



American Birkebeiner® Ski Foundation, Inc.  
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**2017 – 2018**  
**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 contact information and answer to the following question will be included in the Board Election Packet sent to all eligible voting members prior to the election on August 5, 2017. Please submit your profile electronically to [board@birkie.com](mailto:board@birkie.com) by **June 20, 2017**.

**Candidate Name:** John Kotar

**Address:** 2662 W Princeton Ave.

**City:** Eau Claire **State:** WI **Zip:** 54703

**Home Phone:** 715-835-1246 **Other Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** jkotar@wisc.edu

**Years of Membership in the ABSF:** 30

**Occupation:** Retired Professor of Forestry (UW-Madison)

**Please respond to the following question (feel free to use additional space).**

Why are you interested in being a member of the ABSF Board of Directors and what knowledge and skills do you possess that can benefit the organization?

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Having served on the ABSF board of directors for a number of years now, I have asked myself and answered this question many times. Looking back, I notice that part of my answer is always the same and other parts really do change. The steady part is that as one of the Birkie Founders I have always had the passion for this event and a concern for its continued success. My attention has been directed primarily toward maintenance and nurture of the rich Norwegian traditions we inherited through the Founder of the American Birkebeiner, Tony Wise. I believe that our unwavering adherence to these roots is a major factor in propelling the American Birkebeiner not only to the summit of cross country ski events in North America, but in the opinion of many international participants, also to the pinnacle of World Loppet events.

June 21, 2017

Other parts of my answer relate to the composition and function of our current Board of Directors and operational staff and to clear evolution of purpose, or mission, of the ABSF as an organization. In my experience, there has never been a more cooperative spirit within the Board, or stronger working relationship with executive director and his staff than we are having right now. The results of this are evident in our incredibly successful capital fund drives and expanded and modernized infrastructure. It is also quite clear that our success is evident not only in the quality of experience of participants in our events, but also in our significant economic contribution to the region and promotion of healthy life style, which were also the original goals of TonyWise.

I would like to think that my dozen-year membership on the leadership team of ABSF contributed to our success and I would welcome the opportunity to continue with our efforts in tackling other challenges and meeting new goals.

**All nomination forms must be received in the ABSF office by no later than June 20, 2017.**

Again, thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your candidate profile and question responses.