

**2020-2021**  
**American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation**

**Board Candidate Profile Information**

**Candidate Name: Brian L. Gustin**

**Address:**

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**Years of ABSF: Membership: 3**

**Occupation: Certified Prosthetist**

**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?*

Professionally, I have been successful in business and have been active in my professional organizations nationally. I was the President of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association located in Washington D.C. in 2009 and have served on numerous committees. Currently I serve on the Board of a local organization called Aspiro, which is an organization to provide meaningful work to those with physical and mental impairments.

The Birkie has been a part of my non-work life since 1982 and has been the primary motivation factor for maintaining an active lifestyle. I have literally taken from the Birkie many positive experiences and now I am at a stage in my life where I can give back and hopefully provide someone else with their lifelong experiences.

I have been involved in our local ski club, Bay Nordic, for a number of years. I was one of three who conceived of and executed on a program called Project Illumination to install lights on 4.5KM of ski trail. This was a \$315,000 project and we had no resources at all. Within a 12-month period we designed, engineered, and conducted many fund-raising activities including

writing a grant in order to complete the project. The lighting system was Phase One of a five-year plan to improve the trail system and to add programming. In fact, we were so successful at fund raising we were able to roll into Phase Two the following year and implemented the Bay Nordic Biathlon Program, now in it's third year.

A project like this transformed our local ski club into a community-based organization. Actually, the lighting system was not sold on installing lights at all. Funds were raised on a concept of improving an existing community trail system to enhance the quality of life in the area, allowing employers to complete for talent based on a year around lifestyle, and as a means to improve the increasing obesity rate and incidence of diabetes in our community by being active, outdoors, during the winter months. The result was we needed lights on the ski trail so the community could participate after the workday, when it is dark.

I believe I can bring all of this life experience to the ABSF, on a much broader scale to help expose more people to healthy activities outdoors on a year around basis.