

Learn More about Our Board Members

Jackie Minge

Involved since 2012

Board President, chair of Governance Committee and Coach

“I first joined Running Free as a coach in 2012, and was asked to join the board at the end of that same year. I served as Vice President for several years before assuming the office of President in early 2019. A lifetime runner (45 plus years!) and Registered Dietician by degree, I spent two years in the fitness industry in Dallas before becoming a now retired flight attendant for American Airlines for the next 26 years. Leadership experience was limited to a brief term in Houston on the board for a small YMCA, before moving overseas, and my role as President of the PTO at the International school of Ho Chi Minh City during our stay in Vietnam. Although my heart lies in the personal connection of coaching, I am very committed to using my organizational skills on the board to further this program to have lasting impact.”

Kirsten Anderson

Involved since 2014

Board Vice-President

Raised in Alaska, Kirsten has been a donor, funder, volunteer and activist for numerous Alaskan organizations, including the Alaska Women’s’ Giving Circle, the American Diabetes Association, Hospice of Anchorage and the Special Olympics. She believes in the mission of RFA, and it all began with the response to a request to donate a pair of shoes! While she is not a “runner”, she believes in the power of physical activity and community. Working as a sales trainer for Novo Nordisk, she is submersed in her passion for health and science every day. In her free time, Kirsten enjoys hiking, working out, and traveling. She loves and lives by the Winston Churchill quote: “From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however we can make a life”. Her goal as a board member is to keep RFA sustained and to continue to give it visibility with her various professional and social circles.

Linda Barnack

Involved since 2020

Board Secretary

Linda is a lifelong Alaskan and 2008 UAA graduate. She has worked for Siemens Industry for over ten years, currently as a HVAC systems automation engineer. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her two rescue dogs, running and triathlons.

Keri Clark
Involved since 2020
Board Treasurer

Keri's background includes working as an attorney for the teachers' union and previously as an educator. Her background gives her a deep appreciation of the support and encouragement needed for those choosing to change and improve their lives. She believes that being part of Running Free Alaska is where her skills and beliefs are best put to use.

John Ferguson
Involved since 2013
Board Member, co-chair Fundraising Committee

"I have been an active runner in the community for many years and served on a number of boards, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society Leadership council where I served as Vice Chairman for three years. I also have been a board member of the UAA Men's Basketball Rebounders committee. I have been a board member on the Great Alaska Shootout committee. I have served as both the Men's and Woman's Great Alaska Shoot Chairman and the Chairman of the entire tournament.

As an active runner in the community for over 30 years and a participant in over a dozen marathons and twice as many half marathons, along with many other community running events, I now I have the opportunity to share with others the joy that running has given me all of my life. I look forward to being a part of a program that offers to others all the benefits of what Running Free Alaska has to teach."

Jill Griffin
Involved since 2014
Board Member, co-chair Released Runner Committee

"I'm a retired teacher who's been running for about 20 years. Ketchikan is my hometown, but I've lived many places before settling in Anchorage where the Chugach has stolen my heart. Coaching at Hiland is an incredibly moving part of my life and I find inspiration every time I go. It's an amazing opportunity."

Jasmin Martin
Involved since 2020
Board Member

Jasmin was born and raised in Palmer, Alaska. She graduated from UAA in 2016 with a BA in Economics and currently works as a Legislative Aide in the Alaska State Senate.

She spends most of her free time outdoors running, hiking, biking, and camping with her husband and her dog. She currently splits her time between Juneau and the Mat-Su Valley.

Nancy Meade
Involved since 2014
Board Member

Nancy has served on the Board since 2014, after she briefly served as a running coach for program participants. Nancy has lived in Anchorage for over 35 years, and has worked for the State of Alaska for most of that time. She has been participating in local and national triathlons, bike races, and running events since the 1980s, and sincerely hopes to continue to be active in those hobbies and events in the coming years. Nancy is also a certified personal trainer, and a firm believer in the therapeutic and redemptive power of running, as well as all other forms of exercise.