

Annual Meeting April 19, 2023

I would like to welcome everyone to the annual meeting and thank you for attending.

It's exciting to see Blue Line programs are headed back in the right direction and are getting stronger and continue to grow. Here are some of the highlights of our season.

Figure skating – The Fond du Lac Figure skating club has had a successful year.

This year we have 75 skaters enrolled in classes. This includes Learn to Skate and Freestyle students. Our skaters continue to compete in local competitions and showcase their talent in our Holiday exhibition and Spring Ice Show.

We held our annual Halloween party for our Learn to Skate participants and guests.

The Holiday Exhibition admission is a canned good donation to the Fond du Lac Food pantry. We were able to donate 2000 pounds of food to the food pantry along with a case donation.

Our Spring show this year was themed Surf, Sun, and Skating Fun. We always invite Girl Scouts to skate before the show and they stay to watch. This year we had over 100 Girl Scouts participate in the event.

Our home competition will be held in May with skaters from around the area participating. The Spring class session will start next week, along with skaters attending competitions, test sessions and camps throughout the spring and summer months.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead and would like to thank everyone for their support of figure skating in Fond du Lac.

Synchro 2022-2023

The Fond du Lac Blades continue to be the destination synchro team in Wisconsin. Our partnership with the Wisconsin Edge program in Milwaukee continues to provide a pipeline for athletes to join our strong Fond du Lac FSC skaters. This year we also had members from Madison, Stevens Point, Green Bay, Illinois, and all points in between. We are 90 skaters strong competing at 6 different levels within the United States Figure Skating Association. This year's accomplishments include our Midwest Champion Preliminary level team and the French Cup Silver medalists - our junior TEAM USA. Overall, 19 medals in regional, national, and international competitions were brought home by the Blades.

More importantly than shiny hardware, the Blades continue to operate under the motto "Once a Blade, always a Blade". Teams are a family with alumni from years past still engaged and supportive.

Thanks to the Blueline Board for your continued support of synchronized skating. The Blades are proud to represent Fond du Lac and the Blueline Family Ice Center.

Hockey – This year our program was able to field 21 teams between the coed and girls program, which is the most that I can remember and shows that our program is growing and getting stronger each season. Our girl's program had 7 of the 21 teams including mites and had a very strong year from top to bottom. Our 10U girls team qualified for state tournament finishing 7th, our 14U B team qualified and finished 5th at state and the 14U A team qualified and came home your state champions. Congrats to all!

On the coed side of the program, we had three teams at each level this season. Our Peewee B team qualified for state and finished in 6th place, the Squirt C team qualified for state and finished in 4th, our Squirt B team qualified finishing 3rd, and for the second year in a row our Squirt A team qualified for state and came home your state champion. Congrats to all teams!

Bears – Bears ended a successful season with an overall record of 24-3. The Bears captured their first regular season title since 2010 along with Fond du Lac product Anthony Grebe capturing the league scoring title, first since Bears icon Ryan Blick. The Bears season ended on a sour note in the tournament semifinals on a late goal by eventually tournament champion Mosinee. Bears crowd attendance was the highest since before covid. Also Bears player commitment was the best in many years with the Bears never playing with less than 15 players. Players traveled from Appleton, Eau Claire, Wis Dells, Milwaukee, and Illinois to play for the Bears this season.

Maintenance – With the generous donors from around the community and the help of many, we finished the addition of the Warbirds high school locker room which added two additional youth locker rooms as well. Special thank you to all involved and to Eric Spies for running the show as the construction contact to the finish line. With the addition having an up-to-date fire protection system, our entire facility needed an upgrade, and that work is still underway and pushing close to the finish line. We did get a couple additional projects completed such as updated Wi-Fi, electrical upgrade in the concession stand, piping for fire system repaired, and I know there is a few that I am missing. Our maintenance crew continues to go above and beyond to keep the rink functioning. So, thank you Chris Sabel, Andy Rebek, Dave Whealon, and everyone that helps them complete all the work around the rink.

Rink Manager – Ryan has continued to be a great asset to the club. Ryan is the first person to step up and fill a void when we need help and was a large help with ice scheduling and referee scheduling this season. The continued reliability, trust, and relationships that you have grown around the state, will help our association continue to land large events now and in the future. Thank you, Ryan for all that you do!

And finally, I want to thank all the volunteers and anyone that goes above and beyond to make this club what it is! It brings a large smile to my face when I can travel around the state and listen to people tell me how great we do with our facility and programs, so please know that every volunteer does make a difference.

Thank You!