

PJH Board of Directors Candidate Information: Tom O'Connor

I have served on the Portland Jr. Hawks Board of Directors for the past two years, and ask for your vote to be re-elected for a three-year term. My last two years as House League Director have been both busy and rewarding – our House league has seen significant administrative and on-ice improvement and I have no doubt that incoming House League Director Lester Sparks will continue to elevate the program. In addition to my House League role, this past year I negotiated ice time arrangements for our House and Rep programs with our three primary local ice rinks, and worked hard to ensure ongoing excellent communication with the managers of these facilities.

On the ice I have had the privilege of coaching many of your children as young players in the PJH organization. I have served as a head coach in our developmental Mite Division for two years, as an assistant coach at the Squirt House and Girls 12-and-under levels, and also attained my USA Hockey Level 4 Coaching Certification this past season. In addition, I have coordinated PJH's in-season Goalie Development Program for the past two years, and initiated, coordinated and coached at Portland area summer goalie camps for the past three years. And of course I am a hockey parent - my daughter Katie will be a second-year Peewee and my son Graham will be a first-year Squirt this coming season.

I ask you to vote for my reelection to the Board of Directors so I may continue addressing issues that concern all of us in the Portland hockey community. Based on the strengths of the elected candidates, I am willing to serve in any open Board position. Though I enjoyed the daily "care and feeding" required by the House League Director position, I hope to serve in more of an administrative and strategic capacity in future years. The major issues I see facing PJH are:

- Facilities: Plain and simple, we have a shortage of ice to grow the great game of hockey in Portland, and it is getting worse. Strategic planning is imperative to maximize ice use at existing facilities and realistically look at options for new ice facilities.
- Cost containment: How do we make Rep hockey more affordable? How do we lower the entry and ongoing price points for House hockey? Sponsorship, fundraising, appropriate budgeting, increased volunteerism coupled with appropriate paid services – all of these are elements of a strong cost-effective hockey program.
- Player & Coaching Development: What developmental and/or intake programs can PJH sponsor to grow the sport? How do we ensure a strong House league that feeds a first-class Rep program? We must also prioritize utilizing our top coaches to train other coaches and distribute expertise throughout all levels of the organization.
- Administration: Bylaws and policies need a thorough update. Even though we are volunteers, we must be "professional" when it comes to administering the 501-c-3 corporation that is Portland Jr. Hawks.
- Organizational Relationships: We need to be positively engaged with local rink management, high school and junior hockey programs, state, regional, and national hockey organizations, and maintain on and off ice relationships with other associations like ours. All of this takes concerted effort from multiple levels of PJH.

Background: In addition to my above listed hockey specific experience as a current PJH Board member and coach, I hold a B.A. in Management and Organizational Leadership from George Fox University and am a certified Professional in Human Resources. I have been a paramedic and firefighter for 16 years and am part of the management team at Canby Fire District, where I currently serve as Division Chief of

Emergency Medical Services and Safety. My wife Joan and I live in Canby with our two little hockey players, and in addition to hockey we are all also active in local youth lacrosse.