



# Indianapolis GAA

## Secretary's Report - 2021

### Rachel Keesling

This year started began with uncertainty once again, not knowing if COVID-19 would put a stop to us. By pushing the start of the season back, we were able to get it in, Fall League and all!

I would say I was more comfortable in my role this year, as I got used to all the responsibilities and keeping up with the folks at our Heartland division. We had multiple Secretary's calls, to keep in touch and find out what all the different clubs were doing. For those that may not know, Indy is one of eleven clubs that make up the Heartland division of the USGAA. My first duties of this calendar year was the AGM for Heartland on January 21, 2021. This was a Zoom call, so it was very easy to attend and learn about the process.

Registration with the USGAA this year was another down to the wire event, but we did it. The USGAA returned to a "business as usual" approach this year, regardless of the COVID-19 status of the localities. Thanks to Josh Lane for all his help in reaching out to captains and players for reminders. We registered 115 men (\$63), 22 women (\$42), and our Club's three teams - Men's Hurling, Men's Football, and Camogie (\$315). Registering all three of our teams will give us votes for the USGAA Convention, which is being held in Charlotte, NC November 12-14, 2021. Andretta Erickson (Coaching Chair), Susan Pierce (past Secretary), and myself will be attending to represent Indianapolis.

At the beginning of the year, the Board decided that we would not be focusing on sending a team to Nationals in Boston, MA. Being off a year/probably not at our best physically, and many health risks and unknowns with COVID-19, we felt it was in our best interest to focus on us. Our motto this year was "One Club" with combined practices and game days for Hurling and Football. In the end, there was still a group who wanted to travel, so I worked with Heartland and the USGAA to get our combined level players approved at the Junior B level. While we didn't bring home any hardware, the team still had fun and got to play in Nationals.

As people began to get more comfortable traveling, we started getting more invites from other cities to play in friendly tournaments. One of my other responsibilities is to keep track of where people will be going and to report that to the Heartland Division. We didn't have a lot this year, so I imagine next year will be busier on this front.

My most frequent responsibility is attending Board meetings and taking minutes so you all know what we're up to. I do my best to be thorough, perhaps too thorough at times, and get them out prior to the next board meeting for your review. I thank you for your patience with me as I know I have been tardy a time or two.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their support during these past two years. COVID-19 certainly wasn't something anyone was expecting, and having to make decisions on behalf of the Club members wasn't easy or understood at times. Please remember that this Club lives on through the VOLUNTEERS who give their time and talents. It is not easy, but we have an amazing foundation and system that other clubs try to emulate. We would not be where we are today if it weren't for the love of the Club of all those who have volunteered before us. Thank you to them. And thank you to our current membership. UP INDY!!