honesty, clarity, and a deep commitment to making our hockey community stronger, more connected, and easier to navigate for every family involved.

Why do you want to join the Board of Directors? (Please provide a brief statement): I want to join the Board of Directors because I care deeply about the LHA and local hockey community—not just as a parent, but as someone who values strong communication, clear structure, and a culture where families feel supported and connected. I believe I can add value by bringing a thoughtful, balanced perspective that blends real-world leadership experience with a down-to-earth, approachable style. I'm passionate about being a voice for families, building trust, and helping ensure the Littleton Hawks continue to thrive on and off the ice.

What are your goals and vision for the association? My goal is to help the Littleton Hawks continue to grow as a premier hockey organization by expanding on what already sets us apart—our exceptional player development and strong team culture. These are our greatest differentiators, and we should double down on them while creating a consistent, supportive experience for players and families at every level. At the same time, I recognize that we shouldn't continue doing things simply because that's how they've always been done. Evolution is necessary—but it must be intentional. It's crucial that we do not try to become something we're not. Instead, we should make strategic decisions that build upon our strengths, reinforce our identity, and reflect the values of our hockey community.

I envision an organization that listens to its members and staff, adapts with purpose, and always puts player development, team culture, and the family experience at the center of everything we do.

Are you available to attend monthly board meetings, weekly calls, and other necessary events? YES

Do you have any potential conflicts of interest that we should be aware of? NO

Name: Stefani Walker

I currently have a player enrolled at LHA and/or 14ers for the 2025-2026 season: YES

Current Occupation: Director of Marketing

Board of Directors Position you are applying for: Director of Membership

Professional Skills/Expertise (relevant to the board position): Like a power play that transforms potential into points, I bring 20+ years of proven expertise in building thriving communities and driving exponential growth. From launching LoHi Lifestyle Magazine to 17,000+ engaged social media followers and generating six-figure revenue within one year, to achieving 400% client revenue increases through strategic relationship building, I've mastered the art of turning connections into lasting commitments. My track record includes consistently exceeding retention targets (90% bid success rate, 35% client retention), orchestrating high-impact events that raise hundreds of thousands for nonprofits, and building cross-functional teams that deliver results. As Director of Membership for the Littleton Hawks, I'll leverage my data-driven approach, crisis communication skills, and passion for community engagement to expand our hockey family, enhance member experience, and ensure every player, parent, and supporter feels valued both on and off the ice. Just as hockey requires strategy, teamwork, and relentless pursuit of the goal – I bring exactly those qualities to membership growth and retention.

Describe any previous volunteer experience within the association or in other organizations: Nonprofit Fundraising Leadership: Through LoHi Lifestyle Magazine, you "raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local nonprofits through high-profile fundraising events," which shows significant community service impact even if done through your business role.

Community Relationship Building: Your work with LoHi Lifestyle Magazine involved extensive community engagement and supporting local businesses and causes.

Do you have previous experience serving on a board or in a leadership position? (If yes, please describe): The PRSA and the Summit View Elementary PTA.

What unique skills or perspectives will you bring to the board and to this specific position on the board? My fresh perspective as someone who transforms traditional industries through digital innovation will modernize how the Hawks engage members. I've proven I can speak to diverse audiences—from luxury real estate clients to grassroots magazine readers—which translates perfectly to connecting with hockey families across all socioeconomic backgrounds. Most importantly, I bring the "publication mindset": I see membership not as a transaction but as building a compelling story that families want to be part of, season after season. My experience raising hundreds of thousands for nonprofits shows I understand that youth sports isn't just about the game—it's about building character, community, and creating memories that last a lifetime. I'll bring that same passion for meaningful impact to growing the Hawks family.

Why do you want to join the Board of Directors? (Please provide a brief statement): After two decades of building brands and communities in the corporate world, I'm ready to channel that expertise toward something deeply meaningful—shaping the experiences that help young athletes discover their potential both on and off the ice. The Littleton Hawks represents everything I'm passionate about: community building, youth development, and creating lasting connections that extend far beyond individual achievements. Having seen firsthand how the right leadership can transform organizations—from launching magazines to driving 400% growth—I want to bring that same strategic vision and collaborative energy to ensure every Hawks family feels valued, supported, and excited to be part of this hockey community. This isn't just about joining a board; it's about investing in the future leaders, teammates, and community members these young athletes will become.

What are your goals and vision for the association? My vision for the Littleton Hawks is to transform us into the premier youth hockey organization in Colorado—not just through championship banners, but by creating an inclusive, thriving community where every player develops both elite hockey skills and essential life character. I envision expanding our membership base by 25% within two years through strategic outreach programs that make

hockey accessible to diverse families, while simultaneously enhancing the experience for current members through improved communication, streamlined operations, and elevated facilities. Drawing from my experience growing organizations from startup to market leadership, I want to establish the Hawks as the gold standard for youth sports management—implementing data-driven member retention strategies, launching corporate sponsorship programs that fund scholarships for underserved youth, and creating mentorship pathways that connect alumni with current players. Most importantly, I see the Hawks becoming a cornerstone of the Littleton community, where families don't just participate in hockey seasons but build lifelong friendships, where players learn teamwork that serves them in boardrooms and classrooms, and where every child who steps on our ice leaves with greater confidence, discipline, and joy for the game.

Are you available to attend monthly board meetings, weekly calls, and other necessary events? YES

Do you have any potential conflicts of interest that we should be aware of? NO

VICE PRESIDENT

Name: Michael Lyons

I currently have a player enrolled at LHA and/or 14ers for the 2025-2026 season. YES

Current Occupation: Self Employed

Board of Directors Position you are applying for: Vice President

Professional Skills/Expertise (relevant to the board position): I have been the President of 2 wildly successful business since 2004. I also played hockey at the University of MN. Happy to give more details if needed.

Describe any previous volunteer experience within the association or in other organizations: I have been volunteer coaching at LHA for my 3 kids teams since we moved CO in 2013. In addition, I coached various teams in MN prior to moving to CO, including a high-school Varsity team in an assistant capacity. As for volunteering in general, I won the

Donald M. Clark award for community service in 2000. This is given to 1 player per year at the U of M.

Do you have previous experience serving on a board or in a leadership position? (If yes, please describe): I was the President of Gemini Medical in MN from 2004 thru 2022. From 2013 thru present, I have been the President of Gemini Mountain Medical.

What unique skills or perspectives will you bring to the board and to this specific position on the board? Having good people around me and taking feedback from anyone involved on my teams has been pivotal in my personal and professional successes. I am very analytical on just about anything I encounter and I am results driven. I also know there needs to be give and take. I believe I would offer a fresh perspective and would apply my critical and independent thought processes on major decisions for LHA to make improvements to the program and its membership.

Why do you want to join the Board of Directors? (Please provide a brief statement): I'm applying for a board member position because I want to be a positive influence on the youth hockey program that has played such an important role in my family's life. As both a parent and coach, I've had the privilege of watching all three of my kids grow through this program, not just as hockey players, but as individuals. I'm passionate about giving back to the organization that has given us so much. I want to help ensure that future players and families continue to experience a program that promotes development, sportsmanship, and a strong sense of community both on and off the ice.

What are your goals and vision for the association? When I look at LHA, I think it is a very well run and solid program. I don't believe we need to rebuild an engine, but maybe there could be a few spark plugs changed out. I am also a big believer that this program has been very successful prior to me becoming a member and I would like to have an influence to ensure stays that way well after I am no longer a member.

Are you available to attend monthly board meetings, weekly calls, and other necessary events? YES.

Do you have any potential conflicts of interest that we should be aware of? No different than any other board member as I have a child in the program. I am also an assistant coach for the 14U AA team.