

2021-2022 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 questions will be shared with all eligible voting members prior to the election that runs from July 1 – 28, 2021. Please submit your profile electronically in Word format to board@birkie.com by 5:00 pm CST on June 23, 2021.

Candidate Name: HOWARD J. BICHLER

Address: _____ City: PORT WASHINGTON State: WI

Zip: 53074

Are you an ABSF Member: Y N Years of Membership in the ABSF: 1

Occupation: ATTORNEY

Signature of Candidate: _____

ABSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE PROFILE

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?

You must be a current member of the ABSF to run for the Board. If not a current member, you may become a member by visiting www.birkie.com/membership/

June 18, 2021

In February of 1979, I found myself skiing up the down hill slope of Mt. Telemark contemplating the descent before me. Little did I know that the Birkebeiner would soon become a major winter outing for me.

I am in the early stages of retirement from a career as trial lawyer in Northern Wisconsin, concentrating on representing Native Americans and their members.

My career required me to travel throughout Northern Wisconsin. I always had skis available for that never ending Birkie training. I would like to be a Foundation Board member to pay back for all the good times surrounding the Birkie.

Over the years I have created and participated in many 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organizations. In addition, I served terms as a Board member with the 25,000 member State Bar Board of Governors including a term as the Chairperson of that Board. I am currently the Treasurer of the Wisconsin Bar Foundation. Early in my career I spent several years as the Chairperson of the Burnett County Historical Society during the time period where the historical site Forts Folle Avoine was recreated.

As part of my professional work, I was involved in Tribal economic development throughout Northern Wisconsin including over 200 million in projects. Finally, I was one of the lead attorneys for Wisconsin Chippewa Off-Reservation Hunting Fishing and Gathering case resulting in a 5 to 4 decision in favor of the Tribes in the United States Supreme Court. Other projects included real estate transaction, land use planning and governmental affairs.

Back to the Birkie and cross-country skiing. Over the past 40 years I have supported local ski organizations including the Cumberland Area Ski Trails Association and their Timberland Hills course and the ski facilities at Nine Mile Forest Recreation area outside of Wausau, Wisconsin. It is the local ski organization that provide the life blood of the Birkie.

Thank you for your time spent on my candidate profile.

-Howard J. Bichler