



Candidate Statements

2026 Board of Trustees Election Granite
Curling Club of Seattle

The Granite Curling Club is privileged to have seven candidates participating in the 2026 Board of Trustees elections. Based on your votes, the candidates that receive the top five vote totals will become part of the Board. They will join four other Board members that are not up for reelection this year.

To aid in your election decision, the candidates were asked to provide a brief statement that covered:

- Why do you want to be on the Board of Trustees?
- In what ways could you contribute to GCC as board member that you aren't able to contribute currently?
- What relevant skills do you bring to the board?
- What do you see as priorities for GCC in the coming 2025-26 season? What are the biggest challenges? What are your ideas to overcome the challenges?

These statements are presented as they were submitted, in their unedited form. Each statement also includes a photograph of the candidate.

Voting will be conducted entirely online at <https://curlingseattle.org/trustees-vote>, with voting closing on June 14th at 6:45 pm. All General Members for the 2025-26 season are welcome to participate.

Questions about the candidate statements, voting process, and the GCC Board of Trustees can be directed to the GCC Board at board@curlingseattle.org.

Candidate Statement: Alex Chow

Why do you want to be on the Board of Trustees?

My name is Alex Chow, and I am running for re-election to the Board of Trustees. Having curled for six years and served on the Board for the last two, I have developed a deep passion for GCC and a strong desire to see our club and sport continue to thrive. I am seeking another term because there is still more I wish to accomplish. I believe my dedication, experience, and enthusiasm make me a valuable asset to the Board, and I remain fully committed to serving the best interests of our members and the future of the club.



In what ways could you contribute to GCC as a board member that you aren't able to contribute currently?

As a trustee these past two years, I've had the authority to move from identifying problems to implementing club-wide solutions. The best example: volunteer coordination. As a member, I could see we were scrambling last-minute for bonspiel help. As a board member, I was able to launch signup.com as our official system and mandate that opportunities get posted weeks in advance. That structural change isn't something I could've driven without a board seat. I also helped to coordinate 5 and Under Nationals held at our club this year, which required 270 volunteer spots. I worked across all areas of the club to ensure every position had full coverage. Continuing to serve on the Board for Trustees will allow me to contribute directly to the club's development and support our mission of promoting the sport of curling within our community and beyond.

What relevant skills do you bring to the board?

I'm a project manager by trade and a systems-thinker by habit. On the Board, I focus on building systems that make it easier for people to help. I implemented Signup.com, standardized posting opportunities weeks in advance, and created a central location for all our volunteer needs. Prior to joining GCC, I chaired a college racing and social organization, where I managed officers, recruitment, and alumni; and resolved conflicts with our governing body. These experiences taught me how to lead volunteers, represent a group under pressure, and make informed decisions in the face of uncertainty. I'm organized and detail-oriented. After four years on the Finance Committee at GCC, I have a deep understanding of fiscal responsibility and transparency in governance. I consistently advocate for the responsible and ethical management of our club's resources. I joined the Board to help GCC operate more efficiently for everyone. With your vote, I will continue to remove operational friction so we can all focus on curling.

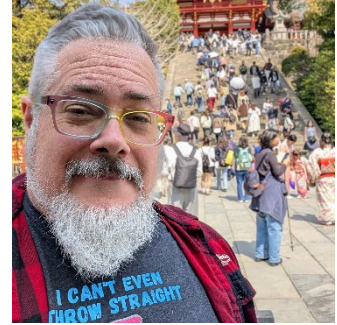
What do you see as priorities for GCC in the coming 2026-27 season? What are the biggest challenges GCC faces? What are your ideas to overcome the challenges?

- **Achievable Volunteer Goals:** We need to make the five-hour volunteer suggestion per member realistic. To do this, I will continue to improve our use of Signup.com, track participation closely, and post needs early. Providing better visibility and allowing members to plan ahead will ensure our opportunities are filled without last-minute scrambling.
- **Building Stewardship:** Our facility is aging as our membership grows. We must shift from reactive repairs to proactive maintenance and develop a comprehensive capital plan to properly steward our building.
- **Strategic Long-Term Planning:** We need to get serious about our 10-year plan. To ensure our growth is sustainable, the board should define what "Sustainable 2036" looks like and establish a roadmap to achieve it.

If re-elected, I'll bring the same dedication and organizational skills I used these last two years to our upcoming challenges: achieving volunteer goals, protecting our building, and planning for 2036. I look forward to the opportunity to help GCC continue its growth and prepare for the future!

Candidate Statement: Bryan Pittard

Why do you want to be on the Board of Trustees? Since joining GCC in 2020, my primary motivation has been to help grow the sport of curling in the greater Seattle metro area through attracting communities that previously might not have felt included or overtly welcomed to our club. I want to serve on the Board to continue pushing GCC in new directions, ensuring we attract and retain a diverse membership through the genuinely inclusive spirit of curling.



In what ways could you contribute to GCC as a board member that you aren't able to contribute to currently? Having served as a Trustee for the past four years, I want to continue leveraging this mandate to turn the day-to-day feedback I hear behind the bar into concrete policy. Continuing on the board allows me to shepherd the larger, multi-year initiatives we've started through to completion.

What relevant skills do you bring to the board? I bring a blend of technical leadership, non-profit governance, and deep curling experience:

- **Professional Leadership:** During my 26-year career as a software and systems engineer with the US Navy, I have routinely led teams of engineers and managed complex projects from conception to execution.
- **Curling Governance:** I am the founder and past-president of the Orlando Curling Club and a current member of the USCA Judicial committee and past member of the LGBTQIA+ subcommittee.
- **Non-Profit Administration:** I have practical experience managing the legal administration and 501(c)(3) setup of non-profit organizations, which is directly applicable to managing our club's compliance and organizational health.
- **Demonstrated Execution at GCC:** I have applied these skills directly to our club by serving as a Trustee for the past 4 years, serving as bar manager for the past 2 years, organizing the RainbowSpiel LGBTQIA+ charity-spiel for the past 5 years, starting and serving as league manager of the Spring Trivia League for 2 years, and working with the Tech Committee to successfully manage facility upgrades like the HD streaming system and the new warm room audio system.

What do you see as priorities for GCC in the coming 2026-27 season? What are the biggest challenges? What are your ideas to overcome the challenges?

- **Priorities:** Our biggest priorities should be rooted in our mission statement to be the most **welcoming, member-focused, and competitive** curling club in the US.

- **Challenges:** The two biggest challenges we face are 1) repeatedly patching an aging facility as our membership grows, and 2) struggling to balance ice availability between group events and ensuring quality ice time (leagues and practice ice) for all current members.
- **Ideas to Overcome Challenges and Focus on Priorities:**
 - Improve how welcoming we are through continuing to increase our outreach through a renewed and restarted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee that identifies and recommends policy updates and initiatives to improve our commitment to being inclusive and welcoming for all who want to curl.
 - Prioritize our membership through a commitment to quality warm room and arena experiences by continuing to investigate and implement facility improvements with the Technology, Capital Improvement, and new Facilities committees along with continuing to support the Ice Crew, Group Events, and League Managers to ensure quality ice availability and minimize scheduling conflicts.
 - Support competitive development through a renewed juniors program and additional support for teams to compete at regional, national, and world events.

Candidate Statement: Chase Perrin

Hello! My name is Chase Perrin, and I am excited to put my name forward for a board role.

I've been curling at Granite since 2018. In that time, I've made great friendships, fallen in love with the sport more than I ever expected, and truly come to feel part of this incredible community. The club has become my third place, and I want to help make it the same for others.



I'm running for the board to help grow and strengthen what I think makes our club so special. I want to support efforts to make the club more inclusive (including the physical space/building with accessibility improvements), bring new people into the sport, build and expand our juniors program, and ensure every member—new and veteran alike—feels welcome. Having worked the last two years with the juniors program, I've seen how exciting the sport can be for those starting out, and the joy of being able to share it with others.

Professionally, I work in public relations, and I'd bring skills in community-building, social media, and media relations to the board. With the Olympics this year, and our 75th anniversary, awareness is more important than ever. Strong communication is essential to growing our membership, driving rentals, and supporting fundraising—key ingredients in keeping our club vibrant and sustainable.

I'm also a parent of an almost-10-year-old and a 4-year-old! I have been looking forward to sharing curling with them, and have had that chance with the juniors and overs & unders leagues, which I participated in with my older son. He loves to skip and I am excited to see him embrace curling. We're looking forward to playing again in the fall. I want to make sure the club is just as strong, welcoming, and fun for him in the coming years as it has been for me since I first stepped through the doors.

I love being on the ice with all of you, and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves to help ensure Granite continues to thrive for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Candidate Statement: David DeBois

I have been a proud member of Granite Curling Club since 2011, participating on Sunday Open, Men's League, Super League, and Monday Dinner League. Over the years I have played every position and curled with teammates across a wide range of skill levels. I have also represented Granite at Senior Nationals twice, experiences that deepened my appreciation for what competitive curling requires and what a supportive club environment can make possible.



On every team I've played on, I've emphasized open communication, shared competitiveness, and enjoyment of the game. I believe strongly that teams perform best when they feel respected, heard, and encouraged values I carry into every handshake when I say, "Let's have fun."

Why I Want to Serve on the Board

I was honored to be asked to apply for this position. My first instinct was to ensure that my involvement would support—not overshadow—the work already underway by other board members and committees. I also wanted to understand the realistic constraints around ice time and how competitive development fits into the club's broader priorities.

Ultimately, I chose to apply because Granite has an extraordinary history of developing great curlers, and I believe we are at a moment where we can build on that legacy with intention. I want to help create a structure that invites Granite curlers to grow their skills, supports teams at all levels, and strengthens our identity as a competitive hub in the Pacific Northwest.

How I Can Contribute

As a board member, I would be able to:

- **Shape long-term strategy** for competitive development rather than contributing only at the program level.
- **Coordinate across leagues, coaches, and committees** with the authority to align resources and expectations.
- **Ensure competitive development is integrated** with juniors, women, men, seniors, and mixed doubles programming rather than operating in silos.
- **Represent Granite externally** to regional partners and national organizations.
- **Build continuity**—a two-year term allows for planning, implementation, and evaluation rather than one-off efforts.

This role would allow me to move from “helping where I can” to building systems that last.

Relevant Skills and Experience

Beyond curling, my background includes a lifetime of multi-sport participation, including being one of the youngest players on the Vancouver Whitecaps farm team and coaching soccer in my adult life.

Professionally and civically, I bring:

- **Leadership experience on four nonprofit boards**, serving as President, Vice President, Community Service Officer, International Officer, and Finance Officer.
- **Experience founding a nonprofit** focused on rebuilding trust between police and the communities they serve.
- **National recognition** for my work addressing the U.S. mortgage crisis.
- **Large-scale event leadership**, coordinating 80+ volunteers over multiple years.
- **Crisis-response resource management**, including helping create and fairly distribute a \$500,000 COVID relief fund for the Kirkland business district.

These experiences have taught me how to build consensus, manage resources responsibly, and lead with transparency and integrity.

Priorities for the 2026–27 Season

My priority is to understand what has historically been done in this role—what has worked, what hasn’t, and what gaps exist. From there, my focus would be:

1. Build a Foundation of Coaches

- Work with league managers to identify potential coaching candidates.
- Establish a realistic mission and share coaching philosophy.
- Provide tools that help coaches track athlete progression and identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Ensure coaches feel supported, trained, and valued.

2. Create a Clear, Inclusive Competitive Pathway

- Identify potential curlers through league manager recommendations.
- Reach out personally—face-to-face or by phone—to invite them into development opportunities.
- Ensure pathways exist for juniors, women, men, seniors, and mixed doubles.

3. Understand and Optimize Ice Availability

- Assess what ice time is realistically available for competitive development.
- Build schedules that respect league needs while supporting athlete growth.

4. Strengthen Communication and Transparency

- Clarify what tools, resources, and historical efforts the club already has.
- Share a clear roadmap with members so competitive development feels accessible, not exclusive.

Challenges and How I Would Approach Them

- **Ice time limitations:** Work collaboratively with the board and ice committee to create predictable, efficient training windows.
 - **Coaching depth:** Build a “stable” of coaches through recruitment, mentorship, and shared resources.
 - **Lack of visibility in past efforts:** Conduct a respectful review of historical programs to avoid reinventing the wheel.
 - **Engagement:** Use personal outreach rather than passive communication to bring curlers into the program.
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Closing Perspective

Granite Curling Club has shaped me as a curler and as a community member. I believe the club is poised for meaningful growth in competitive development, and I want to help build a structure that honors our history while preparing the next generation of Granite curlers. I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,
David DeBois

Candidate Statement: Kathy Justice

Why do you want to be on the Board of Trustees?

I want to continue to serve on the Board because the work is important and ongoing. I think the Board needs to represent different perspectives, supporting each individual's diverse curling goal. I will be the voice of novice, adaptive, recreational, and competitive curlers alike.



What ways could you contribute that you aren't able to currently?

I would take the experience and lessons learned and build upon them. I'd continue to encourage our team to be more proactive and to set our calendar even farther out. I'd strengthen GCC's committees, so more members can be invested in the club's direction and more priorities can be addressed.

What relevant skills do you bring to the Board?

Not missing a board meeting during my tenure shows my dedication. My current role at GCC focuses on ensuring that leagues run smoothly (assisting new members in choosing a league, communicating with all managers, coordinating registration, suggesting policy.) To do this, I must be organized, collaborative, and see tasks through.

In my career as an architect and project manager, my usual day is about communication, research, balancing priorities, and ensuring team members have the resources needed to move projects forward.

What do you see as priorities for GCC in the upcoming 2026-27 season?

In the 'Supporting Rationale' of our Vision Statement, it says, "What makes GCC stand out for many of our members is that it provides a sense of community," and I couldn't agree more. Providing many opportunities for members to connect, get involved, and have a sense of purpose is.

I will continue to advocate for greater ADA accessibility. People of all curling aspirations, ages, and physical abilities should have access to our sport and social benefits (the upstairs bar!) of our club.

What are the biggest challenges GCC faces? What are your ideas to overcome the challenges?

One of the toughest challenges is balancing our needs and visions while being fiscally responsible and keeping curling affordable. While more volunteers *definitely* helps with this, we rely on income from sheet rentals. We need to remember though that our members are the reason that GCC exists, so their access to the ice is the priority. We want you to return year after year!

Good curling. Thank you for your consideration!

Candidate Statement: Kevin Neumann

After two years as a member of the board, I'm running again to continue my service. GCC is my home away from home, and its members are like family. The club has given me so much—an incredible community, the most fun nights and weekends, a chance to be competitive on a national level—and I want to continue to give back.



While on the board thus far, I've helped strengthen the competitive offerings for members by organizing Saturday practice ice with sheet reservations and purchasing more development tools (SmartBroom, ChronoCurl). I arranged a news segment about GCC to spread information about our sport and our club. I created new emergency medical binders with checklists for instances when someone gets hurt. I introduced bonspiel surveys to collect feedback from our members and curlers from other clubs who come to visit. I advocate for decisions in support of our mission to be the most welcoming, member-focused, and competitive curling club in the United States. In addition to my board service, I've taught learn-to-curls, bartended during bonspiels, helped build lockers, and managed a league for multiple years. A continuing position on the board would allow me to help make decisions in the best interest of all club members, whether you're a competitive curler who's on the ice six days a week, a once-weekly curler who really likes a beer or three after their game, or anywhere in between.

I've worked as a software developer for a decade, but I don't think technical knowledge is the most valuable thing I bring to the board. I currently lead a team of engineers, and my biggest responsibility is ensuring my team is unblocked and moving in the right direction. I bring that experience to the board, along with my attention to detail and dedication. Running GCC is a huge team effort, but if we're all going in different directions, we can't make progress. At work, I focus on seeking disconfirming feedback from my peers to ensure alignment while avoiding groupthink or apathy. I want to apply the judgement I've learned to help GCC make decisions with member involvement but without deadlock that results in inaction.

During the coming season, I want to help GCC continue to modernize its operations and become more sustainable. A large majority of the work required to keep GCC running is done by a small minority of its members. I want to help members help the club by making it easier to volunteer and contribute. I want to drive documentation of procedures and needs. I want to encourage participation by providing meaningful incentives for all and opening avenues for feedback and change, getting us out of the mindset of "we've always done it that way." As we face challenges like replacing our ice plant and making large-scale renovations to our building, I want to foster excitement and involvement. Everyone has skills they can use at the club, but we need a better way to pair up skills with tasks while not overloading anyone. I want to help us work better together to grow our community.

Candidate Statement: Nick Pleasants



I am seeking reelection to the Board and hope to continue serving as the Club's Treasurer. Over the past 2 years on the Board, we have continued to grow our financial reserves while also working with the Capital Improvement Committee to identify areas for investment in our facility. We were able to afford emergency repairs to our Electrical system at the start of this season, as well as Compressor repairs and temporary rental last season. As we look to celebrate 75 years as an organization this fall, it is a reminder that our building is nearing 65 years old. These emergencies have shown the need to maintain and improve our facility so it can be around for years to come.

Over the past 2 years, I am encouraged to see the club live out its Mission to be the most welcoming, member-focused, and competitive curling club in the United States. We just welcomed 24 teams from across the country for the 5U Nationals, fostering competitive curling both in our club and across the country. And in the past month, we had over 1,000 visitors try curling in our facility. This Spring has featured many opportunities for Members to host Friends & Family as well as practice ice. While I cannot take credit for these achievements, I want to recognize the work of all of the members to make this happen. If reelected, I will continue to push for more opportunities for Members to practice and hone competitive skills, and for us to host national events. We are working to expand practice ice availability next season as well.

I have been a member since starting in the junior program in 1996. As a high-schooler, I helped run bonspiels and fundraise for the junior program. I went to law school at UW and graduated with a Juris Doctor and Masters of Tax Law in 2015. Currently I am serving on the Board as Treasurer and have enjoyed using my professional training to help the club. I serve on several other nonprofit boards, and recently hosted a Gala raising over \$50,000 for law student scholarships.