

President's Report for 2019-2020

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who donate their time; board members, coaches, managers, safety people, on ice helpers, parents and everyone involved in helping the teams so our kids can play hockey.

A special thank you to Bill McDonnell a lifetime member of NMHA, for all he does for youth sports. Bill has been an active lifetime member with our board this season and attends our monthly meetings and gives valuable feedback to the function of our Association. I would also like to thank Kathy Conne, our VP for always being there for me (countless hours of phone calls and emails!) and everything she does for our Association. Kathy was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award this year. Kathy earned this award for all everything she does for NMHA. Kathy is Vice President but she does far more than that with her involvement with teams, helping division directors and being someone parents can talk to. For these reasons, Kathy has been hired to be the NMHA Executive Administrator. This is a new position for NMH. Kathy will be available to support all of our volunteers and help keep our association strong.

The following is the NMH Board members of 2019-2020

Lisa Upper - President

Kathy Conne – Vice President

Susan Lakeman – Was our Secretary but she stepped down recently

Dan Rude – Treasurer

RJ Warren – Referee in Chief

Mike Dickinson – Novice Director

Candace Wolbaum – Atom Director
Pewee Director – Aaron Shrieves
Bantam Director – Vacant
Cam Paterson - Midget Director
Kate Tait - Tournament Director
Sandy Boyd – West Kootenay Rep
Risk Management - Vacant
Michelle Hillaby - Female
Public Relations – Lori Stocks
Equipment Director – Mark Durocher
Fundraising Coordinator – Vacant
Cynthia St Thomas - Ice Scheduler
Pete Quinn – Coach Coordinator
Registrar – Deb Matthews – ABSENT

BC Hockey is recommending for Associations to plan for next season even though there is so much uncertainty with COVID -19. NMHA has made a few changes to help people who have financial concerns during this unprecedented time. We extended our Early Bird Discount deadline, require less money included with registration and offer payment options for families in need.

Our numbers were down this season with 133 registered members, we had 159 last season. Some of decrease in numbers is due to Nelson players playing on Rep teams in other associations. We had players play Bantam and Midget Rep in Castlegar and a few of our players played on Minor Midget teams in the Province. We had a lot of first-time registrants again this year which is great to see. We were lucky to be able to offer free gear to first-time players again due to the generous donation from Home Hardware Building Centre. Thank you Home Hardware. NMHA offered an

Early Bird discount for the second year and this initiative was successful in getting registrations early. It is important for us to have an idea of what our numbers will look like for the season so we can plan our teams. The Regional District requires us to put in our ice requests for the season in April for the upcoming season.

NMH was lucky to be awarded a gaming grant again this season. We were awarded less money than in the past so this affected our financial outcome for the season as we rely on the grant to be able to keep our registration fees low. We ran in a deficit, which Dan, our treasurer will talk about in his report. NMH also had a successful raffle fundraiser netting over \$10,000.00. NMH didn't have a fundraising coordinator again this season so I took on the task of organizing the raffle. This grant, along with the fundraising profits, and tournament profits, allowed NMH to offer most teams alone practice ice as well as NMH paying for one tournament for each team. We continue to offer low registration fees due to the Gaming Grant and successful fundraising. NMHA hosted 5 tournaments this year, thank you Kate Tait for your amazing leadership and organization that allows us to host successful tournaments each year.

NMHA continues to support our referees and the referee program. The Nelson referee program is very successful due to the leadership of RJ Warren (NMHA RIC), Dave Zarikoff and David Smith and all of the referees. Thank you for all you do.

We were able to offer an extra early morning ice time for the eager players again this season. Thank you to Pete Quinn for running these ice times. Our Recreational teams in Pee wee and Midget participated in the West Kootenay league and had successful seasons. Unfortunately, due to our low numbers at the Bantam level, we were unable to host a Bantam team this season. Some of our Bantam aged players played on the Rep team in Castlegar and a few played on the Pee wee team.

NMHA only had one Representative team this season. Our Pee wee Rep team participated in the West Kootenay league and participated in tournaments. The Pee wee team had a successful season finishing top in

league play in the Tier 4 league but unfortunately got defeated by Grand Forks in the playoffs hoping to attend the BC Hockey Championships. The team won 3 gold and 1 silver in a shoot out at their tournaments. Congratulations to the Pee wee Rep team for a great year!

NMHA will host a Pee wee and Midget Rep team next season but will not have enough players to host a Bantam Rep team. BC Hockey is offering Zone teams for Bantam and Midget in the West Kootenays. Camps were scheduled for April but have been postponed.

NMHA also continues to offer support for our Goalies with development sessions throughout the season. We are excited to announce that our Board has decided to add a Goalie Director to our board to oversee all of our goalies and ensure they are getting the development they need.

It has been a pleasure working with the NMH board again this season and I feel we are very lucky to have such a great group who are passionate and dedicated to doing what they do for the KIDS! This board does a great job being reasonable and objective. We continue to have MANY vacant positions and it puts extra work load on the board members having to fill in those positions on top of their position. It would be great if we could get all the positions filled this year.

Again, I just want to say thank everyone who is involved in hockey, we couldn't do it without you!

I will continue to keep you informed as to the status of our season. Let's keep our fingers crossed! I hope to see you at the rink.

Lisa Upper - President