

President's Statement
May 29, 2007
Amherst Skating Club
General Meeting

I would like to thank everyone for coming to the Spring Membership meeting. I wrote my first President's statement for the fall meeting, and I believe that this form of communication is helpful.

The membership has recently elected 3 new Board members; I would like to welcome Marlee Mu, Brandon Piasecki and Cameron Townsend. The Board recently appointed Dr. Li. Zhang for the remainder of a 2-year term and Jill Gordon for a 1-year term. I would like to thank all of our members who recently participated in our elections. Volunteers are vital to our club! I would also like to thank our outgoing board members.

The principal role of the Board is to maintain the financial integrity of the club; I believe that the board this year has fulfilled its responsibility.

Financially, the Amherst Skating Club continues to do well. The club is still making a profit. This year our ice costs went up by over \$17,000 but we were able to avoid passing this cost on to our members. High interest rates and well placed CD investments have contributed to this. The success of our Skate with Us program continues to allow us to enjoy lower ice rates than many area clubs. We expect that the ice rates will continue to rise, the board will make every effort to continue to hold members costs down.

The Skate with US program is also our source for new club members. The Board would like to continue to explore ways to increase the number of skaters from SWU that join our club. Communication and information are both important to do this. It is our hope that within the year we will have a program in place that will encourage more SWU skaters to join.

The club continues to have difficulty getting monitors, especially for our senior sessions. The mandatory monitor fee is still essential. The fee is in place to encourage every family to help do their share of monitoring. The monitor fee may be earned by playing music during our sessions, junior coaching our SWU classes, or adults who would like to help with Snowplow Sam classes.

Volunteers are vital to our club. I would like to acknowledge some of our members who have filled important roles this past year. Thanks to Kim Cercone, our Monitor chair, who finds our monitors, tallies their hours and deals with countless small headaches every month. I would also like to thank Paul Deppe, our web master. Paul keeps the information current on our web site, but is also helpful in a thousand different ways. Most recently Paul spent hours arranging a meeting with Time Warner and preparing a PowerPoint presentation, in the hope of attracting them as our major sponsor for the upcoming North Atlantic Regional Competition.

North Atlantic looms on the horizon. The committee will begin in earnest, planning and working to make this event a success. We will be meeting several times over the summer and any one who wishes to help is welcome to come and

hear what we are doing. We can always use more help especially with registration, sponsorship, convening and hospitality.

The results of the survey pertaining to the switch policy are in. A large majority of the membership is in favor of allowing switches on full session. The board will be forming a policy that will be distributed to the membership soon. This policy will be as straightforward as possible, and will hopefully be easy to follow.

Another concern regarding our ice is ice etiquette. The junior board will be holding ice etiquette classes over the next few months. We hope that all of our skaters will listen and follow the ice rules. Safety and courtesy are always important on our ice.

Our skating club is doing well, we have welcomed some new members this year and our ice sessions are selling, many to capacity. The ice committee continues to work with the coaches and the Pepsi center to try and offer the best schedule we can. We have many new skaters and some of our more popular sessions are full. We will make every effort to accommodate all of our members, but sometimes there is no more ice to be had. Please understand that we are trying our best.

Pam Hart and I traveled to Reno at the beginning of May to attend this years Governing Council Meeting for US Figure skating. This is the annual meeting for the governing body of our sport. The meetings were very informational and inspiring. It has become apparent that our by laws are in need of revision. I would like to set up a committee to work on this task. Hopefully we will be able to present the new bylaws at the November membership meeting. If anyone is interested in helping please contact me.

The 3rd annual Ice Show was presented on May 12, and this was also more successful than we could have hoped. Over 80 skaters participated in one of our 2 shows. I would like to thank the committee members, Bev Zuchlewski, Val White and Kathy Tzetzso, the Junior Board and Heidi Hyla, who all worked so hard to put on the show. It is always wonderful to see our skaters performing.

This Friday evening we will host our awards banquet and celebrate another year of skating. This is a time to celebrate our member's accomplishments and enjoy each other's company. Hope we see you there.

Johanna Calvert