

# Championing BACOG

**D**URING THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS' INCREDIBLE RUN to the Stanley Cup Championship, Jeremy Roenick (a former Blackhawk and Philadelphia Flyer) who was serving as a color commentator was asked to compare the two cities. Without hesitation he said it wasn't a fair question. Philadelphia is a great town he said, but Chicago is one of the premier cities on the earth.

"If the weather was a little bit better, everyone would want to live here," was his exact quote. I remember his line because it's one I have used for years when defending our decision to leave San Diego and make northern Illinois our home. What Jeremy didn't say, but I always do, is that for all the wonders that make up Chicago, there is no finer place to live than Barrington.

We can run down the list of rolling hills, lakes and streams, natural environments and the numerous parks and countryside that are the topography in which we live – marking our community as very special. But when thinking about why we live here, I always come back to the people.

Our first friends – and many of you can relate to this – were our neighbors and those families we met when our children were in school. Through coaching and committee participation, PTO and class support, we found common ground in our children and in our hopes for them. Shared goals of raising good people who would someday become good husbands, wives and parents united us.

As a community with more than its share of

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successful people, we also incorporated a large dose of expectations in scholastics, athletics and the fine arts. Being part of Barrington was never about mediocrity or getting by. It was always about working hard and using personal talents to the greatest extent possible. These might be common goals in a lot of places, but what separates the people in our area is that we recognize and appreciate that such talent carries responsibility. Talent



*Bruce Sauer is the village president of North Barrington and the chairman of the board of the Barrington Area Council of Governments.*

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The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) is all about sharing. The community leaders who make up BACOG, who are responsible for the preservation of our way of life, bring their unique talents and experience that they willingly distribute to others as a means of community improvement. Any and all tough decisions, hard fought civic battles, victories and defeats are analyzed and the lessons learned are disseminated freely.

BACOG is a reflection of the people in the Barrington area who work together, who work hard, and who accomplish great things. The people expect nothing less from those that represent them.

I have worked with, and been a part of BACOG for the past six years. The personalities and capacities of those who have worked with me have reshaped my civic thinking, improved my long-range vision and repeatedly taught me just how much I don't know. There is unlimited talent, creative ideas, reflective understanding, practical application and off-the-wall brainstorming at large whenever BACOG meets.

After years of participation in a wide variety

of civic-oriented groups, I can testify that there is no finer or more skilled group of people working together than you have serving you today on the BACOG board. They are uniquely qualified and unflappably dedicated to maintaining and improving our community and our way of life. They are exceptional citizens.

My year as BACOG chairman will be filled with new challenges born of these hard economic times. Our communities will face difficulties, and we will have to work together to make sure we survive and prosper. With the guidance provided by the wonderful BACOG staff and the pool of talent involved, we are well-equipped to meet these arduous demands.

Accomplishment is fun. There is great satisfaction in striving to achieve and meet tough goals. While BACOG will not win Sir Stanley's Cup, we will make every effort to be the champions you deserve. 