

# THE BLADE

## 2018 Minnesota Celebration of Champions

Congratulations to the Northern Blades 2018 Champions who skated at the 2018 Minnesota Celebration of Champions!

- **Skylar Weirens** MN State Pre-Preliminary Freeskate Champion
- **Makenna Leik** Midwestern Sectional Jr Synchro Champion
- **Denise McNeff** MN State Adult Bronze Champion
- **Bridget McNeff** Midwestern Sectional Jr Synchro Champion
- **Sunny Choi** MN State Novice Silver Medalist, Upper Great Lakes Pewter Medalist, Midwestern Sectionals Competitor



**GET  
INVOLVED!**

### Silent Auction Fundraiser

The annual Silent Auction held during the Ice Show is quickly approaching and your help is needed! If you haven't already, please consider signing up and donating to the silent auction. There are great basket ideas included in the sign-up link, but any and all basket ideas and donations are welcome! In addition to auction donations, the planning committee is also in need of basket making supplies (baskets, ribbon, clear basket bags, etc). Donations can be provided to Sarah Melstrom or Crisha Pugh. All proceeds from the silent auction go directly to the Northern Blades Figure Skating Club!

**Sign up here:**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c49aaae2e5-silent>

### Inside This Issue

Northern Blades



Testing Results	2 - 3
Birthday & Upcoming Events	4
Volunteer Opportunities & Appreciation	5 - 6
Skater Spotlight	7 - 8
Board Spotlight & Governance	9

# TESTING

## Tests Passed Since Fall issue of The Blade Published

**Claire Cotten**

Juvenile Free Skating

**Erin Darang**

Pre-Juvenile Free Skating

**Lexie DeVries**

Junior Moves in the Field

**MaKayla Dostal**

Preliminary Moves in the Field

**Alexa Duffy**

Pre-Preliminary Moves in the Field

**JoJo Fitzel**

Senior Moves in the Field

**Isabella Giacomini**

Preliminary Moves in the Field

**Emily Giese**

Pre-Juvenile Free Skating

**Claire Goodreau**

Juvenile Free Skating

**Ava Hartvigsen**

Pre-Juvenile Free Skating

Intermediate Moves in the Field

**Charlotte Hemmila**

Novice Moves in the Field

**Chelsey Henry**

Senior Free Skating

**Bridget McNeff**

Senior Moves in the Field

Intermediate Free Skating

**Rachel Pietsch**

Juvenile Free Skating

Intermediate Moves in the Field

**Ava Privratsky**

Juvenile Free Skating

Junior Moves in the Field

**Tyra Schmalzbauer**

Junior Free Skating

**Olivia Romo**

Intermediate Moves in the Field

Preliminary Free Skating

**Selina Wang**

Pre-Juvenile Free Skating

**Haylee Zellner**

Pre-Juvenile Free Skating

Juvenile Moves in the Field

Preliminary Free Skating

**Skylar Weirens**

Intermediate Moves in the Field

Preliminary Free Skating

**Amy Zhang**

Pre-Juvenile Free Skating

**Audrey Callahan**

Novice Moves in the Field

**Sydney Ullman**

Preliminary Dance

Pre-Bronze Dance Moves

**Aleksa Uhde**

Pre-preliminary Moves

**Ella Uhde**

Juvenile Moves



# Congratulations!

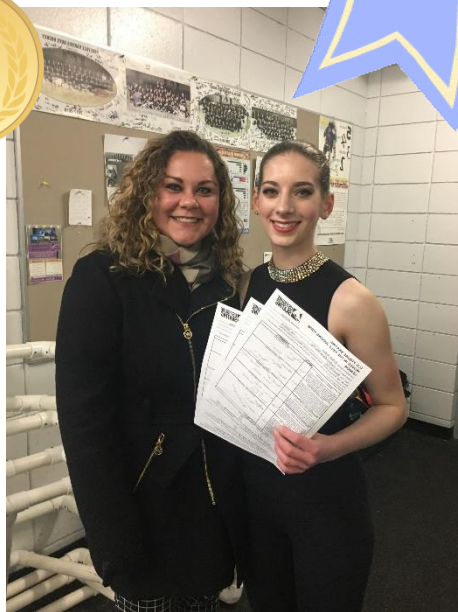
Congratulations to the following skaters!

Congrats Chelsey! (Double Gold Medalist)



Chelsey Henry  
Senior Free Skating

Congrats Bridget!



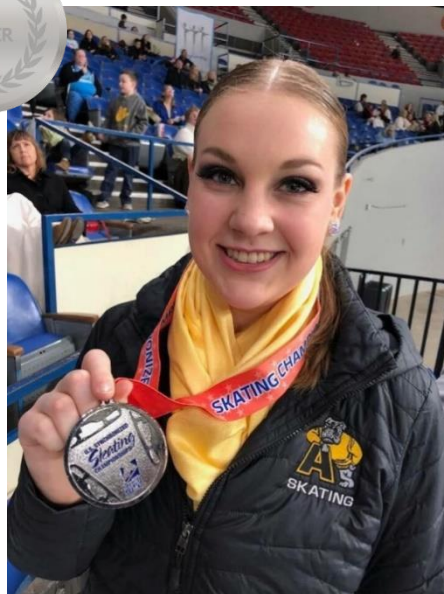
Bridget McNeff  
Senior Moves in the Field

Congrats JoJo!



JoJo Fitzer  
Senior Moves in the Field

Congrats Rachel!



Rachel Kraber  
Synchronization National  
Silver Medalist



# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

December	January
Briana Odell 12/2	Lori Giese 1/8
Denise McNeff 12/7	Erin Darang 1/12
Erica Kolstad 12/12	Gabriella Boman 1/16
Olivia Romo 12/16	Makenna Leik 1/16
Claire Cotton 12/20	Emily Bruesehoff 1/23
Lily Engelke 12/23	Kelly Gibbs 1/25
	Tessa Eilders 1/29
	Ava Hartvigsen 1/31



February	March
Kendra Miller 2/17	Bridget McNeff 3/1
Mel Berghuis 2/20	Taylor Chapman 3/7
MaKayla Dostal 2/22	Addison Melstrom 3/11
	Tania Uhde 3/15
	Karen Olson 3/26

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
4/15	Candidates for 2018-2019 Board Due
4/15	Junior Board Expressions of Interest Due
4/18	Last day to Submit photos from the 2017 – 2018 skating season to Northern Blades Shutterfly site
5/20	Annual Meeting & Banquet 5 PM Bunker Hills Event Center



The Annual Meeting & Banquet will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and we are in need of future Board member nominees. Four (4) current Board member terms are expiring. The club benefits from the diversity of its membership.

The Board represents:

- both young and experienced skaters
- Male and female skaters
- Basic skills, test track, and competitive skaters
- Parents and Coaches
- Parents and skaters with no skating knowledge and a lot of skating knowledge
- Skating moms and dads

Active participation in the club allows all of us to improve the club and provide a better experience for our skaters.

We're looking for people that would like to be a candidate on the ballot. Please contact Tania Uhde by April 15<sup>th</sup> if interested.

---

### **Northern Blades Junior Board**

Teenage Northern Blades Skaters are invited to apply to participate on the Northern Blades Junior Board. This is a great opportunity to provide experience in leadership, service opportunities, and an important voice in the direction of the club. Junior Board Executive Officer positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

There will also be several "at large" positions such as apparel, social, fundraising, etc. Junior Board terms will be 1-year long. If you're interested, please contact Charity Stanchfield and Tania Uhde by April 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Volunteer Appreciation

*Message from Northern Blades President Kendra Miller:*

Thank You to all of the volunteers, Board and committee members that have had such a positive impact on the club this year. I would especially like to recognize the following individuals:

- Lori Giese and Melissa Giacomini have assisted Mel Berghuis as co-chairs of testing.
- Tania Uhde has been processing our membership paperwork.
- Molly Fitzel and Jane Schaber did a fantastic job of co-chairing a successful Upper Great Lakes Regionals competition!
- Cheryl Duffy has been our point person for apparel and embroidery.
- Tonya Rowe has been writing The Blade Newsletter for the club.
- Sarah Varian has overseen our social media and Tania Uhde has done a fantastic job of keeping club members “in-the-know” via email.
- Sarah Varian also organizes all our volunteers for competitions!
- Tania Uhde manages our Track-It-Forward system for tracking volunteer hours, and with Gordon Pietsch makes sure that all our random ice coupon awards are sent out in a timely fashion.
- Carla Hemmila keeps our club bulletin board looking snazzy.
- Rachel Harris designed our club brochure and Tania Uhde designed our club coaches’ brochure.
- Dennis Kraber has kept our website updated.
- Jane Schaber has applied for USFS sanctions for our skating events.
- Molly Fitzel and Gordon Pietsch serve as our TCFSA Representatives.
- Mel Berghuis and Anna Leik make sure our skaters’ achievements are recognized in our trophy case.
- Regarding fundraising, Crisha Pugh and Sarah Melstrom are co-chairing the silent auction this year! Thank you, also, to all of the other club parents who are helping out with the silent auction, and to Lori Giese for organizing the club’s dress sale. Also, a big “thank you” to Gordon Pietsch for keeping our financial books spot on!
- Molly Fitzel has been our club’s SafeSport chair this year.
- Chanelle Schoonmaker has also continued to be our Pro-Liaison.
- I would also like to thank Charity Stanchfield and Tania Uhde for their work in planning fun skater events this year. Also, thank you to the Fish’s for hosting our summer event at their place, and to the Greves family for donating the inflatable!
- Thank you to all of you who have volunteered at Rising Stars, Regionals, and Frosty Blades, or at any of our skater events this year!!
- Also thank you to all who have donated their time as ice monitors: Lori Giese, April & Brandon Gibbs, Jinyu Li & Yani Zhang, Kelly Larson, Marianne McEvoy!

I really appreciate the hard work, dedication and involvement shown by so many individuals to keep everything running smoothly!



# SKATERS SECTION



*Senior Spotlight :*

**Audrey Callahan**



Audrey Callahan was born in Atlanta, GA and moved to the Twin Cities when she was 4 years old. She tried various sports until finding her niche with figure skating in the 3rd grade.

Audrey will be graduating from Coon Rapids High School, and entering the Science and Engineering program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. When not on the ice, you may find

Audrey working part time at the front desk at the rink. However, outside of the rink Audrey enjoys spending time with her friends, she's an active social bug. Audrey has played the cello since 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and she plays in the Coon Rapids High School Cardinal Strings and Concert Orchestra groups. Audrey's family is one of her greatest support networks, and includes her dad - Kevin, mom – Sheila, and older sister Amy who also attends the University of Minnesota.





# SKATERS SECTION

*Senior Spotlight :*

***Sydney Ullman***



Sydney Ullman has been skating for 11 years and is currently a double gold medalist. She lives with her parents and two brothers, Andrew (who is 16 years old and a junior national and all state swimmer) and Alex (who is 12 years old and plays football). Sydney's favorite skating memory is this year at the 2018 Upper Great Lake Regionals Championship, where she skated two very great programs, and broke both of her highest scores during the season.

Additionally, she skated a clean free skate and when she came off the ice coach Karen had tears coming down her face as she gave Sydney a big hug. This was so memorable to Sydney because she says Karen doesn't give hugs very often, and Karen has never had tears over any of Sydney's skating performances in the past. Outside of skating Sydney enjoys spending time with her brothers and friends.

Sydney will be graduating from Spring Lake Park High School.

Sydney has also recently joined the Northern Blades coaching team.







# Board Member Spotlight

## Molly Fitzel

Molly Fitzel is serving her first year on the Board. She is currently the Chair for the Rising Stars Competition Northern Blades holds every year in the Fall. She also Co-Chaired the Upper Great Lakes Regional Championships. In addition to the competitions, Molly is one of the SafeSport chairs and a TCFSa representative. Molly lives in Shoreview with her husband Ben and their 3 kids - JoJo (11), Max (8) and Brecken (6). Molly's daughter, JoJo, is currently at the Juvenile level and recently passed her Senior Moves. Molly works part-time as a director of a nonprofit in St. Paul called the North End-South Como Block Nurse Program, and their mission is to help seniors live happy, healthy and at home instead of early nursing home placement. In addition to being the director, Molly also teaches senior exercise classes, where her oldest student is 96 years young! In her spare time she loves to workout, cook, shop and read. If you see her at the rink make sure to stop and say hi!

**The Blade** is the official newsletter for the Northern Blades NSC Figure Skating Club. **The Blade** will be published several times a year, sent to members via email, posted to our website [www.northernblades.org](http://www.northernblades.org), and available on our bulletin board. We are always looking for pertinent information to include in our newsletter and welcome the submittal of ideas, information, and articles. Please submit information to Tonya Rowe at [TonyaRowe@comcast.net](mailto:TonyaRowe@comcast.net). All content is subject to editing and may be subject to approval by board members. No advertisements will be accepted.



### 2017-2018 Officers & Board Members

President	Kendra Miller
Vice President/ Sanctions	Jane Schaber
Secretary	Tania Uhde
Treasurer	Gordon Pietsch
Test Chairs	Mel Berghuis Mellissa Giacomini Lori Giese
TCFSa Rep & SafeSport Chair	Molly Fitzel
Rising Stars & Regionals Competition	Molly Fitzel Jane Schaber
Pro Liaison	Chanelle Schoonmaker
Fundraising	Open
Hospitality	Charity Stanchfield
Membership	Tania Uhde
Website	Dennis Kraber



**Stay Connected @**

**Website:** [www.northernblades.org](http://www.northernblades.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/129534150437701/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/129534150437701/)