



Karen McIlroy, Vice Chair

Centre: Saint John Paul II

Karen is a member of the Governance Committee.

Tell us a bit about yourself and why you chose Owl for your family's child care needs?

My husband and I call Kitchener home with our nine-year-old daughter Lacey. We chose Owl

for our family's child care needs because of their inclusive attitude for Lacey's special needs and their reputation as a quality care provider in the Waterloo Region.

Directors, and parents who have a child in care for whom monthly fees are paid to Owl are eligible to become members of the organization. What does it mean to be a member?

I believe that being a member gives our family a voice, by way of a vote at the annual general meeting, and the ability to raise questions on key topics that affect child care for families.

Why did you decide to get involved with Owl's Board of Directors?

I was impressed with Owl's work on its governance policies, the thoroughness of the process for vetting nominees, and most of all the opportunity to give back to an organization that has been a key part of our family for the past six years.

How does the Board / management try to engage Owl members and families?

The board/management strives to engage Owl members and families through open communication and opportunities to connect. The examples that come to mind are the emails I receive as a parent from my daughter's program supervisor as to what activities the group is involved with, movie nights, advocacy opportunities, and the AGM.

Share a fond memory from your childhood that has stayed with you over the years? How has this and other similar moments influenced your parenting style?

I have many happy memories of my sister and I playing hide n' seek with our friends outside. This memory reminds me of the fun we had enjoying life outside, which has prompted our family to make a dedicated effort to take bike rides and go for walks in our neighbourhood to enjoy our environment and the people in our community.

What is the role of members at the Annual General Meeting?

I think the role of members at the AGM is to celebrate the success of the organization with the individual and team awards, interact with fellow members and Owl staff, understand the strategic and financial direction of Owl, and use the opportunity to ask any questions of the Executive Director or the Board where clarification or more information is required.

