



KVHA's Speer and SnoKing's Brown Elected to PNAHA Leadership Roles

Kent Valley Ice Centre, Kent, WA. June 6, 2012 – The Pacific Northwest Amateur Hockey Association's (PNAHA) spring meeting in Wenatchee on June 2nd included a surprise election for PNAHA President as long-time PNAHA President Dru Hammond resigned her position following her appointment as District Director with the Pacific District of USA Hockey. Pacific District by-laws do not permit Pacific District Directors to hold office in an affiliate organization. SnoKing's Gord Brown petitioned to fill Hammond's unexpired term (a 2-year term that expires on odd years.) Jack Cheney's position as PNAHA 1st Vice President (West side) and Janet MacFarlane's position as Secretary/Treasurer were both up for re-election (even year terms) as per PNAHA by-laws. Cheney chose not to run for re-election. Kent Valley's Adam Speer put his name in the hat to replace Cheney and MacFarlane was eager to continue for another term as PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer. Brown, Speer and MacFarlane were confirmed without opposition.

Aside from the annual PNAHA tournaments, most KVHA members have little involvement with or have limited knowledge of PNAHA and the role that organization plays in our local hockey. Some members are familiar with the PNAHA League within which our Tier-II teams compete. Below is a little additional background information on the purpose of PNAHA abstracted from PNAHA by-laws.

The purpose for which PNAHA is formed is:

1. To stimulate interest in, to encourage, improve, and govern organized amateur hockey within PNAHA.
2. To develop, promote and encourage the social, physical and mental welfare of all players.
3. To conduct ice hockey tournaments and to select representative teams for competition in PNAHA, Regional and National Championships.
4. To encourage and aid in the development of high school and college hockey.
5. To associate with the USA Hockey and other ice hockey associations as sanctioned by USA Hockey.

Earlier this week I sent congratulatory messages to both Gord Brown and Adam Speer. I was eager to learn how their new roles in PNAHA would impact KVHA and our members. In Brown's case this is the first time in several years (6 or 7) for the PNAHA Presidency to reside on the west side of the state. Below are my questions and their responses:

Gord Brown – PNAHA President

Q. What prompted you to run for PNAHA President?

A. I decided to run for the position after being encouraged by the previous presidents and others from PNAHA and the Pacific District. I also had just finished my 3rd term as President of Sno-King and didn't want to run for President again as it will likely be my last year as a member of the association. My youngest will be graduating high school next year and will be off to college.

Q. A couple of the things missing from PNAHA in the past are openness and transparency. PNAHA meeting minutes were rarely posted to the PNAHA web site and important PNAHA information was rarely provided in a timely manner. Do you have any plans to improve openness and transparency for PNAHA members?

A. I am a big proponent of ensuring that everyone can find the information they need for PNAHA. We created a new website (still at www.PNAHA.com) and we are in the process of converting the previous minutes into searchable PDF files which will then be on the website.

From there people can view individual meeting minutes or search for specific topics. The search feature is on there now (bottom left side of the pane) and once the minutes get up there they will be much easier to find what is required.

Follow up response from Brown - The minutes for the last 11 years are now available on www.pnaha.com. Once I ensure that Google is done indexing the minutes we'll announce it to the directors. Also, check out the PNAHA action calendar. I hope that will help associations plan their season a little earlier and leave more time in September for focusing on the players instead of administration.

Adam Speer – PNAHA 1st Vice President, West Side

Q. Adam Speer chose to ignore my series of questions and instead provided the following general comments regarding his election to the PNAHA Board.

A. I am very pleased to be able to serve the members of PNAHA in the position of Vice-President. I know everyone appreciated the service of Jack Chaney to hockey in our state, and I hope to be as strong an advocate for our game and the people who make up our hockey community. My two sons and I have enjoyed the opportunities provided through the efforts of PNAHA and I wanted to find a way to give back. While we have been at Kent Valley since the doors opened to that first Learn to Play program so many years ago, I have also gotten the chance to get to know many of the outstanding people involved in Washington hockey, both around the Sound and throughout the state, and I look forward to working with all of them as we grow the game. New PNAHA President Gord Brown is ready to dig in, and I plan to work hard alongside him and the other Board members to continue the legacy built by outgoing President Dru Hammond and others. There is always much work to be done and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Janet MacFarlane – PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer

Congratulations to Janet MacFarlane as she continues for a second term as PNAHA Secretary/ Treasurer. Janet has been active in Spokane youth hockey for many years and currently serves on the board of Spokane Area Youth Hockey Association. KVHA members may have run across Janet at hockey tournaments in Spokane. Several years ago Janet loaned her son Sean MacFarlane to KVHA to be the goalie for the Kent Valley U18 Selects team and so began our admiration of the MacFarlane's of Spokane. Sean MacFarlane exchanged his goalie gear for a whistle some time ago and has been focusing on a career as a USA Hockey Official. He has been officiating games in the North American Hockey League (NAHL) and United States Hockey League (USHL.) We enjoy following Sean's career.

Kent Valley Hockey Association congratulates to Gord Brown, Adam Speer and Janet MacFarlane on their election and re-election to the PNAHA Board. We thank them for their volunteer efforts on behalf of youth hockey in our region. We also thank Jack Cheney for his many years of dedicated service to youth hockey and wish success to Dru Hammond as she represents us on the USA Hockey Pacific District Board.

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