



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*



## Candidates for the CRAA Board of Directors 2021-2022

### Board of Directors

#### Executive

##### **Dale Peters - President**

Previously managed AAA CFR Chemical Bisons. Assistant Coach with the Airdrie Thunder HJHL. Previous years managed in Royals: Midget AA Gold, Bantam AAA, AAA Minor Midget and AAA Midget Royals. Director of Hockey Operations for the Wheatland Kings in HJHL. Sits as a Director for the AMMHL. Previously Coach and General Manager in the MJHL, SJHL and AAA SMHL. Owner of team in the NSJHL. Ex Referee in MJHL, MSHL, SJHL and WHL. Was a board member for 4 years with Bow Valley. Ex member of the RCMP.

##### **Jim Gilholme – Vice President**

Jim has been involved with the Calgary Royals Athletic Association since the 2012-2013 season when his son first played for the Royals. Upon his son completing his fifth and final season with the Royals Jim joined the CRAA Board as a Team Director. Jim is now entering his fifth year serving on the Board, most recently as VP, Hockey Operations (U16/U18). His focus is on evolving the off-ice and on ice programs the Royals offer ensuring the players and coaches are provided with the tools to grow and continuously improve.

##### **Juanita Renwick - Vice President**

Juanita was born and raised in Edmonton Alberta. Volunteering in the community was instilled in her at a very young age with both parents involved in not for profit and youth sports. As a youth, Juanita volunteered at the Humane Society and the local arena. Upon completing a degree in Criminology at Grant MacEwan College, she moved to Calgary to pursue a career in Private Investigation moving on to the Human Resources in the Oil and Gas Industry.

Stepping away from her career, she changed her focus on raising her two children. As they began to follow their passions in soccer, dance and hockey, she once again found her true passion. When her son started hockey in 2009, Juanita was that parent that stepped up to be the Manager, Treasurer, Social coordinator, carpool organizer or whatever volunteer spot was empty. She understood the importance of the volunteer. This led to joining the Southwest (previously Shaw Meadows) Board. Spending over 10 plus years with Southwest Hockey & Hockey Calgary, Juanita held such roles as Atom and Peewee League Chair, Parent Liaison, Division Coordinator, Evaluations Coordinator, Evaluator as well as numerous Director roles as Fundraising, Discipline, Evaluations and Community Relations.

In 2018, Juanita stepped into a career opportunity that allowed her to apply her knowledge and passion for youth hockey to the soccer community. She joined Calgary Minor Soccer Association, the governing body of soccer, as an Executive Assistant. Her responsibilities include supporting 20,000 players who participate in soccer in Calgary, act as the liaison for the



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*

---

---



37 clubs that are a part of CMSA, pursue not for profit grant opportunities and work with such organizations as KidSport, JumpStart, Soccer Heroes and Immigrant Services providing access to sports for all kids. She is also responsible for the administration and support of the Executive Director and the 14 Board of Directors as well as act as Interim Chair for Women in Soccer (growing the game of soccer amongst female athletes).

When Juanita is not busy with hockey and soccer, she also volunteers with her daughter's competitive dance organization and assists smaller not for profit organizations with grant research and applications.

### **Leah Belsher - Treasurer**

Leah acted as Treasurer for the Bantam AA Gold team during the 2019/2020 season and is happy to accept the nomination for Team Treasurer Director. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant with over 25 years of experience and has held various leadership roles in finance during her career. A native Calgarian, Leah has a teenage daughter and twin boys, who are both actively involved in hockey. She has volunteered as tournament coordinator and team treasurer for several years within the Trails West Hockey Association. Leah enjoys giving back to the community, was a volunteer coordinator for Calgary's Community Kitchen program for eight years, and has volunteered on two dental missions to Guatemala with Kindness in Action.

### **Aaron Mills - Secretary**

Aaron was raised in Calgary and played minor sports throughout his entire childhood. He has both watched and coached his two sons play hockey for the past 10 years. He was involved with Trails West hockey evaluations for 8 years, acting as an Evaluations Coordinator for 4 of those years. He believes that playing minor sports develops character traits that help in all aspects of life. Aaron is a General Manager in the oil and gas industry and his experience in this business has developed a number of skills that can carry over to assist with the Royals. Aaron appreciates the opportunity to volunteer for this position and hopes that his passion for hockey will be of value to the association.



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*

---

---



## **Directors**

### **Tammy Anderson**

Tammy has been involved with the Calgary Royals for the past two years. Her son has played Bantam AA and Bantam AAA for the last two years. She has enjoyed watching him develop as a player and a person with the teaching and support of his coaches and teammates. I feel that volunteering for the Royals is a great way to give back to the organization and be a supportive member on the board. I believe this organization is helping to teach our young men the skills to become stronger individuals as they grow. In my profession, I have been working as a nurse primarily in the area of mental health and trauma care for the past 20 years.

### **Leah Belsher**

Leah acted as Treasurer for the Bantam AA Gold team during the 2019/2020 season and is happy to accept the nomination for Team Treasurer Director. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant with over 25 years of experience and has held various leadership roles in finance during her career. A native Calgarian, Leah has a teenage daughter and twin boys, who are both actively involved in hockey. She has volunteered as tournament coordinator and team treasurer for several years within the Trails West Hockey Association. Leah enjoys giving back to the community, was a volunteer coordinator for Calgary's Community Kitchen program for eight years, and has volunteered on two dental missions to Guatemala with Kindness in Action.

### **Daniel Danis**

I was born and raised in Calgary and played hockey for twelve years. I have coached hockey, soccer, basketball and volleyball at many different levels. I have worked in education for over twenty years in the capacity of teacher, vice-principal, principal and now as a Director of Instructional Services for the Calgary Catholic School system. Some of my portfolios include the Hockey Canada School programs, Professional Development for all teachers, Teacher Mentorship Programs and High School Athletics. I have sat on many Boards such as the Calgary Education Partnership Foundation, the Alberta Assessment Consortium and the Calgary High School Athletics Association. I have three sons who all play hockey. During the 2016-17 year my oldest played for the Royals Minor Midget AAA Blue, my second played for the Royals Bantam AA Gold and my youngest played Pee wee for Glenlake. I have a passion for hockey and I would like to be actively involved and would love to give back to the Royals community.

### **Liz Desjardins**

Liz is the current Director of Banquet and Scholarship and in her fourth year on the Board. She was the team treasurer for a Royals team the previous year. Before that, she was the team treasurer for a Glenlake community team. Her son has played for 5 years with the Royals. She appreciates the opportunity to give back to a great community. She believes the hockey association is teaching the athletes more than just hockey skills. It is instilling discipline, commitment, perseverance and comradery while creating positive young successful adults. In her professional capacity, Liz is an Investment Advisor.



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*



## **Lee Emond**

I am the father of two sons (15 & 17 years old) who have participated in many different sports over the past fourteen years. Throughout this time, I have been an active community member filling the roles of: head coach and assistant coach for soccer, lacrosse, flag football and tee ball. I am also a former member of the Canadian Professional Golf Association and hold a Class A Designation. Because of this designation, I still actively teach golf lessons. I enjoy giving back to the community and I accomplish this through many platforms of volunteerism. Below are some of the events and functions I am and have been a part of:

- Downtown Attractions (2005-Present): Part of the Calgary Stampede Breakfast Committee that works the Premiers Breakfast during Stampede, along with various elementary schools city-wide.
- PSAC Education Fund Golf Committee (2006-2018): On this committee, we raise awareness for PSAC and its member companies while generating close to \$600,000 for schools across the province.
- STARS & SPURS GALA COMMITTEE (2008-2016): I have been part of the Committee that raised over \$8 million dollars in the last 9 years.
- Ladies Professional Golf Association, LPGA (2009 & 2016): Volunteered as a Standard Bearer at the Canadian Women's Open hosted by the Priddis Golf and Country Club
- World Junior Hockey Championships (2012 in Calgary): Volunteered at the Information Desk
- Shaw Meadows Hockey Association (2013-2015): Director of Coaches

Currently I am the Director of Business Development for Medical Services Canada International SOS. I have been actively involved these past few months with the COVID 19 Pandemic arranging Doctors, Nurses and Paramedical staff to support screening efforts and site protocols across Canada. Due to my background in sports and volunteering, I feel I would be able to contribute positively to the Royals Hockey Association.

## **Diana Hartford**

Diana has been involved with the Calgary Royals both as a parent and as a director for the last 10 years. Besides being the Bingo Director for the Royals, she is the Vice President of the Best Bingo Association and works full time with the Calgary Stampede as the Lotteries Manager. She has two sons who both were on the Junior B Gold team this past season, one as a player and one as a coach.

Diana appreciates the opportunity to give back to the hockey community by volunteering with the Calgary Royals.



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*

---

---



## **Mark Josefchak**

Prior to his current role as Director of the MAAA team within the Royals, Mark was BAAG coordinator, President CRAA, and ice coordinator. Mark has also been an active board member of the Glenlake Minor Hockey Association for 8 years acting in multiple capacities including division coordinator, referee coordinator, vice president, and president and past president. In addition, Mark has also been an active board member of the South West Arenas Society for 3 years. He was also chairperson of Providence Children's Centre and was an active board member there for 10 years. He was a basketball coach for high school basketball and community basketball and continues to be active playing basketball and other sports.

## **Aaron Mills**

Aaron was raised in Calgary and played minor sports throughout his entire childhood. He has both watched and coached his two sons play hockey for the past 10 years. He was involved with Trails west hockey evaluations for 8 years, acting as an Evaluations Coordinator for 4 of those years. He believes that playing minor sports develops character traits that help in all aspects of life. Aaron is a General Manager in the oil and gas industry and his experience in this business has developed a number of skills that can carry over to assist with the Royals. Aaron appreciates the opportunity to volunteer for this position and hopes that his passion for hockey will be of value to the association.

## **John Mitchell**

My years of experience start in Manitoba and I was playing in the men's league at 16 years old in a small town. After going to the U of M I was very involved in the Boy Scouts of Canada; as a leader then the youngest District Commissioner and on to organizing the largest international non Jamboree trip to the USA with 59 boys and 15 leaders under my direction. After moving to Calgary in 95 I coached mostly midgets and junior B in NE Calgary, SW in Southland then with the Buffs. After coaching Jr B Buffs 3 years I went on to the Board and Dale Peters was my coach. During this period I was also a Director with Macs Midget for some 12 years with hands on at the Father David Bower and Flames Arenas in the S W. I have served 1 year on the Royals board as the Bantam AA White Coordinator. Presently I run my own legal business and have a contract with X Copper in Ontario with a local Calgary office.

## **Lee Morris**

Born in England, we moved to Canada when I was 12. I was raised in Ontario where I played minor soccer and in the Ontario Soccer League. I also played Squash which culminated with two Provincial titles and playing in one professional tournament. I have served on the CRAA Board for 14 years in total in various capacities including 12 years as a Team Director, Ice Coordinator & VP of Hockey Operations (U16/U18). We have two sons that were fortunate and had the skillset to play for the Royals and beyond. Opening the line of communication between coaching staff, board and parents is exciting and paramount for the development of youth as they discover their talents and grow. When not at the rink or thinking about hockey, I am a Fire Protection Specialist for Convergent Technologies Canada and enjoy biking (both road and trail).



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*

---

---



## **Dennis Mulholland**

For three years (and currently), I have been Manager of the Calgary Royals Junior B Blue. I was Manager of the year Calgary Royals organization for 2019/20 season. I am proud of the work I have done over the years with Trails West, Hockey Calgary and officials to support player performance and behaviour through conflict resolution. I have been active in Calgary Squash community for 40+ years as a player and on organizing committees for tournaments at the City, Provincial, Western Canadian Championships, and National levels.

All three of my children were involved in hockey and lacrosse for many years and I participated in different capacities in coaching and managing for both hockey and lacrosse.

It is my long-held belief that sports are an opportunity to help create better and more successful human beings. It is a passion of mine to help inspire kids to become mature adults equipped with life-long skills learned through sport.

## **Laurie Quinn**

I have been involved in hockey for many years. I have managed both my son's and daughter's teams at Glenlake since they started in Timbits. I have both organized and headed up tournaments, included a trip to France for our Atom team (with our Head Coach) and many fundraisers/silent auctions. I have previously sat on the Board for my daughter's Irish Dance School parent organization, with my role being fundraising. Previously, I have volunteered for the Calgary Buffaloes when my nephew played for them in Bantam/Midget AA and AAA. I remember when I was younger, helping my Mom when she volunteered for BlueLine when my brother played Bantam and Midget for the Calgary Royals.

## **Kevin Stirling**

Currently a Director, past Bantam AA Coordinator, mac's midget coordinator and conditioning camps coordinator for CRAA, previously I was involved for many years with the Shaw meadows hockey association as Evaluations coordinator for 2 years and as the novice coordinator for 2 years. I was also a member of the Fish Creek Baseball Association. I am a dedicated father of three, 2 daughters and one son. I am A Facility Manager at the University of Calgary looking after the foothills medical campus. I run our united way giving campaign throughout the university. Last year we gave our community 749,000\$. I have a passion for hockey and I would like to be actively involved and would love to give back to the Royals community.

## **Denise Whiteley**

Denise is a Partner at Warren Benson Amantea LLP. She has a son entering minor midget this year with the Royals. She was previously the Secretary at Trails West Hockey Association and was a voting Board member for the last 5 years. She was also a team manager and tournament coordinator for 4 years. Denise was a board member for the Sabrecats Lacrosse Association for the last 2 years dealing with equipment and tournaments. Volunteer at Alex in Calgary, Calgary Bar association and Habitat for Humanity. Enjoys golfing, hiking and watching any and all minor sports but mostly hockey, lacrosse and soccer



# CALGARY ROYALS HOCKEY CLUB

*Calgary Royals Athletic Association*

---

---



## **Kris Zack**

Kris is currently Managing Director, Capital Markets @ Desjardins; CA and CFA Charterholder. His son is moving to Midget next year; played both Bantam years with the Royals. He has a passion for hockey; the combination of being involved in competitive/elite level team sports and academic excellence is a priority for all three of our children. We highly value our son's participation in the Royals and believe in contributing to the ongoing success of the organization. We have always looked to participate off-ice in his 10 years of hockey that includes encouraging an emphasis on teams giving back to the community (making meals as a team for the homeless is something we often host at our place). How can I help the Royals? I believe in constant growth and improvement is vital for the organization that includes ensuring a positive experience for the players. Over my professional career, I have developed strong communication skills and believe that I have the ability to build relationships that will help guide positive outcomes for the organization. I can also contribute significant experience in financial matters.