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Saranac Lake Civic Center Announces Board Officer Election

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — The Saranac Lake Civic Center has announced the results of its board officer election, welcoming new leadership while recognizing four board members who are stepping away from the board and highlighting the continued service of its treasurer. Officers are now **Cliff Beirsto** as president, **Stephanie Colby** as vice president, **Chris Knight** as secretary and **Matt Raymond**, who will continue serving as treasurer.

Beirsto joined the Civic Center board in 2025 and having played both youth and high school hockey at the Civic Center feels a personal connection to the facility. Following his retirement in 2024 after a career in technical sales, Cliff saw an opportunity to give back to a place that has been an important part of his life and the community.

“Having played hockey here myself and bringing teams to Saranac Lake as a visiting youth coach, I’ve always appreciated what the Civic Center provides to the community,” said Beirsto. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve as president to help build on its future. There is a lot of potential to work with the board, our staff and the community to put the organization on a path for long-term success.”

Colby, a local business owner and longtime community professional, will serve as vice president. Her connection to the Civic Center also goes back many years, having spent countless hours skating at the facility. Her professional background includes extensive experience in community fundraising and engagement.

Knight, who joined the board in 2025, will serve as secretary. A local communications professional, brings experience in communications and community engagement to the board as the Civic Center continues to its next chapter.

Raymond will continue as treasurer, providing continuity as the organization transitions into its new board leadership.

As part of the forward-looking effort, the Civic Center has engaged **Brit Campese of Vision Driven Consulting** to provide strategic consulting focused on organizational development and fundraising. Campese will work closely with the Civic Center team, including staff and board members, to help strengthen the organization’s fundraising efforts with a focus on long-term sustainability.

“From getting out on the rink in roller skates to spending time with the board and staff, I’ve had the opportunity to see firsthand what the Civic Center means to the community,” said Campese. “It’s a place that brings people together across generations, and I’m excited to work alongside the team to build on that strong sense of community while helping develop a sustainable path forward for the organization.”

The leadership transition comes as **Victoria Sturgeon, Ollie Burgess, Josh Dann and Kathy Healy** step off the Civic Center board. Burgess, Sturgeon and Dann each played important roles in moving the organization forward, particularly during the Civic Center's vital 2022 revitalization effort. Burgess served in several officer roles during his tenure and helped oversee the organization's multi-million-dollar capital campaign, which was instrumental in advancing the facility's revitalization.

"I'm incredibly proud of what our community was able to accomplish," said Burgess. "The Civic Center has always been a special place, and the renovation showed what can happen when people come together around something they care deeply about. I'm grateful to have played a part in that effort, and I'm looking forward to staying involved and watching this next group of leaders take the Civic Center into its next chapter."

The Civic Center thanks Sturgeon, Burgess, Dann and Healy for their service and looks forward to continuing to build on the organization's progress with its new board leadership.

As the new officers begin their terms, the Civic Center remains focused on continuing to serve as a gathering place for recreation, athletics, programming and events.

About the Saranac Lake Civic Center

The Saranac Lake Civic Center is a year-round, not-for-profit recreation and events facility, serving the residents and visitors from across the region and beyond. Its regular users include Paul Smith's College, high school players from Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Central Schools, the Lake Placid Curling Club, Northwood School, Sara-Placid Lakers, Saranac Lake Learn to Skate and more. The facility also welcomes tournament organizers, including Can-Am Hockey, as well as exposition organizers who utilize the Civic Center's event space. The Civic Center also plays host to public skating, the popular Silver Skaters program, events such as Touch A Truck.

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Photo provided by the Civic Center: The Saranac Lake Civic Center serves as a hub for recreation, events, and community activities.