

Lyle T. Smith

President

I am a dedicated veteran, a passionate advocate for veterans' sports, and an active member of my community. As the co-founder and president of an organization focused on bringing people together through sports, I have made a lasting impact in Reno, Nevada. My journey from military service to community involvement reflects my core values of teamwork, leadership, and service to others.

My love for hockey began in January 2021 when the Reno Ice facility opened and my oldest son started playing. What began as a family activity soon blossomed into a larger community effort as my sons, and I became regulars on the ice. A group of veterans started gathering at Reno Ice to play, which led to the creation of the Veterans Hockey Association. I now volunteer on the board, participate in recreational hockey, attend skill-building clinics, and play in adult leagues, fostering camaraderie and physical fitness among veterans and their families.

Professionally, I have built a distinguished career in both aviation and the military. I currently serve as an aerial firefighter flying C-130 aircraft with Amentum in support of CalFire, a role I began in January 2024. I am also a Senior Master Sergeant in the Nevada Air National Guard's 192nd Airlift Squadron. I joined the Nevada Air National Guard in November 2001 as a Turbo Prop Engine Journeyman and later became a C-130 Flight Engineer. Over my military career, I have accumulated over 4,500 flight hours, including more than 1,000 combat hours.

As an Instructor Flight Engineer, I have flown every major variant of the C-130, including the C-130E, C-130H, C-130H1, C-130H2, and C-130H3. I have supported numerous deployments abroad, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Coronet Oak, Operation Joint Forge, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom Sentinel. In recognition of my exceptional service, I was named Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the Nevada Air National Guard in 2019.

Outside of my professional and military commitments, I am an active member of the Elks Lodge, contributing to community initiatives and supporting the Elks' mission of charity, fellowship, and service. I am also a competitor, having represented the Nevada National Guard in the Central Regionals Biathlon, demonstrating my ongoing dedication to physical fitness and team sports.

I live in Reno with my wife and two young boys. When I'm not serving my country or volunteering in the community, I enjoy spending time with my family and helping to strengthen veterans' programs and recreational activities in the area.

Bill Schy

Vice President

I enlisted in the Nevada Air National Guard in 1987 as a Fuels Systems Distribution Apprentice (military speak for refueling aircraft), earning qualifications in Fuels Accounting and Quality Control (lab testing). In 1990, I began full-time service. In 1998, I retrained in Logistics, specializing in Systems Analysis, until 2005, when I was reassigned to Nevada National Guard State Headquarters in Carson City as a Force Support NCOIC (military) and Employee & Labor Relations Specialist (federal) in the

Human Resources Office. I returned to Reno Air Guard Base in 2018 as the Superintendent of the 152nd Force Support Squadron.

I retired in 2021, finishing my active-duty career managing Northern Nevada Army and Air National Guard members activated in support of the state's COVID-19 response operations. I retired in July 2021, just short of 34 years of service. I have deployed to Korea, Denmark, and Turkey, in addition to multiple stateside locations, including the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center.

I started playing hockey in 2021 to maintain mental and physical fitness as well as to connect to a community. I have been married to Shelley for nearly 30 years, and we have three adult children, including Grace, who also plays hockey.

Currently, I drive the Zamboni at Reno Ice part-time, and enjoy traveling, camping, playing pickleball, and learning golf—albeit poorly!

Kelly Cavins

Treasurer

I enlisted in the US Air Force and completed the TACP Special Warfare course at Hurlburt Field, FL. My role involved acting as the Air Force liaison for Army field operations, providing expertise in Tactical Control Systems (TACS/AAGS) and Close Air Support operations. I completed the Army Airborne Jump School at Fort Benning, GA, and participated in the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation of the C-17 aircraft as a test jumper. My last tour of active duty was in South Korea, where I trained members of the South Korean Army in the U.S. and coalition fixed-wing and rotary-wing close air support aircraft, artillery, and naval gunfire.

After returning to the United States, I moved to Reno, NV, and became an Active Guard Reservist in the Nevada Air National Guard. I served as a recruiter, First Sergeant for the 152nd Operations Group, and an Air Crew Survival Resistance and Escape (SERE) Instructor. In this capacity, I completed five tours in Iraq, conducting classified briefings and providing direct support to Combatant Commanders in Personnel Recovery (PR).

After a 23-year active-duty career, I retired as a Chief Master Sergeant (E-9). During the COVID-19 pandemic, I volunteered with Team Rubicon to assist the Nevada State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in setting up the first Community-Based Testing sites. I also worked with FEMA to develop and implement disaster response plans.

Now, I work part-time at a golf course, drive the Zamboni for the Knight Monsters, and dedicate time to building community support for the Reno Veterans Hockey Team. I continue my commitment to the military as the Family Readiness Group Advisor for the Nevada Civil Support Team while supporting my amazing wife as she serves as the 92nd CST Commander.

Jason “Ace” Aceves

Hockey Operations Executive

I grew up in Gardnerville, NV, playing football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling, but never ice hockey—there wasn't a rink near my hometown. After graduating from Douglas High School, I enlisted

in the Navy and served aboard the U.S.S. Independence as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate – Handler.

Following my honorable discharge, I joined the Nevada Air National Guard and served in the Security Forces. I deployed multiple times in support of operations, including Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

In 2001, a friend invited me to a beginner hockey class, and I was hooked after that first session. I started playing wing before transitioning to goaltender, a position I fell in love with after trying it for a laugh.

I retired in 2019 after 30+ years of service as the Superintendent of Security Forces. Since then, I have worked in various security roles, including at the Grand Sierra Resort and Carson Tahoe Health System, where I am now the Manager of Safety and Security and the Emergency Management Coordinator.

My passion for hockey and my love for my military brothers and sisters inspired me to co-found Reno Veterans Hockey with the help of my wife, Kerryann, and other veteran hockey enthusiasts.

Kerry Aceves

Non-Voting Board Member

As a Native Nevadan, I have deep roots in the Reno community. I graduated from Bishop Manogue High School and joined the Nevada National Guard as a Security Forces member, where I met my husband, Jason "Ace" Aceves. Together, we have four daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren who all call Reno home.

I spent over 20 years as a sales leader in the hospitality field, specializing in government contracts with Marriott International and later working with Wrigley/Mars, Hershey Companies, Land Rover/Jaguar, and several local businesses as a Brand Ambassador. However, none of this work has been as important to me as being a mom, military wife, and sister.

My husband, sister, brother-in-law, and countless close friends have served in the military, and supporting them has always been my passion. From 2003 to 2012, I spearheaded numerous events to support the families of deployed service members and boost the morale of Nevada military units. With the help of my daughters, I spent countless hours acquiring donations for family-centered events. My dedication to the families of the 152nd Airlift Wing was recognized with the Nevada State Medal of Merit.

Even after Ace's retirement, my commitment to the veteran community has remained steadfast. I have continued to organize gift drives, coat drives for local veterans with the Reno Elks Club, and my favorite endeavor—supporting Reno Veterans Hockey. As a non-voting board member, I use my Nevada roots to raise funds, gather donations, and spend one-on-one time with veterans and their families, ensuring they feel valued and supported.

Jon Wesson

Director of Business Development and Growth

I am a prior-service United States Marine combat veteran. As a Platoon Sergeant with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, I deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, for operations Phantom Fury and OIF-5.7. I later worked with the Marine Corps Mobilization Command, focusing on combat stress management and PTSD.

In the private sector, I have spent the last 15 years in high-volume commercial manufacturing and brand development. I now own businesses in Montana and Nevada. My goal is to apply my experience in company startups, corporate structure, and team development to build Reno Veterans Hockey into a sustainable organization.

Steve Adkins

Team Captain

I grew up in Minnesota and joined the Air Force in 2002 after 9/11 to do my part. I spent 10 years on active duty in Search and Rescue and 10 years in the Nevada Air National Guard's maintenance squadron. My deployments included Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon.

In Minnesota, I grew up playing hockey on frozen ponds but focused on basketball. After moving to Reno, I rediscovered hockey through the adult Ice Breakers program at Reno Ice. It has since become a family affair—my wife, Sabrina, recently started playing, and my daughters, Stella and Sadie, have been playing for four years.

I now teach U.S. History and AP Human Geography at Damonte Ranch High School in South Reno, balancing my career with my passion for hockey and community involvement.

Kaia Davis

Director of Marketing

While I don't have military experience personally, my family's deep connection to service has shaped my perspective. My late grandfather, Harry Mosier, was a Green Beret in the Army during the Vietnam War. His dedication to his country left a lasting legacy in our family, but it also came at a cost—he passed away from cancer caused by Agent Orange exposure in 2010. Through his story and the experiences of other loved ones, I've seen the profound mental and physical health challenges that can follow military service.

These experiences inspire my involvement with Reno Veteran Hockey. My hope is that RVH can grow into something much larger than a hockey team. I want it to become a wide-reaching community where veterans and their families find camaraderie, support, and understanding. I envision RVH as a resource for those who feel lost, a family for those in need, and a beacon for those searching for connection.

I believe in the power of sports to bring people together, and I want RVH to foster not only physical health but also mental well-being. Whether it's through time on the ice, community events, or simply having a safe space to belong, I hope RVH can become a lifeline for veterans struggling to find their footing.

I am humbled to be part of an organization with so much potential to make a difference, and I look forward to seeing how RVH continues to evolve into a space where no veteran feels alone.