

Director, 2nd VP and Financial Committee – 2023/2024 Year End Report

In my second year as VP2 for AMHA, I actively learned more about the role and continued to grow my responsibilities. I dove into the intricacies of my position by attending meetings, collaborating with other executives and seeking guidance from experienced members, I gained insights into the VP2 role.

I eagerly sought opportunities to enhance my skills. Whether it was mastering google documents and spreadsheets, communication with members or refining my organizational skills, I embraced learning as a continuous process. One of my goals this year was to continually seek feedback from membership, I was able to achieve this with surveys going out for rep tryouts, mid season evaluations and end of the year parent satisfaction surveys. All responses have been reviewed and recurrent themes have been brought to the board's attention.

As VP2, I proactively identified areas for improvement within AMHA and ways to enhance engagement with teams and membership. This year we ran the first ever BuddyCheck for Jesse Mental Health Awareness week which raised \$950 and with the help of U15 A2, we organized the first ever Every Child Matters orange jersey hockey game, collecting donations towards an adopt a family for Christmas. For the second year in a row, I worked with Abbotsford Canucks who attended our Coach/Manager meeting and handed out fundraising information as well as promoting Abbotsford Minor Hockey Night in early October, which we sold close to 500 tickets

Growth comes from both experience and intentional effort. My commitment to learning and adapting will contribute to my success in the role. It is my desire to continue in this role for next season.

We started the season off this year with Dust off the Rust Development sessions that were provided by our AMHA Development Team.

Rep Tryouts: Jamie Jackson was Rep Tryout Facilitator for this season. Based on feedback expressed in previous years from parents, Rep Tryouts had the removal of the rep combine testing and was replaced with a skills testing session. Following this session, players were evaluated by balanced scrimmage and Inter-squad games. The U11 age group also had a similar format but was not able to start the try out process until the pathway sessions had been completed. This year we were able to complete a Round Robin Tourney with other associations from neighboring cities for all divisions.

The following coaches lead REP teams this year:

- **U11 A1: Riley Emmerson**
 - Congratulations for winning the PCAHA FVC U11 A Flight 1 Playoff Championship Banner
 - Congratulations for winning 2nd place finish in our own Abbotsford Tournament
- **U11 A2: Joel Byron (Paid)**
 - Congratulations for making it to a Banner playoff game
- **U11 A3: Levi Hesketh**
 - Congratulations on being selected as REP Head Coach of the year
- **U13 A1: Travis Veldhoen (Paid)**
 - Congratulations for winning the PCAHA U13A Tier 1 President's Series Playoff Championship Banner

- Congratulations for winning 2nd place finish in our own Abbotsford Tournament
- **U13 A2: Jamie Jackson (Paid)**
 - Congratulations to Andrew Mitchell on being selected REP Assistant Coach of the year
 - Congratulations for bringing home 2nd place finish in the Ridge Meadows Hometown Heroes Tournament
- **U13 A3: Eric Allard**
 - Congratulations for winning the U13 A Flight 6 League Banner
 - Congratulation for bringing home 2nd place finish in the Merritt U13 Tier 4 Tournament
- **U15A1: Steve Howerton (Paid)**
 - Congratulations to Michele Dominato on being selected REP Manager of the year
 - Congratulations for winning the U15A President's Series
 - Congratulations to the 2 players from U15 A1 moving to above minor for the upcoming 2024/2025 Hockey Season.
- **U15A2: Jon Djekic (Paid)**
- **U18A1: Jay Campbell (Paid)**
 - Congratulations for bringing home a 1st place finish in our own Abbotsford Midget Memorial Tournament
- **U18A2: Clayton Lode**

Division Directors/Coordinators: I worked with each Division Director throughout the season to ensure assistance was provided in any capacity that they required. Thank you to each Division Director and Division Coordinators for their hard work this year – from the start of Dust of the Rust camps to the end of the season!

Volunteers: I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time this season. Your dedication and countless volunteer hours have been the driving force behind the association's success. Whether you were cheering in the stands, organizing team events, helping with equipment, sitting in the cold scorekeeper or timer keeper booths, your commitment has not gone unnoticed. Your love for the game and willingness to give your time have made a lasting impact on our players. Thank you for being the unsung heroes - the ones who make it all happen behind the scenes.

Development: Peter Hay and his development team continued providing development for our association. Peter and his coaches ensured top end player development as well as mentoring our coaches as they also participated during on ice sessions. Feedback received from players and their parents last year was incorporated into this season as best as we could based on ice availability and our budget. Feedback regarding our development programming was positive overall and AMHA will continue to build on our Development Program for next year. Peter Hay will not be returning next season as he has accepted a Head Coach position with Trinity Western. Thank you Peter for your years with AMHA and we wish you the best! We look forward to the upcoming changes to the development program this

year with a strong influence on power skating at every age group, as suggested from parents in recent feedback surveys. This year we hired Eric Williams who was in charge of goalie development, and will return for next season. There were coach mentors at each division level this year that worked throughout the season to provide support to coaches.

Discipline: There were a few discipline issues this year that were brought to our attention and addressed with team level investigations. AMHA wants to ensure that our association provides programming that meets the needs of our families and that it is a safe and appropriate environment.

Coaches and Team Officials: As this season has come to a close, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for your tireless dedication. Your guidance, motivation, and belief in their potential has made a lasting impact on each player. Not only did you teach kids how to skate, stickhandle and shoot the puck but you also instilled in them the value of hard work and perseverance. Your commitment to their growth as athletes and as individuals has been truly inspiring. A significant amount of work is required to ensure that our players have fun and success and this does not go unnoticed by AMHA. We would not be able to run such a successful minor hockey program without your assistance.

To my family - I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your unwavering support and understanding mean the world to me.

As we hang up our skates for the season, let's carry these memories with us and look forward to the next chapter on the ice. Thank you all for being part of our hockey family!

With heartfelt thanks,

Leichel Duerksen

2nd VP

Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association