



# **Bison Blueline**

BYHA Newsletter – March 2026

## **Gambling Report:**

Julie gave the gambling report update. Started 6:30pm

Reporting on the month of January (always report 2 months behind). Thank you to all of our members who continue to support our gambling partners.

BYHA continues to receive a 5-Star rating for our gambling operations this month.

## **Board Members Present:**

Matt A., Deb, Jeremy, Kent, Matt R., Adam, Dan, Jake, Brandon and Shannon

Julie is requesting \$182,700 for the month of March.

A motion was made to approve \$182,700 (\$132,700 for gambling expenses and \$50,000 for the BYHA).

- Kent 1<sup>st</sup>, Adam 2<sup>nd</sup>. No Discussion. Approved and Motion Passed (8-0).

<b>Profit Carryover From this Month</b>	<b>191,204.66</b>
<b>Carry over increase / (decrease)</b>	<b>(\$4,688.12)</b>
<b>Gambling Operating Expense Request (Includes graduated tax rate)</b>	<b>\$182,700</b>

**The board meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.**

## **Event Schedule**

### **HOC Meeting**

Meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday during the BOD meeting April 8th, 2026 at 6:30pm

### **BYHA Board Meeting**

Second Wednesday of the month @ 6:30pm  
Next Meeting will be April 8th

## **Gambling**

### **THIRSTY BUFFALO**

**Bingo:** Monday 7:00pm – 9:00pm.  
**Pulltabs:** Sunday (12-10pm), Monday -Thursday (12-11pm), Friday (12-Midnight) and Saturday (11-12pm)  
**Meat Raffle:** Thursday @ 5:30pm, Sunday @ 4:00pm

### **THE HEIGHTS - BUFFALO**

**Pulltabs:** Sunday – Saturday 11am-11pm

### **J'S DOWN UND'R - BUFFALO**

**Pulltabs:** Monday-Thursday 3pm-11pm, Friday-Sunday 12pm-12am  
**Meat Raffle:** Saturday 4:00pm

### **TAP INN WILD MARSH - BUFFALO**

**Pulltabs:** 11am-10pm

### **EVELYN'S WINE BAR - BUFFALO**

**Pulltabs and ETags:** 5pm-9pm

### **HAYES' PUBLIC HOUSE - BUFFALO**

**ETags**



**Attendance: 10 Directors**

Matt Adams, Deb Blaeser, Jeremy Welter, Kent Baker, Matt Rickheim, Adam Hennen, Jake Comee, Dan Gladu, Brandon Gladu and Shannon Worden

**Visitors:**

**Members Present:**

Jess Lenton, Shylla Webb, Samantha Hack, Breanna Bouley

**President Report:**

We would like to invite all our members to our monthly board meetings. These are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at the Buffalo Civic Center in the Purple Rink Conference Room.

*A two-week notice to the President is requested for time on the agenda.*

Shylla Webb brought forward concerns regarding social media posts and what if anything the BYHA can do about it.

**Secretary Report:**

A motion to approve minutes for month of February 2026

- Shannon 1<sup>st</sup>, Adam 2<sup>nd</sup>. No Discussion. All Approved and motion passed (9-0).

**Treasurer Report:**

**Actuals:**

- 1.Cash Balance (from prior month): \$538,188.51
- 2.Expenses paid: \$124,031.28 in expenses in February 2026
- 3.Estimated expenses upcoming: Anticipate expenses of \$60,000 in March 2026
- 4.Income received (prior month): \$57,825 in revenues
- 5.Estimated income upcoming: Anticipate revenues of \$50,227 in March 2026

A motion was made to approve the treasurer report.

- Alex 1st, Adam 2nd. No Discussion and motion passed (9,0)



BYHA has a Venmo account. Parents can make payments through our Venmo account using the account name @BYHA-MN and code 3967

### HOC Report

Members of the BYHA are able to attend this meeting. If you would like to be placed on the HOC Agenda, a two-week notice to the HOC VP is required.

The HOC meeting time has changed to the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm and will be combined with the Board meeting.

### HOC Department Updates:

- **VP** - There are multiple open positions for next season. Check the website for a list of open positions. There is another applicant for the Hockey Director position.
- **Player Development** - Looking to book the checking clinic earlier this year for the older players. HP prep practices are underway - thank you for the ice time.
- **Squirts** - Positive feedback for the 3v3 games and bringing in other associations to play.
- **Peewees** - All teams had a great turnout at districts. Lots to be proud of for the season.
- **Girls High School** - No updates at this time.
- **Boys High School** - Registration is open for spring and summer skills.
- **Coaching Coordinators** - Received end of season feedback from coaches. One topic was the number of late practices for the older players and how it felt like more than in years past.
- **Girls Coordinators** - No movement with the co-op for next season. Good luck to the U15A at the State Tournament in Baudette.
- **Goalie Coordinators** - Clinics are complete. Mega post-season review coming soon.
- **Mite/8U Coordinators** - Need a better protocol in place for mite gear as there is a lot of gear missing at the end of the season.
- **Try-Outs** - No updates at this time.



- **Jr. Gold** - No update at this time.
- **Away Tournament Coordinator** - Discussion about reducing the number of tournaments per season back to three. Further discussion to take place in April.
- **Home Tournament Coordinator** - District games went well in Buffalo. Breanna did a great job stepping up as the new home tournament coordinator. Discussion about possibly hosting a 15s tournament next season.
- **Ice Schedulers** - JP will take over the ice scheduling next season.
- **Teams/ABC** - No updates at this time

### Vice President

Eight candidates are running for the five open Board positions. Bios will be sent to BYHA members in the next week. Elections take place on April 8th from 6-8:30pm in the conference room. Looking into a spring or fall gear swap/yard sale. More information to come.

### District 5 Report:

No updates at this time.

### Concession Stand:

No updates at this time.

### Apparel:

New help being trained in and getting ready to take over for next season.

### Equipment Report:

Jersey turn in was a success.

### Volunteer Report:

No updates at this time.



**City of Buffalo:**

Meeting with representatives from the city to discuss the plan for a new rink happened last month. Facility study taking place to build a Fieldhouse to accommodate soccer, baseball, lacrosse, softball and hockey.

**Registration Report:**

Looking for a new registration coordinator for the 2026-2027 season.

**SafeSport:**

Working to close out one report. Two are still open and active.

**Advertising/Sponsorship/Fundraising:**

Ice-In will look different next year, more details to come. Looking into event at the Legion with bingo, gun raffle, music, etc.

Possibly moving away from wreath fundraiser to pizzas or something different.

**Marketing/Recruitment/Retention:**

Rookie Bison camp begins March 22nd. Registration numbers are up from last season. More equipment bags are needed.

Applying for grant through MN Wild Foundation - money would be used to outfit association with gear.

**Culture/Sportsmanship**

No updates at this time.

**Mentorship Program**

No updates at this time.

**New Business:**

There will be five open BOD positions in April. Elections will take place on April 8th 6-8:30pm in the upstairs meeting room.



**Additional Notes:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

***Voting for BYHA elections are 6:00-8:30pm on April 8th in the Purple meeting room.***

***Below are the 2026 BYHA Board Election Bios and Sample Ballot***

(There are five open positions this election)

**Dan Adams**

Greetings BYHA, my name is Dan Adams and I am throwing my hat in the ring for a seat on the Board of Directors with our association. My wife Briana and I are the proud parents to 5 sons, Jackson(16), Nicklaus(14), Maxwell(12), Kaiser(10) and James (5), all of whom are or were skaters in the association over the last 10 years. Currently we're planning on 4 out of 5 returning next year as well. Through the duration of our time with BYHA we have seen the many facets through which the board operates to help improve our association and our community. I believe that my years of experience having skaters at all levels of BYHA and hundreds of hours spent at the rink in our hockey family would qualify me to offer guidance and leadership in steering the future of the BYHA. Philosophically, I believe players and coaches need to be supported at all levels with equal opportunity and access to the facilities, training and opportunities. Growth and development is not an even process for all skaters and making sure that we remain invested in every player as they progress through their time with us should be our primary focus. After all, having our children participate in a positive, structured, team experience is why we are all here and with your support, I will push to keep BYHA a place where we remember "it's for the Kids!"

**Jolene Frank**

My name is Jolene Frank, my husband Keith and our family live in Clearwater. In our very limited free time we enjoy spending time outdoors which often includes camping, fishing, gardening and currently making lots of maple syrup. We have three children who have all come up through the Buffalo youth hockey program. Currently, two of my kids are active players—one just completed his first year of



Squirts, and my daughter recently finished her second year of 8U. Our family has experienced the positive impact of BYHA at every level, and those experiences have motivated me to get more involved.

For the past three years, I have served as part of the Mite Coordinator team as the Rookie Bison Coordinator (formerly One Goal and Learn to Play). In this role, I have had the privilege of helping new families enter the sport, supporting early skill development, and building excitement for hockey in our youngest players. Working closely with coaches and parents has allowed me to see firsthand how meaningful a strong, supportive hockey culture is for kids. I have also had the opportunity to revive the TEAM program (Together Everyone Achieves More) which was completed with the player attribute pins handed out throughout the mite and mini mite levels.

I am seeking a position on the BYHA Board because I am committed to helping foster a rich, positive, and inclusive environment where all players can develop their skills, build confidence, and feel a true sense of belonging. I believe in creating pathways for every child to grow—on and off the ice—and I look forward to contributing to a program that continues to thrive for future families.

Thank you for your support.

**Samantha Hack**

Hello,

I want to start by saying how incredibly proud I am to be part of the Buffalo community and to have our children involved in the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association (BYHA). My husband and I have lived in Buffalo for 11 years, and our twin boys just completed their first season of Mites and their second year skating with BYHA.

Over the past two years with BYHA, we have built many meaningful friendships with the families in our association. It has been wonderful to be part of such a supportive and passionate hockey community.

During this time, I have also had the opportunity to learn more about how our association operates while helping as a co-coordinator for the DIBS program. Through this role, I have seen firsthand the dedication, time, and love of the game



that our volunteers and families contribute. It has truly been inspiring to watch our community come together to ensure every player has a positive and memorable season.

I am eager to continue supporting BYHA and hope to bring positive energy and thoughtful ideas to the board. My goal is to help grow our program, promote player development and teamwork, and encourage strong participation from our members so that our association continues to thrive.

Through my professional experience in graphic design, customer service, and management, I have developed strong attention to detail, effective communication skills, and the ability to listen and implement solutions that benefit the entire group. I believe in being a voice for members while also helping lead with collaboration and positivity.

I see opportunities for continued growth within our association, and I am confident that by working together we can continue building an even stronger program. Change can sometimes be challenging, but when we focus on improvement and collaborate as a community, great things can happen.

Seeing our players grow, families connect, and coaches enjoy the game alongside the kids is what makes this association so special. I would be honored to serve on the board and help continue creating a positive experience for everyone involved in Buffalo Youth Hockey.

Thank you,

Samantha Hack

Skaters: Alfred & Colton (1st year Mites)

### **Alisha Hillstrom**

My name is Alisha Hillstrom, and I am excited to put my name forward for a position on the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association Board. I live in Hanover with my husband, our three kids (19- boy, 13- girl, and 7- boy), and our puppy, Pepper. We have lived in Hanover for 2 years now and truly value the tight-knit community we have here in the association, and it's something worth protecting and investing in. Hockey isn't just a sport in our family...it's a way of life. Between our own children and our nieces and nephew who play/played as well, we have spent more of our



winters at the rink than anywhere else. That lifelong connection to the sport is a big part of what draws me to this board.

Our two older children spent 13 years (between them) playing in the Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association, from kindergarten all the way through Bantams (and continuing at the Varsity level through high school) for the oldest, and those years shaped our entire family. Even though I never laced up a pair of skates myself (okay I have, but only when others aren't watching because it's embarrassing!), I learned everything I know about this game and this community spending all of those years at the rink. Throughout those years, I had the privilege of managing 10 youth hockey teams within OMGHA (and coordinating the Varsity travel tournaments), which gave me an inside look at what it takes to run a program well: the logistics, the communication, the parent dynamics, and most importantly, the kids.

Now, our youngest is carrying on the family tradition. He just wrapped up his second season with BYHA as a Mite Purple (Blackhawks), and I served as the Team Manager this past season. Our hockey journey is far from over, and that investment in this association is a big part of why I want to serve on the board.

Professionally, I work as the sole HR professional at a small, locally owned company, a role that has skills that translate directly to board work. Managing HR on your own means you have to be organized, resourceful, and clear-headed under pressure. You learn to juggle competing priorities, handle sensitive situations with discretion, communicate across all levels of an organization, and build processes that actually work for real people. I am also a strong advocate for workplace culture and engagement, and I lead our company's "fun committee," because I firmly believe that when people feel connected and valued, they show up differently. That same philosophy carries right over to youth hockey. When kids feel like they belong and they have fun, they come back (the same goes for the hockey parents!).

What drives me most is simple: I want kids to come back. I want them to return next season because they learned something, because they had fun, and because they built friendships that matter. When a child falls in love with this sport, it stays with them (I've witnessed this with our oldest). Creating that environment, one where players feel supported, challenged, and part of something bigger, is



what great youth hockey programs are built on.

Hockey is a community, and it has given my family so much. Joining the board is my way of giving back to the players, families, and volunteers who make BYHA what it is. I would be honored to bring my experience, my passion, and my commitment to this role.

#### **Kim Hoeneman**

Who is my family? Some of you probably know my son Levi, he started with the BYHA as a mini mite when he was 5. He did 3 years of mini mites where he learned to love the sport of hockey. This season was his first year of mite (gray). My oldest son Jack is 11 and he swims for the WAVE swim club in buffalo for the last 3 years. He doesn't really enjoy high compact sports (hockey isn't for him). We all have our differences that is what makes life enjoyable. Could you imagine if we were all the same? Life would be pretty boring and predictable. They both are doing travel baseball this summer. Then there is Matt, my husband who has helped manage Levi's hockey teams over the last 4 years. Also, has coached Community Ed baseball when our kids did t ball.

Who am I? I am the mother of these two wonderful, energetic, talented, and hilarious children. They definitely keep me on my toes. I grew up in St. Michael. Moved to South Dakota for my nursing degree. Matt and I moved back to be closer to family about 10 years ago. I work for Summit Orthopedics as a Registered Nurse. Perhaps, you are asking yourselves "why is she running for the board"? This is a very good question.

Why am I running for the board? To HELP make a change!! If and when CHANGE is needed. You can't help make a CHANGE from the sidelines or the bleachers. Each new season, I'm sure brings new challenges. BYHA has been a very positive experience for my son. I believe youth sports should be a fun and rewarding environment. We have been part of so many positive outcomes within this organization. We have made great friends along the way. I would be a fresh set of eyes. We plan to continue our hockey journey with BYHA, which is why I have a desire to a part of the process.

Sincerely,  
Kim Hoeneman



**Alex Trogstad**

My name is Alex Trogstad, and I'm excited about the opportunity to join the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association (BYHA) Board.

My wife and I live in Buffalo with our three boys, and we are passionate about youth sports and community involvement - our oldest just finished his first year in BYHA as a mini-mite. I participated in the program as a Squirt, and have continued to play club and intramural hockey into my adult years. I've always believed in the value of structured youth athletics in fostering discipline, teamwork, and personal growth.

Professionally, I've spent my career in financial technology and institutional investment, and currently serve as the Vice President, Sales at Eton Solutions. In addition to my corporate experience, I manage revenue operations at The Insurance Center of Buffalo where I have been involved in business leadership, hiring, and team development.

Beyond my professional life, I'm deeply committed to youth development. I've trained and coached in combat and water sports, worked with law enforcement in a reserve capacity, and have a strong appreciation for structured programs that help young athletes grow both on and off the ice. While I may not have the traditional hockey background, I bring a fresh perspective, strong leadership skills, and a deep passion for supporting youth sports organizations.

If elected, I will focus on fostering a strong community culture, ensuring transparency in decision-making, and supporting both player and program development. I would love the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of Buffalo Youth Hockey and look forward to building relationships with players, parents, and fellow board members.

Thank you for your support!

**Chris Vaughn**

Hello BYHA families, my name is Chris Vaughn and I am honored to be a coach and parent in the Buffalo community. Since moving to Minnesota in 2022, I have had the great fortune of meeting a lot of great kids and wonderful families through coaching my step-son, Wyatt DeBlois, and his teammates in Buffalo. He is finishing up his last year in mites now and looking forward to squirt hockey next



year. My daughter, Willow Vaughn, is two years old and just had her first winter on skates! My wife, Tina, is a familiar face around the rink to many of the mite families. We recently moved to Buffalo in 2025 from Montrose because of how much we love being here. We cherish the friends and relationships that we have found and we want to get involved in the community and the BYHA as much as we can to help further brighten our children's future and make sure they are having the most fun possible while doing so.

I attended Saint John's Northwestern Military Academy for four years of schooling before I enlisted in the Army National Guard for six years. The core values I learned at school and in the Army, strongly align with The Bison Way that's been established here. Respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, accountability, fun, integrity, excellence, loyalty are all values that can be learned here and applied to any and every aspect of life as kids grow to adulthood. As a board member I would love to expand on the Bison Way Core Values and find ways to recognize players when they demonstrate these traits on and off the ice with the goal to build strong leaders in the community. My goal as a coach is always to make sure that I foster a fun and competitive environment for the kids to play hockey while learning to be a good person, teammate and athlete.

Buffalo is a strong tightly knit community where our kids have and will continue to skate with one another for a very long time. They are friends at school and I'm sure more than a few of you are still friends from hockey and you are raising families of your own now. The Buffalo Youth Hockey Association is a staple in this community that brings friends and families close together. We are all proud to represent our athletes and I would love to find ways to help show our Buffalo Hockey pride with projects that will help bring the community together.

If elected, my top priorities will always be to make sure that our hockey players are having fun, getting as much ice time as we can, and growing leaders both on and off the ice to help give back to the Buffalo community. Player development, team comradery, healthy competition and scheduling clarity are important to me as a BYHA parent and coach. They will continue to be important to me as a board member as well. I will do my best to help ensure that we are keeping our athletes' love of the game as the foremost thought in our minds and ensuring we are developing their skills as well as their Bison core values to build better hockey



players and better leaders.  
Thank you for your consideration,  
Chris Vaughn

**Shannon Woods Worden**

My name is Shannon Woods Worden, and I have had the privilege of serving on the Buffalo Youth Hockey Board over the past year. During that time, I've gained valuable insight into how our association operates—what is working well and where we have opportunities to grow. I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving, building on what I've learned to support strong programs and make thoughtful improvements where needed.


I am the parent of two players in the association—one at the Bantam level and one in U8—and like many families, hockey plays an important role in our lives. I strongly believe youth sports are about far more than wins and losses. Hockey helps young athletes build confidence, resilience, and lasting friendships. It promotes physical health while also teaching important life skills such as teamwork, communication, accountability, discipline, and goal setting. Just as importantly, it teaches players how to handle both success and adversity. My motivation for serving on the board is rooted in wanting every player in our program to have a positive experience and develop lifelong skills and love for hockey.

The values outlined in The Bison Way—respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, accountability, integrity, excellence, loyalty, and fun—closely align with my own. I believe these values should be reflected at every level of our association. Creating an environment where players feel supported, challenged, and excited to come to the rink is essential to their development and to the long-term success of our program.

In my professional career, I regularly navigate complex decisions and participate in difficult but productive conversations. I value collaboration and respectful discussion, and I believe differing perspectives help us make stronger, more informed decisions. These skills allow me to contribute thoughtfully and constructively as we continue guiding Buffalo Youth Hockey forward.

I would be honored to continue serving on the Buffalo Youth Hockey Board.



		<b>** OFFICIAL BALLOT **</b>	
<b>2026 BYHA ELECTION BALLOT</b>			
BYHA Members must SIGN IN at April Board meeting to vote. VOTE for UP TO FIVE (5) DIRECTORS. Please mark to the left of selected candidate with (X)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Adams	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Hoeneman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jolene Frank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Trogstad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samantha Hack	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Vaughn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alisha Hillstrom	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Woods Worden
(Write In):			
*Selecting more than 5 candidates will result in an invalid ballot. After marking your ballot, fold the paper in half and place it inside the ballot box			



**Please continue to support the businesses who support us:**

- Allina Health
- Alpine Hardwood
- Bayer Built Woodworks
- Buffalo Pizza
- Community Lawn Care
- CorTrust Bank
- Coborn's Buffalo
- Dunkin' Donuts
- E & M Outdoors
- Evelyn's Wine Bar
- Insurance Center of Buffalo
- J's Down Under
- Just Once Viking Shop
- Lake Country Decks
- North Star Pro Reality
- Omann Brothers Paving
- Otter
- Play It Again Sports - Buffalo
- Ryan Auto Mall
- State Farm – Mark Olson
- State Farm - Troy Crank
- Stellis Health
- The Heights
- Thirsty Buffalo
- Wave Armor
- What's the Scoop?
- Wild Marsh



## BYHA Board of Directors (BOD)

March 2026	Position	Name	Term Expires
X	President	Matt Adams	April 2027
X	Vice President	Deb Blaeser	April 2027
	Secretary	Maria Rosso	April 2026
X	Treasurer	Jeremy Welter	April 2028
X	Director	Kent Baker	April 2027
	Director	Bridget Lindeman	April 2026
X	Director	Jake Comee	April 2026
X	Director	Matt Rickheim	April 2027
X	Director	Adam Hennen	April 2027
X	Director	Dan Gladu	April 2028
X	Director	Brandon Gladu	April 2028
	Director	Alex Trogstad	April 2026
X	Director	Shannon Worden	April 2026

NOTE: 10 Directors were present for March 2026 meeting.



## BYHA Hockey Operations Committee (HOC)

Position	Name
HOC Vice President	Risa Peterson
Coaching Coordinator	
Player Development Co-Coordinators	Adam Stewart Keith Jerpseth
Goalie Development Co-Coordinators	Matt Griffith Nate Dixon
Tryout Co-Coordinator	Mike Peterson
Scheduling Director	Colin & Carly Hribal
Jr. Gold Director	Josh Hawkinson Brent Tanzeisen
Mites/Mini Mites Coordinator	Devon McNamara
HOME Tournament Coordinator	Breanna Bouley
Away Tournament Coordinator	Serinity Kurzhals
Safesport Coordinator	Tina Klaphake
Peewee Director	Chris Pearsall
Squirt Director	Aaron Johnson
Squirt Coordinator	Michelle Munn
Girls Coordinator	Chris Hammer
Boys HS Coach	Aaron Johnson



Girls High School Coach	Ryan Huddy
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# Volunteers

D5 Rep	Adam Hennen
Equipment Manager	Kent Baker
ProShop Manager	Jamie Johnson
Wreath Coordinator	Caitlin Chovan
Marketing Coordinator	Sheryl Workman
Picture Coordinator	Michele Siemek
Registration Coordinator	Bridget Lindeman and Deb Blaser Alicia Kettenacker (Initiation level)
One Goal Coordinator	Matt Griffith Chris Pearsall
S.C.O.R.E. Coordinator	Rissa Schrick
T.E.A.M. Coordinator	Jolene Frank
Advertising/Sponsorship Coordinator	Jeremy Welter Shannon Worden
Travelling Level Team Manager Coordinator	Bridget Lindeman
Initiation Level Team Manager Coordinator	Kelsey Harps
Initiation Mite Events Coordinator	Karin Brinkhoff
Initiation One Goal/Learn 2 Play Coordinators	Karin Brinkhoff Jolene Frank



# BYHA

Buffalo youth hockey association

<b>Initiation Level Scheduler</b>	Emily Starry
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Samantha Hack
	Bethany Gladu
<b>Social Media Coordinator</b>	Deb Blaeser
<b>Rock on Ice Coordinator</b>	Jennifer Kurth
	Deb Blaeser
<b>Webmaster Coordinator</b>	Alyssa Domagala
	Jeremy Welter
<b>Billing Managers</b>	Lakeside Consulting - Sara Kubu
	Jacob Comee
<b>Hall of Fame Committee Chair</b>	Jacob Comee
<b>Gambling Manager</b>	Julie Prince