



*Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Carolinas Figure Skating  
Club!*

*1997-2022*

February 5, 2022

Leo Tolstoy famously opened his novel “Anna Karenina” with this observation: “Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” We infer from this that happy families share a lot in common. Family members are in good health; families are adequately financially secure; there is trust, open communication, and mutual affection among family members. The question we wanted to explore is “What makes *figure skating clubs happy and successful?*”

The 25th anniversary celebration of the Carolinas Figure Skating Club is an excellent venue to reflect on this question. The club is often referred to as a family, and it is run exclusively by volunteers. Carolinas Figure Skating Club is the people who make it, and this event is an opportunity to celebrate and to learn from the individuals who started the club, developed it, and keep it going as a happy family.

We asked the CFSC Presidents and founding Board members three questions, and their answers are featured in this booklet\*. Thank you for sharing your insights!

*Happy 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, Carolinas Figure Skating Club!  
Many happy returns of the day!*

\*This booklet is prepared by Olga Bain with contributions from the current and former CFSC Members. Thank you!

*Disclaimer:* The writing styles of each contributor are retained. The years are printed as reported to the best memory of each contributor.

## WE CELEBRATE YOU!

### PRESIDENTS

Mary Jo Adams  
Linda D'Agostino  
Daniel Ashton  
Janice Cantor  
Kelly Ciaramella  
Lee Davis  
Jessica Gardiner  
Glen Garlick  
Suzanne Greenway  
Jen Hoctor  
Karen Johnson  
Frantz Krause  
Keri Lennon  
Michele Seagraves  
Wendy Thompson  
Julie Turk

### SPECIAL GUESTS

Kimberley Moore  
Nancy Hoblack  
  
Jenny Gwyn  
Linda Allen  
Linda Bentley  
Rebecca Carriker  
Dawn Phillippi  
Sonya Garlick  
  
Danielle Logano  
Tom & Deborah Logano  
  
Moe & Mike Mulhall

### Three Questions:

1. What years were you the Carolinas Figure Skating Club President? Why did you run for presidency and whom did you follow as President and who followed you? Or What years and in what capacity were you involved with the CFSC?
2. What was the most challenging and what was the most rewarding experience during this time?
3. What one opportunity, project or improvement do you want to see realized by the current CFSC Board?

## THANK YOU!

### CFSC BOARD & CHAIRPERSONS 2021-2022

Keri Lennon, President & Test Chair  
Olga Bain, Vice-President & Junior Board Liaison  
Reema Hassan, Vice-President & Fundraising  
Leslie Taylorson, Treasurer  
Jennifer Battaglia, Secretary  
Naydu Kleyner, Volunteer Coordinator  
Kate Kerr, Synchronized Skating Representative  
Mathew Gates, Coach Representative  
Casey Mallory, SkateSafe Chair  
Anthony Battaglia, Member at Large  
Kimberley Moore, Membership Chair  
Daniel Ashton, Competition Chair  
Jenny Gwyn, Sanctions Chair

### CFSC JUNIOR BOARD 2021-2022

Catherine Cummings  
Natalie Lennon  
Emily Kleyner  
Ashlynn Miller  
Madilynn Miller  
Addee Barnett  
Alexander Cummings  
Ava Carthage

## Janice Cantor

The CFSC First Founding President



The club was founded in my dining room in 1995, shortly after the opening of Pineville Ice House. We were granted a provisional year in 1996, and on January 3, 1997 the Club was officially established.

I served as president for the first year (possibly two years), and I was followed by Linda D'Agostino (mother of Coach Jillian). My cat Arbee attended all of the early CFSC meetings, perched on Coach Robert Thoreau's lap. I served another term after Linda. I wanted to be president so that I could help a new club develop in a positive direction that would foster sportsmanship, camaraderie, and love of skating.

Some of the presidents who followed Linda and me were: Franz Krause, Mary Jo Adams, Julie Turk, Lee Davis, Kelly Ciaramella, and Jen Hocter.

The most challenging undertaking was getting the club started. Most of us were ISI skaters, and we had little knowledge of U.S. Figure Skating and its policies. We were very small. The kids washed cars in the rink's parking lot to earn seed money for the club. During our provisional year we had to find a

sanctioned club to join. Central Carolina Skating Club, in Hillsborough, was kind enough to take us in and guide us in our development.

The most rewarding experience was the club's production of the first amateur ice show in Charlotte--"Rock and Roll Oldies." Jenny Gwyn, fresh out of professional show skating, was the director. I couldn't imagine that we could pull off a show with relatively short prep time, but Jenny did a great job, and everyone felt like they had skated in a real show. For most of us, it was our first time skating under spotlights, CFSC skaters of all ages performed the opening number to "Rock Around the Clock."

The third question is difficult for me to answer since I am not currently involved in CFSC. I would hope that the current Board will continue with our original mission of encouraging sportsmanship and camaraderie among skaters of all levels, while promoting the agenda of U.S. Figure Skating.

## Linda D'Agostino

The CFSC Second Founding President

I served as the Carolinas FSC President after Janice Cantor, and I served for two years. I agreed to serve as President after other members said that they would help.

During that time, the major task was all of the paperwork for the Club to apply for a Non-Profit Status. Somehow it was filled out correctly with one little snag, and we were granted a Non-Profit Status.

The next project was organizing the Consignment Closet with a lot of help from new friends. Since most of the Moms at that time were "Stay-at-Home," it was easier to find help with projects.

## Mary Jo Adams and Michele Seagraves

CFSC Co-Presidents (2006-2007)



We were co-presidents at the time the CFSC moved from Pineville Ice House to Extreme Ice Center as the latter was built and opened in 2006. We decided to become involved in the Club leadership in order to have more adult skaters represented on the CFSC Board. Julie Turk followed us.

Our biggest challenge was moving the club's home rink from Pineville to the newly opened Extreme Ice. In addition, we worked to have the fall competition renamed the John Smith Memorial Competition to honor a man who had been a long-time supporter of Charlotte figure skaters. This was from the time when the only rink in Charlotte was at Eastland Mall, and CFSC still had members who personally knew John Smith\*\*.

Neither of us skates any longer, so we don't have any ideas regarding the current Club Board except that we hope CFSC continues to remain welcoming and inclusive of skaters of all ages and abilities.

\*\*John F. Smith was Principal of Quail Hollow Middle School in Charlotte, NC, who walked laps in Eastland Mall for health reasons and enjoyed rooting for skaters at the mall ice rink, which was the only ice-skating facility then.

## Julie Turk

CFSC President (2007-2008 or 2009)



I was President approximately August 2007 through Dec 2008 or early Jan 2009. I think Mary Jo Adams was President before me. Kelly Ciaramella was the next President.

One of our first projects was to create an updated design for the club logo. A couple of my colleagues and I submitted drawings to the CFSC Board. Then, I worked a composite and took it to a commercial artist at a Charlotte ad agency for professional rendering. It was, and still is, rewarding to see it displayed on various media.

Also, at that time our website was fairly primitive! We investigated and began initial steps toward upgrading and digitizing our information, graphics, communication, membership list, etc. All those things look fantastic now!

The John Smith Memorial Competition was an established tradition then. We talked about hosting bigger events such as the Eastern Sectional or South Atlantic Regional Championships. A few short years later, it was lovely to see the club take a leadership role during three US Nationals at Greensboro.

In terms of suggesting one opportunity or project for the current CFSC Board to implement, I haven't skated since spring of 2013, so can only wish everyone the very best!

## **Glen Garlick**

The CFSC President (2013-2014)



I was CFSC President after Jen Hocter, and Wendy Thompson was after me. I served 2013 - 2014. The reason I ran was to be more involved with my daughter's skating and to be more involved with where the club was headed.

The most challenging and at the same time rewarding thing we did during my presidency was hosting 2014 South Atlantic Regional Figure Skating Championships. That was a busy year for the board and the club. I was also proud of starting the Junior Board, and I am happy to see it still going strong today.

I would like to see if the club would look into hosting South Atlantic Regionals again. I know it is a very challenging project, but it is a great opportunity for the club.

## **Wendy Thompson**

CFSC President (2014-2015)

CFSC Vice-President (2013-2014)

My time on the Board as President is somewhat unique as I was Vice-President in 2013-2014 when the President Glen Garlick was serving in the military overseas for most of the year. Because of this, I took over most of the President's role while he was gone. I was President in 2014-2015.

The experience as VP standing in as President made it logical to continue as President the following year 2014-2015, even though it was not my desire to run. No one else wanted the "job", and I did not want to leave the club hanging with no leadership, so I agreed to "run" for president. I followed Glen Garlick as CFSC President and Daniel Ashton followed me.

During my time as President, one of the biggest challenges, but that turned out to be accomplishments, was learning all that was involved in legally keeping a non-profit organization healthy, as well as what was needed to update our club to transparency and higher standards. Some of this was as simple as announcing board meeting dates, and then posting the minutes of those meetings for all club members to read. Much time was spent researching, overseeing meetings, and having discussions on what the new CFSC by-laws needed to include. When all content was gathered and organized, hours and weeks were spent proofing, re-reading, and editing until we finished and were able to post the new by-laws on the club website as well as provide USFS with a fresh new set of by-laws.

There were several things that I found to be rewarding. The finished by-laws were one of them! Working together with fellow board members was like having a second family. The coaches, Extreme Ice Center, parents, and skaters were all an extended part of that family. During my time as President, I got to see first-hand as well as contribute to what goes on "behind

the scenes” in the club. Keeping the club ethical and running smoothly was important, but what I enjoyed most was ensuring that the environment was safe, one of learning, growing, and having fun. Seeing how everyone came together and worked together for the good of the skaters was the best reward.

Each board should continue with transparency and look for ways to create desire for more involvement from the parents. Club officers receive no pay and often put in the amount of time and hours of a part-time job. Thus, having many helpers to take over small tasks needs to be encouraged. Some clubs require a certain amount of volunteer hours to be a member. We talked about implementing something like that.

### **Daniel Ashton**

CFSC President (2016-2017, 2020-2021)

CFSC Treasurer (2018-2020)

John F. Smith Memorial Competition Chair (2017-present)

I served two separate terms: first term, July 2016 – June 2017, Wendy Thompson was prior President and Suzanne Greenway followed me; and second term, July 2020 – June 2021, Suzanne Greenway was prior President and Keri Lennon followed me.

I ran for President because figure skating taught my children great lessons that will enable them to be successful as adults. I am unable to help them on the ice, so serving on the Board was the way I help.

The most challenging and rewarding experience was dealing with people. Seeing others succeed and smile is rewarding. Being the face of the club and sometimes having to personally send a club message that was not going to be received well is the toughest part.

One opportunity that I would like to see realized by the current CFSC Board is adding annual Synchro Competition to be hosted by the Club.

### **Suzanne Greenway**

CFSC President (2017-2018, 2019-2020)

CFSC Vice President (2018-2019)

I was on the CFSC Board between 2017 and 2020 serving as President 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 and Vice President 2018-2019. Daniel Ashton was the president before me. Jessica Gardiner followed me after the first one and Daniel Ashton (again) followed after the second. The most challenging experience was that I also had a full-time job taking up much of my time, I always felt that I didn't have the time to dedicate to the position in the way that it needed. Rewarding was that in my last year we were able to expand the Board to include more positions and members, allowing it to be more diverse and inclusive and providing positions for people to participate without feeling like they had to jump straight into a main role.

### **Keri Lennon**

CFSC President (2021-2022)

CFSC Test Chair (2017-present)

Mother of three, including two sisters-skaters, Keri Lennon has been Test Chair since 2017. She has stepped up to serve as the current CFSC President in addition to being a test chair.

The most challenging thing for Keri is the time spent on events and planning. The most rewarding thing is seeing the skaters enjoy our events.

The opportunity, project or improvement she has been working to implement is to launch a new CFSC logo and to grow the club to include all disciplines of skating in our membership.

### **Kimberley Moore**

Current CFSC Board Member and Membership Chair  
Former CFSC Secretary and Vice-President

In addition to serving CFSC in various capacities, Kimberley Moore is also committed to serving USFS and the sport of figure skating as a whole:

Gold Singles/Pairs Judge, Silver Dance Judge and NQ  
Competition Judge for USFS  
Sectional Accountant for USFS  
Level 1 Technical Accountant for USFS  
Secretary of the Board of Directors for USFS  
Audit Committee for USFS  
VC of Accounting for the DORM Recruitment Subcommittee

The most challenging and at the same time the most rewarding experience is finding beneficial ways to help our skaters, skating families, and coaches fulfill their goals where needed.

I would like to see the current Club Board provide:

--more education for parents and skaters; and

--encouragement of more members to give back to our sport/club in different capacities (such as board positions, official capacities, etc.)

### **Rebecca Carriker**

CFSC Board Treasurer

I was involved at the inception of the club, 25 years ago. Linda D'Agostino, Nancy Troutman, and others worked together in those early days in the development of Carolinas Figure

Skating Club, realizing the need for a new club to represent the skaters and coaches when the Ice House opened in Pineville.

The biggest challenge was learning what was needed to support the skaters, the coaches, and to help where we could at a facility that was still being completed.

The most rewarding experience for me was the first banquet held to honor the hard work and accomplishments of our skaters!

I am not educated enough to the needs and current opportunities available to club members to adequately answer the question about a project to be implemented in the near future. That said, anything the club can do to support keeping skaters safe and activities available in these times of restrictions is important work to be realized.

### **Jenny Gwyn**

Member of CFSC (1996-present)  
CFSC Coach Liaison (in the earlier years)  
CFSC Sanctions Chair (2006-present)



I have been involved with Carolinas Figure Skating Club since I started coaching in the Charlotte Area in January of 1996. I have been involved in the club non-stop since that time. I have been Directing Figure Skating/Ice Shows in the Charlotte area since then.

I grew up in Michigan in a skating family. After HS graduation, I joined Ice Capades and toured with them and other companies for eight years. As a professional show skater, I met my husband at Ice Capades, and both my daughters are skaters and performers.

Skating defines my whole life. My children grew up at the rink, they are my biggest fans, and my best friends are also skating friends. I remember my many skating colleagues, students over the many years, and the Judges and Officials that have graciously given so much of their time to our Carolinas Figure Skating Club community and athletes. Taking a moment to remember those that are no longer with us—notably one of the most special to remember was Fran Jesel. Fran was an incredible and giving person to our skating community and is very much missed.

I would encourage the club members to skate through life and share their love for skating. The most challenging moments in skating become the most rewarding: falling but being able to get up to continue training and to work hard; not winning but having a great skate and walking away from the ice so proud and fulfilled; skating against your friends but learning that they are all there for each other because skating friends are for life! Nobody but another skater understands why we skate and put so much into it. 😊

Our goals continue to flourish each season, and we rise to the occasion to offer more and more for our athletes. I am so proud of our Club and am so happy to say I have been a part of it for its entirety!

## **Linda Bentley**

CFSC John Smith Memorial Competition Chair



This is Linda doing what she loves best in her free time.

It was a privilege to be competition director for the first John Smith Memorial Competition and several more that I did till 2007. I knew John Smith well and was his friend. I am so glad my small efforts from the past have blossomed to the amazing venues of the present. It was an honor to have been a part of something wonderful.

Skating on the serious adult synchro teams, I am five feet tall, second oldest and trying to keep up with Hot Fudge Sundays and students I taught in the past, especially my Gigi. She didn't cut me any slack! Get in her space, and she would take me out! I worked hard, very hard. I didn't want to let anyone down. Jenny and Denise were my rocks. If it were not for them and team support, it might not have happened for me. However, once the music started, I was fine. You just went into automat control. Training, practice, and Jenny by my side. What else could you need? It was the most amazing experienced of my life.

I really can't answer the third question regarding one project or opportunity to be realized by the current CFSC Board. I have moved away. I just hope the CFSC Board makes logical decisions.

**Dawn Phillippi**

CFSC Secretary (circa 2016-2019)

I was the CFSC Secretary for three years. I really enjoyed being part of our club executive board and assisting our club members during this time.

A couple of highlights during my time as club secretary was the CFSC Executive Board bringing the "Grassroots to Champions" and "Mitchell Johansson Method" Seminars to Extreme Ice Center. Our club members gained so much knowledge and skills. I look forward to seeing more seminars available to our club members in the future, depending on the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, of course.

*Thank You!*