

BIRKIE

SKI . RUN . BIKE . LIVE!

2016-2017

American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Board Candidate Profile Information

Dear ABSF Board Candidate,

This is your opportunity to introduce yourself to the members of the ABSF. Your answers to the following questions will be included in the Board Election Packet sent to all eligible voting members prior to the election on August 6, 2016. Please submit your profile electronically to board@birkie.com by **June 21, 2016**.

Candidate Name: Charlie Dee
Address: 2004 N. H. Mount Blvd.
City: Milwaukee **State:** WI **Zip:** 53208
Home Phone: 414 559 4667 **Other Phone:** _____
E-Mail Address: ctdee47@gmail.com
Years of Membership in the ABSF: 15+
Occupation: Retired Professor

2016 ABSF BOARD CANDIDATE STATEMENT

After two years on the ABSF Board I'm even more enthusiastic about the Birkie than I was when first elected and more committed to offering my skills and energy to make our world-class event a positive force in people's lives.

Writing this same candidate's statement two years ago, I identified five challenges to tackle, and with the help of volunteers, the Birkie staff, my board colleagues and Phase I contributors, we've met the first four and partially met #5:

1. Establishing a permanent start area and storage facility
2. Recruiting new volunteers
3. Enhancing youth skiing
4. Creating an endowment
5. Establishing better facilities for feed station volunteers and medical staff.

But the challenges keep coming: snowmaking capacity for lean years, making the new Kortelopet schedule work for everyone, a possible Nordic Center at OO, and ensuring transparency and accountability to foundation members, our race participants and volunteers.

Let me focus on transparency and accountability.

To meet the challenges listed above, we on the Birkie Board asked you to contribute your hard-earned dollars to Phase I and now to the newly-initiated Phase II of our Capital Campaign.

It strikes me that since we're soliciting your money, we owe you the assurance that you're contributing to an efficiently-run, transparent, democratic, non-profit organization.

Having almost four decades' experience on non-profit boards, I thought the best way I could contribute to the Birkie was to spend time and energy working with other board members to develop greater efficiency and transparency. So I helped lead an effort on our Documentation Committee to re-write our ineffectual Conflict of Interest policy and to update our By Laws.

Similarly, as a new board member I was curious about the ABSF's policies on such tasks as developing the budget, holding elections, electing officers, and discovered that these only existed in old minutes and were not centrally archived or easily accessible. This had frustrated others on the board also, so we worked together to establish a Policies and Procedures Manual that will soon be accessible on-line to all ABSF members and ensure that new board members are not required to re-invent the wheel every few years.

This is the kind of work that may not be sexy, but it sure is essential if an organization is going to mature in a vigorous and healthy way and be transparent to you, the members.

My greatest passion is developing and nurturing young skiers, so I take great delight in serving on the board's Skier Development Committee where we offer financial incentives to ski clubs and organizations. It's so exciting to read about various programs that folks in our region are creating to get kids interested and sustained in our sport. One of the best things the Birkie does each year is to give grants to help fund these programs.

But the largest source of my pleasure comes from volunteering during Birkie Week and perceiving the Birkie Experience through the eyes of others: our Race Chiefs and volunteers who get Birkie Fever as hot as any skier, participants from other regions and countries experiencing northwestern Wisconsin for the first time, and rookie racers asking questions in the days before the race, allowing me to participate vicariously in that marvelous stew of anxiety, mystery and excitement.

I take seriously the responsibility to sustain and improve an organization that means so much to so many. It's been an honor to dedicate my passion to the Birkie's mission. I'm asking you for another term so I can continue to bring fresh ideas, geographical diversity and my commitment to openness to the ABSF Board.

Charlie Dee
Milwaukee