**Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association**

**Special Annual General Meeting**

**Final Notice**

**Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:00 PM**

The annual general meeting will be conducted virtually.

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Election of Board of Directors 2021-22

4. New Business

5. Adjournment

**Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association**

**Board of Directors 2021-22**

The Board of Directors has four returning members:

* Trevor Johnson - President
* Daniel Roy - Vice President
* Irene Hebert - Director
* Sean Rand - Director

There are three nominees for new Board members:

Cathy Skene - Treasurer

My name is Cathy Skene. I am the second of four children and I grew up near Dryden ON. My childhood was spent climbing rocks, hiking, tobogganing and picking blueberries. I am a rarity: a Canadian that cannot ice skate. As we were a one car family my mom had no vehicle to drive us to a rink, and we couldn’t build a rink in our yard because it would have damaged the septic field. But I can toboggan!

When I finished high school, I moved to Winnipeg searching for adventure, but instead found the Certified General Accountants (CGA program). By the time I earned my designation I was married, with one child and another on the way. A third followed a few years later.

Because good child care was very scarce in those years, and my daughter was born with disabilities, I was mostly a stay-at-home parent, but I did teach evening classes at Red River College. When I was asked to join the college full time, I accepted happily, because the hours allowed me to spend more time with my family than the usual corporate job would have.

Later, I worked for Assiniboine Community College as a distance education and course developer, and I retired after ten years at Yellowquill College.

During this time, I also completed a BA, and a Masters of Art in Adult Education, both on a part-time basis.

My volunteer hours included chairing the parent council at my children’s school, board and finance work with Northend Ministry and L’Arche Winnipeg, and smoking harm reduction work with the Manitoba Lung Association.

Currently I am a Rotarian, and finance chair for Bookmates. I enjoy reading, writing, walking and attending the WSO, MB Opera and Prairie Theatre Exchange, as well as continuing to learn new things.

Tara Birch - Director

My name is Tara Birch and I am a 45 year old busy mother of four. I work full time as a Pension Administrator at an actuary firm, which continually expands my knowledge of math, organization and finances. My youngest daughter was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at 18 months and our family have been working on advocacy and fighting for people with differing abilities since. I've been actively involved with the Board, now as President, and with their Bike Race Fundraiser since shortly after her diagnosis.

I have been an athlete and active person all my life, still working out and playing on soccer and volleyball teams. I've also been a manager for my kids' hockey teams for several years and have learned how the inner workings of a team and sports associations work.

I owned my own small business of teaching piano lessons for over 20 years which brought with it savvy business skills, high-level organizational and communication skills, and a whole lot of patience.

I love giving time and energy in a voluntary capacity, and look forward to giving this to the MWSA.

Leanne Taylor - Director

 I am a Canadian Elite paratriathlete, pharmaceutical compliance officer and have been a full time wheelchair user since sustaining a T11 spinal cord injury in the summer of 2018. In the three short years since becoming a member of the disability community I have relied on the support of the community to accomplish a great deal. From learning to drive, to making adaptations to my house, so many of my endeavours have been supported by individuals within the community in Manitoba. One of the biggest impacts that the community has made on my life is introducing me to sport. Sport helped me to feel strong and capable at a time when life made me feel the opposite. Now, I would like to use my skills and experiences to give back to the community which has given so much to me. In the past I have coached volleyball and nordic skiing, been a certified life-guard and swim instructor and served as an executive member of my University's triathlon team. I have assisted in the organization of triathlon races and volleyball tournaments and have been involved in fundraising for various teams and organizations. I hope to use the skills that I obtained from these experiences to help open doors for aspiring athletes of all levels.